

**MARK:** I do know that there are several pagan groups that are still active in I think they're in England actually, and they celebrate, I don't know, I hate to say astrology, but they do have different cycles of the moon and things that they do observe.

**BUDDY** So you didn't--

**JOHNSTON:**

**MARK:** Pagans actually believe in something.

**DON SANDERS:** It's basically devil worship.

**MARK:** Right. I believe that's correct.

**BUDDY** Pagans I believe they worship spirits and things that you can't see that float in the air like religionists do.

**JOHNSTON:**

**MARK:** It's really like a form of religion. It's just sort of like an offbeat sort of primitive belief, system belief.

**BUDDY** All beliefs are primitive, though. Let's face that. That's a fact. But an atheist simply does not have any dogma,

**JOHNSTON:** rituals, ceremonies, or any sort of rules and regulations to govern his or her life.

**MARK:** We just use science. If it's provable and observable in nature, then we believe it. And hence since you can't scientifically prove the existence of God, that's the big thing that separates an atheist from other believers, I should say.

**BUDDY** Listen, dear, thanks for calling.

**JOHNSTON:**

**AUDIENCE:** OK, Thanks.

**BUDDY** Jeffrey, are you there?

**JOHNSTON:**

**AUDIENCE:** Yes.

**BUDDY** So you know what a pagan is?

**JOHNSTON:**

**AUDIENCE:** Well, basically.

**DON SANDERS:** Tell us.

**AUDIENCE:** OK. Oh, I got somebody here. I have to call you back.

**DON SANDERS:** Oh, that must be nice.

**AUDIENCE:** I'm at work. So I have to call you back.

**BUDDY** Oh, OK, sounds good. Mr. Keever?

**JOHNSTON:**

**AUDIENCE:** Well hello there.

**DON SANDERS:** Listen I recognize that voice.

**BUDDY** Oh no, she's calling in.

**JOHNSTON:**

**MARK:** Who is that?

**AUDIENCE:** Yes, who?

**DON SANDERS:** I'm in trouble now.

**BUDDY** This is a pagan on the line.

**JOHNSTON:**

[LAUGHTER]

I'm going to be nice. This is our news director on the line.

**DON SANDERS:** That's right.

**AUDIENCE:** I had heard that news.

**BUDDY** I'll be the lead story on the news this week.

**JOHNSTON:**

**AUDIENCE:** Uh huh.

**BUDDY** The news is coming up in a bit, baby. Just hang on, OK?

**JOHNSTON:**

**AUDIENCE:** Well hello, Don.

**MARK:** Hello, Brian. How are you tonight?

**AUDIENCE:** Oh, I'm just evermore. How are you?

**MARK:** I feel the same way.

**AUDIENCE:** You and Mark are doing a wonderful job on the show tonight.

**DON SANDERS:** Well, thank you.

**MARK:** We do a wonderful job at everything we do.

**AUDIENCE:** Well, honey, if I had that body, I would too. Hey.

**DON SANDERS:** Goodbye, Brian.

**MARK:** Bye Brian.

**BUDDY** Hello.

**JOHNSTON:**

**AUDIENCE:** Hi.

**BUDDY** How are you?

**JOHNSTON:**

**AUDIENCE:** Fine. How are you?

**BUDDY** Fine. Sherry?

**JOHNSTON:**

**AUDIENCE:** Yeah.

**BUDDY** So you can tell us the difference between a pagan and an atheist?

**JOHNSTON:**

**AUDIENCE:** Yeah, we pagans generally support atheism. And we don't believe in an external deity. We believe in a god and a goddess within ourselves and we just generally attune ourselves to nature. But we support atheism.

**DON SANDERS:** But Brian's not at a pagan. I don't want him in your group, because we don't want to lay that off on you.

[LAUGHTER]

**AUDIENCE:** Well, I really enjoy your show. Keep it up.

**BUDDY** Thanks a lot.

**JOHNSTON:**

**MARK:** Thank you.

**BUDDY** Bye bye. Well, how come everybody says atheist and they think devil? You know what I'm saying?

**JOHNSTON:**

**MARK:** Well, people automatically think or have gotten the impression that somehow we're against God or atheist means against God. But how can we be against something that doesn't even exist? So the opposite, of course, of God is the devil and they assume that we all love the devil and that sort of thing. But we don't have any spirits, demons, gods, et cetera that we worship or bow to or give homage to.

**BUDDY** You didn't bite the head off of a chicken or anything before you came in?

**JOHNSTON:**

**MARK:** No, tastes kind of bad.

**DON SANDERS:** We had chicken for dinner, but we didn't bite the head off to get to it.

**BUDDY** I bit the head off of a lizard before I came here.

**JOHNSTON:**

**DON SANDERS:** What was his name?

**BUDDY** Shut up. Hello, Jeff? Are you there? No he's not. Hello.

**JOHNSTON:**

**AUDIENCE:** Hello?

**BUDDY** Yes sir.

**JOHNSTON:**

**AUDIENCE:** Yeah, that girl had just called pretty well hit it on the nose.

**BUDDY** On the nose?

**JOHNSTON:**

**AUDIENCE:** As to what a pagan is.

**MARK:** Well, do you let me ask you a question since I don't know exactly what a pagan is. I've never been asked this before. I've been on a lot of talk shows and so forth but never asked what the difference between a pagan and atheist is. What exactly or how do you define a pagan? Do you have gods or spirits or whatever that you acknowledge?

**AUDIENCE:** Well, you see, there's a lot of different ideas as far as that's concerned, because different people believe in different things. But it all basically boils down to a force that's in you, you see.

**BUDDY** You mean with the Earth or the planet or the whatever?

**JOHNSTON:**

**AUDIENCE:** Yes. Something that works in you that's in tune with the natural forces of the universe, if you will.

**BUDDY** So you're saying there's a power that be, but it just it's not a god or what?

**JOHNSTON:**

**AUDIENCE:** Well, no. You don't-- OK, you know right from wrong, if you will, if there's a right and wrong.

**BUDDY** Right.

**JOHNSTON:**

**AUDIENCE:** And these things that people attune to right and wrong or whatever, those forces that are at work in you, that has nothing to do with a god or--

**MARK:** Atheists call that force that works in us our brain. That's what we call it.

**AUDIENCE:** It's beyond that, really. It's so controversial. It's ridiculous. But anyway, that's about it. I can't [INAUDIBLE] much more.

