

[MUSIC PLAYING]

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[MUSIC PLAYING]

- What do we want?

- Gay rights!

- When do want it?

- "The Good Homosexual" by James Carroll Pickett. The good homosexual accommodates himself, checks fantasies, behaves properly, purchases good taste, practices impeccable hygiene, begs respect from oppressors. The good homosexual reads only what is recommended, attends all the Westwood cinema, attains season tickets to the music center, votes the straight GOP slate, retires from controversy, amasses financial security no matter the social toll, finds AIDS embarrassing but donates \$50 a year anyway, anonymously.

The good homosexual subscribes to GQ, laughs the loudest at fag jokes, laments the demise of *After Dark*, prefers porno in brown paper bags, browses Crown Books, where he purchased *After The Ball*, displays *National Geographic*, misses *Dynasty*.

The good homosexual restrains impulse, sustains racism, objects to "gay" as too frivolous, refers to himself as a bachelor, contains passion, remains invisible, maintains there is nothing amiss. The good homosexual swallows bigotry, suppresses ecstasy, drives the family sedan just like old dad did, kisses with a dry mouth and closed lips, wears a condom on his tongue, just in case.

The good homosexual nurtures propriety, derives morality from TV shrinks, believes there might be something to inanity, shushes all profanity, insists on anonymity, despises sodomy, fails to see why dykes have to be so pushy.

The good homosexual drinks Coors beer, as advertised in good homosexual publications, keeps up appearances, longs for the cops to crack down, engages a female for social occasions, relishes assimilation, irons crisp creases in casual jeans.

The good homosexual quells excess, attacks radical fags, experiences madness in discreet little doses, waters down intensity, embraces mediocrity, reaps his own self-righteous vanity, does not grasp why silence necessarily equals death. The good homosexual kills queers.

- That's right, ma, you had it easy. You lost your husband in a nice, clean hospital. You know I lost mine-- I lost mine on the street.

That's right. They killed him on the street. 27 years old laying dead on his street, killed by a bunch of kids with baseball bats.

That's right, ma, killed by children, children taught by people like you because everybody knows that queers don't matter. Queers don't love, and those that do deserve what they get.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- Now!
- What do we want?
- Gay rights!
- When do we want it?
- Now!
- What do we want?
- Gay rights!
- When do we want it?
- Now!
- What do we want?
- Gay rights!
- When do want it?
- Now!
- What do we want?
- Gay rights!
- When do we want it?
- Now!
- What do we want?
- Gay rights!
- When do want it?
- Now!
- What do we want?
- Go ahead and say it so they can hear you on the Capitol! For love and for life, we're not going back. For love and for life, we're not going back. For love and for life, we're not going back. For love and for life, we're not going back.

[CHEERING]

- I think that's Robin Tyler on the stage leading the chant. For love or for life, we're not going back.
- Good afternoon, and welcome to the National March on Washington DC for gay and lesbian rights and choral reciting.

[CHEERING]

- Let's hear it out there.

[CHEERING]

- I'm Lea DeLaria.

- I'm Bruce Hopkins.

- I'm a dyke.

- I'm a faggot.

- And we're best friends!

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

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

[CHEERING]

- 500,000 strong.

[CHEERING]

Look at you!

[CHEERING]

500,000 strong.

[CHEERING]

500,000 strong, one of the largest marches in United States history!

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

[CHEERING]

- One of the largest marches in United States history.

- 500,000--

- We, parents--

- --strong.

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

- They've got to understand something. They've got to understand something. We are not talking about crotch politics. This is not a movement from the waist down.

We are talking about our right to love, and to choose, and to live. And I don't care about straight politics and I don't care about straight understanding. You better hear me in Washington. We are demanding, we are demanding our civil rights.

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

- Yes. Come on out.

[LAUGHING]

Join us. Bring a friend.

- What do you think about the turnout so far?

- Well, its never enough.

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

- Never enough. Never enough.

