

- But Rebecca, who was 28 years old, is gone.
- Homophobia can kill. Education is the only lasting weapon against bigotry, which is why the Lesbian and Gay Public Awareness Project wanted you to hear and think about this message.
- For more information, write us at Post Office Box 65603, Los Angeles, California 90065.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

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

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

- I'm not feeling too terribly proud of myself today. Let me explain. Recently, I wrote about Linda Morales, the Democratic activist who was a lesbian, and it was a grand marshal of the Gay Pride Parade. The next day, I got a call from an admirer who urged me not to write anymore about the fags because my readers were upset. I remained silent and let him go on talking until he realized I was not pleased with this call.

Over the next several days, I got several letters, some unsigned, from religious zealots quoting the Bible to the effect that both Morales and I will end up in hell. They use words such as queers, perverts, and despicable creatures. One person gave me 40 days to repent and vowed to pray for my destruction if I don't. Again, I remained silent.

The next week, a coworker suggested we go down to Montrose to beat up some queers. Because I knew he was joking and because I thought that it would be less of a hassle, I remained silent. A few hours later, he repeated the same remark, and again, I remained silent.

But Sunday morning, as I read about Nancy Rodriguez, the Georgia woman who had come back here to pick up the body of her 27-year-old son Paul Broussard, I decided that I had remained silent way too long. If you have not heard about Paul Broussard, don't feel embarrassed. This newspaper, which has been conducting a search for justice crusade for several weeks, relegated the story to the local news section, as did the other paper.

Broussard and two friends were attacked around 3:00 AM Thursday as they walked from a gay bar in Montrose. He and one of his friends were beaten with nail-covered 2 by 4s by 10 or so young men. Broussard died several hours later. It has been labeled a gay bashing incident, another in a series of hate-filled attacks on gay people. But it was the killing of a human being, cold and cowardly. It was an act of pure hatred committed by the 10 young men, but also by their parents, their schools, their churches, and their communities.

Gay activists say that if it hadn't been for their efforts to alert reporters, Broussard's death might have gone unnoticed because the police were acting as if it were just another murder. It might as well have been, for most of official and religious Houston reacted to this latest act of brutal oppression with a thundering, deafening silence.

Had it been some white kids attacking a member of a racial minority group, for the sole reason that he or she was a member of that group or vice versa, this city would have been up in arms and the story would have stayed on the front page for weeks. Every elected official and would-be elected official would be out roaming the streets in search of a TV camera instead of reluctantly talking about it when cornered in some hallway.

But in the eyes of many, Broussard was a queer. He is a fag. He was a despicable creature. And he probably deserved to die for the fact that god made him prefer men. The right-to-lifers was apparently feel that Broussard had no right to life because they too were silent. That he was a loving son and an earnest employee and that he loved to read books meant nothing to this group of maniacs who attacked him. And it apparently means nothing to most of us.

His mother told *The Post* that she couldn't understand how such things can happen. Well, I can understand because I know that such things are a result of the silence of people like me. Paul Broussard died because we were cowards. We prefer to sit in our cubbyholes and spend all our efforts keeping our sinking boat steady. The gay rights activists are right. Silence does equal death. When we fail to speak up, we are sanctioning the hatred or ignorance of people like my coworker and my correspondents. And it is such hatred and ignorance that tells stupid kids that it's OK to go around beating up the Paul Broussards of the world. I did not know Paul Broussard, but I am not going to let Houston forget him or how he died or why.

- That's right, ma. You had it easy. You lost your husband in a nice, clean hospital. You know I lost mine. I lost my 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 to deserve what they get.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- Homophobia's got to go, hey, hey, ho, ho. Homophobia's got to go, hey, hey, ho, ho. Homophobia's got to go, hey, hey, ho, ho. Homophobia's got to go, hey, hey, ho, ho. Homophobia's got to go, hey, hey, ho, ho. Go ahead and say it so they can hear you in the Capitol. For love and for life, we're not going back. For love and for life, we're not going back. For love and for life, we're not going back. For love and for life, we're not going back!

