

[COUNTDOWN TICKING]

[MUSIC PLAYING]

KIM SEVIER: Hi, I'm Kim Sevier, and welcome to another installment of *TV Montrose*.

SUZANNE And I'm Suzanne Anderson. And tonight, we're at the Angelika Theater at the Bayou Place Complex.

ANDERSON:

KIM SEVIER: Isn't this the coolest thing, Suzanne?

SUZANNE I love this thing.

ANDERSON:

KIM SEVIER: It's gorgeous in here. It feels like a downtown loft.

SUZANNE You know, and when you see things like this, you wonder, why haven't we always had this? And apparently

ANDERSON: everybody else thinks so because the restaurants are full, the theater is doing well. It's a terrific place.

KIM SEVIER: Always a great selection of films. And I can't wait to try the food in the restaurant.

SUZANNE I've had the popcorn.

ANDERSON:

KIM SEVIER: I bet it's good.

SUZANNE The popcorn's wonderful.

ANDERSON:

KIM SEVIER: Let's get into the show.

SUZANNE And our first segment of the show is a roast that was done at MCCR for Ray Hill.

ANDERSON:

KIM SEVIER: Let's go to Steve Baker, who's chatting with Jack Valinsky about the crazy life and times of Ray Hill. Then we'll look at a couple of clips from the roast.

STEVE BAKER: Last night, I was proud to attend a very special function over MCCR church, where Ray Hill, longtime Montrose resident, a man that's responsible for far more things than I even realized myself until last night. And Jack, I'd like to talk a little bit about Ray Hill and the roast that went on last night. And I'd like you to share with our audience a few things about Ray and what happened last night, what some people had to say.

JACK VALINSKI: Well, Ray Hill is probably a very responsible for me becoming an activist. I moved to Houston about 16 years ago, and I wasn't out. I wasn't involved in the community. And I happened to be listening to the radio one day and I happened to hear this gentleman named Ray Hill go on and on about stuff. And Ray is very good at going on and on, and I say that in a very positive way.

But I came down to volunteer at KPFT. I started getting involved at that time, called the Gay Political Caucus, and then Pride Week. Ray has had a long history in this community of doing things. And sometimes, people don't like what Ray does. And sometimes, they don't always agree with the things he does. But Ray has been behind the scenes. He's been in front of the camera when other people wouldn't do it.

And sometimes, there was people that were sort of comfortable in having the bars and that only. But Ray was in there trying to push the community a little bit further. And Ray has done many things, including getting along better with the police department. I mean, Ray Hill fought the Houston Police Department, the city of Houston, all the way to the Supreme Court. And he won that case, that it is not OK to beat up on somebody.

And in fact, Ray is known as being a pesky, contemptuous troublemaker by the Supreme Court. But it goes beyond that. I mean, Ray fights for people who don't have a voice.

STEVE BAKER: Well, as you know, Jack, there were a lot of notable people there at the roast for Ray Hill last night. And why don't we just take a look at what some of the things that they had to say about Ray? Some of it was quite funny.

DEBRA DANBURG: Ray was there making it very clear to every voter who came in, they had to show up for the precinct meeting. If they didn't show up, he was going to be the only delegate, he was going to be the sole person setting the agenda and the policies of the Democratic Party. Scared folks into a record turnout.

But of course, being the very bipartisan kind of guy that Ray is, he delivered the exact same threat to the Republicans across the pond at their convention. And needless to say, their precinct was packed also.

TRAVIS Ah, to get the roast Ray Hill.

PETERSON:

[LAUGHTER]

I think it's appropriate that we finally have to say to your face what we've been saying behind your back.

[LAUGHTER, APPLAUSE]

One of the first words that comes to my mind when I think of Ray Hill is "ubiquitous." Ray, that's "u-biq-ui-tous."

RAY HILL: It's not even with these teeth, Travis.

TRAVIS You see, Ray is a slow learner, which I'll be happy to tell you more about later. You have to kind of spell things out for Ray, and then he still ignores them. I looked it up to help you in the dictionary. Ubiquitous means "always turning up whether you want them or not."

[LAUGHTER]

"Speaking out, whether you want them to say anything or not." I bet many of you didn't know that Ray, at one time, was preparing to be a minister of the gospel. Oh, really? That's a stretch. Ray Hill, a minister of the gospel? But in another facility that this church once housed in, I saw him come down the aisle wearing a robe and getting ordained as a deacon. "Ubiquitous." A slow learner.

