

BUDDY JOHNSTON: It gives the British government opportunity to close down the bars, and the Switchboards, and things like this.

WOMAN: That is ridiculous. I have many friends who live here. And they say, you know, it's fine. If you are happen to be bisexual, or just a lesbian, or gay, that's-- it's fine here in Houston.

There are many places where you can go. And you will be accepted. And I haven't found that very true so far.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: Well, I hope you keep looking, baby. I can tell you this, there are a lot of good people in Houston.

MAN: A lot.

WOMAN: Well, I hope so. I just haven't met very many, especially in the church.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: And I hope that you find them.

WOMAN: Thank you. And I just want to know if any information can be given, it would be greatly appreciated. [INAUDIBLE] to the people who needs this information.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: There are a lot of gays--

WOMAN: Church, especially.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: There are a lot of gay churches, gay groups that meet, that are full of gay-- churches that are fully gay people.

WOMAN: Yes, I've heard of those.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: So you can call the Switchboard or pick up a copy of the *TWT* or *Voice* anywhere in Montrose, and they'll tell you where those churches are. And there is a Catholic--

WOMAN: That's great.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: There is a Catholic group called Dignity . They meet every-- what? Monday, Saturday?

JUDY: Saturday night.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: Every Saturday night, they have mass. I've been there. It's very, very nice.

WOMAN: OK.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: So they're loving people. I can promise you, they won't throw you out.

WOMAN: That is great. Thank you so much. It's really taking the load off my mind.

BUDDY Have a good morning. Well, she didn't answer my question though. Why didn't-- why don't we march in protest,
JOHNSTON: and complain, and carry on. I don't know. KPFT.

BRUCE COOK: Hey, buddy. It's Bruce Cook. Hi.

BUDDY Hi there, Mr. Cook.
JOHNSTON:

BRUCE COOK: You got one of my favorite subjects tonight, parades.

[LAUGHING]

JUDY: Parades.

BUDDY Yeah, you missed--
JOHNSTON:

BRUCE COOK: Hey, Judy. How are you?

JUDY: Hi, Bruce. Just fine, darling.

BRUCE COOK: Yeah. I heard your voice, I perked up.

JUDY: Oh, wonderful.

BUDDY Did you hear about the meeting?
JOHNSTON:

BRUCE COOK: Yeah. I wasn't in attendance but I did hear about it.

BUDDY I understand that Rainbow, although he wants to be, is not going to be allowed-- or well, he's not going to be-- he
JOHNSTON: wasn't selected by the new co-chairs as the parade

BRUCE COOK: Coordinator.

BUDDY I have a letter here that he wrote. It's pretty incredible. 1, 2, 3, 4 pages long. Rainbow work his butt off for that
JOHNSTON: parade last year.

MAN: Yes, he did.

BUDDY So what's on your mind, Mr. Bruce?
JOHNSTON:

BRUCE COOK: Oh, just you've hit a couple of nerves tonight. You're talking about the 25th anniversary of Martin Luther King's March, coming up real soon on our anniversary for the march on Washington for lesbian-gay rights. The parade, it's all sort of home base.

BUDDY Bruce, why do you think-- I'll ask you the same question that I asked the young lady that just called. Why do you
JOHNSTON: think we sit by on our butts and don't do anything about what's going on around us?

BRUCE COOK: Fear, basically.

BUDDY Fear of what?

JOHNSTON:

BRUCE COOK: Fear of recognition. There's still too many people that believe deep down inside that it's not good. They haven't come to terms with themselves yet.

BUDDY You need to turn your radio down just a little bit. See, I can't buy that though because I work for the Houston

JOHNSTON: Police Department for the last 4 and 1/2 years. And I've done this gay radio program every Sunday morning for almost a year now. It'll be a year next Sunday. And all I've gotten from the police is respect and support. All of our flack comes from the gay--

MAN: Within the gay community.

BUDDY Within the gay community.

JOHNSTON:

BRUCE COOK: Within, yeah. Yeah.

JUDY: It's empathy.

BUDDY It's incredible. I can't believe what's going on.

JOHNSTON:

BRUCE COOK: It makes you cry sometimes just about out of frustration not knowing how to get people to understand that if they would just make that simple statement of I'm gay, or I'm lesbian, or whatever term you want to use, drop the semantics--

BUDDY Just to stand up for yourself.

JOHNSTON:

BRUCE COOK: Take that first step and--

BUDDY Well, I am very upset. I don't think there's anything we can do about it. And people don't understand, I'm going

JOHNSTON: to support Marion Coleman and-- what's his name?

JUDY: Ken.

BRUCE COOK: Ken Wilson.

BUDDY Ken Wilson.

JOHNSTON:

MAN: Ken Wilson.

BUDDY Ken Wilson, that's right. I just couldn't think of his name. But Marion held up a placard that she had made, that

JOHNSTON: had a pink triangle on one end and on the other end, there was a heart. And it was separated by four or five hearts. And she said that something about they were going to make sure that the two came together or something. I guess she meant that last year we didn't have any heart.

JUDY: And I thought we had a lot of heart last year.

BUDDY I don't know. I didn't understand. I'm going to invite them on the show. And we'll see what they have to say, if

JOHNSTON: they'll come on and talk to us.