**BUDDY** OK. Thanks for calling.

**JOHNSTON:**

**DON SANDERS:** Thank you. Thank you.

**BUDDY** Everybody thinks that-- what's this? Everybody thinks that if you're an atheist, then you're what, the devil? Is that?

**MARK:** No, they attribute a lot of beliefs to atheists. For example, a lot of people of religion or these people have a system of beliefs that are just not based in science or fact. And so therefore, they think that atheists harbor these same beliefs or beliefs contrary to their beliefs. In other words, if you're Catholic and you don't believe what the Catholic Church says, for example, if you don't believe in birth control, then you're against birth control or you're for it. What was that? That was a call coming through and you just cut them off.

**BUDDY** That's somebody on line two. Wynn, if you'll call back. I pushed the wrong button.

**JOHNSTON:**

**DON SANDERS:** Please call back.

**BUDDY** They've redone the board and the phone used to be over here and now it's over here and I just found the switch.

**JOHNSTON:** And when I moved everything back out, I cut you off the air, off the phone. So Wynn, if you'll call back in, we'll get you on the air. That's probably him now. Also stay tuned. The news is coming up. I'm sorry, Mark. I didn't mean to push the wrong button.

**MARK:** It's just that atheists don't have a system of beliefs. There's no such thing as a you have to believe this to be an atheist.

**DON SANDERS:** Atheists are simply individuals, and that's it. We're all unique. We're all different. What the gentleman said a while ago about being in tune with nature. We have to be in tune with nature because one thing that religion teaches that I think is probably the most harmful and the most detrimental is that human beings are not a part of the animal kingdom. This causes great amount of disrespect for human life or for all life on the planet.

Atheists know that we are an animal. We're a primate. We respect our lives and we thus have to respect other lives, other people, other human beings, as well as other forms of life. And we know there's no heaven and we certainly know there's no threats of hell. So we live our lives each day and make the best of each and every single day that comes by. That's it.

**AUDIENCE:** That's the atheistic view?

**DON SANDERS:** You heard it.

**AUDIENCE:** How do you consider-- you're discussing the pagan and atheistic view. But how do you consider the agnostics?

**MARK:** Well, an agnostic, there's a good definition for an agnostic.

**AUDIENCE:** Which is?

**MARK:** Well, my definition for an agnostic is somebody who sits on the fence. He can't make up his mind. Actually Gnosticism means knowledge. And the A, of course, means without knowledge of. What the agnostic says is I have no knowledge of a god. I have no knowledge of a supreme being or a god. But the atheist simply is someone who is without religion.

The atheist says there is no scientific evidence to prove there is such a creature, being, spirit, et cetera. So why waste our time with it? If God were real or if God were something that we could lay our hands upon or we could see tangible evidence of something, of this God, then maybe we would bother with it. But we don't. So the agnostic is a chicken atheist, basically.

**AUDIENCE:** A chicken atheist?

**MARK:** Yeah. He's a gutless atheist.

**AUDIENCE:** OK. Well, accept my ignorance and explain to me the pagan then.

**MARK:** Well, again, I'm not a pagan. So I don't know.

**DON SANDERS:** We don't exactly understand. And there were two people who called in here explaining what a pagan was.

**AUDIENCE:** I got on the phone late and I walked in and just started listening to the show and it interested me tremendously.

**DON SANDERS:** This is an interesting thing. As I said a while ago, I've been on a lot of talk shows, and no one has ever asked me about paganism. And I really can't tell you about it. The only thing that I could gather from the two people that called in was that they defined paganism as maybe natural. They're in tune with some sort of natural higher power within them. That's all I could tell you. A lot of people feel that way. Atheists don't have any spirits or higher powers. We know that our minds are our power. We use our brainpower to get by and that's it.

**AUDIENCE:** Well, I've myself not quite made up my mind whether I'm veering toward the atheistic or agnostic view myself. I believe in agnostic myself as things are now. I'm not quite sure if there is a being or if there isn't. And OK, if it's chicken, then that's a view.

**MARK:** Well, we can appreciate--

**AUDIENCE:** No, I'm not trying to--

**MARK:** No, we know you're not trying to do anything. I'm just saying it took a long time for me to admit that I was a homosexual also. I just didn't wake up one morning and go hey everybody, I'm gay.

**AUDIENCE:** Neither did I.

**MARK:** It was an evolutionary process, you might say.

**DON SANDERS:** What we urge you to do is to continue to investigate for yourself. Read for yourself. Make up your own mind. Don't let anybody else make up your mind for you.

**MARK:** Don't be pressured by anybody to believe in a religion or not believe. Just read, observe the world as you see it, listen to reason, science, whatever you want to. Read. Choose what you like. Choose the people you want to talk to and discuss things like this. That's why we have freedom of speech and that's what the basis of this country is. And we encourage you to ask questions and go for it.

**AUDIENCE:** I do feel so much pressure though. You feel so much pressure.

**BUDDY** We all do, though.

**JOHNSTON:**

**AUDIENCE:** About religion and if there is or is not a supreme being.

**DON SANDERS:** Excuse me, go ahead.

**BUDDY** No, I was going to say to help you make up your mind, you can always listen to *The American Atheist Hour*. That's

**JOHNSTON:** every week right here on [INAUDIBLE].

**AUDIENCE:** I do. I do.

**BUDDY** They do some wonderful programming.

**JOHNSTON:**

**MARK:** You can call our line at *Dial A Gay Atheist* at 741-4167. Also if you are--

**AUDIENCE:** That number one more time, please.

**MARK:** 741-4167. Its *Dial A Gay Atheist*. We present information that's very, very educational, informative, sometimes satirical, et cetera about separation of state and church, religious issues, gay rights issues, and that sort of thing.

**DON SANDERS:** And Bible sex.

**MARK:** And of course for the next two months we have a special program called Dial Some Bible Sex. You know, the Bible is a filthy, dirty book.

**AUDIENCE:** Oh, of course it is.

**MARK:** And we're out here to tell everybody that it is. It's one of the filthiest books that have ever been written. It puts every form of pornography to shame that's on the shelves of adult bookstores in this city and around the country. It's a filthy, dirty book. And we want to let everybody know that.