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

[CHEERING]

As difficult as it is, you must tell your immediate family. You must tell your relatives. You must tell your friends, if indeed, they are your friends.

You must tell your neighbors. You must tell the people you work with. You must tell the people in the stores you shop in.

[CHEERING]

Once they realize that we are indeed their children, and we are indeed everywhere, every myth, every lie, every innuendo will be destroyed once and for all. And once you do, you will feel so much better.

[CHEERING]

- What do we want?

- Gay rights!

- When do we want it?

- Now!

- What do we want?

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- When do we want it?

- Now!

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- Now!
- What do we want?

- Gay rights!
- When do we want it?
- Now!
- What do we want?
- And I ask, I ask people all over this country to do one thing. Come out. Come out, America. Come out.

[CHEERING]

- That's almost time.
- Good morning. Good morning.
- That was last week, right? That was last week, right?
- Yeah.
- National Coming Out Day? Did you see who came out of the closet?
- No. Who?
- Darrin Stephens.
- Darrin Stephens?
- Yeah, Dick Sargent.
- He's older than me.
- Dick Sargent--

[LAUGHING]

- came out of the closet. I read that somewhere. It was for National Coming Out Day.
- That's great.
- Yeah. There's a lot of great things going on. A lot of crazy things going on, too.
- Listen, Houston had, like, one of the biggest Coming Out Day celebrations in the country.
- Were you there?
- I sure was.
- I had to work. I couldn't go.
- I know. I know. But it was wonderful, and it was packed.
- Well, tell us about it later.

- OK. Here's Allen to say--

- We're queer.

- Ah, thank you, Allen.

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

- And we're queer.

- We certainly are, and--

- And?

- Well, hallelujah. What else can I say?

- You seem so--

- Hallelujah.

- --calm tonight, baby.

- It's because Brother Swaggart is finally out from behind the pulpit. Praise God.

- Oh, brother.

[LAUGHING]

- Ain't that--

- We'll talk about that later.

- --lovely? Yeah, I saw a wonderful political cartoon about that.

- Oh, wait. What was it all about?

- About Jimmy Swaggart. We'll talk about that later.

- Yeah. We're also going to be talking about what went on in Killeen this week.

- Ooh.

- You know, the day that man went in and shot all those people to death, that a woman in New York stabbed her baby with a pair of scissors like a hundred times?

- Oh my.

- It wasn't in the papers though.

- See, I work at the police department, and I know all that kind of crap. As long as you don't have to see, it you don't worry about it. Well, sometimes, we tell you about it, and you get mad but--

- That's what we're here for.

- Yes.

[LAUGHING]

And we got a guest this morning from the Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus--

- Aha.

- --to tell us why they endorsed that hateful queen down at--

[LAUGHING]

--City Hall. I'm just mad because her damn salary has gone up 50% in the last 10 years, and my--

- 55.

- She's going to give me a 2% raise.

- Hey. Well, Whitmire, you did it.

- Oh, I didn't say that. We got new music for you, too.

- Boy, do we.

- And we got to say hi to the guys and girls up at-- where they at up north?

- Sam Houston State.

- Yeah. Because they've started a brand new gay and lesbian group, and they wrote us so fabulously that we're going to share with you later on.

- Oh, yeah.

- We'll also have *This Way Out* with Greg Gordon and Lucia Chapelle at 1:30. And until then, girls, just hold onto your hats. This is brand new from who?

- Curtis Stigers.

- And it's called "People Like Us," and you're listening to it on *After Hours*. Listen to this.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

After Hours radio celebrating live from the heart of Montrose. We're here.

- And we're queer.

- And we're people like you.

- Yeah.

