

[MUSIC - HUMAN SEXUAL RESPONSE, "BLOW UP"]

(SINGING) Kill. Kill.

JIMMY CARPER: By request, that was Human Sexual Response with "Blow Up". You are listening to *After Hours*, a continuing tradition on KPFT Houston 90.1 FM, and we're right in the middle of kind of a punk set. We're going to go to two from *There's A Dyke In The Pit*. First, Lucy Stoner's "Soiled Princess" and 7 Year Bitch, "Dead men don't rape".

[MUSIC PLAYING]

[THEME MUSIC PLAYING]

HOST: It must be Sunday morning.

(SINGING) I know.

Because you're hearing a solid blues block on 90.1 FM KPFT in Houston Texas from 6 AM until noon. You told us what you want on Sunday morning.

(SINGING) It must be Sunday morning.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, yeah. Two of the fine shows coming up after *After Hours*. First, the *Carbon Dating Game* from 3:00 to 6:00. And then from 6:00 to noon, the *Sunday Blues Block*. And you heard right before that, Pansy Division with their new one. And I forgot the title. [LAUGHS]

Yes, here it is. Here it is. Here it is. "Cowboys are frequently secretly fond of each other", which they did live when they came through town last October. And they just put it on record about a month ago. It happens to be on *Stop Homophobia* compilation that is put out by Turkey Baster Records out of Austin, Texas. If anywhere, you might pick it up over at the Record Exchange over there on Westheimer, because that's one of the few places I know of. If any other place is going to carry it, I hope they let me know.

And since we played that, I thought that would be a good lead-in into a piece of tape we have that came off of *This Way Out*. It's an interview with-- from *This Way Out* of all people-- with Pansy Division. So I haven't even heard it. It's 14 minutes, and I'm looking forward to it. We do have requests to fill. Afterwards I'm going to play some Smiths and see what else. We'll talk to you then. OK.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

BERT WYLEN: I'm Bert Wylen, speaking now with the members of the Pansy Division. And this is not an armed forces service. This is actually a rock and roll band from San Francisco. We've got Jon Ginoli, who's the leader, the guitarist, the songwriter, and the lead vocalist.

JON GINOLI: Hi.

BERT WYLEN: David Ward is the drummer.

DAVID WARD: Hello.

BERT WYLEN: And Chris Freeman, the bassist.

CHRIS Howdy.

FREEMAN:

BERT WYLEN: Howdy. And with 13 songs on this CD, there's only three that I can get away with playing safely on the air. But I just wanted to play the piece that I believe has been written and produced for a Disney movie. It's called "Bunnies", and this is the only part that we can play.

[MUSIC - PANSY DIVISION, "BUNNIES"]

There you have it. That's the end of "Bunnies".

CHRIS You've got 15 seconds or so on that one?

FREEMAN:

JON GINOLI: The climax.

BERT WYLEN: That's right. The climax of the song. So where did you dig up these guys? Where'd you guys come from?

CHRIS I'm from Seattle.

FREEMAN:

BERT WYLEN: And you're Chris.

CHRIS I'm Chris, yeah.

FREEMAN:

BERT WYLEN: The bass player. And the drummer?

DAVID WARD: I've been in the Bay area my whole life and actually I answered an ad in the paper and that's how I found this band.

BERT WYLEN: Jon, who were your influences?

JON GINOLI: When I was a little kid I listened to '60s radio so I was listening to The Rolling Stones and the Beatles and Creedence Clearwater Revival.

BERT WYLEN: Yes. What about Two Nice Girls.

JON GINOLI: Two Nice Girls were a big influence, because I had been a musician. In the '80s, I'd had a band when I lived in Illinois. And I kind of gave it up in frustration, because I was gay and the rest of my band was straight. And they were really nice people, but I felt like as a songwriter for that band I really couldn't write songs that fully expressed what I was feeling without making the rest of the band feel not included, sort of excluded from what I wanted to do.

[MUSIC - PANSY DIVISION, "BOYFRIEND WANTED"]

So when I gave that up, I thought, well, I want to hear queer bands or bands that sing about these subjects without being shy about it.

(SINGING) Cute drunk boys--

BERT WYLEN: That was "Boyfriend Wanted" by Pansy Division, a rock and roll band from San Francisco.

JON GINOLI: That's actually one of the quietest songs on our album. A lot of the album is kind of raucous and more up tempo rock and roll. A lot of the songs on the album are humorous and deal with sexual subjects, which of course you're not able to air.

BERT WYLEN: It's fairly obvious from the lyrics that are non-broadcastable that you're not looking for astounding commercial success. Chris, don't you think that you could sing about the gay experience from a rock and roll perspective without using language that is not broadcastable? Because people like Jesse Helms don't allow us to use that kind of language.

JESSE HELMS: I call it standing up for America's traditional family values.

CHRIS FREEMAN: But really, if we were to do that, the only thing we'd be doing is repeating songs that have already been done and just putting a he instead of a she in it. I mean, right now we're trying to do something that is not available. Look at Joan Jett. She's made a career out of leaving the she in there and doing "Crimson and Clover". Well, that's pretty much what we would have to do is just singing Kiss songs and leaving the she out and putting he in. And that's tired. We wanted to really do something that was brash and in your face.

JON GINOLI: There's other things too to compare it to, for instance like the dirty blues records that came out in the early rock and roll era. They were not meant for airplay, but people talked about them and they got around, they got distributed, and it's more of an underground thing. And that because it has this other kind of underground element to it, it has a different audience than something that might necessarily be played on the radio. But there are some songs on the album that you can play. It's not like every song has four-letter words in it or prurient situations.