RAY HILL: All the fighting in the world has nothing to do with friendship. You can disagree on principle, debate your heart out, scream, call one another's names, whatever is necessary. But all the political issues in the world are not worth one friendship. And I'm proud to consider Annise Parker my friend.

ANNISE Thank you.

PARKER:

[APPLAUSE]

JACK VALINSKI: Look at what we have in this community. And this community really is not the type of community that it is today. It is that type of community because of Ray Hill, and I salute him and I salute everybody who has worked in these type of things. Thank you, Ray.

[APPLAUSE]

RAY HILL: And so I said, and you came up and I said, you slimy bastard. You would just love to kick the shit out of a handcuffed old man, wouldn't you? Well, that said, I was going to jail that day. Absolutely. When we got to the jail, the captain of the jail met me at the car. "Mr. Hill, would you--"

[LAUGHTER]

Suddenly, the officers doing the arrest realized that there might be a problem. He said, Mr. Hill, would you like to wait in my office until your release is arranged? And I said, no, I am under arrest. I deserve a cell, preferably one with a telephone, thank you.

[LAUGHTER]

KIM SEVIER: Wow, Suzanne. I never knew that much about Ray Hill before.

SUZANNE Let me tell you, there's so much to know about Ray Hill. He is very interesting. And Ray is one of those few

ANDERSON: people that makes me look much less than eccentric. I mean, he's a character. He's an absolute character, and I adore him. He's been around the community for years. He has endless stories.

KIM SEVIER: He's just way on out there, where the buses don't run.

SUZANNE He is way on out there.

ANDERSON:

KIM SEVIER: Stay with us. Up next, we have a look at the infamous community calendar.

SUZANNE Oh, good.

ANDERSON:

DAYNA STEELE: Hi, I'm Dayna Steele from 97 Talk, and you are watching *TV Montrose*.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

KIM SEVIER: Suzanne.

SUZANNE What?

ANDERSON:

KIM SEVIER: I have a surprise for you.

SUZANNE What?

ANDERSON:

KIM SEVIER: Well, we're going to start doing something new with Nancy Ford.

SUZANNE And?

ANDERSON:

KIM SEVIER: Starting tonight, we are going to feature one-minute snippets from what Nancy does best.

SUZANNE I don't think that's safe.

ANDERSON:

KIM SEVIER: Stand-up comedy. She's been performing for years at all different kinds of clubs all around Montrose. And starting tonight, we'll show you one-minute clips of Nancy's stand up comedy routines in front of a live audience.

SUZANNE Roll it.

ANDERSON:

[MUSIC PLAYING]

NANCY FORD: She's my lover for two years now. We've had a wonderful time. But I have no show because I'm married. I'm happy. Nobody wants to hear about a happy lesbian, a happy, satisfied, happy lesbian. They want the embittered stuff. They want-- I'm serious. Everybody was so much happier when I was miserable.

[LAUGHTER]

AUDIENCE: Be miserable! Be bitter! We want to hear that!

NANCY FORD: No, no, I can't be bitter. I'm in love. I know. I know. I make us sick. I have become the person that I have always hated. We are disgusting.

[LAUGHTER]

We kiss at stoplights. We kiss at go lights. We don't care. There'll be another go light come around in a minute. We're going to kiss some more. My favorite is the pack of teenage boys in the pickup truck who pull up to the light beside us. Whoa, baby. Watch this. That takes the air right out of their tires generally.

SUZANNE That was fun, Kim. Wasn't that taped at Rich's Sunday Sister Night Out?

ANDERSON:

KIM SEVIER: It sure was. And look for Nancy as well as other comedians at Rich's Sisters Night on Sundays. And I have it from a reliable source that Sundays may be an open mic night. So get your material ready.

SUZANNE That'd be neat.

ANDERSON:

KIM SEVIER: Wouldn't it be fun?

SUZANNE Well, stay tuned. We have a commercial break coming up.

ANDERSON:

DERICK I'm Derek Nelson from *107.5 The Morning Buzz*, and you're watching *TV Montrose*.

NELSON:

CAMERAMAN: Think that's sexy? Cool.

SUZANNE Don't even think about buying or selling a home without hiring a professional. A home is the biggest financial

ANDERSON: investment that you will ever make, and I am always amazed at how casually people select a realtor. They'll call the name off of a sign or take the name of a friend of a friend. To be a good realtor, you have to be a good listener, and I listen to my clients and I customize my services to fit your needs. We listen, present creative solutions, and help you make decisions in buying or selling a home.