I know we had a lot of hurt people last year the bar owners' association, Hobo, pulled out of the whole damn thing, like three weeks before the parade. They got mad and took their marbles and went home. So that's the reason we didn't have a big gay fest because the bar owners just got mad and left. Didn't want to play anymore.

JUDY: That's right.

BUDDY And I don't really know why that happened. I thought it was over the Mary's controversy that was stirred up last

JOHNSTON: year. Charles Armstrong and Jay Allen both told me it wasn't that. But I don't know. I think it's sad. Anyway, thanks for calling, baby.

BRUCE COOK: Yeah. You all take care.

BUDDY Have a good morning. KPFT.

JOHNSTON:

RAINBOW: Hello.

BUDDY Hi, there. Who is this?

JOHNSTON:

RAINBOW: Am I on air?

BUDDY Yes. Do you want to be on the air?

JOHNSTON:

RAINBOW: This Rainbow.

BUDDY Well, hi, Rainbow.

JOHNSTON:

RAINBOW: Oh, I didn't know. I couldn't tell if I was on the air or not.

BUDDY Yeah, you are. I've got your letter but I don't want to read it.

JOHNSTON:

RAINBOW: I know. Lots of people read it.

BUDDY Will they print it?

JOHNSTON:

RAINBOW: Like in some last week's meeting.

BUDDY OK, this is Rainbow the clown that worked together to put the parade together last year.

JOHNSTON:

RAINBOW: By quoting Ann Richards, and you can put the organizations that were there that didn't participate. And you know who I'm talking about. You can put the person. You can put the bar. And Ann Richard said, where was you fill them in?

That's the summation. They did not attend. I gave her report every month of who was going to be in the parade and whatever. And they weren't there. Now, everybody wants to change things.

BUDDY I've heard a rumor that we're not going to have any drag queens in the parade next year.

JOHNSTON:

[LAUGHS]

RAINBOW: I've already talked to some people and we're working out something. So there's going to be something. You know what, in the cities of Los Angeles, San Francisco, Chicago, New York, there, they have a parade. And it's a freedom of expression.

And I'll tell you anything goes, almost. And even our gay paper covered pictures of it. And a year ago, my boss-- you know, I worked for a singing telegram service. And my boss told me to paint my face up like the queens in San Francisco, real high drag.

Where'd he see that? He saw it on the TV news. And if they don't cover it here in Houston, if we don't have it here in Houston, they'll get it somewhere else.

We have satellites. This is a satellite world. We have UPI. We have AP. If they don't want to cover it and want to be hypocritical that it's not part of our life, I'm sorry.

BUDDY Even though that's what helped start-- that's what Stonewall was all about, right?

JOHNSTON:

RAINBOW: It was. It's freedom of expression. Well, I'm gay. I may be a queen. I may be a leather person. I may be a cowboy. I may be whatever it is.

Let us do what we're supposed to be. Oh. I-- oh, I'm just worked up over all this stuff. I hear all this stuff. I wasn't going to write anything, you know?

BUDDY Yeah.

JOHNSTON:

RAINBOW: And some of the queen said, hello, it would blow over. And then pretty soon, some of the queen said, hey, it's not going to blow over.

BUDDY I wrote a letter to the *TWT* and the *Voice* last Sunday. It wasn't printed this week. I don't know if they'll print it or not. But it said, after being involved with the year, after being involved for almost a year with *After Hours* and in the community and whatever, I finally figured out how to be a leader. I had leader in parentheses. And it said, all you need to do is stack the meeting with your employees and friends.

JOHNSTON:

RAINBOW: That's not democratic. That is not democratic. Because it really isn't.

BUDDY Is that what happened, Rainbow? Or am I being--

JOHNSTON:

RAINBOW: Yeah, I believe so, because I've seen people-- I belong to both organizations. I haven't been able to go to the other one that much. But I've seen those people there. I've seen the people from the bar. I've been the person that runs the bar.

And the person that runs the bar, that got to be in it, she was upset because we didn't have professional float. Well, you know, as well as everybody that attended the meeting when we decided on not having professional float, I was adamantly against not having professional-- I wanted professional float. Remember that? I want it.

But where was those votes that those people were-- if we had 100 people like we did last week, which was probably stacked, they probably would have voted for professional float if they would have been there. But where was-- you fill in the blank. That's what it's all about.

BUDDY And you know, I didn't-- I got up to run for co-chair. I didn't go down there to run for anything. I wanted to work with the media because that's what I know about, media.

JOHNSTON:

RAINBOW: I wanted to work with a-- remember what I said at the end of the meeting. And it's in the letter.

BUDDY Bruce-- See, Bruce Reeves didn't want to run for co-chair because he didn't want to fight the fight. Somebody suggested that he stacked the meeting. And Bruce said that's not the way-- Bruce said that's not the way you do things.

JOHNSTON:

RAINBOW: Hey, didn't we know that they was going to be stacked?

BUDDY Sure, we heard that before it happened.

JOHNSTON:

RAINBOW: We knew that a long time ago.

BUDDY But anyway--

JOHNSTON:

RAINBOW: When I gave my report about the parade and to me, for me, if that's the decision, they don't want me, then why did-- I left it up for comments and I was ready for anything.

BUDDY Yeah.

JOHNSTON:

RAINBOW: And there was one woman who said it was wonderful. And there was applause later. Now was that a slap in the face? And if it's a slap in the face, then they can slap me on the other side.

