

- Yeah, well, the BBC is going to be here. Just hang on here. Here it comes. Here's the weather. The gumbo cookoff's postponed. Well, the BBC has had it. Now you're going to have to listen to Buddy instead. Oh, no.

Why, we just heard the BBC. Isn't that great? Hey, this is it. It's not-- no, no. We're pushing the right button. This is exciting, everybody. Now, what are you going to do, Buddy? We expect you to have 15 minutes of stuff to get ready. Everybody's here.

- We're ready.

- They're not ready. You're not ready. Give me that. You're ready.

- We're gay. We're always ready.

[LAUGHTER]

- Wait a minute. Wait a minute. Hold on. Wait a minute. I'm not gay. I'm not gay. Get him out of here. Is he's gay? No. Help! Help!

- Can you get the button pushed?

- They're touching me. Oh, no. Oh, no.

- Hush, Otis. Have you got the thing pushed in right?

- Yeah, it's pushed in right.

- Because I know how you crazy straight people are.

- Do you think maybe they shifted over to the new time or something?

- No, they don't do that. We only do that in the States.

- They've gone off the planet.

- BBC doesn't do that.

- Let me do double summertime. They do too. They call it double summertime over there.

- Goodnight, Mary. You're off.

- Get a card in here or something. Oh, Iraqi Go commercial. This is it. Where is it? Hello?

- Kids drag in the darnedest things.

[FROG CROAKING]

[CAT MEOWING]

[DOG BARKING]

But these days, that can be a problem.

- Where is the food?

- Today, kids are bringing home Iraqis.
- Where is your chemical weapons storage?
- These Iraqis are driving me crazy.
- I want your oil.
- What can I do?
- Wow Chemical has the answer.

[MAGICAL CHIME]

Iraqi Go.

- Give me some falafel.
- Is it hard to use?
- Just point and spray.
- It's Iraqi Go.

[EXPLOSION]

[SCREAMING]

- No more Iraqis.
- And my floor is so shiny.
- Where's my Iraqi?
- Iraqi Go by the makers of Atheist Motel.

[EXPLOSION]

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- Satellite distribution of the BBC World Service is supported by a grant from the Capital Group. KPFT has access to the BBC World Service through affiliation with American Public Radio. KPFT receives no financial remuneration for its broadcast.

- OK. And as you know, we're constantly moving things around. You know how these queens are. We just can't get our act together. But *This Way Out* won't be heard this evening. We're going to go right into the news with Frank because we have something very, very special that we're going to share with you. And you need to get your cassette recorders ready, kids, because history in the making is getting ready to happen here, 90.1 FM KPFT Houston.

My name is Buddy. And this is called *After Hours*.

- The following program contains language or images of a frank or sensitive nature that may be considered objectionable by some. Listener discretion is advised.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- This is *Afterwards* for the week of April 7. I'm Frank White.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

Attorney General Dan Morales appealed a state district court's ruling that Texas's sodomy law is unconstitutional. Gay communities across the state had been hoping for an appeal so that a more authoritative ruling could be obtained.

Margaret Tucker, legal coordinator for the Texas Human Rights Foundation, said her group was willing to risk the possibility of reversal to win the louder voice for gay rights that an appellate victory would represent. Tucker also said there is certainly risk involved, but there is fairly much consensus that further legal resolution is necessary.

On March 15, State District Judge Paul Davis issued a permanent injunction to block the state from enforcing the law. This is a law which many lawmakers contend is never enforced, yet we reported an incident where four men were arrested under this statute since January of this year. Attorney General Morales said that his obligation is to defend the laws of the state when they are challenged.

"Our goal," he said, "is to seek a determination once and for all on the constitutionality of this particular law."

Charles Armstrong Investments and the AIDS Equity League are urging all Texans to call or write their representatives in support of important legislation, which will directly affect each and every one of you. A full-page ad which ran in *This Week in Texas* outlined the legislation and gives a brief explanation as to why we should either support or defeat the legislation.

Some of the issues being addressed are House Bill 2509 is the worst bill this session. It criminalizes, promotes discrimination, and undercuts all the past AIDS policy successes. House Bills 2440 and 1362 require mandatory AIDS testing and HIV discrimination.

House Bill 702 discriminates against HIV-positive doctors and dentists. And finally, House Bill 238, which requires mandatory testing of persons suspected of exposing police officers, firefighters, and others to AIDS.

