

- It's really important, too, right?
- Sure is.
- Because it's listeners like you who pick up the phones and say, KPFT, when people like you call in and make pledges. And if you're not here to help us, well, then we may not get all the phones answered. And the phones always ring around marathon time.
- We hope.
- No, they do. They ring.
- Well, they didn't last time.
- No, you weren't here.
- They will.
- I want to think that was why.
- Well, because you weren't here and we did lousy.
- Well, we're going to do fabulous.
- We are fabulous. We're queer.
- We'll be back.
- You hear the sounds of the waves brush up against the sand, where he has written both of your names with a heart around it.
- You are looking at the sky burning red with the sunset. Quickly, a car drives up alongside of you.
- You stop for a red light. Suddenly, the car is surrounded.
- They circle your blanket, coming in closer.
- Bottles are thrown out of car windows.
- The sound of glass breaking, baseball bats against metal.
- A hand grabs your hair.
- Glass at your feet, in your face, in your eyes.
- A fist across your face again and again.
- Die, queer.
- Kill them, kill them, kill them.

[BOOM]

- 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.

- Do you think maybe that was too political?

- It could be.

- Because we're trying to do back seat radio-- like sit at the back of the bus and be quiet. I don't want to make anybody mad.

- Is what we're trying to do?

- We were complaining all the time about everything in the community. So I'm not. We're just going to play music, right? That's the best thing to do. *After Hours* on KPFT, bringing you just what you want to hear.

See, we just have to be careful because we want everybody to be happy and enjoy their seat at the back of the bus.

- There you go.

- So just sit back there and listen to the music. Keep those closet doors closed. And just tune in. We've got music for you.

This is a request for a love song. Is that what they wanted to hear? Who is that? What do they want?

- Anything romantic.

- OK, and who's this for?

- From Jerry to Kim.

- And thanks for listening. *After Hours* on KPFT in Houston, 90.1 FM.

Who's this for? It's a love song, and it's a special request.

- From Jerry to Kim.

- Yeah, and you heard it on *After Hours*. Somebody said, what's the deal with all this music? We listen to *After Hours* to hear things about the community. Well, when we tell you the truth, everybody gets mad because we're bitching and complaining. So I thought we'd play some music, and it seems like it's what people want to hear.

- Yeah, we've got requests up the wazoo.

- I'd like to do a song.

- Oh, here's the song.

- I've never played it in public before.

- Here's Jackson Brown.

- It's a brand new song.

- This is a good song.

- This is one of his best.

- A tribute to the friends of mine that come out here on the road.

- We did have a 13 year old call and say that this is the only place he can turn to get the truth, and that's true. But a lot of people don't want to hear the truth, my friend. They want to hear the lies.

I could tell you what a jerk John Goodner is.

- He's not really a jerk.

- Well, he told everybody, himself, live in City Council. Oh, well, let's listen to music and be nice. We don't want to make anybody mad.

But we ought to dedicate this one to Jim and Richard.

- To Jim and Richard.

- Yeah.

- Hey, that's a good idea. This is for you, Jim and Richard, out in the lobby taking our calls.

- Child, I don't understand this.

- Ooh, that's so pretty.

- I know. Isn't it?

- Yeah.

- Everybody's complaining because we just talk and bitch about everything, and they want us to play more music. And now we're playing more music, and they don't like that. What the hell are we going to do, girl?

- I don't know.

- Is there a middle road here?

- OK, this is some of your favorite stuff, I know.

- Yeah, sure is.

- She's one of your favorite ladies. Please, this looks hot.

- This is Janis Joplin, and I want to dedicate this to Fannie Farmer.

- Hey, that's a good one.

- You bet.

- And what is it.

- I got them ol' kozmic blues again, baby. Yeah. That baby can sing it.

- Yes, she can. Janis Joplin from the album *I Got Dem Ol'*--

- *Kozmic Blues*.

- This, old, it's drug out here. That's hot stuff.

- A lot of her stuff is talking about-- when you find love, grab it because you don't know what's going to be around the corner tomorrow.

- That's a good idea. Wait a minute we might be talking about politics. Be careful.

- Oh, sorry.

- *After Hours* on KPFT.

We got your letters standing by-- a couple of really good letters we want to share with you in just a minute. I'm really concerned about this kid that call he's 13 years old. He listened for a few months and he don't like all the music, and he doesn't understand why we're playing all the music, and he wants us to be political.

But see, we've been doing this program going on for years in September. And usually we tell the truth about what's going on in the world, and a lot of people don't want to hear the truth. They want to hear all the garbage that they hear everywhere else.

- We're constantly getting into trouble.

- Yeah, it's like you've got a scab and, if you pick it, it bleeds, and we just like to pick scabs. This John Goodner guy, done at City Council the other day when he said Sheila Jackson-Lee didn't have the credentials to lead anyone in this city. My God, she's elected by the people in one of the second highest offices in the city-- a councilperson. And he dares to say something stupid like, she doesn't have any credentials to lead anybody?

Oh, wait a minute. We're getting off the subject. So we better play some music. In this case, let's play something for that 13-year-old kid that's listening. Here you go, baby. This is just for you.

KPFT. Hello?

- Hello.

- Yeah, what's on your mind?

- Oh, nothing much tonight. I just think that the majority of gay people do not support 16-6 because they didn't-- support the expanding the City Council. I think it was like the situation with the Gulf War. Almost all gay people that I supported the war and were not opposed.