BUDDY They're going to just tell us that we're just stirring dirty laundry, airing our dirty laundry.

JOHNSTON:

RAINBOW: They should have been involved in it last year.

BUDDY Exactly.

JOHNSTON:

WOMAN: That's right.

RAINBOW: That's it. That's what it was. As Ann Richards says, what it was. Then you fill in the blanks.

BUDDY Thanks for calling, baby.

JOHNSTON:

RAINBOW: Huh?

BUDDY It's going to be a long year.

JOHNSTON:

RAINBOW: You tell me.

BUDDY Thanks for calling.

JOHNSTON:

RAINBOW: Oh, you know what? I've already-- I talked to one.

BUDDY Yeah?

JOHNSTON:

RAINBOW: Drag queen. She says, hey, we-- it was our people. Our type of people that picked up the meter, the-- what do you call it? Parking meter and said, hey, we ain't going to take this no more. It was one of our people that said that. And if they didn't like the drag queens, I'm sorry. That's part of our life. We're the ones who do the benefits. And we don't get the money like the other queens that might-- the professionally good looking ones, I guess you want to call them. We buy our own makeup. We do our benefits. And we give it to the people that deserve it, you know?

BUDDY That's right.

JOHNSTON:

RAINBOW: And they've had every honor, every honor. The Garden Party was a success.

BUDDY How much money did they raise again?

JOHNSTON:

RAINBOW: I heard that from the president--

BUDDY How much money did they--

JOHNSTON:

RAINBOW: --of the Garden Party.

BUDDY
JOHNSTON: How much money did they raise?

RAINBOW: A few days after the parade, they were bombarded by applications or wanting tickets.

BUDDY
JOHNSTON: How much money did the Garden Party raise? Do you remember?

RAINBOW: Huh?

BUDDY
JOHNSTON: How much money did the Garden Party raise, do you remember?

RAINBOW: I don't know, but I think--

BUDDY
JOHNSTON: Several thousand dollars and \$25,000, \$30,000, wasn't it?

RAINBOW: I'm not sure how much they made, but they gave it to AIDS Foundation and Stone Soup.

BUDDY
JOHNSTON: I remember going downtown the day of the Garden Party and I saw two guys drive up in a little convertible, and they were both in drag. And they were just hooting and hollering.

RAINBOW: But one thing about-- there's a lot of expenses, too, that had to be paid. I don't know what they gave, but there's a lot of expenses involved.

BUDDY
JOHNSTON: Well, it's going to be a--

RAINBOW: --successful garden party, and there was a lot of queens.

BUDDY
JOHNSTON: It's going to be a long year, right?

RAINBOW: Uh-huh. And you know what? I remember about two years ago, we had a benefit queen contest.

BUDDY
JOHNSTON: Yeah.

RAINBOW: And it wasn't the pretty ones that won. It was the blank house queens. You know what I'm talking about?

BUDDY
JOHNSTON: Yes, sir.

RAINBOW: The chicken ranch type. I don't want to say the word. I don't know if I can legally--

BUDDY
JOHNSTON: No, don't say that. OK. Thanks for calling, baby.

RAINBOW: Yeah.

BUDDY This is After Hours.

JOHNSTON:

RAINBOW: --that one. It wasn't the pretty ones that went, you know.

BUDDY OK.

JOHNSTON:

RAINBOW: Because they were entertaining.

BUDDY Say goodnight, Gracie.

JOHNSTON:

RAINBOW: We did that on the parade. The people that talked to me and said they enjoyed the Folley Ball Fall.

BUDDY Say goodnight, Gracie.

JOHNSTON:

RAINBOW: Huh?

BUDDY Say goodnight, Gracie.

JOHNSTON:

RAINBOW: Oh, play that one song I sent you. I know you played the other one.

BUDDY OK, I will.

JOHNSTON:

RAINBOW: OK, good deal.

BUDDY Bye-bye.

JOHNSTON:

RAINBOW: All right.

BUDDY It's going to be a long year.

JOHNSTON:

WOMAN: Amen.

BUDDY This is After Hours Radio, celebrating life from the heart of Montrose. Hello. Hi there.

JOHNSTON:

CALLER 1: I was calling on the gay rights.

BUDDY Uh-huh.

JOHNSTON:

CALLER 1: And I was walking down the street one day--

BUDDY Yeah.

JOHNSTON:

CALLER 1: --and somebody had cussed me out and saying I'm a faggot.

BUDDY Yeah.

JOHNSTON:

We lost that one. Hello?

CALLER 2: Hello?

BUDDY Yeah. This is KPFT. You're on the air.

JOHNSTON:

CALLER 2: Yeah. Yeah, I just had a comment about the gay parade, gay pride parade this year--

BUDDY Yeah.

JOHNSTON:

CALLER 2: --and why I was disappointed in it, and why I think there aren't more people involved in these meetings.

BUDDY Why were you disappointed?

JOHNSTON:

CALLER 2: Well, I was disappointed by the size. I was expecting something much bigger.

BUDDY Do you realize that our parade was equal, almost, to New York and Los Angeles in size, as far as the number of units in the parade?

JOHNSTON:

CALLER 2: Uh-huh.

BUDDY I mean, LA, I think, had 200,000 people. We had 20,000 on the side of the streets. But as far as actual groups marching down the street, we had almost as much as New York and LA.