- I think that's Robin Tyler on the stage leading the chant-- for love or for life, we're not going back.

- Good afternoon and welcome to the national march on Washington, DC for gay and lesbian rights and choral reciting!

[CHEERING] Let's hear it out there. I'm Lea DeLaria.

- I'm Bruce Hopkins.

- I'm a dyke.

- I'm a faggot. And we're best friends.

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

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

- 500,000 strong. Look at you. 500,000 strong. 500,000 strong, one of the largest marches in United States history.

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

- One of the largest marches in United States history. 500,000 strong.
- We parents want to persuade society that our gay children are not acting out of defiance or self-indulgence. They're being true to their own nature. Our children are fine men and women. And we say to society that the parents and friends of lesbians and gay men will support their children.
- They've got to understand something. They've got to understand something. We are not talking about crotch politics. This is not a movement from the waist down. We are talking about our right to love and to choose and to live. And I don't care about straight tolerance and I don't care about straight understanding. You better hear me in Washington. We are demanding-- we are demanding our civil rights.
- Harvey, do you have a few words for KPFA?
- Come on out. Join us. Bring a friend.
- What do you think about the turnout so far?
- Well, it's never enough. Homophobia has got to go, hey, hey, ho, ho.
- 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. 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 of the stores you shop in.

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

- What do 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!
- And I ask people all over this country to do one thing-- come out. Come out, America! Come out.
- Hi.
- How you doing today, baby?
- I'm doing fabulous.
- I think maybe somebody in Houston's been listening to us. Oh, child, did you go down on Westheimer tonight?
- I wouldn't have been anywhere else.
- Listen to this.
- Homophobia's got to go, hey, hey, ho, ho. Homophobia's got to go, hey, hey, ho, ho.
- There was a crowd of probably-- how many do you think?
- I think 2,000.
- Between 1,500 and 2,000. Of course, the police are going to say 10.
- No, actually, the 2,000 came from the police.
- Oh, really?
- Yeah. They were expecting 500.
- I was very proud of the police because it was a very scary situation.
- It was at one point.
- When you get one group of people who are very, very angry in a place and they're screaming, and the gay community kind of took over Montrose at Westheimer for about an hour.
- Kind of.
- They were sitting down on the streets.
- And you and I along with them.
- Anyway, last week I was on the rag because of this beating, and I was so angry.
- We're still not real thrilled.
- No, but they have the culprits, I should say, in jail. And we're going to talk about that. And I don't know, I feel much better. Of course, the enemy is still out there. Someone said we should have took the march to-- where is it?
- Woodlands?

- Yeah, the Woodlands. But homophobia is everywhere. Going to the Woodlands isn't going to help anything. In fact, I kind of feel sorry for those people up there because now they have a black eye.

- Yeah, they really do.

- And we need to tell them that don't feel bad.

- Plus there's a lot of gay and lesbian people who live in the Woodlands.

- That's very true.

- Anyway, we had something new at the beginning of the show. What was that? It's a new voice. Actually, it was someone that I've respected for quite some time. We read his material here on the show-- his column, I should say, from *The Houston Post*.

- Probably without his permission.

- Well, we always give him credit. But Juan Palomo was reading a column that he wrote for the paper, and he's going to be sharing another one with us and joining us here in a few minutes to talk about his article, I guess. I don't know. We'll see what he wants to talk about.

- We've got enough information and stuff for two shows tonight.

- Anyway, this is *After Hours* radio celebrating live from the heart of Montrose. I guess we're back to saying that.

- Haha.

- We're here and we're queer.

- And I'm that faggot that works for the Houston Police Department.

- And I'm that faggot who doesn't work at all.

- But you got to say, I'm the faggot dispatcher. Just a civilian. I'm not a police officer. I don't want anybody to think that--

- Don't want to get you in trouble there.