[MUSIC - LUDWIG VAN BEETHOVEN, "SYMPHONY NO. 5"]

COMMERCIAL Celebrating 15 years as Houston's premiere alternative dance club. Rich's has the hottest music hits, the largest

ANNOUNCER 1: dance floor, four huge bars, and the wildest theme parties. Rich's is the place to be for fun and action. The only New York style dance club for the gay and lesbian scene, Rich's is where the real world ends and your imagination begins. Be a part of the fun at Rich's this week. Rich's, where you can always be yourself.

BETTY Hello, my name is Betty DeGeneres, and my kid is the greatest. You know her. She's Ellen, and she's gay. For too

DEGENERES: long, gay Americans have suffered discrimination. As long as our sons and daughters are excluded from the basic protection of law, we must share that burden as a family. So let's not waste one child, and let them all reach for the stars.

CROWD: You are watching *TV Montrose*.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

SUZANNE Welcome back.

ANDERSON:

KIM SEVIER: Next up, we're going to the new Lesbian and Gay Community Center to take a look at the monthly meeting of the Democratic Political Caucus.

SUZANNE It was an opportunity for those that attended to hear Police Chief Clarence Bradford talk about violent hate crimes and ask the police department just what they intended to do about them.

KIM SEVIER: Let's go to JC and find out what he found out.

JC: We're here at the Houston gay and lesbian political caucus's annual monthly meeting, and tonight's guest speaker was Chief Clarence Bradford of the Houston Police Department. Clarence Bradford was here to address the group about hate crimes, stalking, and domestic violence, which is an increasing circumstance in the gay and lesbian community.

CLARENCE BRADFORD: Having people that are involved in hate crime investigations, sensitive and in tune with the seriousness of the offense. So in some instances, we haven't had that. I think that the reporting of hate crimes in this community, I think there's a serious underreporting that is going on in the community because people, one, don't feel comfortable that they are going to get the level of service that they should receive or they are not going to be protected to the extent that they're going to need protection if they come forward.

And in some other instances, I think people just don't trust the police to get involved in those particular cases. There's a strong culture down at the Houston Police Department, and you have to work hard, hard, hard, and you make slow changes-- small changes over long periods of time. To give you just a little feel for what the culture was, and Councilmember Park was involved in part of this process back then, and helped put the training in place.

But when we first told the officers that part of the human relations training program would involve dialogue exchange and education of what goes on in the gay and lesbian community and we were going to have members of the gay, lesbian community come in and talk to and teach some of the classes. Oh, you had uproar with the Houston Police Department. No way. Not going to sit through a class. Don't want to hear it, and that kind of thing.

What we decided to do was simply tell the officers say, OK, y'all come on in let's talk through this. You're police officers, right? Oh, yes, yes, yes. Do you get to choose your clients? No, I don't. You have an obligation and duty to provide services to all law-abiding citizens. It's your obligation. If, in fact, more about individuals, about groups, about cultures, about practices, lifestyles and those kinds of things, will that not allow you to be able to provide a better level of service?

JC: A couple of the people that were here this evening were relatives, the parents of Mark Kajs, who was gunned down at Urbana, and they were able to air some of their frustrations out with the chief police.

GLORIA And you just failed to file, do anything to help him. Why?

SWIDRISKI:

JC: Ma'am--

GLORIA Because he was gay?

SWIDRISKI:

CLARENCE BRADFORD: I don't want to-- I don't want to debate the issue with you and the personal attacks. I sympathize with you. But at the same time, I can tell you that there were two occasions where we have reports in the police department system, where your son came forward. On one instance, he-- your son and the suspect were at the police station together.

GLORIA They didn't come together.

SWIDRISKI:

CLARENCE They were at the station together. I don't know if they came together or not, ma'am. They were at the station together, and they both were in a discussion. And the police officer intervened. The officers said that they were having a discussion. He talked to both of them. They decided, well, we're going to go on our way there at the station. And police officers involved themselves in many, many disputes of that nature talk to people and it's resolved.

That was the first instance. The other instance was just several hours before the unfortunate shooting, where the officer did, in fact, file a detailed report.

EDWARD Your own detectives have told us that there were four incidents on file. One of them, they are referring to it as a call slip. And apparently, the patrolman didn't file the report as he was required. Another one was a walk-in, they referred to. Mark walked into the station and made a report. And then there was another incident where Mark made a call to the police from a friend's apartment, where Mr. Yilmaz was breaking windows and making a scene.

Mr. Yilmaz have happened to pass by in his car. The police went after him, and he told them a story about a hot check or a fraudulent check. Instead of filing this case or this incident under Mark's name, they turned around and filed it under Yilmaz' name as the complainant. And that's in your records right now.