JOHNSTON:

CALLER 2: Well, most of the groups I saw were bars and-- well, it looked like mostly bars.

BUDDY What's it going to take to turn it around?

JOHNSTON:

CALLER 2: Well, I think they should, instead of organizing a parade, they should have organized a march.

BUDDY Yeah.

JOHNSTON:

CALLER 2: And should have focused more on AIDS, which I think is the number one issue, in the gay community and beyond the gay community.

BUDDY What about discrimination?

JOHNSTON:

CALLER 2: And something that would-- well, I think that's the number one cause for the increased discrimination against gays and lesbians.

BUDDY
JOHNSTON: What about the discrimination though? People are afraid their parents are going to find out. People are afraid their jobs are going to find out. People are afraid their friends are going to find out.

CALLER 2: Well, what about that?

BUDDY
JOHNSTON: What about with people living this all their life and never even getting close to AIDS?

CALLER 2: Well, I think if it had a focus on--

BUDDY
JOHNSTON: Wait a minute-- wait a minute, wait a minute. You still think AIDS is the number one, when all these people, millions and millions and millions and millions of people, are living in fear? You don't think that should be number one on our list?

CALLER 2: What?

BUDDY
JOHNSTON: That issue, the discrimination issue.

CALLER 2: The discrimination against AIDS.

BUDDY
JOHNSTON: You think that AIDS is more important than all the fear and the misery that we carry around all of our lives?

CALLER 2: Well, I wouldn't counterpose them. I think the best way for gays and lesbians to earn more respect and to break down that fear would have been to organize a political march--

BUDDY
JOHNSTON: Were you at the--

CALLER 2: --adding more funding for AIDS. And you could reach out beyond the gay community to the other sectors that this is involving.

BUDDY
JOHNSTON: Were you at the meeting last Sunday?

CALLER 2: No, I wasn't.

BUDDY
JOHNSTON: Were you at any of the meetings last year?

CALLER 2: I just moved to Houston.

BUDDY
JOHNSTON: OK, come down and get involved, all right?

CALLER 2: Well, if it's organized around something I think is worthwhile, like demanding more funding for AIDS--

BUDDY Come down and change it.
JOHNSTON:

CALLER 2: I will after other people will.

BUDDY Come down and change it.
JOHNSTON:

CALLER 2: And you get some young people too.

BUDDY Come down and change it.
JOHNSTON:

CALLER 2: All right.

BUDDY "We the people," remember? Have a good morning.
JOHNSTON:

Hello, you're on the air.

CALLER 3: Hello?

BUDDY Yeah.
JOHNSTON:

CALLER 3: Hi, my name is Tony Pitchner.

BUDDY Hi, Tony.
JOHNSTON:

CALLER 3: Hi. I just came out of the closet.

BUDDY Yeah.
JOHNSTON:

CALLER 3: I just wanted to share my feelings.

BUDDY Yeah.
JOHNSTON:

CALLER 3: I have a whole new boyfriend. His name is Joe Markovich.

BUDDY Yeah.
JOHNSTON:

CALLER 3: And I just wanted to share the great feelings that I have for him. And I wanted to ask you if you can play "All Out of Love," by Air Supply.

BUDDY We'll see if we can find it.
JOHNSTON:

CALLER 3: OK.

BUDDY Thanks for calling, baby.

JOHNSTON:

This is KPFT, *After Hours*, radio celebrating life from the heart of Montrose.

526-4000 is the number to call. This is *After Hours*, radio celebrating life, from the heart of Montrose.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

25 years ago.

JUDY: 25 years, that's a long time.

BUDDY It doesn't seem like it, does it, Judy?

JOHNSTON:

JUDY: Yesterday.

BUDDY Do you remember that, when that happened?

JOHNSTON:

JUDY: Unfortunately, I do.

BUDDY Do you really?

JOHNSTON:

JUDY: Yeah.

BUDDY You know what that reminds me of, this whole period?

JOHNSTON:

JUDY: What's that?

BUDDY We were little kids lying in the floor watching television. And it came on the television, Dr. Martin Luther King has been killed in Memphis, Tennessee. And I remember my daddy got very excited. And he said, I'm glad they finally killed that nigger.

JOHNSTON:

And I remember rolling over on my back or on my side and looking at my dad, the man who had taught me all my life that right was right and what wrong was wrong, and that God loved us and all that good jazz. And here Daddy was excited because another man had been killed.

JUDY: What can you say?

BUDDY I couldn't understand it. I still don't understand that.

JOHNSTON:

JUDY: No, you just-- you-- you just can't. I mean, there's no understanding something like that. There's no reason for it.

BUDDY The Civil Rights movement was born all because of a little woman by the name of Rosa Parks. And we'll let her
JOHNSTON: tell you her story. But this is an interview that was made on December the 1st, 1955. And I just want you to hear what Rosa Parks had to say. And then we're going to listen to Dr. King because 25 years ago, in Washington, DC, Dr. King spoke. And I think it was one of the most moving speeches I've ever heard in my life.

JUDY: I agree.

BUDDY And we're going to share that with you after we listen to Rosa Parks. This is *After Hours*, radio celebrating life
JOHNSTON: from the heart of Montrose. 526-4000 is the number to call.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

The interview begins with the commentator asking her what happened. And the "her" being Rosa Parks.