- Still waiting for a police officer to come out. That's going to be a while. Anyway, this is how I felt last week.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- Well, they certainly didn't take it down on Pacific Street tonight.

- We didn't take any more, no we did not.

- Wasn't that funny when we marched down Pacific Street and all those Queens came out of those clubs?

- Well, we were screaming. Remember what we were screaming? Out of the bars and into the streets, and some of them actually did it. Surprised me.

- It surprised me when I got to 1000 West Drew this evening because I expected to see the typical Houston. I mean, we did the Harvey Milk rally back in 1988-- about 100 people, 150 maybe. And we do the parade-- 20,000 out of like 3 or 400,000. And we got down there tonight-- there were probably 1,500 to 2000 people.

- That's right. And there weren't that many at the starting point. So we got a lot of them out of the bars.
- They kind of came out. It was nice. The column-- is that the right word? Is that the right word that we say?
- It's a column.
- The column that we read, or we heard read at the beginning of the program was your work?
- It was my work, all of it. And we're speaking to Juan Palomo with *The Houston Post*. Thank you very much.
- It's Juan Palomo.
- Pal-ah-mo. Palah-mah?
- Palomo. But that's OK. Let's go on.
- We're Anglos. We have problems with that.
- And it's like 20 minutes after 1:00.
- How are you doing this morning, as you drink your coffee.
- I'm doing OK. I'm thinking of suing you, though. You promised me I was going to be here at midnight and we were going to get started, and I was going to be out in one hour, and here it is 1:20 and just getting ready to start.
- I know, that's the way we get you.
- But it's so much fun watching you work. It's just amazing. It looks like it's sort of like a ballet here just watching you move back and forth and deal with everything. But I'm glad to be here.
- Speaking of good work, I really enjoy reading your columns in the post, and you have some very strong statements sometimes.
- I try to have very strong statements every time. Sometimes I don't succeed and I'm not happy about that. But that's what a column is supposed to be about. Why else have a column if you're not going to try to at least get people to think about something and get them mad, get them irritated.
- How long have you been with the post?
- I've been with the post since 1979, except for a seven-month period when I went to that great newspaper *USA Today*. I came back. They were nice enough to hire me. But I've been with *The Post* here. I've been with *The Post* in Central America and the Caribbean and I've been with *The Post* in Washington. I just moved back from Washington after 5 and 1/2 years. I moved here in October.
- Well, we're glad to have you back. And we're glad to have your columns.
- It's good to be back.
- What brought on this July 9th article about the slaying of Paul Broussard and the silence that most of us have-- I don't know, that takes us through our everyday life.

- Well, I knew I was going to write something about that from the very first time I read the initial story, which I guess was Friday, even though the story was buried in both papers. And I don't think it'd even mentioned that it was a gay bashing or that it was suspected of being a gay bashing.

But I really did not know the kind of column that I was going to write until I guess it was Saturday or maybe Sunday when I read Matt Schwartz's story in our paper, in which he interviewed the mother of Paul Broussard, who had come back to town to pick up the body of her son. And I just got very angry, and I just I was sitting in my dining room reading that, and I just stayed angry the entire day. I was preparing for a party Sunday evening. I was celebrating my 99th column.

And so I was doing a lot of things that needed to be done for that party, but I just kept thinking about that throughout the whole day. And I just felt this horrible pang at sort of the pit of my stomach, and I know that sounds like a cliché, but that's what I felt. And the more I thought about it, the angrier I thought. And I just knew that I was going to have to write something about it. And I pretty much had an idea then that it was going to be this kind of column, that it couldn't be anything else.

So, of course, I had to wait till Monday when I went in to work to start writing.

- I remember reading the Linda Morales column. You got a lot of negative response from that?