**AUDIENCE:** None of the adult bookstores have it in their market.

**MARK:** They should. We have--

**BUDDY** They don't have any pictures. That's the problem.

**JOHNSTON:**

**MARK:** That's right. We have a book, *American Atheist* has published a book called *The X-Rated Bible* by Ben Akerly. And we have that book too and it goes-- it takes passages out directly from the Bible and passages that your minister or any minister would never dare to make a sermon on on Sunday morning. He would never tell his congregation about some of the things that are in that Bible.

**BUDDY** Is there an address where someone could get that if they were interested?

**JOHNSTON:**

**MARK:** Yes, you can write to American Atheist Press at Post Office Box 2117. That's PO Box 2117 Austin, 78768. And you can ask for *The X-rated Bible*. They'll know what you're talking about. It's their best selling book of all time.

**BUDDY** Listen, thanks for calling.

**JOHNSTON:**

**AUDIENCE:** Thank you very much.

**BUDDY** Thanks for listening. If you missed that number or you missed that address, give us a call at 526-4000. We have all that information for you. We also got tickets to give away for the Names Project opening and tickets to give away for the AIDS film project at the [INAUDIBLE] Theater. And we've got Brian Keever listening that's going to give me a way if we don't play the news. So live and in color, it's time and we'll be back in a minute.

[MUSIC - SISTER SLEDGE, "WE ARE FAMILY"]

**BRIAN KEEVER:** Good morning Houston, Montrose, and the world. This is Brian Keever for *After Hours News*, your voice in the community. Dateline Houston. Counselor Bill Scott honored by the Houston chapter of the National Association of Social Workers. Bill Scott, the founder of the Montrose Counseling Center has been chosen social worker of the year by the National Association of Social Work Houston chapter.

The chapter said it chose Scott for his six years of work with people with AIDS. He has been an AIDS Foundation Houston board member and mayor's task force member and the Clinical Director of Montrose Counseling Center overseeing AIDS programs. Scott has maintained continual direct contact with his clients who have been diagnosed as HIV positive or with ARC or with AIDS. He is currently doing private practice with the new counseling center and volunteering for AIDS Foundation Houston and Montrose Counseling Center.

Dateline, Washington DC. The first wide scale presidential poll of registered US gay and lesbian voters had been released by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and indicates that Jesse Jackson's white might may be largely gay. Of 2,374 respondents, 36% support Jesse Jackson, 22% are for Michael Dukakis, with Paul Simon leading the rest. The leading gay, lesbian issues of the respondents is the gay, lesbian federal rights legislation bill, a position Jesse Jackson has supported from the beginning.

[MUSIC - SISTER SLEDGE, "WE ARE FAMILY"]

Remember, next week in the George R. Brown Convention Center the Names Project Houston comes to Houston. We hope to see each and every one of you there. It's Mother's Day weekend. See you there.

Dateline Dallas. Lesbians from all over the Texas and the surrounding states will gather for a statewide conference in Dallas, Texas May 6, 7, and 8 co-sponsored by two lesbian organizations, Among Friends Incorporated and Lesbian Visionaries. The conference is the first of its kind in Texas. It will be held at the Ramada Hotel, formerly the Executive Inn, 3232 West Mockingbird across from Love Field. The conference organized by over 60 volunteers is intended to provide opportunities for lesbians to learn, share, and network with one another in a safe and supportive environment.

Dateline Houston. In only a few months, both major parties, Democrats and Republicans, will hold their statewide conventions here in Houston. A new sticky backed named tag style badge has been prepared for use at both of these conventions as well for use by any Texas organization as needed as any occasion arises. The new I Am Hope badges. I began the project to have something for delegates to wear at the League of Women Voters Texas Council meeting last week. League has now officially recognized on record against 2106 said Attorney Phyllis Frye to *After Hours News*. Following the initial idea, it became obvious to Frye that this could be used in other ways. Kent Smith of [INAUDIBLE] Incorporated did the artwork free and Print Text Plus offered to volunteer its labor costs.

Frye said she remembered how a pin on button saying "I'm straight but I support gay rights" was a very big hit at the 1984 Fall Texas Democratic Party Convention. At that convention, the platform was changed to call for the repeal of 2106. She continued that in 1982, Senator Lloyd Bentsen was the only statewide Democratic candidate to ignore the gay, lesbian Democratic caucus. 1988 is here and the Senator is running again. If we get these badges out early to all delegates, he may get over himself and give us a try. Be sure to look in this week's edition of *TWT Magazine* to see an example of the I Am badge.

Dateline Houston. We're going to do it even in Houston. That's right, civil disobedience in downtown Houston. The date, June 1. The place, the British consulate. The reason, the British government recently passed a bill that officially denies any organization, group, or anything else that does a positive role model of homosexuality, any group, any organization, any club, any business, anything that positively promotes the gay and lesbian community is outlawed starting June 1 in London, England.

We cannot allow that to happen, and we're going to let them know we don't like it. Houston, Texas, June 1, the British consulate, civil disobedience. We'll be letting you know where there's training sessions and we'll be letting you know who's doing them as it gets nearer to that.

Life after diagnosis. This is being examined at a Saturday session at Bering Church. The National Association of People With AIDS, AIDS Foundation Houston, and the PWA Coalition Houston are the people presenting a workshop entitled "Life After Diagnosis."

Compassion, cooperation, and understanding. On Saturday, May the 7 in conjunction with Names Project showing of the National PWA Quilt. The workshop will focus on various needs that the PWA Coalition can fulfill after diagnosis and how we can all work together to obtain these goals. President Wayne Joy spoke to *After Hours News* and said speakers at the workshop will be Stephen Beck, the Executive Director of the National Association of People With AIDS from Washington, DC, and Michael Hirsch, former President of the PWA Coalition of New York City and co-writer of the play *The Normal Heart*.

The workshop will be from 6:00 to eight PM at Bering Memorial Church, 1440 Herald and the Montrose. Following the workshop, there will be a social with snacks and refreshments. Anyone interested in attending this workshop will be asked to contact the PWA Coalition at their phone number, 522-5428.

