

JIMMY: Hello, OK, carbon dating game coming up at 3:00. And I hope you enjoyed that what we affectionately call *The Old Farts Tape*. It's talking about gay people, lesbian people here in Houston and what they were doing during the stonewall riots.

We've got one coming up later in the show, remembering Stonewall, the history of the Stonewall Riots. It's a classic, classic piece of history, folks. So gather around and enjoy it.

And in the meantime, let's see I wanted to talk about a couple of things real quickly. I hope you like that POV that was on tonight, the one nation, under God lively chronicle of attempts to cure homosexuality. It's our answer to the right wing's homosexual agenda. And if you saw it, and if you liked it, why don't you give them a call to the Encore Channel 8, 749-8388. That's 749-8388.

Tell them that you'd like to see this as an encore next week. And don't forget, coming up on June 22 at 9:00 PM, *Before Stonewall, the Making of a Gay and Lesbian Community*. This is a great documentary on life before Stonewall.

It's got-- well, if you study gay and lesbian history, all the people you've ever heard of are in this. There's going to be some really strange looking folks. But it's got everybody.

It's been dubbed a roots for gays by the San Francisco Chronicle. *Before Stonewall* chronicles the remarkable history of gays and lesbians from around 1920 until the June 1969 riots. So Wednesday, June 22, 9:00 PM on your PBS station, that's channel eight here. And coming up is what you might have been waiting for. So here it goes.

Oh, yes. It's time for the QMZ, the Queer Music Zone with Jimmy [? Witter ?] every week on *After Hours*, a continuing tradition on KPFK Houston. The QMZ, the Queer Music Zone, music by gay, lesbian, transsexual, bisexual artists for our community. Starting off, we've got someone local, someone you've heard of, someone if you went to the parade, was the emcee of the rally afterwards, Nancy Ford. And if you were at that parade, you heard this.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

Oh, yeah, that's Stevens and the Outband with *White Trash*.

SUBJECT: For our little trash here. Hey, girl, I'm trying to get away with-- I'm going to start another record when I wanted everyone to know that the trashiest woman that I've ever met in my entire life and the person I want to be like most likely when I grow up is little Jimmy Harper. You're white trash.

JIMMY: You got it. You got it.

SUBJECT: Nothing but trash.

JIMMY: Nothing but--

SUBJECT: A big smile on her face.

JIMMY: And I ain't done bad neither.

SUBJECT: Ain't done bad neither. Oh, lord, have mercy.

JIMMY: Just like Fancy.

SUBJECT: He ain't got nothing but class. He's nothing but class.

JIMMY: More like no class.

SUBJECT: That's what I meant.

JIMMY: Oh, I see. OK, now speaking of no class--

SUBJECT: Don't look at me.

JIMMY: This is a great song coming up. It's by Gretchen Phillips of formerly of Two Nice Girls, and we always thought these women are, mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

SUBJECT: Nice girls.

JIMMY: Yeah, this is on her new-- I don't know what it is. It's a cassette. But it's called Gretchen Phillips say\$Welcome to *My World and a Half*. OK.

And it's got really weird things on it, like how lesbians got that way, which well, there's a couple of words there. I don't think we'll play that one. However, this is a really weird one. Oh, and the greatest one of all, oh, the greatest one of all is-- and we really can't play it at all.

Oh, is it good too. Let's not even talk about it because it's just so good that I might be forced to play it. And I can't play it because I'll be kicked off the air.

Anyway, we're going to play this one called What Would You--Who Would You Rather Have Sex With? Gretchen Phillips. This is really cool stuff, kids. Get out your tape recorders because here it comes, OK.

SUBJECT: The number one single.

JIMMY: Yeah, new, new, new music. That was by a group called Rumors of the Big Wave, which is made up with a bunch of people, including Charlie Murphy, who's kind of been around in the business a long time. He's just quiet there doing stuff in the background. But this is a little different. He came out folky-like. And so this--

SUBJECT: Oh, is that why I haven't heard of him?

JIMMY: Yeah, this is something-- ooh, tacky. This is a little bit different. It's called-- the name of the group is Rumors of the Big Wave. And the name of that song was *Needle Full of Dreams*. And it is, of course, talking about drugs. And we probably don't talk about drug addiction much on this show.

SUBJECT: That's because they do it on so many other shows. We don't have the time.

JIMMY: Listen to this. And it's probably just as prevalent. I mean, yeah--

SUBJECT: No, but it's true.

JIMMY: It is true.

SUBJECT: A lot of other shows and a lot of on television and stuff like that, they're always talking about drugs and stuff like that. And I don't mean to be mean about it or rude because that's probably what it sounded like. But I mean, we don't have the time to spend on certain things, which we should.

JIMMY: Yeah, I know.

SUBJECT: But at the same time, it's like--

JIMMY: Because we don't focus on that really at all and especially we talk about aids a lot. But mainly, it's male-male transmission. And we don't talk about the shared needle experience, which is probably from all the reading I've done is the main way lesbians contract aids.