- It wasn't a lot, but it was the ones that I mentioned, and I guess I wasn't prepared for that and I should have been, but the first caller, this guy who's called me in a number of times to tell me what a great job I do and gives me column ideas-- in fact, I wrote one of his ideas-- about one of his ideas, made it into a column. So he considers himself a friend and a fan, even though I've never met him.

And he just called to tell me that he really cared about me and he just wanted to alert me to the fact that people didn't want me to write about the fags anymore. And I just couldn't. I mean, I did tell him right then to tell all his friends to go to hell, but other than that I didn't say anything. I didn't think I can win an argument. And I guess I was scared. I don't know. I've never been a fighting type of person, and I just let him go on. And I felt horrible when he hung up because I had not said anything.

And I got a couple of other calls like that, and a letter from a guy out in Wyoming or something, and another guy who didn't sign his name, the one who said he was giving me 40 days or however many days to repent. And I haven't kept track. I don't know--

- I think he writes us. [LAUGHTER]

- So we've got a new column coming out in a new paper today that answers the letter?

- Well, yeah, I got a lot of response to that Tuesday column. I mean, it's the most mail and the most phone calls I have gotten to any column that I've written. Before that the column that I wrote suggesting that Mayor Whitmire not run again had gotten a lot of response, and before that, blasting Oscar Wyatt for his hypocrisy when he went down to Iraq to supposedly rescue some of the hostages-- that got a lot of mail, a lot of calls. But this one was just about twice as many as both of those combined, and it was just amazing.

And one of the letters that I got was this unsigned letter from this mother of a 27-year-old man. And it was just such a good letter that I decided that I had to run it, even though, at the very beginning, when I started writing this column-- I swore, in fact, I told people in my column that I would never ever run letters in my column.

- And you say in the paper today that was sort of a lie.

- I said I lied, yes.

I should have known that there would come a time when I would get a letter that cried or begged to make it into print. This was one of them. And I'm quoting here. "Thank you for your column appearing in today's paper. Thank you for speaking out against this hate crime of such horrible violence. I also ask you to continue to inform the readers of this newspaper of such issues as gay bashing.

It was just one month ago that I found out that my 27-year-old son was gay. He claims he knew this about himself since he was a little boy but just could not confess it. He wanted to protect his family from the embarrassment and shame of having a pervert in the family, never mind that he, like young Paul Broussard, was loving and kind, that he loved music and books, that he was well-behaved, never causing anyone trouble or hurt. He has carried his shame silently all these years, keeping his own unhappiness and aloneness to himself, finding joys of life only in helping people along his paths.

Now I admit that as his mother, I have very ambivalent thoughts and feelings. The biblical applications that attach blame and send to the subject really caused me much pain. But this is my son and I love him, and I want to protect him from hurt and harm. I am afraid that the other members of the family will withhold their love and companionship when they find out the truth. And what is the truth anyway?

Maybe through you and others like you, the general public will become educated about these people who readily admit that if there was a pill to change their bent, they would take a bushel of them. They really did not choose to be the way they are and most have struggled against this part of their life all their lives. I rejoice in his goodness and kindness, his gentle strength, and pray for his protection.

This son of mine really taught me about unselfish love. And I also pray that I remember that only our Lord has the right to judge any one of us, and I pray that soon everyone in our world and especially our state, which was built by some pretty bad characters, will also come to know this. Thank you again for speaking out as only you can. My condolences to Broussard's mother and I share her pain. Of course, I must remain anonymous to protect my own son."

- And that was the end of the letter, but I go on-- "of course, what is this mother's alternative but to remain anonymous in a world filled with idiots like the right Honorable Sam Hall, federal judge from the Eastern District of Texas. Hall is a former idiot Congressman from the 1st Congressional District in Northeast Texas who, on Wednesday, said in a Beaumont court in front of a jury that homosexuals in the Jefferson County Jail are quote, 'a bunch of queers,' unquote, and added, as if it weren't obvious, that he does not like homosexuals.