[LAUGHING]

- Well, at least, we're people like some of you, I guess. I don't know. What the hell are you listening for anyway? We should be somewhere else on this Saturday night. I know I should be. I'm in a blue funk because I have to work tomorrow.
- Oh, I'm sorry.
- I never work--
- And I don't.
- --on Sunday.
- You never work.
- Well, that's true.
- You hateful queen.
- Yeah. I'm retired.
- I have to work tomorrow because I'm going to Dallas for that--
- Oh, that's right.
- --Texas conference of police officers convention or something.
- Yeah. You're not going to be here next week.
- Oh, thank God for that.
- Oh, are we going to have fun.
- [LAUGHING]
- So am I, Ray.
- Oh.
- Hey, we got a letter here.
- We do?
- Yeah, from GLBA. I don't know who she is, who that is.
- That's--
- No. I do know. I'm just kidding you.

This says, *After Hours*. Dear Jimmy and Buddy, thank you so much for your encouragement and support. We need *After Hours*. Your program not only helps us as fans but it keeps the flames of activism, and education, and entertainment alive.

I know that putting on a radio program can be frustrating and time-consuming because I used to do a lesbian show at KZUM in Lincoln, Nebraska. I understand what it's like to put in an hour plus hours and hours of countless volunteer time, often wondering if anyone out there is even listening. Well, girls, we are. And your audience is bigger and farther away than you would guess.

And we do appreciate the time and effort you volunteer for us each week. I'm afraid we just don't tell you often enough. We don't mention to you how often we've heard the words of Harvey Milk on the program and have been moved to tears, or how delightfully wonderful we find the concept of the little pink pills, or how painful it is to stand up but to be paralyzed by fear.

Last week, Jimmy said that we were very brave for starting a gay and lesbian bisexual alliance in Huntsville. And while we are brave, we are also desperate. Desperate in the sense that sometimes, it's harder to sit back and take it than to stand up and do something about it. We simply won't take the fag jokes in the classrooms or the homophobia or utter abuse that's being taught at Sam Houston State University anymore.

There are 22 students at our first meeting of the Gay and Lesbian Bisexual Alliance. And there are many more who will join us when they find out how many of us there are. And there are many students and faculty members and staff who are afraid to join but willing to support us indirectly and behind the scenes. So we're off to a good start.

But because of where we are, we rely heavily on the moral support of the Houston community and its organizations. We expect that this group will receive a lot of opposition and that the opposition will be fierce. And now more than ever, we need your encouragement and support.

Please have your listeners write us and say, we support you. Our address is-- what is it, Mary? It's GLBA, Post Office Box 2171, SHSU, Huntsville, Texas 77341.

- That's 2172.

- 2172. OK. Call us here, and we'll give it to you. We'll get it right.

And in turn, we will keep you informed of our progress. We look forward to the day when we can come to KPFT and share with you a success story. Until then, keep talking, and keep shouting, and keep pushing for change. We're listening, and some of us even hear you. This is signed, Sincerely Kathy, who is facilitator and president of GLBA. And this is their first official poster.

- Isn't that great?

- They participated in Dan Rather's visit to Sam Houston University, I guess, who was on a book tour. So it says GLBA welcomes Dan Rather.

- That's all they need to say.

- All students, faculty, and members sensitive and supportive of gay and lesbian and bisexual concerns are welcome to write us at GLBA, Box 2172, SHSU, Huntsville, Texas 77341. And we thank you so very much for listening and for writing, and just stay tuned because you never know what you're going to hear through the wire here, anyway.

- Oh, yeah.

- It's just one of those things, right?

- Just for the heart.

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

[CHEERING]

As difficult as it is, you must tell your immediate family. You must tell your relatives. You must tell your friends, if indeed they are your friends.

You must tell your neighbors. You must tell the people you work with. You must tell the people in the stores you shop in.

[CHEERING]

And once they realize that we are indeed their children, that we are indeed everywhere, every myth, every lie, every innuendo will be destroyed once and for all. And once you do, you will feel so much better.

[CHEERING]

- When do we want it?

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- Now!

- What do we want?

- Gay rights!

- When do we want it?

- Now!

- Etched forever in our minds.

- The first ghostly images on our televisions.

- Etched forever in our minds.