ROSA PARKS: I left work on my way home, December 1, 1955, about 6 o'clock in the afternoon. I boarded the bus downtown in Montgomery, on Court Square. As the bus proceeded out of town, on the third stop, the white passengers had filled the front of the bus. When I got on the bus, the rear was filled with Colored passengers. And they were beginning to stand.

The seat I occupied was the first of the seats where the Negro passengers take, on this route. The driver noted that the front of the bus was filled with white passengers and there would be two or three men standing. He looked back and asked that the seat where I had taken, along with three other persons, one in the seat with me and two across the aisle, was seated.

He demanded the seat that we were occupying. The other passengers very reluctantly gave up their seats, but I refused to do so. He then called the officers of the law. They came and placed me under arrest. And I was bond--bailed out shortly after the arrest.

And the trial was held December 5, on the next Monday. And the protest began from that day. And it is still continuing.

INTERVIEWER: Well, Mrs. Parks, what in the world ever made you decide to be the person who, after all these years of Jim Crow and segregation, what made you, at that particular moment, decide you were going to keep that seat?

ROSA PARKS: I felt that I was not being treated right and that I had a right to retain the seat that I had taken as a passenger on the bus.

INTERVIEWER: But Mrs. Parks, you had been mistreated for many, many, many years. You've lived most of your life in Montgomery, Alabama. What made you decide at the first part of the month of December 1955 that you had had enough?

ROSA PARKS: The time had just come when I had been pushed as far as I could stand to be pushed, I suppose.

INTERVIEWER: Well, Mrs. Parks, had you planned this?

ROSA PARKS: No, I hadn't.

INTERVIEWER: It just happened.

ROSA PARKS: Yes, it did.

INTERVIEWER: Well, have there been many times before in your life when you thought that maybe you were going to do just that kind of thing?

ROSA PARKS: I hadn't thought that I would be the person to do this. It hadn't occurred to me.

INTERVIEWER: But don't you suppose you and many others also thought, one time or another, you were going to do this thing, sooner or later?

ROSA PARKS: Well, we didn't know just what to expect. In our area, we always try to avoid trouble and be as careful as possible to stay out of trouble, and along this line.

And I want to make very certain that it is understood that I had not taken a seat in the white section, as has been reported in many cases. The seat where I occupied, we were in the custom of taking this seat on the way home. Even though, at times, on this same bus route, we occupied the same seat with whites standing, if their space had been taken up, the seats had been taken up. And I was very much surprised that the driver, at this point, demanded that I remove myself from the seat.

INTERVIEWER: You have done something here that I didn't quite understand myself. Namely this, you said that you did not take a seat in the white section. And that is-- there's no doubt that has been reported in that way. What happened then, that you were in what is normally a colored section and, because whites had to stand up, at this point, the driver asked you to get up to allow someone else to sit down.

ROSA PARKS: Yes, white persons.

INTERVIEWER: A white person to sit down.

ROSA PARKS: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: A person who may or may not have been as tired as you--

ROSA PARKS: Well, that's true.

INTERVIEWER: --but who had not paid any more than you had.

ROSA PARKS: No, he hadn't.

INTERVIEWER: And then what happened?

ROSA PARKS: The driver said that if I refused to leave the seat, he would have to call the police. And I told him just call the police, which he did. And when they came, they placed me under arrest.

INTERVIEWER: Wasn't that a pretty frightening thing, to be arrested in Montgomery, Alabama?

ROSA PARKS: No, I wasn't frightened at all.

INTERVIEWER: You weren't frightened?

ROSA PARKS: No.

INTERVIEWER: Why weren't you frightened?

ROSA PARKS: I don't know why I wasn't, but I didn't feel afraid. I had decided that I would have to know, once and for all, what rights I had as a human being and a citizen, even in Montgomery, Alabama.

INTERVIEWER: Because you considered yourself a citizen as well as a human being, in Montgomery, Alabama. You say you weren't frightened. And yet, to be arrested in Montgomery, especially on a charge in which you are challenging the whole system of segregation, could be a pretty frightening thing. It could even lead to a certain amount of physical brutality, couldn't it?

ROSA PARKS: That's possible it could have.

INTERVIEWER: But this didn't bother you?

ROSA PARKS: No, it didn't.

INTERVIEWER: And a lot of people, of course, feel quite ashamed at the disgrace of being arrested. Apparently, you didn't feel there was any disgrace involved in this one.

ROSA PARKS: No, not in this one.

INTERVIEWER: Well, then, you were arrested. And what was the charge?

ROSA PARKS: Violation of the segregation law of the city and state of Alabama and transportation.

INTERVIEWER: Yes, but you were sitting in the colored section. What law were you violating?

ROSA PARKS: I didn't think I was violating any.

INTERVIEWER: Well, Mrs. Parks, at the recent trial of Reverend ML King, it was brought up by the defense that there had been, over many, many years, many brutalities and humiliations of Negro passengers on these buses. Can you give us some examples that you yourself have seen or experienced personally, of some of these humiliations that took place day after day when you were riding the buses?

ROSA PARKS: Yes, I have been refused entrance on the buses because I would not pay my fare at the front and go around to the rear door to enter.

INTERVIEWER: Let me have that again now. You mean you pay your fare at the front and then were forced to walk around and enter into the rear door?

ROSA PARKS: Yes, that was a custom if the bus was crowded up to the point where the white passengers would start occupying.