The state, until recently, had laws outlawing homosexuality. A state district judge in Austin declared it unconstitutional, but it is being appealed, and I have little doubt that it will be reinstated. Unfortunately, neither this state nor this country has laws outlawing idiocy like Hall's.

If you're wondering how Hall became a federal judge, let me enlighten you. Hall, a Democrat, was recommended by Republican Senator Phil Graham and nominated by former President Ronald Reagan. It was not that these two staunch Republicans wanted to reward a Democrat, not at all. You see, Graham had come up with this brilliant idea that by moving Hall to the bench, he would fill his vacancy with a Republican. But Graham's best laid plans went awry when voters sided with a Democrat, Jim Chapman, who is still in Congress despite Graham's repeated attempts to get rid of him.

The damage, however, has been done. Hall was a do nothing, know nothing idiot in Congress, but he was one of 435 members and, therefore, was harmless. Now he's a know nothing idiot of a federal judge with immense powers to do great harm. Thank Phil Graham for that the next time you see him."

- Say that again, Jimmy.

- I asked Juan-- he had this kind of strange look on his face when that tape was going of his last reading.

- It was your coffee. [LAUGHTER]

- And I said--

- It's great coffee.

- --is it really different reading your stuff rather than hearing it?

- My response is that the difference was that I never can get used to the sound of my own voice. I think it's the weirdest sounding voice in the entire world. But the column, hearing it being read by me sounded as I had imagined it would sound if somebody else had been reading it, a very good speaker, because I tried to write that way. When I write my column, I read it over and over again with-- I sort of listen to it while I'm reading it. And I want people to be able to read it out loud, and I want it to sound good when they do that.

I'm not sure that anybody does it, but, I mean, if they feel like reading it out loud, I would hope that--

- We have. I'm always reading it.

- We're always reading it here--

- I think it's--

- --out loud.

- I was going to say, I think it's one of the problems with many writers. They don't think that people actually read their columns with their ears also instead of just with their eyes.

- I think that's why I enjoy reading your column so much because I really feel like you're writing it to me, as opposed to reading something in the paper that you feel like the writer just wrote and he's like whoever reads it, fine, if anybody at all reads it. But everything I read that you write, it seems like you're writing it just for me.

- I get that comment a lot, and it makes me feel good. It's also kind of weird to hear that. But I think it's because I write the only way I know how to write. I don't try to get fancy because every time I try, it just sounds horrible.

- It's kind of how we do this show. [LAUGHTER]

- I used to think that was a handicap, but why be fancy when you can say things in a simple manner? And I think people appreciate that.

- You betcha.

- Every once in a while, I throw in a fancy word just to keep people off track, but I just stick with the words that you're used to.

- I have my little Webster in my briefcase, and just once in a while, I have to look up a word.

- I have one word that I'm saving-- I've got to use one of these days. I think it's taradiddle, which means to lie.

- Taradiddle? When you write something about Reagan in this [? instance-- ?] arms for hostages-- [LAUGHTER]

- That's too good a word to waste on Ronald Reagan, I think.

- There is a lot of anger in the end of that piece. Do you get angry a lot? Is that what motivates you?

- I get angry a lot, and that is what motivates me. And that's funny, a lot of people find that objectionable. They really don't like the idea that a columnist can get angry. And I mean, I don't think a columnist is any good unless he gets angry. And a columnist who has lost the ability to become angered at what's happening out there shouldn't be writing anymore. And maybe that'll happen to me. I mean, I've only been doing it for, what-- well, this was my 101th column-- and I count them. Maybe when I get to my 1,001th I'll just be so numb to everything that's happening that I won't be angry anymore. And I hope I have the sense to quit then.

- There's something that you wrote in that column that really hit me, and that's when you said our sinking boats from rocking-- something along that line. You really think our boat is, as a whole-- I've said this before in different ways on the show that, as a people, I think maybe our boat is sinking. We're doomed from the beginning. You think maybe we're going to be able to bail this thing out?