This is Brian with *After Hours News* directing from the heart of the Montrose. Remember, Pacifica Radio, we're here for you. And one last closing remark. I'm working as a staff person for the National March on Washington's quilt. I'm really enjoying it. It's making me feel so good. I can't tell you how much.

I want to see each and every person at the George R. Brown Convention Center Saturday and Sunday, Mother's Day weekend. Bring your brothers, your sisters, your lover, your mother, your dad, whoever you want to bring. Bring a bus full. Outside the loop, inside the loop, Montrose, it doesn't matter where. Come and visit us. You'll be glad you did. I look forward to seeing you there. Till next week, bye now.

**NARRATOR:** When you see the quilt, you understand how it began with one name sewn with love and grew to thousands of names stitched with memories, surrounded by favorite things. Each name is a proud inscription, but all of them together make a national monument to those who died of AIDS. A monument that says remember me.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

**WOMAN:** (SINGING) 2,170 names. There must be someone that you know. Woven together in a quilted frame. Names loved ones won't let go. And I know that my name could be there and I feel pain and fear. And as human love and passions do not make us all the same, we are counted not as numbers, but as names.

We grieve for the lovers and the families and I pray they'll meet again someday. But until that time, I will carry the flame. As numbers grow, we'll not forget their names. And I know that my name could be there. And I feel the pain and the fear. And as human love and passions do not make us all the same, we are counted not as numbers but as names.

A lover, a carpenter, a father, a friend. A sister, a minister, and mom. Each quilted pieces holds memories. Each memory helps us to go on. And I know that my name could be there. And I feel the pain and the fear. And as human love and passions do not make us all the same, we are counting not as numbers but as names.

And I know that my name could be there. And I feel the pain and the fear. And as human love and passions do not make us all the same, we are counted not as numbers but as names. We are counted not as numbers but as names.

**BUDDY** We're standing in the-- what is this, Judy? The gym?

**JOHNSTON:**

**JUDY:** [INAUDIBLE] gym, I guess.

**BUDDY** And we're speaking to?

**JOHNSTON:**

**JUDY:** Judy [? Vulgaris. ?]

**BUDDY** And you are what with the Names Project?

**JOHNSTON:**

**JUDY:** Volunteer coordinator.

**BUDDY** This place is full of volunteers this morning. It's Saturday morning before we do the show and of course, we're taping this. But there are people everywhere. What's going on?

**JUDY:** Well, right now they're broken into groups. And each group is hearing a different aspect of volunteering. There's about 10 different areas where people can work if they do volunteer. We've got about 300 volunteers. We could use about 200 more. Anybody who wants to volunteer and hasn't can come on Friday night May the 6th at Brown Convention Center. And we're going to have one final volunteer session then.

**BUDDY** That's going to be at the Brown Convention Center this coming Friday night?

**JOHNSTON:**

**JUDY:** May the 6th. Yeah, this Friday night.

**BUDDY** It will be this Friday night. How many-- what's been the reaction from Houston? I've been in Houston for almost

**JOHNSTON:** five years. This is the first time that I've ever seen the gay community come out like this. Why do you think they're doing it today or have in the past few weeks?

**JUDY:** Well, I think that AIDS is a particularly close subject to all of us. And it's really the funny thing is I have volunteers that run from age 12 to 87. I have volunteers coming in from Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Just people are just coming together. AIDS hits everybody and everyone has to react this way in order for us to do anything about it. And it's just been a tremendous reaction.

**BUDDY** What about Judy? How's this project touching you?

**JOHNSTON:**

**JUDY:** This project has probably changed my entire life. I'm not sure where I'll be going from here. I know I'll be going to Washington again in October. I was there last October. But it definitely has just consumed my whole life for the last several months and probably will continue to for a while.

**BUDDY** So you would encourage everyone to come out to the Brown Center and view the quilt this coming weekend?

**JOHNSTON:**

**JUDY:** Absolutely. We're going to be open from 10:00 to 10:00. I mean, excuse me, from 8:00 until 10:00 on Saturday and from 9:00 to 9:00 on Sunday. And we'll have different activities going on the whole weekend.

**BUDDY** I think they're calling your name. You better get over there.

**JOHNSTON:**

**JUDY:** OK, thank you.

**BUDDY** Thanks, baby.

**JOHNSTON:**

[MUSIC PLAYING]

**TESS THOMAS:** Hello.

**BUDDY** What's your name?

**JOHNSTON:**

**TESS THOMAS:** Tess Thomas.

**BUDDY** You spent a lot of time here at the Names Project workshop, Tess. Can you tell us what you've learned or what you've experienced or what's been going on here the past few weeks?

**TESS THOMAS:** Sure can. It's been a great experience. I have worked with the nicest people I've ever worked with in a volunteer group. They've been great.

**BUDDY** You've been our guardian angel seamstress. Is that right?

**JOHNSTON:**

**TESS THOMAS:** That's right. Teaching everybody how to use the sewing machine. How to zigzag around their letters that they've put on their quilt panels.

**BUDDY** What about the emotion in the family or whatever? What do you see going on here?

**JOHNSTON:**

**TESS THOMAS:** There is a family spirit prevailing. And there are some really joyful, wonderful times, and there are some sad times. There are times when we shed tears. But overall, it is a wonderful experience.

**BUDDY** So what would you say to people that are listening right now to encourage them to come out to the Brown Center

**JOHNSTON:** next weekend and view the quilt?

**TESS THOMAS:** You're going to see a lot of folk art, artistic. It's great to see the amount of time, money, and effort spent on these quilt panels to memorialize people. And they get so much personalities of the people into their panels.

**BUDDY** A panel you made is hanging down in the window at Foley's, right? Can you tell me who that was made for? Your friend and?

**TESS THOMAS:** It was made for my godson, Donald Ray Phipps. He and I owned a garden center together. And his great love was gardening. And so I tried to make his panel to give him the farm that he did not live long enough to get.

**BUDDY** And what's the panel made out of itself?

**JOHNSTON:**

**TESS THOMAS:** It's a regular quilt. I put 150 hours into piecing that quilt and quilting it.

**BUDDY** How long have you been-- every time I come down here, you're here. How long have you been involved just in  
**JOHNSTON:** this project at the office here?