CLARENCE When I said there's two instances where your son-- that I was able to locate in the records-- where your son

BRADFORD: established contact with the police department. Now, one resulted in an offense report being made by the Houston Police Department. There were, in fact, two of the instances where the suspect filed or contacted the police department, alleging misconduct on your son's part.

EDWARD And how can the police turn around and write it up as if the person committing the crime is the one doing the complaining?

CLARENCE When we go out on the scene, we have to try to decide who's the bad person, who's the good person, if

BRADFORD: anybody's good, if anybody's bad. And the officers, they have to make a judgment call on the scene. Who is the suspect? Who is the complainant? Who's the witness? Who is the reportee? It's not necessarily the case because who calls the police, in many instances, is not the complainant. They may be a witness or reportee of the suspect.

So the officers make that determination on a case by case basis. When they arrive on the scene, how are they going to determine. The person that called the police is always noted in the report that this person made the call. And I sympathize with what happened. Most unfortunate tragedy. But looking at the Houston Police Department records and what that officer did several hours before the shooting, all I can do is attest to what he filed in his report on the day of the incident.

He made a detailed report and he indicated that he referred-- gave you some information, seek a shelter. Don't go any place where the suspect knows that you're going to go. If you can skip work, don't go to the job even for the next day, that kind of thing. What actually happened, I was not there. I have nothing to refute what the officer has filed in his report.

JC: Well, you had the chief of police here tonight, Clarence Bradford. And he addressed the community on hate crimes. How do you think that went?

CLARENCE Well, I think this is the most accessible, approachable chief that we've had, visible chief that we've had. He

BAGBY: explained protective orders and explained the Domestic Violence Program and Hate Crimes Initiative that Mayor Brown committed to when the Caucus asked him to last fall.

MICHAEL What troubles me is why did it have to take this incident before anybody looked into the problems with the police

PANESAR: department, such as officers not making reports, not looking, not paying attention to victims speaking, as opposed to just ignoring.

EDWARD It seems like the Houston Police Department is really confused about finding their records, and their detectives

SWIDRISKI: are stating different things than their chief is. And I think they really need to do a thorough housecleaning and find where all the records are.

ANNISE First, I think it's important simply to acknowledge that the chief came out to face his critics, to answer questions,

PARKER: and to present changes in department policy, specifically to the gay, lesbian, and transgender community. He made an effort to come to us and to tell us what was going on. And I think that's historic and important, and we don't want to minimize that. All of the things that he presented are changes for the good.

JC: At times, the meeting was intense, but it certainly was cathartic for a lot of people. And we think that it was very good with respect to allowing the community to see what the police have to deal with and allowing the police an opportunity to let the community know the methods that are available to them in the event that they are enduring either stalking, hate crimes, or domestic violence. This is JC, reporting for *TV Montrose*.

SUZANNE Look for more on this important story in the next issue of *The Texas Triangle*.

ANDERSON:

KIM SEVIER: Suzanne, as you know, we've been doing a wonderful series on the film festival. And this weekend wraps up the Gay and Lesbian Film Festival at the Rice Media Center.

SUZANNE If you missed the last three weekends, do not miss these last two feature films coming up this weekend.

ANDERSON:

KIM SEVIER: That's right. The two features are by Paul Monet. The first is entitled *Brink of Summer's End*, and the second is *The Female Closet*, both of which have received great reviews, and they were both awarded at the 1997 Sundance Film Festival. For a complete schedule, just dial up Rice Media Center. They can be reached at 713-527-4853.

SUZANNE Also not showing at the festival but a great movie to catch is *Wilde*. And it's being shown now at the Greenway

ANDERSON: Plaza, Landmark Theater, and here, at Angelika.

KIM SEVIER: That's right. *Wilde*. Is terrific. It's an illustration of the life and times of Oscar Wilde. And let's go to a couple of clips right now so you can check it out.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

LIONEL: Oscar.

OSCAR: Lionel.

LIONEL: It's a wonderful play. My cousin, Lord Alfred Douglas, is here. He would very much like to congratulate you.

Oscar, this is Bosie Douglas.

ALFRED: We met last year. Lionel brought me to tea at Tite Street.

OSCAR: How could I possibly forget?

ALFRED: I love your play. The audience didn't know whether you meant your jokes or not. You shocked them, especially with your speech. But the more frivolous you seem, the more serious you are, aren't you? I love that.

OSCAR: Thank you. I always say the young are the only critics with enough experience to judge my work.

ALFRED: We need shocking. People are so banal, and you use your wit like a foil. You cut through all those starched shirt fronts. You draw blood. It's magnificent. We should draw some blood down in Oxford. But you'd need a miracle. All the dons at my college have dust in their veins.