On the brighter side, House Bill 1153 would repeal the Texas sodomy law. And House Bill 1154 would prohibit discrimination against lesbian and gay people. The rights of gay and lesbian parents would be protected with the passage of House Bill 1592.

We must also pass the House bills that fund insurance for people with AIDS. Pick up a [? twig ?] and find out who you should write or call. Call The Texas Human Rights Foundation or the Lesbian and Gay Rights lobby for more information.

28,000 people showed up in Austin for the march. If the same 28,000 people would call or write their legislators, we could begin to make a difference. Participating in the system is what the march was all about. Now is your opportunity to become a full-fledged gay and lesbian citizen.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

I spoke to Johnette Duff this week and discussed the topic of same-sex marriages. Duff is the author of *For Better or Worse-- A Legal and Financial Guide to Marriage*. Ms. Duff supports the idea of same-sex marriages and knows all too well the problems facing same-sex couples as far as medical insurance, inheritance, and spousal rights in case of illness.

Although the laws of this state do not guarantee same-sex partners' rights, there are things you can do to avoid legal entanglements. With a written cohabitation agreement, valid wills, durable power of attorney for health care, giving the partner the right to hospital visitation and the right to make medical decisions in the event of emergency and careful financial planning, many of the advantages of legal marriage are available for a couple living together. The question of medical insurance remains open. Duff is an attorney in private practice in Houston.

The Houston Gay and Lesbian Pride Week 1991 announces its fourth-annual What's it Worth Auction to be held at Heaven on Sunday, April 28. The auction is one of the organization's largest fundraising events and helps defray the cost of Pride Week and the parade.

ACT UP, the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power, will sponsor a boycott and picket of the US headquarters of Shell Oil company on Friday, April 12 at 4:00 PM. The purpose of the demonstration is to express public outrage at Shell Oil's deliberate corporate policy of discrimination against people with AIDS.

[? Michael ?] [? Romi, ?] who had been employed in Shell Oil's Manhattan office as a statistical analyst for seven years was forced to resign after harassment and discrimination by his supervisor. The harassment began in March of 1988 when he missed several days' work due to recurring viral infections.

His immediate supervisor began hinting to other employees that she had questions about his sexual orientation as well as hinting that she believed that he had AIDS. Mr. [? Romi ?] resigned in June 1989 and later filed suit under New York City's human rights ordinance. Shell Oil has maintained in court that it may discriminate on the basis of HIV status.

The New York Supreme Court has ruled in Mr. [? Romi's ?] favor. ACT UP is demanding that Shell Oil publicly announce suitable non-discrimination policies regarding disabilities, handicaps, HIV status, and sexual orientation. Until Shell Oil does this, ACT UP is urging a boycott of all their products and services.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

On March 26, Travis County clerk Dana Beauvoir declined to issue a marriage license to a same-sex couple. Beauvoir issued the following statement. "Today I have declined to issue a marriage license requested by two individuals. I regret that the law prohibits me from issuing a marriage license to two persons of the same gender.

When male-female gender couples apply for a marriage license, I don't ask questions about their sexual relationship. Marriage licenses are about legal relationships, not about lifestyles. A marriage license establishes legal rights. Texas is a community property state. All individuals and their loved ones should have the right to establish legal relationships to own and protect property, plan for retirement, and promote their financial decisions.

The marriage license is a legal tool which assists in the normal investment decisions of life. Every qualifying citizen should have equal access to these legal rights, regardless of race, color, creed, national origin, sexual preference, or gender." This law will probably be challenged in court on the grounds that it violates the Equal Rights Amendment of the Texas Constitution.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

The fourth Texas Lesbian Conference will be held at the Driskill Hotel in Austin on the weekend of April 12. Linda Morales, plaintiff in the suit challenging 2106, will be one of the many speakers for the weekend. Workshops covering a wide range of topics as well as a dance on Saturday night will make this a weekend to be remembered. Call the Texas Lesbian Conference at area code 512-462-2369 for more information.