- On our televisions.

- --when all of God's children--

- Etched forever in our minds.

- --black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics--

- Televisions.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

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

[CHEERING]

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- Hi. This is Craig Washington reminding you that none of us are free until all of us are free. So keep listening to *After Hours*, KPFT Houston, 90.1 FM.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

[CHANTING]

- In Chile, 8 million people who want to vote can't. In South Africa, 25 million people who want to vote can. In the United States, 81 million people who can vote don't. Democracy. It can't be of the people and for the people if it's not by the people. Vote.

- Every Saturday night at midnight on *After Hours*, we play music. *After Hours*, every Saturday night at midnight, right here on KPFT Houston, 90.1 FM.

- It's like every Saturday night, week after week, after week, after week.

- I wouldn't know what to do on a Saturday if I weren't here.

- I can think of some things to do.

- Oh.

[LAUGHS]

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- And I wouldn't be sitting here looking at you, I'm telling you.

- Why, thank you.

- I've got to-- I'm just tired. I've got to go to Dallas this week. We're having the Texas conference of police officers and sheriffs.

- The tea cops.

- Yeah, I know.

- So tell those cops to tea, girl. I'm going to go up there and-- well, see, some of the Houston people know I'm there.

- Hmm!

[LAUGHING]

- So they're like, what room are you in?

- I see.

- You know, at 2:00 in the morning. Hey, can we come in and talk about the convention?

- Yeah, right.

- Yeah. Come on in, guys. Anyway, talking about conventions, talk about why it's important to register and participate. And that's why I'm going to Dallas because our Union is getting ready to have a big national convention, which is going to be held in Houston next year. And we have to participate in that. And if you get involved in politics, wonderful things happen, like this thing that happened about 12 or 13 years ago on the steps of City Hall in San Francisco. Listen.

- Harvey, please raise your right hand. You, Harvey Milk, solemnly swear or affirm that you will support and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of California against all enemies, foreign and domestic, that you will bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of California, that you take this obligation freely without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion, and that you will well and faithfully discharge the duties upon which you are about to enter and during such time as you hold the Office of Supervisor, District Number 5.

[LAUGHING]

[CHEERING]

- Woo!

[CHEERING]

- Harvey, say it again.

- I do.

[CHEERING]

- Oh, what a moment.

- Yeah, I know.

- When Harvey Milk was sworn in as the first openly gay person ever elected to public office in this country, he's talking now about how Anita Bryant said that was the doom of California. And California had been in a drought for months, and it started to rain.

[LAUGHING]

- On the day he was--

- About the moment they swore Harvey in. Anyway, we're talking politics this morning. And we have the opportunity to have an openly lesbian lady who's very-- what's the word I want? Annise is just wonderful.

- Yeah.

- Right?

- She's been in our neighborhood, like, forever--

- She's been around--

- --supporting us.

- --in Houston politics for a long time. And next week, we had scheduled a debate or a something--

- Sort of.

- --rather between Annise Parker, who is candidate for District C, and Council Member Vince Ryan, who now sits at District C. But since he's been so hateful over the past how many ever many years he's been down there, we decided to cancel that. And maybe Chris Bacon, who's here with the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus, can shed some light on what Vince Ryan did to us. I don't know. And certainly talk to us about who and why the GOPC endorsed the folks that they did.

- Yeah.

- Hello, Chris.

- Hi. I'm glad to be here.

- Good.

- Why is that? No.

[LAUGHING]

- What's going on? Are we going to have an election? Does anybody know?

- No one really knows. This has probably been the most confusing endorsement period at the caucuses that we've gone through, partly because we made some decisions, which a lot of people are surprised by. I think, normally, the caucus has been much more predictable, and I think, this time, we surprised a lot of the people in the community.

But secondly because there's the whole issue of whether we are going to have an election. And partly because what's happened right now is the Hispanic groups in this city have challenged the way we elect officials.

- Well, good for them.