INTERVIEWER: And even if it was raining or anything of that sort, you might have to pay your fare at the front and walk back in the rain to the back of the bus and get in?

ROSA PARKS: Yes, that's true.

INTERVIEWER: Well, Mrs. Parks, then you were arrested. And you say you went to-- you posted bond. Did you have a trial?

ROSA PARKS: Yes.

INTERVIEWER: And you were found innocent or guilty?

ROSA PARKS: Guilty.

INTERVIEWER: You were found guilty. And then what?

ROSA PARKS: The case was appealed.

INTERVIEWER: How did this particular incident of your being arrested and convicted and appealing, how did this lead to this particular protest?

ROSA PARKS: From the time of the arrest on Thursday night and Friday and Saturday and Sunday, the word had gotten around over Montgomery of my arrest because of this incident. And people just begin to decide that they wouldn't ride the bus on the day of my trial, which was Monday, December 5.

And Monday morning, when the buses were out on their regular run, they remained empty. And people were walking or getting rides in cars with people who had picked them up, as best they could. On Monday night, the mass meeting at the Holt Street Baptist Church had been called. And there were many thousand people there.

They kept coming. And some people never did get in the church, there were so many. And the first day of remaining off the bus had been so successful, it was organized then that we wouldn't ride the bus until our request had been granted.

INTERVIEWER: Well, Mrs. Parks, how did word get around Montgomery, Alabama, so quickly, first of all that you were arrested and convicted. And second of all, how did the word get around so quickly that there would be a meeting and that people would refuse to ride?

ROSA PARKS: There were telephone calls from those who knew about it to others, and also an article came out in the newspaper on Friday morning about the Negro woman overlooked segregation. She was seated in the front seat, the white section of the bus, and refused to take a seat in the rear of the bus. That was the first newspaper account.

INTERVIEWER: They didn't ride on the day of the trial. They walked. And then how come they kept right on walking?

ROSA PARKS: I feel they kept on walking because I was not the only person who had been mistreated and humiliated. Others had gone through the same experience, some even worse experience than mine. And they all felt that the time had come that they should decide that we would have to stop supporting the bus company until we were given better service.

INTERVIEWER: How did it happen to become the kind of religious movement it became? Or at least we seem to understand it as a kind of a religious movement. There is the talking of walking and praying. There is the whole appeal to the religious, peaceful aspect. And, of course, a number of ministers have taken a very active part in the leadership. How did this come about?

ROSA PARKS: I think this came about because the ministers were very much interested in it. And we had our meetings in the churches. And being the minority, we felt that nothing could be gained by violence or threats or a belligerent attitude. We believed that more could be accomplished through the nonviolent passive resistance. We had no quarrel with anyone. We only want to stop riding the buses until we are treated as any other passenger.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

BUDDY It's pretty incredible, isn't it?
JOHNSTON:

JUDY: I'm telling you.

BUDDY You're, like, missing a couple of minutes of it. But the most incredible part of the whole thing to me is the fact
JOHNSTON: that Black passengers on the buses were expected to pay their fare at the front of the bus and then get off, rain or shine, and walk to the back of the bus.

JUDY: And they only had a couple of seats back there they could use.

BUDDY Yeah. And Rosa Parks was sitting in a seat that was designated for Blacks.
JOHNSTON:

JUDY: That's right. Had a similar incident at one of the major colleges about the same time too, the first Black law student. And this gentleman was not allowed in the libraries where all the books were because they were afraid he'd contaminate the books. And they had to have runners go get the books for him. He had one room. It was like a closet that he could sit in.

BUDDY Well, the movement, the Civil Rights movement, the Black movement, started because Rosa Parks decided that
JOHNSTON: she wanted to be treated as any other individual.

JUDY: Just like us.

BUDDY Just like us. And I hope that you, as you listen to us this morning, can search your heart and find that little Rosa
JOHNSTON: Parks in you that's going to get you through life. Because without it, it's going to be a long day. It certainly is.

25 years ago, Washington, DC, Martin Luther King spoke to thousands and thousands of people. October the 11th, 1988, several hundred people spoke to almost a million, 3/4 of a million gay and lesbian people.

JUDY: That's right.

BUDDY Capital Mall in Washington, DC. We didn't get quite the press coverage that Martin Luther King got back in '63. In
JOHNSTON: fact, we got almost none at all. But again, that's because the gay community is content to sit by and watch it not happen.

JUDY: That's right. We have a serious disease that's almost as serious as AIDS. And it's called apathy. People don't care.

BUDDY It's sad. Anyway, we will be accused, I'm sure, of stirring the pot, or being biased, or whatever. I don't care what
JOHNSTON: they say. I know one thing. This radio station is controlled by you. We have marathons three or four times a year to prove that. If you didn't support us, we wouldn't be here.

This particular program, although it's a gay program, we talk about South Africa, we talk about Martin Luther King. We talk about women being battered. We talk about life. It just happens that we're queer and we're proud.

JUDY: You better believe it.

**BUDDY
JOHNSTON:**

And it's a big planet. And we all have to learn how to live on it. One of my favorite letters came from someone that wrote us after the quilt came to Houston.

And it says, "Dear folks at *After Hours*, I just wanted to thank you for the approach your show takes. As a straight person with far too many conservative influences in her life, I am pleased to say that your show really touches me and helps to keep me from giving up all of my hopeful visions of a better society.