- I get into trouble every time I talk about this because I don't see much hope for this country. I don't see much hope for the Western world and I'm not sure there's much hope anywhere else. There's just too many of us caring about ourselves and not about anything else. We're not willing to make the commitment. We're not willing to spend the money and the time to do the thing that really matter to get to change things around. And we just go around throwing out slogans like Nancy Reagan's "just say no," and we just assume that that's going to solve the drug problem. And that's not going to solve the drug problem. And there's so many other things.

Becoming a columnist has sort of made me more of an idealist than I used to be, and I think that's fine, but it hasn't diminished my pessimism about this whole world. And maybe that's what gets me so angry. I see a few people doing great things in different places, and that gives me hope for that little part, whatever they're doing, but that's never enough.

- It is very frustrating as a whole, and I don't mean just us. I don't mean just this program. Last Saturday night, I was so angry. I mean, I listened to the show and I was yelling and screaming-- doesn't anybody give a damn? And yelling and screaming into a \$200 microphone really doesn't get you anywhere because it just comes out distorted. But sometimes, you're just so angry that you want to just like-- doesn't anybody out there give a damn?

- Well, that's interesting because I was thinking at that candlelight vigil or march or whatever it was tonight, that's what I was wondering-- how much good is this going to do aside from making a lot of people feel very good tonight? What's going to happen tomorrow and the day after tomorrow and after that? Are we going to go back to the same old ways? We probably will. And we'll keep electing the same politicians who never do anything for us, as long as we can have fun, go to the movies, go to the bars, do whatever we do, write our columns, have our radio shows.

- That's exactly right. And that's the same message that we had this year, as far as the Gay and Lesbian Pride Week Parade. I just couldn't participate this year. I felt that way for a couple of years because it's like we're the bastard at a family reunion here on this show with a lot of the gay leadership. And it's very irritating to think you have something really wonderful going on, not just because I'm here, but because the community as a whole is something beautiful.

And to get kind of like spit on for so long, you kind of get really angry at certain things, and it's like we're going to march down the parade one day down Westheimer, and then everything else is going to be the same. And that's exactly what happens. I was really surprised--

- At the same time though you have to keep in mind that there are a lot of young people out there, and a lot of not-so-young people, who have never had the courage to even go anywhere near a function like the Gay Pride Parade. And every year, there's a few of them who, because of the parade, take that big step, sometimes even a small step, to come out or to do things or to speak up against homophobia.

And so while the parade may not do very much for you, I mean, I think it does something for other people. And there are some who just do it because it's fun and it's just part of the tradition. There's not much meaning behind what they do either.

- I think in both of our voices at different times we hear there may be a little hope left for mankind.

- Well, I think there's a lot of hope. I would certainly--

- I wish that there was.

- Well, I don't know. I mean, I guess I do feel there is some hope. Otherwise, I wouldn't be doing what I'm doing. But it's very difficult. It's going to continue to be very difficult. I think we, as a country, are going to have to get used to the idea that we're not going to be number one. We already aren't number one. And when we finally realize it, it's going to be a big shock to a lot of people, and I'm not sure how this country is going to be able to take it.

- Any columns coming up about the Supreme Court or the mayor's race?

- Oh, that's the beauty of this job. I can do almost anything I want. I can do anything I want. And there's so many things going on out there that I have no idea what I'm going to write about one day. I try to keep people on their toes. I don't want to be predictable, although a lot of people think that they have me pegged. Every once in a while, I'll throw in something that'll really just throw them for a loop and they have no idea what's happening.

- This mayor's thing-- I think what we need to do, what I'm going to suggest is that we put a big fence up around Montrose and secede from the city and have our own little city, and I'll be like run for mayor of Montrose against maybe Ray Hill or somebody and see who wins. And we'll just have our own little community with a big tall fence around it.

- Then you have [INAUDIBLE] revolutions every three months, I think.

- I'm sure.