**TESS THOMAS:** Six weeks here at the office.

**BUDDY** How much have you gotten paid?

**JOHNSTON:**

**TESS THOMAS:** A great amount of love. I get hugs you wouldn't believe. I charge them for doing their sewing. I charge them a little bitty hug for a little bit of sewing, a medium size hug for a lot of sewing, and a giant hug for bunches of sewing. It's great.

**BUDDY** So you think people should go out and see the quilt next weekend?

**JOHNSTON:**

**TESS THOMAS:** I truly do. It's going to be a great experience for everyone.

**BUDDY** Hello.

**JOHNSTON:**

**BLANCA:** Hi.

**BUDDY** What's your name?

**JOHNSTON:**

**BLANCA:** Blanca.

**BUDDY** Blanca, we're standing in one of the rooms at the Parkway Athletic Club and we're surrounded by I can't even

**JOHNSTON:** count the panels that are on the walls here. This is just Houston panels that would be placed in the George R. Brown Convention Center next weekend. And what is that, a tear in your eye?

**BLANCA:** Yeah, that's many. I see a familiar name up here.

**BUDDY** What do you think?

**JOHNSTON:**

**BLANCA:** Oh. It's amazing. I mean, I don't know what to say. You can't even describe it in words. It's just so much emotion. So much wonderful energy and so many memories.

**BUDDY** As a gay man, I've said that I don't know why and how or what has encouraged the women to stick by us,

**JOHNSTON:** because women in this movement have been treated like garbage a lot. Back in the early days we would say, you go make the coffee and we'll do the rest of the work. But if it hadn't have been for our sisters throughout AIDS, I don't think we could have made it. So how can you express what you're feeling now to people that might be listening that haven't seen these panels or haven't stood in this room?

**BLANCA:** First of all, I'm shaking my head very loudly, yes, to what you just said for your listening audience. But there's a lot of us that we don't even quite-- we know that the guys haven't been there for us all the time and there's no guarantee that they will be in the future. But we're here and we know that this is affecting us. It's just something that we don't even question that we need to be here, that we're needed, there's a place for us right now.

**BUDDY** Who's this beautiful lady here?

**JOHNSTON:**

**BLANCA:** This is Carol?

**BUDDY** What do you think?

**JOHNSTON:**

**CAROL:** I think the quilts are great. They represent a lot of lives that are in the past, but they're also in the present too.

**BUDDY** Do you see death or doom or gloom or happiness or joy? What do you see?

**JOHNSTON:**

**CAROL:** I think there's going to-- I think there's a seed being planted and there's going to be something blossoming in the future. We're going to see life.

**BUDDY** So you would encourage everyone then, ladies, to come to the George R. Brown next weekend and see the quilt?

**JOHNSTON:**

**CAROL:** Yeah, that's all we're talking about. It's more than encouragement. It's a demand. It's an obligation.

**BRIAN KEEVER:** Yeah?

**BUDDY** You remember the [? Marys ?] panels?

**JOHNSTON:**

**BRIAN KEEVER:** All of the [? Marys ?] panels. There were so many of them. Yes.

**BUDDY** That struck me. And my friend was not part of that. However, seeing that panel and seeing those people.

**JOHNSTON:**

**BRIAN KEEVER:** I knew all of those people.

**BUDDY** I didn't know all of them. But that segment of panels brought me to my knees. [INAUDIBLE] panel.

**JOHNSTON:**

**BRIAN KEEVER:** [INAUDIBLE] panel, yeah.

**BUDDY** Lord [INAUDIBLE]. Seeing that at the far end of that quilt was a moving experience. And I know there are people

**JOHNSTON:** out there listening to me who saw it also.

**BRIAN KEEVER:** There are a lot of people listening this from all kinds of people listening to the *After Hours Show*. Insomniacs, people in their [INAUDIBLE].

**BUDDY** [INAUDIBLE]

**JOHNSTON:**

**BRIAN KEEVER:** And so I want to say something that perhaps will help those people that didn't experience the quilt as you or haven't experienced losing someone to AIDS, as everyone in this room has. Let me tell you. I am 47 years old. I have lost more of my friends to AIDS and violence than my mother has of her friends, and she's 74. That is an unnatural environment. That sort of thing ought never in the history of humankind to happen.

But I have learned more about life from the direct experience of learning about death and know how precious every minute that I have has. And I know how precious every minute that I spend with a friend is to my hope in the world. I want to invite you to start planning now to make time available on Mother's Day 1988 so that you can come and experience the rich tapestry of people young and old, straight and gay, who have died and at least some small part of the hope that never again will we hate one another. Never again will we waste our lives.

**BUDDY** Where he says never again will we hate one another, never again will we waste our lives. But if you're listening, I

**JOHNSTON:** hope that comes true someday, but I doubt it in my lifetime, because all I see a lot of times is pain and anger. And the reason they call it the Names Project is because we call each other names that what we said at the beginning of the show, that's not true. Because there's a lot of love in the community. There's just a lot of misunderstanding.

Break the damn barriers and misunderstanding and learn. Educate yourself. Find out what it means to be gay and proud and not a homosexual in hiding. Find out what it means to be an atheist. Find out now what it means to be a human being. Don't sit out there and listen to the lies and the garbage and the trash that they've been trying to shove down your throats for ever and ever and ever. You don't have to buy into that.

You can call the *American Dial A Gay Atheist* number at 741-4167 just to find out what's going on there. You can listen to *The American Atheist Hour* every Thursday from 8:00 until 9:00 right here on KPFT. You can call The Gay and Lesbian Switchboard at 529-3211 and find out just about anything going on in this community. Whatever you do, get involved. If you're done standing there screaming and yelling, at least you're there. Don't just sit on your rear end and complain. Make a difference.

Civil disobedience is getting ready to happen in Houston. There's a handful of gay men and lesbians that are going to go down and risk arrest because we're sick and tired of the way we've been kicked on, we've been slapped around, and we've been treated. And we're not taking it anymore. I don't give a damn who knows it, obviously. I wouldn't come in here and say that. And you know I work for the police department. If I can work for the police department and do a gay radio program, you can come out at Baskin Robbins or Foley's or wherever the hell else you are out there and not be afraid. And if you come out by the hundreds and hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of thousands that we are, they will deal with us.