OSCAR: Which college do you educate the fellows?

ALFRED: Magdalen.

OSCAR: My own college. Well, I shall claim the privilege of a graduate and come and take tutorials with you.

ALFRED: Come soon then. They're threatening to send me down.

OSCAR: How could they be so cruel to one so beautiful?

ALFRED: Dons, they're so middle class.

MAN: My dear Oscar, you've shocked the whole of London, smoking on stage like that.

OSCAR: Excellent. Then we should run for a year.

MAN 2: Oscar, you must say something to Marion Terry.

OSCAR: She was good, wasn't she? So good, in fact, I think she wrote most of the lines herself. Excuse me, Lord Alfred.

ALFRED: Bosie, please.

OSCAR: Bosie.

KIM SEVIER: We hope that you've enjoyed our series on the second annual Houston Gay and Lesbian Film Festival. We surely have enjoyed bringing you clips of all the wonderful movies. And we intend to keep you updated with what's hot and around town. So look forward to clips from future alternative films and other hot projects that will be coming your way.

SUZANNE And a few weeks ago, we showed you a scene from the movie *Think I Do*. The movie is well worth taking a

ANDERSON: second look.

BRENDAN: Anyway, about this whole "sorry" thing.

BOB: What whole thing?

BRENDAN: I don't know. I just-- lately, I feel really awful about what happened that night.

BOB: It was my fault. I was relentless and--

BRENDAN: Actually, it was kind of cute.

BOB: What are you--

BRENDAN: Saying I'm sorry.

BOB: Wait a minute. Beth put you up to this right? What are you-- Is this-- It's a joke, right?

BRENDAN: It's not supposed to be funny.

BOB: It's not?

SARAH: You seen Brendan?

ERIC: Yes. No! Well, sort of. Like, why?

SARAH: In English?

ERIC: He's in the men's room. But you can't go in there.

SARAH: I'm a woman, Eric.

ERIC: Yeah, well, good. Because you seriously wouldn't want to.

SARAH: Is he in there with someone?

ERIC: Beth!

SARAH: He's in there with Beth?

BOB: Sarah, hi.

BETH: Hey. I thought this might make you feel better.

SARAH: Only if it makes me an incredibly attractive gay man.

BETH: [LAUGHS]

Oh, Sarah. It's not your fault if Brendan likes guys.

SARAH: What do you want me to say? That it's "OK" that Brendan's gay? I'm sorry I'm not having a politically correct nervous breakdown.

BETH: What's the big deal? He's just one guy.

SARAH: I just want to know why everyone who doesn't want to get married is getting proposals left and right, and I can't even get a lousy date. I mean, I'm a relatively young, reasonably attractive second-year law student. I mean, what is wrong with this picture?

BETH: Well, I am certainly not one to talk about relationships.

SARAH: That's a given.

BETH: Thank you.

KIM SEVIER: And now it's time for another trip into the crazy, wacky, far out world of Nancy Ford. Fasten your seatbelts and hold on tight.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

NANCY FORD: Did you see *Titanic*? I took a week off and went.

[LAUGHTER]

I loved that movie. Did you see the movie? How many of you saw the movie, by your hands or applause or anything. And those of you who didn't, why not? You just had it up to here with that Leo DiCaprio little piece of shit. Is that it? Oh, my god. Oh, I'm sorry. Did I offend you? I'm so sorry. Don't diss Leonard!

No, actually, I think he's really cute. But I cannot take him seriously because my best friend used to date a woman who looked exactly like him. And I'm thinking, Leo, you're a big dyke. I don't know. You are a big [BLEEP] dyke. I used to dance with you in Austin. He is. He's the biggest lesbian I have ever seen.

I'm the queen of the world! Tell me.

BODY You are watching *TV Montrose*.

POSITIVE:

[CHEERING, APPLAUSE]

[MUSIC PLAYING]

SUZANNE It's been a great experience at the Angelika, but it's time to close for this evening.

ANDERSON:

KIM SEVIER: Next week, we'll bring you a story on the Pumped Up On Art exhibit that features footwear of the rich and famous that will be sold at silent auction to benefit the pride committee.

SUZANNE And we'll also take you to Stages, where we'll see the opening of the play *Fit to be Tied*.

ANDERSON:

KIM SEVIER: I can't wait to see that show. Thanks so much for being with us. We'll see you next week, Monday and Wednesday, at 8 o'clock.

SUZANNE Good night.

ANDERSON:

[MUSIC PLAYING]