- You're probably right. Anyway, I want to thank you for taking the time out at this very late hour to come by and spend some time with us.

- It's been fun.

- We really respect your work and look forward to it. Every chance I get, I pick up *The Post*, which is every day. And if your photograph isn't there, I kind of fold it up and read it later.

- Well, I appreciate that.

- But I do admire your writing, and it means a lot to us to have you here to share your writing with us and to our listeners.

- Anytime.

- Thank you very much, Juan-- and the last name is--

- Palomo.

- See, I wasn't going to screw it up.

- It means dove.

- It means what?

- Dove.

- Ah, really?

- Yeah.

- Well, thank you very much, and we look forward to reading you in *The Houston Post*.

- Thank you.

- Hang on. We'll be back in just a little bit with more music, and something about a rally, candlelight march, queers screaming and yelling in the street. It was great. And we've got tape, and we're going to share it with you in just a second.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- We're talking to David Fowler with Queer Nation at the site of the beating of Paul Broussard on July the 4th. David, what's going on? All these people are standing around on Montrose. They're not dancing.

- --have a march down to Westheimer and Montrose to show this city that we're not going to tolerate gay bashing or gay murders and that we want to sit and know that we want to be treated just like everybody else. And if we have to do this every night or every week until we're done, until we get some action from the city and the state, we're going to do it.

- Are you pleased about the turnout? We seem to have a lot of people here and it's early.

- --a lot more still. It's early yet. It's going to be a lot more. It's going to be the biggest thing we've thrown together in 4 days because people are really angry and frustrated with this.

- How do you feel about the arrests made by the police department?

- I'm real happy to hear that they made an arrest. And I just hope that justice will prevail. And that won't stop anybody from doing anything else because that's just one person and it will continue, and we're out here to say that we're not going to take it anymore.

- That's what we were concerned about too. After Harvey Milk and Dan White were killed-- I mean, Harvey Milk and George Moscone were killed-- Dan White only went to prison for 5 and 1/2 years. So how do you think the judicial system is going to handle--

- That's what we're going to be watching. We're going to be monitoring those trials and we're going to be in the courtrooms every day. And we will also be in front of city council every week asking them to please support a hate crimes bill through the city and through the state.

- Good, we're glad to see all the people here. Good luck.

- Good, thanks buddy.

- My name is Ross.

- Why are you here tonight?

- I'm here because when I heard about the killing on the news, I was really sick to my stomach. I couldn't believe that stuff like that happened. I'm not from Houston. And I didn't think stuff like that went on anymore.

- What do you think about the turnout so far?

- Well, I'm not familiar with the turnouts in Houston but I was sort of hoping for a lot more. I think you need a lot more to make an affirmative statement to everyone that the gay people of Houston are really concerned and really disgusted with what's happened and they're tired of it.

- What do you have on your hand?

- Where are you going?

- My hands-- I have on rubber gloves.

- Why is that?

- Well, I put on rubber gloves in case I come in contact with any police officers because they seem pretty scared to deal with homosexuals unless they have gloves on, as if they think that's going to protect them against something.

- OK, thanks a lot.

- [INAUDIBLE] is a media person today. Brian, you're always carrying the banners down the pride week parade. What do you think about this turnout for Houston?

- I think it's good for a change. I like to see about five times this many. I think we may have before it starts.

- Why are you here tonight, Brian, other than for the TWT?

- I'm here to express my anger over the gay bashing and to prove that we will not go away.

- And standing right here is a very dear friend of KPFT's. How are you sir?

- I'm pretty good, buddy. How has everything been going with you?

- Speaking to Councilmember Vince Ryan. Why are you down here tonight?

- Well, I think this is a very good show of support and solidarity and force to people outside of the Montrose community, that this community sticks together and abhorred what happened a few weeks ago. And although I think we're probably all glad that it looks like the people who did it, or at least the beginnings of all the people who did are caught, still, I think we need to remind the community at large that what happened, the gay bashing, the hate crime, is not to be tolerated at all.