A very successful fundraiser was held tonight for the Lesbian and Gay Rights Lobby of Texas. Newly elected state representative Glen Maxey was the guest of honor. Maxey is the first openly gay elected official in the state of Texas. The party-goers included a diverse mix of gay and lesbian people as well as politicians and supporters from outside the gay and lesbian community. TGRL works to promote gay and lesbian rights and has been very active during this legislative session.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

The Pride Awards Banquet will be held on June 15 this year. An article which ran in *TWIT* explained that the voting procedure had been changed and that voting would take place on the night of the banquet. I'm sure that the Pride Award committee would not limit the people eligible to vote to those who can afford tickets to the banquet. The article was unclear on this point.

I attempted to contact members of the Montrose Activities Center who sponsors this event, but I could not get in touch with anyone. Hopefully, next week we can clarify that the voting is not limited to the 400 people attending the banquet and that voting is open to the entire lesbian and gay community.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

On April 10, Oppression Under Target, a student group at the University of Houston, will be protesting the ROTC to stop the discrimination. The University of Houston already has a anti-discrimination clause, but it only affects student activities. And since ROTC is a crossover organization, meaning they are not only a student activity but also an academic program, this discrimination is allowable. So there will be a demonstration on April 10 at about 11 o'clock outside of the University Center Satellite.

The Faculty Senate right now at the University of Houston is debating a resolution to eliminate discrimination in both activities and academics. If this resolution passes, it will be interesting to see what the Faculty Senate decides about ROTC on the campus at the University of Houston.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- 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 we want it?
- Now!
- What do we want?
- Gay rights!
- When do we want it?
- Now!
- 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 we want it?
- 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 we want it?
- Now!
- What do we want?
- Gay rights!
- When do we want it?
- Now!
- What do we want?

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- 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 we want it?
- Now!
- What do we want?
- Gay rights!
- When do we want it?
- Now!
- What do we want?
- Gay rights!

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

- And we're queer.
- We certainly are. And I'm that faggot that works for the Houston Police Department.
- And I'm that faggot who doesn't work at all.
- Wait a minute. Let me clarify that. I'm that faggot civilian dispatcher that works for the Houston Police Department.
- Yes, we have to make that very clear.
- Yes. And we'll be back in just a second with someone very special. As you can tell, *This Way Out* is not here. Oh, rats.
- I know.
- But things happen, Kids. Hang on. It's going to get good.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- Say it so they can hear you in the capital! 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!

When do we want it?

- Now!
- 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 we want it?
- 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!

- *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, obtains 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 bucks 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 discrete 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 were I lost mine? I lost mine on the street. That's right. They killed him on the street. 27 years old, laying dead on the 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]

- 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 we want it?
- Now!
- What do we want?
- Gay rights!
- When do we want it?
- Now!
- What do we want?
- Gay rights!
- Go ahead and say it so they can hear you in the capital! 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!
- I think that's Robin Tyler on the stage leading the chant, for love for life, we're not going back.
- Good afternoon. And welcome to the National March on Washington, DC for gay and lesbian rights 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!

[CHEERING]

- It's all right. You may all come out.
- We parents want to persuade society that our gay children are not acting out of defiance and 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.

- 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.

- 500,000 strong.

[CHEERING]

Look at you.

[CHEERING]

500,000 strong.

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

[CHEERING]

- 500,000 strong. One of the largest marches in United States history.

[CHEERING]

One of the largest marches in United States history. 500,000 strong. They've got to understand something. They've got to understand something. We are not talking about white 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 gotta hear me in Washington. We are demanding. We are demanding our civil rights.

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

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

- Yeah, come on out. Join us. Bring a friend.

- What do you think about the turnout so far?

- Well, it's never enough, never enough, never enough.

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

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

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

- Yes, come on out. Join us. Bring a friend.

- What do you think about the turnout so far?

- Well, it's never enough, never enough, never enough.

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

- Let's 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 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]

- When do we want it?

- Now!

- 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 we want it?

- Now!

- Mary, why are these damn carts never queued?

- I know it. Isn't that terrible?

- What do we want?

- Gay rights!



- Gay rights!
- When do we want it?
- Now!
- 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 we want it?
- Now!
- I knew that was going to happen.
- Again, again. I can't stand it.
- OK. Wait a minute. Sorry, kids.
- We can't start until we get this.
- Not until this happens.
- Right.
- I do have to tell you, though. I'm the faggot dispatcher. And this is all volunteer, girl.
- Yeah.
- It's not an extra job. I don't get paid.
- What do we want?
- Gay rights!
- When do we want it?
- Now!
- Let's try it again.