BERT WYLEN: Don't get me wrong, I love that prurient stuff.

JON GINOLI: I think that sex is pretty much inexhaustible a subject matter. I mean, I think there's-- it's something we enjoy. It's something that inspires us. It's something that we want to write about. It's always going to be one of our main subjects, even though some of the songs that we're writing now are a little more broad in terms of just sort of capturing gay experience. But if you don't sing about sex, I mean for me, I think not singing about sex is in a way to censor us and to let the Jesse Helms dictate what we can sing about.

JESSE HELMS: A lifestyle that most of the world's religions consider immoral and which the average American voter instinctively finds repulsive.

JON GINOLI: Whether it's airable on the radio or not.

BERT WYLEN: Yeah.

JON GINOLI: You might be interested to know that we're doing very well in Canada which has no broadcast restrictions.

BERT WYLEN: Great.

JON GINOLI: They play "Bunnies" on the air. The whole song.

BERT WYLEN: "Bunnies"?

JON GINOLI: "Bunnies". They play all the stuff up there, and we've gotten an incredible amount of mail from Canada. So we should emulate their health care system and their broadcast system.

BERT WYLEN: You want to hear "Bunnies" one more time?

[LAUGHTER]

To touch on the your political consciousness, I have to say I found it so refreshing. I'm so sick of we're on a march on Washington. We're going to march, march, march, march, march, and it's all browbeating, political, yes.

[YAWN]

[SNORE]

Thank you very much

JON GINOLI: Well, I mean, I think that that-- I mean, I've been an activist. I've been in ACT UP. And I think that that kind of stuff is good for rallying the troops, but it doesn't really work as music. It's effective propaganda. But I mean, I consider Pansy Division political with a small p. I don't really feel like going out and addressing issues, like saying, OK, this song is about this, and the song is about that.

In general, I don't think very many people in music are good at making a song resonate beyond its immediate subject matter so it has lasting impact. And most of our songs are more personal in a sort of universal way. That somebody can hear the song, one of our songs, and identify with that without getting too specific about certain issues.

Even though our songs have issues in them, a lot of the surface is pretty humorous and kind of lightweight. But it's after you start digging into the lyrics a little bit after you've heard the songs and had a laugh and then start looking at them more closely, there's something there. And there are issues there, but they're not on top, like this is our AIDS song, this is our song about the rainforest, that kind of stuff.

CHRIS FREEMAN: It would be sort of like preaching to the converted anyway. And it's surprising that we have in the Bay area and also on this tour, that we've noticed that a large number of straight women really like what we're doing because they can relate. They can relate to the side that we're talking about.

JON GINOLI: The same that gay men have often gotten into the girl group stuff and the disco divas. Because here's Donna Summer singing about a man, and how Annie Lennox needs a man, and gay men have related to this. So in some ways we're relating back to straight women.

BERT WYLEN: And of course there is your Disney contract, a sample of which we have here.

(SINGING) Bunnies.

JESSE HELMS: Which is not only grossly vulgar, obscene, and repugnant to common propriety, but tends to excite lust and deprave the morals with respect to sexual relations.

(SINGING) Bunnies.

JON GINOLI: I think Pansy Division has something to offer to the continuum, whether people are gay or bi or questioning or straight. Because--

CHRIS Especially if they're questioning.

FREEMAN:

JON GINOLI: Because we're, I mean, to me, it's something-- We have a lot of straight fans. And I mean, I think just talking about sexual issues like we do in a friendly, non-predatory kind of way is liberating for everybody.

BERT WYLEN: And on that note, we've been talking with Pansy Division, a gay rock and roll band from San Francisco. We've been talking with Jon Ginoli, Chris Freeman, and David Ward.

JON GINOLI: Our one-line propaganda statement is we're Pansy Division, a pro-sex, pro-safe sex, all-queer rock band from San Francisco. I think if you were trying to describe Pansy Division to somebody, that's the phrase that we use that sort of sums it up concisely.

CHRIS In a nutshell.

FREEMAN:

BERT WYLEN: Thanks, guys, for talking with us. We're going to go out now with "Luck Of The Draw".

[MUSIC - PANSY DIVISION, "LUCK OF THE DRAW"]

JON GINOLI: Thanks, Bert.

HOST: For *This Way Out*--

JESSE HELMS: The showpiece of the homosexual movement in the United States.

BERT WYLEN: --I'm Bert Wylen.

(SINGING) Once slept with a black-haired lad--

JIMMY CARPER: OK, that was Pansy Division and one of their lesser known songs. That one was kind of boring. But then again that was *This Way Out*, so what do you expect? Yeah, they mentioned earlier in the interview that, oh, I can only play three of them. Well, of course. If you don't take the time to go out and maybe edit some of the stuff, you miss all the good stuff, like "Anthem" that we're going to play next.

[MUSIC - PANSY DIVISION, "ANTHEM"]

Some more by Pansy Division, some of their good stuff, "Rock And Roll Queer Bar". Before that, "Fem in a Black Leather Jacket", and started it out with "Anthem", which we did have to edit. Yes, indeedy. And if you don't know what they were saying, well, you must not be gay.

It is 1:34 in the morning. You are listening to *After Hours*, a continuous tradition on-- continuing tradition on KPFT Houston 90.1 FM. We've had several requests that I'm going to fill now, because at 2:15 we're going to play the fourth and final part of the AIDS caregiving tape. So call now at 526-5738 with your requests. This is Jimmy, and I'm playing some Smiths.