If not for you, I wouldn't have learned about the quilt. Even though the only victims' names I really recognize where people like Liberace and Rock Hudson, I like studying the panels and getting to know the people through the love of those who knew them.

Before I left, I turned to look at the quilt one last time. Suddenly, I thought I could see each person standing on their panel. Some were holding babies, some beckoning others to stand with them because these others had not had people to make panels for them. Everyone was holding hands through their strength and their sadness. It was beautiful. I too am sad. *After Hours*, however, helps me have faith. Love and light, Sairi."

This morning I am mad. I'm mad at myself for waiting till my 34th year to get involved in my life. But it's my life this morning. And no one out there is going to be able to take that away from me. Listen to the words of Martin Luther King and search your heart for the strength that you need to get through today.

[APPLAUSE]

**MARTIN
LUTHER KING,
JR.:**

No, no, we are not satisfied, and we will not be satisfied until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream.

[CHEERING AND APPLAUSE]

I am not unmindful that some of you have come here out of great trials and tribulations.

CROWD:

Yes.

**MARTIN
LUTHER KING,
JR.:**

Some of you have come fresh from narrow jail cells.

CROWD:

That's right.

**MARTIN
LUTHER KING,
JR.:**

And some of you have come from areas where your quest for freedom left you battered by the storms of persecution and staggered by the winds of police brutality. You have been the veterans of creative suffering.

Continue to work with the faith that unearned suffering is redemptive. Go back to Mississippi. Go back to Alabama. Go back to South Carolina. Go back to Georgia. Go back to Louisiana. Go back to the slums and ghettos of our northern cities, knowing that somehow this situation can and will be changed. Let us not wallow in the valley of despair. I say to you today, my friends--

[APPLAUSE]

[CHEERING]

--so even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream.

CROWD: Yes!

MARTIN It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream. I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live
LUTHER KING, JR.: out the true meaning of its creed. "We hold these truths to be self-evident that all men are created equal."

CROWD: Yes.

[APPLAUSE]

MARTIN I have a dream that one day, on the red hills of Georgia, the sons of former slaves and the sons of former slave
LUTHER KING, JR.: owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood. I have a dream that one day even the state of Mississippi, a state sweltering with the heat of injustice, sweltering with the heat of oppression, will be transformed into an oasis of freedom and justice.

I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character. I have a dream today.

[APPLAUSE]

I have a dream that one day, down in Alabama, with its vicious racists, with its governor having his lips dripping with the words of interposition and nullification, one day right there in Alabama, little Black boys and Black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls and sisters and brothers. I have a dream today.

[APPLAUSE]

CROWD: I have that dream.

MARTIN I have a dream that one day every valley shall be exalted and every hill and mountain shall be made low. The
LUTHER KING, JR.: rough places will be made plain, and the crooked places will be made straight, and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed. And all flesh shall see it together.

CROWD: Yes.

MARTIN This is our hope. This is the faith that I go back to the South with. With this faith, we will be able to hew out of the
LUTHER KING, JR.: mountain of despair a stone of hope. With this faith, we will be able to transform the jangling discords of our nation into a beautiful symphony of brotherhood. With this faith, we will be able to work together, to pray together to struggle together, to go to jail together, to stand up for freedom together, knowing that we will be free one day.

And this will be the day, this will be the day when all of God's children will be able to sing with new meaning, "My country 'tis of thee, sweet land of liberty, of thee I sing. Land where my fathers died, land of the Pilgrim's pride, from every mountainside, let freedom ring."

And if America is to be a great nation, this must become true. And so let freedom ring from the prodigious hilltops of New Hampshire. Let freedom ring from the mighty mountains of New York. Let freedom ring from the heightening Alleghenies of Pennsylvania. Let freedom ring from the snowcapped Rockies of Colorado. Let freedom ring from the curvaceous slopes of California.

But not only that, let freedom ring from Stone Mountain of Georgia. Let freedom ring from Lookout Mountain of Tennessee. Let freedom ring from every hill and molehill of Mississippi. From every mountainside, let freedom ring.

And when this happens--

[APPLAUSE]

--and when we allow freedom ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children, Black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual, "free at last, free at last, thank God almighty, we are free at last."

[CHEERING AND APPLAUSE]

[MUSIC - HUEY LEWIS AND THE NEWS, "PERFECT WORLD"]

BUDDY
JOHNSTON: Well, he says keep on dreaming.

JUDY: And that's what we got to do.

BUDDY
JOHNSTON: I'm dreaming.

JUDY: You'll get there.

BUDDY
JOHNSTON: Huh?

JUDY: We'll get there.

BUDDY
JOHNSTON: You think we will?

JUDY: Maybe not in our lifetime, but we'll get there.

BUDDY
JOHNSTON: Ah, we'll get there.

MARTIN I have a dream today.
**LUTHER KING,
JR.:**

[CHEERING AND APPLAUSE]

**BUDDY
JOHNSTON:** It's *After Hours* radio, celebrating live from the heart of Montrose. 3:51, seven minutes-- is that right?

JUDY: Something like that.

**BUDDY
JOHNSTON:** --before 4 o'clock. And the Doc's getting ready to come in and take us on a *Paradise Lost* journey. You need to stay tuned for that because it's going to be interesting. And this won't open.