- OK.

- 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 we want it?

- Now!

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

- I know what it is.

- Ah, there it is.

- You know what it is.

- What?

- The clocks say 1:40.

- What's the deal?

- I don't know what the hell time it is.

- I know. I'm confused.

- Well, it's not 1:40.

- This is that night that 2 o'clock becomes 3 o'clock and--

- Yeah, I know.

- It's magic. The fairies do it.

- Oh, girl. We do it every chance we can. Here's [? Alan. ?]

- Queer.

[LAUGHTER]

- Are you nervous tonight? Are you nervous because of our guest?

- Our guest is here.

- Yeah.

- This is really important, kids, because about-- oh, I don't know. How long ago was it? We made it a startling announcement.

- Yeah, we sure did. And we had that wonderful interview by phone.

- Yeah. See, it's really funny because I got called in on the rug tonight. I'll tell you about that maybe someday.

- OK.

- But being the only queer down at HPD--

- Oh, sure.

- --it's not any fun.

- How about openly gay?

- Being the only queer that does this show for four and a half years is not any fun either because it's volunteer.

- Yeah.

- And you don't get paid. But we do it because-- no, you don't get any money, right?

- I know. I know.

- I'm going to Florida in two-- in four weeks. Who's going to pay the bills? You?

- Don't look at me. Stanley and I have been fighting, so no money there.

- Anyway, we talk about why we're here and why we come down here every week and why you listen. And the reason you listen is because our lives really do count. And once in a blue moon, in the state of Texas, which has this fabulous sodomy law--

- Yeah.

- I saw one of my favorite police officers tonight. And he said he made another arrest, two men doing it out on Allen Parkway somewhere, but they weren't charged with sodomy. They were charged with lewd behavior.

- Oh.

- Because the DA won't take charges on sodomy--

- I'll bet not.

- --because they can't fight-- they can't win those things. But anyway--

- And "lewd" is so subjective.

- Yeah. We've got this wonderful state that says we can't but we do. And every once in a while, the state of Texas does something wonderful. And they did something wonderful a few weeks ago in Dallas. They elected the first openly--

- Travis County.

- Travis County.

- Travis County.

- OK, girl. Help me out of this. Travis County. They elected the first openly gay person to the legislature, right? And we're going to talk to them.

- We have Texas's first elected openly gay person ever.

- And we're going to talk to him in just a second, so stay with us if this thing'll work.

- If this thing works.

[LAUGHTER]

And it didn't.

[LAUGHTER]

- Did you notice the BBC wasn't here, either?

- Yeah.

- OK. Hang on, man.

- Someone does not like us anymore.

- Yeah, I know who it is.

- Yeah.

- Those communists.

- There you go. They're trying to take over the station and turn it into Radio Moscow.

- No, that's not going to work.

- No. What if we just introduce our guest?

- Let's do that. To hell with it.

- OK.

[LAUGHTER]

- We'll edit all this out later, Glen.

- It is fun watching it.

- See, we make all these mistakes, and we edit it later on.

- OK. We have Representative Glen Maxey right here in the studio tonight.

- And I'm nervous. What are you doing in Houston?

- Are you going to really ask me that question?

- Yeah.

- Well, actually, we came to Houston to help raise funds for the Lesbian and Gay Rights Lobby. But at this late hour the true answer was we're looking for a party.

- And this is it until 4:00 in the morning.

[LAUGHTER]

- Well, I'm just here down to tell the people in Houston that I'm real pleased to be gay, proud to be gay, and proud to be the gay and lesbian community of this state's first representative in the Texas legislature. And it's about time that my colleagues just got over it.

- You bet.

- What made you want to run for this office, and what led up to you deciding, yeah this is what I'm going to do?

- Well, I think all of us who are involved in social change, people who are fighting for justice for people who are any kind of a differing philosophy or socioeconomic group or sexual orientation or religion, race, or whatever find our particular ways to fight for that social justice.

Many of us do it in the streets and do protests. And some do it through radio shows like this. And others do it through the political system. For 20 years I've been involved in the political system, working in campaigns, working for legislators, lobbying at the legislature. And an opportunity came to offer myself for public service when an open seat came in the Texas legislature in January of this year. And I decided that it was time to take my experiences on the road, so to speak.

- I'm surprised to know that you've been doing this type of thing for 20 years. I had no idea.