SUBJECT: Oh, really?

JIMMY: Yeah.

SUBJECT: Yuck.

JIMMY: Yuck is right. So that's a little something there, not to bring anybody down.

SUBJECT: I know [INAUDIBLE].

JIMMY: But we're still in the middle of the QMZ, the Queer Music ZONE heard every week on *After Hours*, a continuing tradition on KPFK Houston. Yes, *After Hours*, the show, the most popular show that--

SUBJECT: The show.

JIMMY: --that no one knows about. And [INAUDIBLE]

SUBJECT: Or no one writes about. I can say that because I got huevos rancheros.

JIMMY: I see, OK. We've had a request. And of course, we do take requests, especially for queer music, gay-lesbian, music, bisexual music, transgender music here on the QMZ. And you can call us at 526-5738.

SUBJECT: But no requests for any music.

JIMMY: No, no, no. We don't want-- we don't do that. No way. But we did have a request for Melissa. We have-- we get requests for Melissa every week.

And we're going to do Sara's favorite tonight. How's that? And what is it?

SUBJECT: *Come to My Window.*

JIMMY: Well, why don't we just shut up and play it?

SUBJECT: And *Come to My Window.*

[MUSIC PLAYING]

(SINGING) Come to my window.

JIMMY: Oh yeah, Melissa Etheridge, x to *My Window*. That is Sarah G's favorite Melissa song. We had a request for some Pansy Division.

Yeah, that's the name of the group who did *Fat-bottomed Boys*. And I only have that on a record. And so I don't cart that over every week.

SUBJECT: Why?

JIMMY: Because--

SUBJECT: Oh, because you don't want to? Is that it? It's Jimmy's show. Jimmy didn't want to bring it. So we don't hear-- I'm just playing.

JIMMY: Look, don't make me put my hands on my hips. But we've got some guys that--

SUBJECT: Like I care.

JIMMY: Yeah, right. We got some guys out there that have us on at work. And they're listening to us. And they want to hear some Pansy Division. So I've got something just by Pansy Division, something I had to take into the production room and edit because they had some stuff in it. But it's a great song. It's called *Anthem*. Here we go.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

(SINGING) 1 2--

JIMMY: OK, OK, that was Lisa Coke with-- that's how you pronounce. Lisa Coke. Pokey told me how to pronounce that. Remember pokey? OK. And that was number six, *All of Me*. And that was a Sarah song.

SUBJECT: I know. I can identify this all the time. I love what it says because when I was growing up, my aunt would always tell me don't wear this, don't do that, don't-- I said, Mary, out of my face, no. There's the door. Got to go.

JIMMY: I like that song.

SUBJECT: I love it.

JIMMY: And that will wrap up the QMZ, the Queer Music Zone.

SUBJECT: Say it isn't so, Jim. Say it isn't so.

JIMMY: Sorry. We'll be right back, though. Hold on. OK, we're back. Hey.

SUBJECT: I'm spinning. I'm spinning. Stop.

JIMMY: Coming up will be the history of the Stonewall Riots. This is have to tape. This is really great. In one half hour, you're going to hear all about the real stuff, the real poop that happened at stonewall.

SUBJECT: Poop?

JIMMY: Yeah, well that, too. Oh, but before that, let's see. Coming up tomorrow, tomorrow--

SUBJECT: What, Jim? Please tell me.

JIMMY: Sunday. Well, you know, it's not--

SUBJECT: Sunday Sunday.

JIMMY: It's not tomorrow until you go to bed. OK, Sunday, 9:00 at night at Gentry's, Gentry's over there on Richmond avenue, is a fundraiser for guess who? The gay and lesbian switchboard.

SUBJECT: Switchboard. Yay!

JIMMY: 529-3211, yes.

SUBJECT: Plug.

JIMMY: Be there.

SUBJECT: Or [? be clear. ?]

JIMMY: We'll be there. I'll be there.

SUBJECT: With bells on.

JIMMY: Well, I don't know about that. In fact, I might be a little late because it's like bowling night. But hey, I can cut it short. The bowling too.

SUBJECT: Don't-- I didn't go there.

JIMMY: I saw-- oh, I saw it on your face, yes, yes, yes. And coming up Wednesday, June 22, before you turn on channel eight to watch *Before Stonewall*, which will be on at 9:00 PM, run over to the Black Labrador Restaurant on the 4100 Montrose because there's a benefit for the pet patrol.

SUBJECT: Oh, really?

JIMMY: Yeah.

SUBJECT: And the Black Lab is over there by the Montrose Library [INAUDIBLE].

JIMMY: Oh, yeah, it's a really cool place. And this is going on from 5:00 until 8:00. We've got the silent auction, celebrity auction, and please bring dog and cat food, supplies as your admission.