- Thank you.

- Citizens, a great turnout.

- Yeah, talking to John Virgo, our friend from University of Houston sometimes--
- I'm not a student anymore.
- Oh, poor thing. You mean you've grown up and gone out in the real world?
- I graduated, that's right.
- What do you think about? This is wild, isn't it?
- I think the turnout is excellent people are really angry about this. They're angry about the police saying it's not a hate crime. They're angry about the police saying these kids came down here and got in a little bit of trouble. People are-- we're sending a clear message that we will not tolerate this and that the police have to start changing the way they deal with lesbian and gay people.
- [? Act Two ?] radio, what is your sign say?
- It says Americans for human rights.
- Why are you out here tonight?
- For protesting the hate crime that occurred two weeks ago.
- Do you think enough people are concerned about what's going on, not just here in Montrose but all over the nation?
- I think so, yeah-- all over the nation and all over the world.
- Are you pleased about the turnout tonight?
- Yes, more the better.
- Starts at exactly 9 o'clock. At 9 o'clock, we will light the candle. We'll have 1 minute of silence in recognition. From there, we will proceed to walk. We need you to stay on the sidewalk. I repeat, you have to stay on the sidewalk. If you go off, you run the risk of being arrested.
- They can't arrest everyone.
- [INAUDIBLE].
- Right.
- [INAUDIBLE].
- Let them go.
- Now the route will go down Montrose to Fairview. We will take Fairview to Hyde Park. Hyde Park to Pacific. Pacific will blend onto Missouri Street. From there, we'll march down, loop around in front of Bacchus, to the corner of Westheimer and Montrose. That is where we will end this march, on the corner of Montrose-Westheimer. We ask that you stay in chant. We do have chants already set up that we think will work really great for this group.
- Moving around the corner, please line up behind the two main banners here. [INAUDIBLE].

- We appreciate your attention. [INAUDIBLE] Montrose [INAUDIBLE].

- These people are just saying there are a lot of--

- There will be more [INAUDIBLE] meetings. We meet on the second and fourth day of every month. If you want to continue the fight, be there, be queer. [CHEERING]

- Hi, Tony. What's going on? Well, I guess it's just more of our community letting people know that hate crimes are not appropriate, and we want them to set up a Hate Crime Statistics Gathering Act. I mean, the Hate Crimes Statistics Gathering Act has already been set up, and we need this the city of Houston would be more informed. Obviously, the murder of Paul Broussard was covered under the Hate Crime Statistics Gathering Act and it must be registered and the police must be informed the criteria of how discrimination, as mandated by the federal government, leads to violence.

- Have you guys at the GLPC-- have you any plan to make sure that this is going to be handled properly by the courts once this gets into the judicial system?

- As a matter of fact, we do. And come to my meeting next Wednesday night and vote on it.

- OK, great.

- All right, bye.

- Take care.

- Homophobia's got to go, hey, hey, ho, ho.

- Clear the sidewalk, please. [INAUDIBLE] Clear the sidewalk.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

- Homophobia's got to go, hey, hey, ho, ho. Homophobia's got to go, hey, hey, ho, ho. Homophobia's got to go, hey, hey, ho, ho.

- We would like to have everybody light their candles.

- Well, I feel a little better tonight.

- Do you?

- Yeah, actually I do. I was so afraid that I would have to be like the ever increasing bitch again tonight.

- Well, from last week, because last week, girl, I was just yelling and screaming and ranting and raving, and I listen to that show, and I thought who the hell is that screaming and yelling, and nobody really knows what's going on.

- Speaking of not knowing what's going on, did you see, when we marched tonight from the site of the Paul Broussard beating--

- Yeah, I've got to tell you something about that later.

- --we marched down through all the we came up Pacific Street. Did you see those queens in the bar? They were coming out of the bars on Pacific Street going.