- And well, they can challenge things under the status quo, under the Voting Rights Act. Unfortunately, gays and lesbians do not have standing, generally, under the Voting Rights Act. So we could have an unfavorable situation, and no one would really care.

- Right.

- We're hoping, in a sense, to piggyback on the legal claims of the Hispanics. Of course, as you probably realize, that's always difficult to do.

- Oh, yeah.

- You never know if you can trust the groups that you're working with. Because, I think, obviously, the Hispanics are primarily concerned with their community.

- Of course, they are.

- That's understandable.

- Sure.

- Of course, they are. Is the representation-- is the way we do things in Houston right? Is that fair? Don't speak for the caucus. Just speak for yourself. Do you think it's fair?

[SIGHS]

- I think it-- if you look at the results, Hispanics in this community, I think, make up close to 30% of the people in the city of Houston. I might be a little bit off on that. There's only one city council person who is Hispanic. You begin to wonder if it's the way the lines might be drawn.

So that's one of the arguments. Some people believe, and I agree with them, that if there were more districts, you would be able to get more minority representation on City Council. The area where I think groups sometimes do disagree as to whether we should eliminate the at large positions. Let me explain what I mean by an at large position.

Five of our City Council people are elected citywide. Everybody gets to vote for those five positions, and then there's nine other positions which are voted for locally in different--

- And districts.

- --areas. A lot of people believe that the at large districts tend to disadvantage minority communities because, obviously, whoever is the majority is going to have more power and is more likely to get people elected. I don't totally subscribe to that view because at large candidates often have been our best friends. Not always--

- That's true.

- --but they do come and scream with us because they are concerned about our votes. So some people would say if we had Montrose and then we also had the five at large, we would have more power than if we just had 16 independent districts.

- I think one of the reasons those candidates come and scream with the caucus though is they realize that all those gay and lesbian votes are not in Montrose. The gay and lesbian community doesn't realize that yet because we're just-- we got it in the twit and the voice. But there are hundreds of thousands of us out there that haven't heard it yet.

- I think we discovered that this week.

- We need to wake up.

- The 146 state legislative seat went to Garnet Coleman--

- Right.

- --who was an underdog from the very beginning. The GLPC was the only group in town that I know of that endorsed him. A couple of other groups showed an interest in him when he went to the runoff.

This was an excellent candidate, and he won by 300 votes, and there were a lot of brothers and sisters who were able to vote for him who lived in his area. And we mobilized to get him elected. In fact, he came back on Wednesday. He came to the caucus to thank the caucus, and he recognizes that we did play an important role--

- That's great.

- --in this election.

- The only thing that bothers me about-- and I don't want to dwell on the Hispanic thing-- but the only thing that bothers me about their little spiel right now is I keep hearing them say that it's one of the largest growing minority groups in the city. And last year, about this time, I read a report at HPD that said that the Oriental-- and it was actually the Vietnamese and-- I can't remember.

But the Asian community was the largest growing minority in the city. So they need to-- we need to sit those Asians down and ask them why they're not getting involved in politics because they're getting left completely out in the left field.

- There is an Asian candidate for one of the City Council at large positions--

- Oh, really?

- --and the caucus has endorsed that person. And I'll talk a little bit about her later because she is, I think, one of our best candidates.

- So where do you want to start, with the mayor?

- Well, we could start with the mayor since that's probably the more difficult subject to talk about.

- Why is that?

- Well, I think-- first of all, a lot of people didn't expect the caucus to endorse the mayor. We've had a fairly stormy relationship with the mayor and--

- To say the least.

- To say the least.

- Keep those Whitmire tapes out.

- Now, I know that's right.

- I'm fairly new to Houston, but for those people who are new like myself, to give you sort of a brief history, Kathy Whitmire was elected with gay support back at the beginning of the 1980s. I think she acknowledged at the time that we were very powerful in getting her elected.