SUBJECT: Oh, that's cute.

JIMMY: Yeah, isn't that neat? The pet-- Find out about the pet patrol if you don't know anything about it. You got anything going?

SUBJECT: Let's not go there.

JIMMY: Oh, no, huh? You don't want to do that?

SUBJECT: It's that FCC stuff.

JIMMY: OK, well, you know, we don't like to do calendars here because let's face it, calendars are boring.

SUBJECT: And if you want to know anything, just call the gay and lesbian switchboard at--

JIMMY: Exactly, 529-3211. They're there for you about four to midnight, most days.

SUBJECT: And if they're not there, just call back.

JIMMY: Yeah, because--

SUBJECT: Some of them do have a life.

JIMMY: Exactly.

SUBJECT: I'm just speaking about Jim.

JIMMY: Listen to this. We just don't have enough volunteers to handle it.

SUBJECT: But if you'd like to volunteer--

JIMMY: Every shift.

SUBJECT: --call up, and they can take your name down for the next training class.

JIMMY: You bet. And so right now, let's go with the history of the stonewall riots. If you've got your tape recorders, set them because you're really going to enjoy this. Are we ready?

SUBJECT: Yep.

JIMMY: OK.

NARRATOR: Today, this white two-storey building across from Sheridan Square in Greenwich Village is a clothing store and a closed Chinese restaurant. 20 years ago, this was the Stonewall Inn. I'm Michael Sherker, and I'm working on the first comprehensive history of the Stonewall riots.

In 1969, the Stonewall was one of the most popular gay bars in New York City and like all other gay bars was routinely raided by the vice squad. The patrons of these bars, many of whom were frightened at having their identities revealed, would quietly submit to any orders coming from the police. Yet, on June 27, 1969, that all changed. The patrons of this bar with the drag queens at the forefront decided to fight back against the police. What happened here on that night would spark a revolution.

JEAN I'm Jean Harwood. And my age is 80.

HARWORD:

SUBJECT 2: I'm [? Bruce Marrow. ?]

JEAN He also would like to know what your age is.

HARWORD:

SUBJECT 2: My age? 78.

JEAN I don't know if it's really true. But now people do refer to us as the two oldest gay men in America. We do I think

HARWORD: have maybe a record relationship of almost 60 years together. Bruce's memory started going bad in 1984.

Fortunately, we have our music together, which we've done over the years. We've written any number of songs. Bruce remembers the melodies very well and the lyrics of the songs.

(SINGING) When you touched me, when you took my hand, something happened. I had never [INAUDIBLE].

JEAN HARWORD: Being gay before the Stonewall was a very difficult proposition because we felt that in order to survive, we had to try to look and act as straight as possible. The attitude, the general attitude, of society as far as employers were concerned and landlords, all of these people were very hostile. And to protect ourselves, we had to act as rugged and manly as possible to get by.

SUBJECT 3: My name is Randy Wicker. I was the first openly gay person to appear on radio in 1962 and on television in 1964 as a self-identified homosexual. In the year before Stonewall, people felt a need to hide because of the precarious legal position they were in.

They would lose their jobs. There was a great hostility socially speaking in the sense that people found out you were gay, they assumed you were a communist or a child molester or any of another dozen stereotypes that were rampant in the public media at the time.

JERRY FERRER: I'm Jerry Ferrer, and I'm 80-years-old. I started a gay lifestyle in 1948 when I was around 39 or 40.

At that time, if there was even a suspicion that you were gay, that you were a lesbian, you were fired from your job. And you were in such a position of disgrace that you slunk out without saying goodbye even to the people that liked you. And you never even bothered to clean your desk.

You just disappeared. You just disappeared. You went quietly because you were afraid that the recriminations that would come if you even stood there and protested would be worse than just leave.

SUBJECT 3: My name is Sylvia Rivera. My name before that was Fred Rivera until I started dressing in drag in 1961. The era before Stonewall was a hard era. There was always the gay bashings on the drag queens by heterosexual men, women, and the police. We learned to live with it because it was part of the lifestyle at that time I guess. But none of us were very happy about it.

SUBJECT 4: My name is Seymour Pine. In 1968, I was assigned as deputy inspector in charge of public morals in the first division in the police department, which covered South Manhattan from 38th street to the battery, including the Greenwich village area. It was the duty of public morals to enforce all laws concerning vice and gambling, including prostitution, narcotics, and laws and regulations concerning homosexuality.

The part of the penal code which applied to drag queens was section 240.35, section four. Being masked or in any manner disguised by unusual or unnatural attire or facial alteration, loiters, remains or congregates in a public [INAUDIBLE].

SUBJECT 5: At that time, we lived at the Arista hotel [INTERPOSING VOICES] just try to figure out when this harassment would come to an end. And we would always dream that one day it would come to an end. And we prayed, and we looked for it. We wanted to be human beings.

[MUSIC PLAYING]