Next week at the George R. Brown Convention Center, we're going to have a quilt on the floor. It's something that I don't know if I'm really looking forward to seeing it or if I'm really afraid to go down there and see it. But I will be there because I have friends that have died and panels that have been made and I want to be a part of that. If you want to be a part of it, we want you to be our guest. There are a few tickets to the opening.

You can get one by calling 526-4000 right now. There are a few available given out to certain people in the community, whatever, for all their hard work. And since you're a supporter of this show and since we know that you care about what we're doing and support us, we want you to have those tickets. 526-4000 is the number to call. We've got about 20 minutes left. Don and Mark are still here with the American Gay Atheist. We may call the hotline in a minute and find out what all this sex Bible trivia is. So stay with us.

**ANNOUNCER:** It was a wonderful moment. When they started to unveil that quilt, there was absolute total silence. And the names were read one at a time. Hundreds of names. And people began to cry. And total strangers were hugging each other. It was the only way we knew to show our love, and it was wonderful.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

**BUDDY** No, your radio didn't die. Don't worry. It's called dead air. That's what's going to happen someday. No, that's not what's going to happen. What I was going to lead up to is that marathon's coming around and Jean said not to tell you that the station is going to go off the air because the station is not going to go off the air. KPFT has been the free voice of this city and this coast for 18 years plus. And we're beginning our May marathon, our spring marathon, May the 14th. We're going to have marathon shows on the 14th, I believe, and then again on the 22nd.

**JOHNSTON:**

Also Mary Helen wants us to tell you that they need volunteers for a special mail out on Tuesday May the 3rd from 10:00 AM until 3:00 PM. Now, if you've never been to a KPFT function, you need to come down and get involved in the station. It's a lot of fun. You meet a lot of people. If you can come and help stuff envelopes for a few hours, call Mary Helen. It's Mary Helen [INAUDIBLE]. She does traffic jam on Mondays from 4:00 to 5:30. She's a wonderful little lesbian. And Mary Helen is just a wonderful person. But anyway, 526-4000 is the number to call for that. And we've got a gentleman that's been patiently waiting when we did our little thing. Where's that button? I can't find the button. Hello?

**AUDIENCE:** Hello.

**BUDDY** How are you, Mike?

**JOHNSTON:**

**AUDIENCE:** I'm OK. How are you?

**BUDDY** Fine. It said Mike is a Christian.

**JOHNSTON:**

**AUDIENCE:** Yep.

**BUDDY** And wants to give a Christian point of view.

**JOHNSTON:**

**AUDIENCE:** If you want to call it that.

**DON SANDERS:** We'll let him.

**BUDDY** Well, we're all for that. What'd you say, Don?

**JOHNSTON:**

**DON SANDERS:** I said, we'll let you this time.

**BUDDY** There you go. So what you got for us, Mike?

**JOHNSTON:**

**AUDIENCE:** Well, I moved here from up north about a month and a half ago. And I was driving home from work and I heard your program. I about drove off the road. I never heard a gay program on radio before. And [INAUDIBLE] the last 10 minutes, y'all are doing a great job and you should be very proud of yourself. I have to admit, I don't have the strength to do what you're doing. But you're doing a good job. And a question for the atheist.

**BUDDY** His name is Don.

**JOHNSTON:**

**AUDIENCE:** I'm sorry. Please excuse me.

**BUDDY** I'm just kidding. But you mentioned Don.

**JOHNSTON:**

**DON SANDERS:** You can call me atheist. I don't mind. In fact, I'm proud of it.

**BUDDY** If you could see this man, I mean-- never mind. Go ahead, what's your question?

**JOHNSTON:**

**AUDIENCE:** OK. Earlier when I was driving my car, I heard you say atheists had no feeling of spirit or that there is a spirit of a divine being thing?

**DON SANDERS:** The most divine being I know is myself and my lover. That's divine to me.

**AUDIENCE:** OK. I misunderstood you. I thought you said you felt no spirit whatsoever. And I thought, well.

**DON SANDERS:** My lover--

**AUDIENCE:** [INAUDIBLE] on the radio show.

**DON SANDERS:** Right, well, I'm not a spirit. I'm a human being. I'm an organism and so is my lover. And I feel like I'm a part of nature. But I don't know. I don't feel spirits in the extra body sense.

**AUDIENCE:** Right. Well, I couldn't tell you that you're doing something wrong or that you're going straight to hell or anything, because I wouldn't want straights to think that of gays. But I just want you to know that there's a--

**BUDDY** Listen, this certainly isn't the Christian viewpoint we'd get from Second Baptist Church.

**JOHNSTON:**

**AUDIENCE:** Well, they have people preaching at them every Sunday morning and then they turn around on Monday morning and they're back to their old lifestyle. That's something I don't believe in. And I just wanted you to know that at least you have a Christian friend out there.

**BUDDY** Some of Don's best friends are Christians.

**JOHNSTON:**

**AUDIENCE:** Well, that's great.

**DON SANDERS:** Actually that's true.

**AUDIENCE:** All I wanted to say it was I was real proud to hear our radio program even with atheists.

**DON SANDERS:** Oh, thank you. Thank you. There's a lot of atheists on the air. A lot of atheists on the air.

**AUDIENCE:** Do have an atheist show with it?

**DON SANDERS:** Yes, there's an atheist radio show on this station every Thursday at 8:00 PM. It's *The American Atheist Hour*.

**BUDDY** You're liable to hear anything on this radio station.

**JOHNSTON:**

**DON SANDERS:** That's right.

**AUDIENCE:** Is this a completely gay radio station?

**BUDDY** No, I wish it was.

**JOHNSTON:**

**DON SANDERS:** We need one.

**BUDDY** Sometimes they think it is, as much work as I do around here.

**JOHNSTON:**

**DON SANDERS:** This city needs a gay radio station. It's entirely big enough to have one and support one. We just need to get one.

**BUDDY** I'm all for that.

**JOHNSTON:**

**AUDIENCE:** I couldn't believe that when I moved down here there's a whole gay section and everything. It's completely unheard of up north, at least from where I'm from.