JUDY: Never again.

**BUDDY
JOHNSTON:** Give me my tape back. Say something, Jim.

JIM OWENS: I think we all have that dream that Dr. Martin Luther King was talking about. And I don't think it-- I think his words are applicable to us, not just Black people. A lot of Black people share our dream.

**BUDDY
JOHNSTON:** Yeah.

JIM OWENS: They don't have all of their dream yet, and we're just starting on ours.

**BUDDY
JOHNSTON:** It just gave me the cassette back.

JUDY: That's wonderful.

**BUDDY
JOHNSTON:** Well, maybe they'll print something about us in the paper, the TWT or *The Voice*. I doubt it. I-- well, sometimes they do. I take press releases down there that they print sometimes when they have space, I guess.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

This thing kicked into automatic pilot. Isn't that great? I don't even know what I'm doing with this machine.

JUDY: Things are taking over tonight.

**BUDDY
JOHNSTON:** I know. It's the haunted hour.

JUDY: Somebody keeps saying something about a full moon.

**BUDDY
JOHNSTON:** It is a full moon. By the way, coming up soon, Aaron Fricke, *Reflections of a Rock Lobster*.

JIM OWENS: Oh, good.

BUDDY That's going to be a biggie. We're going to be listening to that. We're going to rerun our Halloween show. If you

JOHNSTON: didn't hear it last year, you missed it. Because we had a blast with that.

JIM OWENS: That is a classic.

BUDDY It was a live one. Alan will be on there, and Lloyd from Gay Fathers is on there. And our own Mary Helen from

JOHNSTON: KPFT, our subscription director, she's on there.

JUDY: It sounds like a series of ghosts.

BUDDY Oh, it was wonderful. It's all about four folks spending a night in a haunted house in Montrose. You heard that for

JOHNSTON: the first time at my house, right?

JIM OWENS: I sure did.

BUDDY It's a lot of fun. So we want to share that with you.

JOHNSTON:

JIM OWENS: Who wrote that?

BUDDY Alan did. In fact, I'll try to find the original scripts. They're somewhere around. I don't think we want to redo that.

JOHNSTON:

JIM OWENS: No, no, no.

BUDDY If you want to get involved in this program, believe it or not, you can. It's just real easy. You just come down to

JOHNSTON: KPFT and fill out a volunteer application form and just jump right in there, right?

JUDY: I need to do that.

JIM OWENS: That's how I did it.

BUDDY Have you not done that?

JOHNSTON:

JUDY: No.

BUDDY Did you do that?

JOHNSTON:

KAY OSTERG: I've never filled out a form to work here, darling.

BUDDY Oh, we'll get you a form.

JOHNSTON:

JUDY: I guess we're not here.

CROWD: Anyway, we're here and we're here every week, every Sunday morning from 2:00 to 4:00 *After Hours* radio, celebrating life in the heart of Montrose. I'm sure we're going to hear about it next week.

JUDY: I imagine.

BUDDY We've got a special show for you next week though. I can't tell you what it is because it's real special. But I want
JOHNSTON: you to stay tuned and enjoy it. And we'll be right back.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

JIM OWENS: OK, now what?

BUDDY I don't know. Now what, Judy?
JOHNSTON:

JUDY: Just a lot of togetherness in here.

JIM OWENS: We certainly have the gay spirit in here tonight.

BUDDY You can get over there.
JOHNSTON:

JUDY: Come on.

BUDDY We could do this like boy, girl, boy, girl.
JOHNSTON:

JIM OWENS: No, I'd rather do--

JUDY: I like it this way.

JIM OWENS: --boy, boy, girl, girl.

KAY OSTERG: I think girl, girl, boy, boy is much better.

JIM OWENS: That's a whole lot more fun for me.

JUDY: Oh, this one's more fun, absolutely.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

BUDDY I don't know. This is *After Hours*, right?
JOHNSTON:

KAY OSTERG: Right.

JUDY: For a couple of more minutes.

BUDDY We're celebrating life from the heart of Montrose. Drop us a line at *After Hours* radio, care of KPFT, Houston, 419
JOHNSTON: Lovett, right here in the Montrose, 77006.

JIM OWENS: Yes, it's a lifestyle--

BUDDY Right.
JOHNSTON:

JIM OWENS: --not just a zip code.

BUDDY Or call us at the *After Hours* hotline, area code 713-529-4636. Till next week-- we've got a real special show for
JOHNSTON: you then-- this is Buddy and--

JIM OWENS: --and Jim--

JUDY: --and Judy--

KAY OSTERG: --and Kay.

BUDDY See ya. And have a good night. And we love you. And thanks for being there. Right?
JOHNSTON:

KAY OSTERG: Right.

BUDDY See you next Sunday. Bye.
JOHNSTON:

JUDY: Bye.

KAY OSTERG: Take care.

HARVEY BRITT: 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.

INTERVIEWER: Harvey, do you have a few words for KPFA?

HARVEY BRITT: Yeah, come on out. [LAUGHTER] Join us. Bring your friends.

INTERVIEWER: What do you think about the turnout so far?

HARVEY BRITT: Well, it's never enough, never enough, never enough.

And I ask--

[CHEERING] I ask people all over this country to do one thing. Come out, come out, America. Come out.

ANNOUNCER: KPFT, Houston.

[MUSIC PLAYING]