- I don't look that old?

- No.

[LAUGHTER]

Isn't it true the first time you ran for public office you weren't out?

- I ran for the legislature in 1982 as a very closeted, very scared homosexual from Bryan-College Station and got beat. At that point, 10 years ago almost, it was very scary for me because I thought if anybody knew I was gay that it would be the end of my political career, that I would never be able to do anything like this.

- What changed that?

- Well, you know what happened in 1991 when I ran for public office is that being gay became a positive situation. When we decided to make this race, one of the most touching things for me is that we did some polling. And we polled people across District 51 in central and southeast Travis County.

And one of the questions was, would you vote for a homosexual as your state representative. And people overwhelmingly said yes. One of the questions that was asked was-- after giving a profile of me that included that I was the executive director of the Lesbian and Gay Rights Lobby and had done gay civil rights work-- was an open-ended question of what do you like most about Glen Maxey and what concerns you the most about Glen Maxey?

And as I was looking through those questionnaires, I saw page after page of traditionally conservative voters, people who were over the age of 65 who lived in rural Travis County saying what they liked most about Glen Maxey was that he was honest and [? what ?] he was open, and that he was running as an openly gay person because that meant that if he was honest about that he would shoot straight on the other issues.

And I think that's what we find as we heard the people in this introduction tonight, Harvey Milk and others say come out. I think I learned in this campaign, and I've learned over the work I've done in the gay community over the last half dozen years, that being out is the safest place to be for gay men and lesbians.

- It's a lot of power.

- It is.

- Especially in places like the police department and the legislature, I'm sure.

- Not only that, but it takes a lot of power away from your enemies.

- It certainly does. Glen, take us back to that night when the votes had been counted and you realized that you had won. What did you feel inside?

- Well, that's a very good question. A little stunned. I've done political campaigns for other candidates for years. And you always know that you've got a good chance of winning or that your candidate's not going to win. And I prepared myself for losing, even though we'd done a tremendously effective campaign.

At 7 o'clock we closed the door, and I told my campaign workers what I was going to tell the press because I lost. Just be prepared to be able to say we had run a tremendously credible campaign. We had, in an eight-week period, over 1,200 volunteers and contributors.

- Oh, gosh.

- Amazing kind of thing. We had people who contributed who lived on the West Coast and the East Coast and Dallas and Houston, in Amarillo, and checks coming in from South Texas and North Texas, and a lot of good friends in Austin.

And so it was one of those kind of campaigns that you feel a lot of responsibility. And when the votes came in at 7 o'clock and it showed that I had won, it was pretty exhilarating. It was, like, all right. I don't think it was really that night so much when it really set in. It didn't really set in until the night four days later when we walked into the House chamber to take the oath of office.

- Yeah.

- What a night that was because I guess I wasn't prepared for what happened that night of literally hundreds of people showing up. House chamber was packed. The oath of office was administered by the governor of this state. The introduction-- the master of ceremonies was Justice of the Texas Supreme Court Oscar Mauzy.

And I looked around the room, and there were disabled people and gay and lesbian people and senior citizens and African Americans, Hispanics, and kids. Looked around the room and there were at least 25 or 30 of my future colleagues, members of the House of Representatives, who had come in.

You look up in the gallery, and I saw the corner of my eye some of the more conservative members of the legislature. After I took my oath, one of the first people that walked up to me was a state senator from San Angelo, Texas, Bill Sims, probably one of the most conservative members of the Texas Senate.

I have not-- he just came up and said, if I can ever be of help, call on me. I have no idea why he was there. I doubt if we'll ever agree on anything politically, but it's that kind of thinking, what door has opened here.

- Right.

- It's been a tremendous experience in the last couple of weeks.

- What about the first time you walked onto the floor?

- Well--

- Were there whispers? There he is.

- Well, that's what's changed my life. I've done lots of things in politics. I've been in the newspaper and on TV and all of that while lobbying for the Lesbian and Gay Rights Lobby in the last three or four years. And I thought that I had sort of got over that sort of being in the fishbowl.

After this race, after this being sworn in and being on TV and-- I'm still getting the clippings from friends all across this country where it was reprinted in newspapers. I mean, I think this week it's in *The Advocate* and *OutWeek* and all those kinds of things. Pretty heady experience.