**BUDDY** Where did you move here from?

**JOHNSTON:**

**AUDIENCE:** I'm sorry?

**BUDDY** Where did you move here from.

**JOHNSTON:**

**AUDIENCE:** Wisconsin.

**BUDDY** Well, listen, thanks for calling. Hang on the line just a second, because if you don't get the KPFT program guide,

**JOHNSTON:** we want to be sure that you get a copy of that. It'll tell you about all of the shows here on KPFT, including *The American Atheist Hour* and the after hours program. And there's a big write up about what's going to be happening on our program. So hang on just a second, OK?

**AUDIENCE:** OK, thanks a lot.

**BUDDY** Thanks for calling. Sure. Hey, that was a nice guy for a Christian.

**JOHNSTON:**

**DON SANDERS:** Right. There's one problem I have with Christians, and that is the fact that I meet a lot of people who claim to be Christian and say they like me despite my atheism, that God made me too. Well, I was made by the fornication of my mother and my father, not by any God. And I think that's more beautiful than saying that I'm a special creation again. And my mother and my father got together one night and enjoyed themselves and I am the result of that. So that's where I came from.

**BUDDY** OK, Clay. Are you there, [INAUDIBLE]?

**JOHNSTON:**

**MARK:** Some more calls.

**CLAY HARPER:** Yes.

**BUDDY** Are you there?

**JOHNSTON:**

**CLAY HARPER:** Yes.

**BUDDY** I can't hear you.

**JOHNSTON:**

**CLAY HARPER:** I'm here.

**BUDDY** Try this one.

**JOHNSTON:**

**DON SANDERS:** This one's hotter now.

**BUDDY** Yeah. There you go.

**JOHNSTON:**

**DON SANDERS:** Scoot over.

**BUDDY** Get over there.

**JOHNSTON:**

**CLAY HARPER:** Hello.

**BUDDY** Hello.

**JOHNSTON:**

**CLAY HARPER:** Hello, hello.

**BUDDY** Clay Harper. What's cooking, baby?

**JOHNSTON:**

**CLAY HARPER:** Oh, lots of things.

**BUDDY** Oh yeah? Well tell us all about it.

**JOHNSTON:**

**CLAY HARPER:** OK. Today at 10 o'clock in the morning, the Names Project Houston host committee will have a meeting at George R. Brown Convention Center at entrance C. 8 o'clock PM tomorrow. Not tomorrow, tonight. Pre-quilt party at the Brazos River Bottom. Monday the 2nd, Gay Fathers is going to meet at Dignity at 8:00 PM. For more information, call 861-6495.

Next weekend, May 7 and 8, Names Project Houston will be at George R. Brown Convention Center. Opening ceremonies will be at 8:00 AM through 12:00 noon on Saturday. A limited number of tickets will be available Wednesday afternoon from the Names Project office at Parkway Athletics.

**BUDDY** And you can still get tickets by calling 526-4000 courtesy of *After Hours* and Names Project. Go ahead, Clay.

**JOHNSTON:**

**AUDIENCE:** OK. The quilt will be open for public viewing Saturday noon until 10:00 PM and Sunday 10:00 AM until 8:22 PM. Closing ceremonies are at 8:22 on the green in front of the George R. Brown Center. Also on Sunday at 2:00 PM, the names balloon release outside the George R. Brown Center. Names to be read by mothers of AIDS victims.

Saturday, May 7, a workshop entitled "Life After Diagnosis, Compassion, Cooperation, Understanding" will be held Saturday, May 7 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at Bering Memorial United Methodist Church. Executive director Stephen Beck and President Michael Hirsch both at the National Association of Persons With AIDS will be participating. The workshop is free and open to the public.

Saturday, May 14, 8:00 PM. Heartsong will be in concert at the First Unitarian Church on Fannin.

**BUDDY** You left the most important date off.

**JOHNSTON:**

**CLAY HARPER:** What?

**BUDDY** May the 6th.

**JOHNSTON:**

**CLAY HARPER:** What's May 6?

**BUDDY** It's my birthday.

**JOHNSTON:**

[LAUGHTER]

**DON SANDERS:** Right. We were supposed to sing Happy Birthday to you tonight.

**BUDDY** Just for that, I'm going to punch him off. That's Clay Harper and the community bulletin board. We are running

**JOHNSTON:** out of time. See how fast time goes by?

**MARK:** Oh, it always does.

**DON SANDERS:** May 6 is my birthday also.

**BUDDY** Is it really?

**JOHNSTON:**

**DON SANDERS:** Yeah.

**BUDDY** How old will you be?

**JOHNSTON:**

**DON SANDERS:** I'll be 32.

**BUDDY** Oh, I'll be 34.

**JOHNSTON:**

[LAUGHS]

**MARK:** That's what you get for asking.

**DON SANDERS:** It gets better with every year.

**BUDDY** I don't care.

**JOHNSTON:**

**DON SANDERS:** I get better every minute. Hello?

**AUDIENCE:** Hello.

**DON SANDERS:** What's up, Sam?

**AUDIENCE:** Hi. I have a question for Don Sanders.

**DON SANDERS:** You got me.

**AUDIENCE:** The gay atheist. Yeah. Are you the same group that did that thing a couple of years ago in the parade?

**DON SANDERS:** Absolutely. We're absolutely proud of that.

**AUDIENCE:** OK. Well, that's not what I wanted to ask you. The question was, well, I was raised Catholic and all that sort of thing. Well, anyway--

**DON SANDERS:** Everybody has their problems.

**AUDIENCE:** Well, anyway, OK, whatever you say. But my question is why did you feel you had to do something like that?

**DON SANDERS:** Why do you feel-- let me ask you a question.

**AUDIENCE:** OK.

**DON SANDERS:** Why do you feel you have to tell everybody about your religion? Why do you have to-- why do you Christians have to sport your crosses and sing your songs in public and inflict your religion on everybody else who doesn't want it?

**AUDIENCE:** Wait, hold on a second. Hold on a second. You've only talked to me a second and you're giving me all this filth. The question I'm asking you is just an honest question. And the attitude thing I guess I hope you could leave that out. But I just really would like to know why did you-- I myself, I don't consider myself the Christian and that sort of thing having to do that. I consider myself an individual. And for me I believe in just believing what I believe in and I respect other people for what they believe and I'd never put them down for it. And when I see Christian people that want to put other religions down and I look at them and I think, what kind of God do you have?