Little by little, I think she got nervous about our support. I think, little by little, it was felt that she got more support from the good old boys and the Greater Houston Partnership. And I think she began to lose touch with our community. And I think that definitely happened after the referendum in 1985.

- But don't blame all that on Whitmire.

- Oh, I'm not.

- Because it's only fair to say, as a city employee who sat at HPD who was in the closet then, we watched as the straight slate was born and all that hate came out. And we just kind of sit back. And I remember going to the bars and people saying, oh, they'll do this. This is right. And it didn't happen.

Yet 20% of the Montrose, less than 20% of the Montrose, bothered to vote for the referendum. So when you don't support yourself-- and what really has stuck in my mind and bothered me since that was that next parade year, when we were marching down the street, everybody was yelling, where's the mayor? Where's the mayor?

But it's like, wait a minute. The mayor and her supporters put this thing on the books. There will not be discrimination against gay and lesbian employees like me. And then we did not go to the ballots and vote to support it. So it's kind of like, they've already put their neck on the chopping block, and do we want them to reach up and pull the ax down?

So it kind of bothers me. And I'm not saying that that's what you were leading to, but it's only fair to say that we've had a lot of support down there that we've never acknowledged. And if you don't vote and support those politicians, how can you expect them to come back to us time after time after time? And I think we're now beginning to get back to the place where we realize that it's our job to go vote and our job to get out and work and help get these people elected.

- We're always in a quandary because on the one hand, we don't want our endorsement to be the kiss of death. And sometimes, there have been experts who said that if we endorse a candidate, we end up hurting the candidate. And I think there have been candidates in the past who've wanted endorsements by winks and nods. They'll come to us, and they'll say, yeah, I'm really for you. But let's not make too much noise about this. I think that the gay community--

- That's true.

- --doesn't have that kind of patience anymore. I think witnessing the rally of thousands on the corner of Westheimer and Montrose--

- Wasn't that great?

- --in the middle of the summer, it was wonderful. I think--

- See, how long have you been in Houston?

- I've been here over a year now.

- OK. I've been here 10 years. I don't know how long you've been here.

- About 25.

- So see, we've been waiting on these silly queens to wake up, and it took another death to do it. But we're so glad--

- Yay!

- --that they finally did. And you're right because things are really swinging around our way.

- But at the same time, we don't want to be unwise. And I think-- I mean, I think there needs to be certain consideration. I think, sometimes, we put our candidates in very uncomfortable positions when sometimes, we could negotiate behind the scenes.

For example, sometimes, there are people on City Council who are working on things for us. Let's give you an example, the sensitivity training for police officers. That is something that is needed, I think. You may disagree. I think it's needed. But I think--

- No. We certainly agree on that.

- But I think that if we can have a candidate who's going to work on that without making a big media splash, maybe that's more effective if it's going to get it to happen, as opposed to calling a news conference and demanding something and putting a city councilman on the spot. A lot of times, we have to make judgment calls. Sometimes, I really do think we need to be cautious. Sometimes, I think we do need to do things behind the scenes. But I think, by and large, we do want our-- we do want to be recognized and identified as legitimate people in the community.

I met with many, many candidates, and they sort of fall into different categories. A lot of the candidates that screamed with us were very sympathetic to our community, but they still were very heterosexist. What I mean by that is they came to us, and they said, I really believe in civil rights for gay people. I really like gay people. And I always got the impression they were talking to the natives.

- Oh, yes.

- We really like you.

- The us and them syndrome.

- But it still was the us and them. There was a few candidates-- and not very many, even of the candidates that we endorsed-- that I felt really live in a world that is not heterosexist or heterosexist centrist. And of course, I mean, I'm guilty of this too.

Being a white male, I tend to think the world revolves around things, white things, male. And Blacks and Hispanics, they're different. And I think, often, liberals fall into this trap of being sympathetic and very kind. But at the same time, they really miss the boat.

And I felt that way about a lot of our candidates. And I think that Kathy, probably, has never been someone who's understood this fact. And I think she's always--