But you walk out on that House floor, and you know that you're under a microscope. Everybody's wondering, who is this guy. Who is this gay person that's going to be-- is he going to be throwing the bombs, or is he going to be rational and reasonable? Is he just going to sit back in the back corner and just let us go about our merry way?

I think there was a lot of fear and sort of trepidation among members. And over the last few weeks, I feel that going away very rapidly, beginning relationships with colleagues, building coalitions, breaking down some barriers.

- So who is Glen Maxey, and what's he going to do in Austin?

- Well, Glen Maxey is-- now as a state representative, what I intend to do is to make sure that when I leave office, the people who look back on my public service say that there was a person who represented his district, represented the constituency there in the most effective way ever, that he was ethical, and more than anything else was always honest about his votes, his actions.

I've already done a couple of things in the last three weeks where I have voted against the best advice of other legislators, people saying, now, if you really want to be a part of the team to play this game effectively, that you will vote this way. I said, but that's not how I believe. That's not what's best for my constituents.

They said, well, that's all right. But if you're going to be effective, you should play this game. And I've done like I've always done. I voted the way my conscience tells me is right. And I learned very quickly that you earn people's respect when you do that.

So I think that's one thing. Who I am is-- what I think I like history to record is there was a state representative who was effective on issues for his constituents that just happened to be gay.

- Yeah. We've been doing this program since September 6, 1987. And I remember coming in here the first night. I was so scared because I just knew that the police were going to bust in here and shoot me and drag me out in the streets. But all I got from the people down there at HPD, 90% of the people was respect.

And it seems like that all of our hardships have come from within the gay community. You know what I mean? Because they don't really understand what we're doing here. Has the community supported you and been there for you?

- Well, that's a very good question in that clearly, in this race for state representative, using it as the example, there was a tremendous outpouring of support, volunteers, and people raising money. But also, as we often do in our community or any community that is powerless, we sort of turn on each other.

Some of the strongest criticism that I've ever gotten has come from within the community. When I decided to run, the people who told me, oh, don't do it because it's too controversial or the time is not right or maybe you should wait, those kinds of people came from the gay and lesbian community, not from the non-gay community.

- You said from people that say we're powerless. Are we powerless?

- We are as powerless as we allow ourselves to be. It's my firmest belief that those of us who hide in the closet or those of us who think that somebody else controls our lives and makes decisions for us are the ones who are most-- I mean, you put yourself in that situation.

- Exactly.

- You give our oppressors, our enemies, our foes the tool. We hand them the tools that they hit us over the head with.

- Exactly.

- Last legislative session, there were legislators who told-- I mean, bashed the gay community mightily on the House floor. I don't think that's going to happen this session.

- If it does it won't happen for very long.

- No, because they have to look at somebody's right in--

- Exactly.

- Right, eye-to-eye. And it's hard to do that because I don't think any of them have the nerve to do it face-to-face. It's really easy to attack people when you don't have a face on them.

- That's true.

- And that's why we get bashed in our daily lives, because we don't have a face on who we are. The first-- what's amazing to me is just how many gay men and lesbians are out there. I've been touring state agencies. And it's really sad-- and I use the word sad-- to see how many people come up to me and say, I'm so glad you got elected. I'm gay too, in a whisper.

- I know. I look at the faces of police officers who I know are gay, but they're so afraid. And we just can't convey to them how easy it is to come on over.

- I wanted to say too, I was in a situation the other day where right after the March on Austin, I was walking through a state agency, and a guy came up to me and said how pleased he was. Congratulations. I'm so glad you got elected. And he said, I got sunburned too.

And I said, oh, really? Did you go to the beach? And he said no, because I was very sunburned because I'd been at the March on Austin. He could not even say--

- That he had been there.

- --I was at the March on Austin or I'm gay. He said, I got sunburned too. And we get ourselves in such a closet sometimes that we cannot even admit, even say it. And I hope that breaks down. You played some quotes from Harvey Milk a while ago. I sort of paraphrased him in my speech to the March on Austin.

Harvey often said-- or used an example of it's not until we really reach that gay teenager in Altoona, Pennsylvania. Kelly Jennings, my good friend from Lubbock, Texas, called me the day after my election and said, you won't believe it. They ran the news story on the TV station in Amarillo and in Lubbock that a homosexual had been elected to the Texas legislature. And so when I told the crowd at the March on Austin on the--