**DON SANDERS:** Let me ask you a question.

**AUDIENCE:** And wait one second, please. And my question is why did you feel you had to do that?

**DON SANDERS:** Are you gay?

**AUDIENCE:** Yes.

**DON SANDERS:** Do you know who put you down every single day of your life? Do you know who-- Do you know what told you that when you were born that you were born dirty, that you were born a sinner and a measly, no good, rotten human being.

**AUDIENCE:** Oh, nobody has told me that.

**DON SANDERS:** That was [INAUDIBLE]. You said you were-- I don't care where you're from.

**AUDIENCE:** I've was gay since I was knee high to a grasshopper. I've had no problem with it.

**DON SANDERS:** Hold on.

**MARK:** Hang on just a second. You said you were raised a Catholic. I was raised a Catholic also. I attended Catholic schools.

**AUDIENCE:** So did I. So did I. There's a reason. And there's things that I didn't believe in that.

**MARK:** How many Catholic nuns said, gee, it's great that you're gay? How many Catholic priests said it's OK to have an alternate lifestyle when probably those Catholic priests themselves were gay themselves?

**AUDIENCE:** Oh, now you're generalizing. Come on. Let's get real here. That's like saying every homosexual walks around with his limp wrists and that.

**MARK:** No, I'm not generalizing. In fact, it was reported there were-- in fact, I just recently saw a program, it was *The Phil Donahue Show*. There were several Catholic priests on there. And we're running out of time, but I'll try to wrap this up.

**AUDIENCE:** Yeah, go ahead, go ahead.

**BUDDY** Should have called two hours ago.

**JOHNSTON:**

**MARK:** Yeah, you should have called two hours ago. We could have had a much more interesting program.

**BUDDY** Go ahead, Mark.

**JOHNSTON:**

**AUDIENCE:** I caught your show. I just wanted an answer for that.

**MARK:** There's a lot of lesbian nuns and there's a lot of gay priests.

**AUDIENCE:** One second, one second, the question I asked, you haven't even confronted that question.

**DON SANDERS:** That is why we had the nun in the line in the [INAUDIBLE]. Is that right?

**AUDIENCE:** That's the question I asked

**DON SANDERS:** The reason we had the nun in the line in the parade was to show the public that Christianity indeed does leave a bad taste in our mouths. It has left a bad taste in every gay person's mouth, body, and mind.

**AUDIENCE:** No, not every gay person.

**DON SANDERS:** Yes, even yours. Religion is a mental illness. And if you still hold on to any of it, you are mentally ill.

**AUDIENCE:** OK. Well, if you believe that, that's fine. I respect your opinion. I just can't see why you always have to say you and they and why can't you say yourself. That's your belief. You see what I'm saying?

**DON SANDERS:** No. I have no beliefs. You haven't been listening to the show.

**AUDIENCE:** Oh, well, OK. If that's what you really feel, that's fine. Thank you very much then.

**BUDDY** Thanks for calling.

**JOHNSTON:**

**AUDIENCE:** Thank you.

**BUDDY** Don Sanders, what's the number for the hotline?

**JOHNSTON:**

**DON SANDERS:** Please call 741-4167 anytime, day or night. *Dial A Gay Atheist* is a 24 hour recording.

**BUDDY** And *The American Gay Atheist* program's on this radio station from 8:00 until 9 o'clock every Thursday night. Get

**JOHNSTON:** your pens and paper ready for one more phone number and address. Please stand by.

*After Hours.* It's radio celebrating life from the heart of Montrose and please don't drive off the freeway and have an accident if you're driving along the road and you hear a bunch of queers and dykes on the radio. It's not unnatural. It's just Pacifica and it's coming to you live. This is *After Hours Radio* celebrating life. And we're so glad to be here.

Next week, the Names Project quilt will be here. I have a very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very special guest by the name of David McCain. One of my dear friends is going to bring in some wonderful jazz music for us all the way from New Orleans. We're going to be talking about the quilt. We're going to be talking about civil disobedience. We're going to be talking about this and that. Going to be talking about terrific sex and fearful times. We've got an interview with Brook Peters coming up on this program soon at this a radio station. So thanks for listening.

If you have any questions about the show, any questions about who can be on or who wants to be on, if you want to send us some music, if you want to be on the show, if you want to sing some songs, you want to read some poetry, if you want to just come on and speak your peace, give us a line at After Hours KPFT in Houston 419 Lovett Boulevard, 77006. Or you can call the After Hours Hotline at area code 713-529-4636.

Until next week, this is Buddy Johnston speaking for Bruce Reeves and Clay Harper and Terry Atkins and Mike Ford and Roger Kinser and Bobby Miller and Brian Keever and the entire cast and crew saying bye, kids, we'll see you soon.

**HARVEY MILK:** 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. I ask people all over this country to do one thing. Come out. Come out, America, come out.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

[SPEAKING SPANISH]

**DEBORAH BELL:**Hi, I'm Deborah Bell.

**BRUCE REEVES:**And I'm Bruce Reeves.

**DEBORAH BELL:**I'm a dyke.

**BRUCE REEVES:**And I'm a faggot.

**BOTH:** And we're the co-chairs of Lesbian Gay Pride Week 1988.

**DEBORAH BELL:**Pride Week is June 17 to the 26th this year, and we would like to encourage everyone to come out and be rightfully proud.

**BRUCE REEVES:**That's right. The parade is Sunday, June 26, 3:00 PM and will run from Westheimer at Woodhead to Montrose.

Immediately following the parade will be Gay Fest across the street from Kroger's. We need everyone to come out and be a part of the festivities.

**DEBORAH BELL:**Pride Week is much more than a group of individuals parading down the street planned by an elitist few.

**BRUCE REEVES:**It is an opportunity to get involved and show the world that we are a happy, loving people, that we are united in our fight for civil rights.

**DEBORAH BELL:**We are thankfully unique and rightfully proud to be a gay and lesbian people.

**BRUCE REEVES:**For more information on Lesbian Gay Pride Week.

**DEBORAH BELL:**Call 961-2105.

**BRUCE REEVES:**Come out of your closets.

**DEBORAH BELL:**Come out into the streets.

**BOTH:** And show the world you are rightfully proud in 1988.