And I think Sheila Jackson-Lee has a lot to answer for Robin in the gay parade and supposedly supporting gay rights, and at the same time supporting the homophobic Black Ministers Alliance, which derailed the gay referendum. I think that we need to look at all sides. I think that John Goodner was speaking of people that-- about their own ethnic and need to open up their mind and support all people-- Europeans as well as Africans and Hispanics.

And I think gay people are much more mainstream than we've been-- but the media-- the TV, which puts the same gay faces in front all the time-- I think a lot of gay people are worried about paying their taxes, being able to keep their house, being able to keep their job.

- And as long as they stay in the closet, that'll happen, right?

- No, I don't think they should need to stay in the closet. I think you could come out and support the way that you feel. I don't think that people care as much as a lot of gay leaders think about fascist, anarchists, and who rules Nicaragua.

But I think the Black Ministers Alliance-- a lot of gay people who have worked very hard for the gay rights referendum will never forget the Black community and how they sabotaged that.

- Why do you say you've supported the war? What did you support about the war?

- Oh, I support the Coalition. I supported the occupation. If you want to get into that, we can discuss it.

I think that the main point that I'd like to make right now is the gay politics, which tends to be so-- the gay political leaders, they used to just try to be so liberal, so much on the left.

- Who are the gay leaders in Houston? Who are you talking about?

- Well, sure, we can go down the line. But you can go back, and we can talk about Ray Hill. We could talk about other people that have been leaders in the community [INAUDIBLE] over. I'm in my 30s, and we could go back for quite a while. I think that gay people are more mainstream.

- What do you mean, mainstream? What does that mean?

- I'm talking about not as liberal. I think that there's people that believe that all gay people are very left wing, very liberal, ready to run out and be a professional protester. I don't think that everyone's like that. I think they're worried about supporting their families, working on their jobs, keeping their homes.

- So in the meantime, while those of us who are out there protesting and screaming and gaining--

- There you go after it, girl.

- Yeah, while we're gaining an inch by inch, though, you're sitting on your butt benefiting from it.

- I think that's a bunch of crap. I've never sat on my butt. And I think that it shows--

- You said mainstream people.

- [INAUDIBLE] for you to attack from work just because they don't support your political views. I think that people don't care what's happening in Central America. They care about what's happening in America, in the United States.

They call it the left-wing politics. A lot of people could care less about the abortion rights issue. They care about what's happening in their own life.

- Yeah, well, I guess you're right.

- I think it's more mainstream. And I think the attack on John Goodner was uncalled for. People need to look into Sheila Jackson-Lee and see how Blacks sought to pass the gay rights referendum.

- So you don't think John Gardner didn't sabotage the gay rights referendum?

- I think John Goodner has supported gay rights in the past.

- Oh, baloney--

- John Goodner?

- That's a bunch of garbage.

- Hell, he received an endorsement from the gay political [INAUDIBLE] when he first ran for City Council. Girls, don't you know your history?

- I was sitting at HPD. I was sitting at the HPD the night the referendum was defeated. And I saw it on the screen. The Houston Police Department computers said, 78% against the queers.

I've lived down there. I've been around this for several years. John Goodner is not-- John Goodner is not my friend.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

Can you hang on a second? Hello? Can you hang on a second?

- Sure

- Anyone refers to minorities-- anyone who refers to minority people as, they-- didn't you hear what he said at Council? Or did you just hear the 10 seconds on--

- I didn't hear him say, they. I heard he was talking about ethnic coalitions.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

- Sheila Jackson-Lee declared the Riverside area, MacGregor, a Black neighborhood-- there's no such ban. We feel-- on City Council terms allowed them declared a Black faith.

Everyone is capable of being prejudiced-- not only European-Americans, but Africans and Mexicans also. It's a complete copout to affirm only Anglos and Germans or whoever-- Europeans are prejudiced.

- So it doesn't bother you, then, when somebody it doesn't bother you when somebody just says, they, and just like groups us all together and says, they. Like all them-- all them people in Montrose?

- Come on. [INAUDIBLE] about that. I think that, they, was talking about her ethnic agenda.

- He said, they.

- Africans who live in Houston

Is not the same as gay people or Europeans.

- Yeah, OK, well, there's a lot of Black gay people. Did you ever think about--

- Gay people are better in Europe than they do any place in the world.

- There's a lot of Black gay people.

- Excuse me?

- There's a lot of Black gay people.
- Absolutely, I certainly did not say that. It's not a matter of attacking Blacks. It's a matter of everyone realizing that prejudice comes from all directions.
- That's true. And when it comes from people that are elected in seats of power, like John Goodner, you get really disappointed in them.
- I'm disappointed in Mr. Callaway's comments. I've been disappointed that other Black Council members comments, also. Don't paint us into a box out here. The community is very diverse-- from very rich to very poor, from Black to white, to Oriental-- we represent very, very many-- there's so many as you know.
- That's exactly right, and so is the Black community-- from very rich to very poor.
- [INAUDIBLE] paint me into a corner. All I'm saying is that Mrs. Lea has a lot to answer for for supporting--
- John Goodner said that she had no credentials to lead this city anywhere. How dare him say something like that? She was elected to that Council. She was elected to the Council just like he was. Who in the hell does he think he is?
- He's elected just like her. He can say what he wants, just like Mr. Callaway.
- Oh, I see, just like Jim Westmoreland did, right?
- You don't have to go by a political agenda of the left. People can say what they want.
- Just like Jim Westmoreland did, right? About the airport deal?
- Excuse me?
- Just like Jim Westmoreland did about the airport, right?
- Well, I think it's [INAUDIBLE] to save an African-American seat. That's pretty racist, too, wouldn't you say?
- Not really.
- Oh, it's not?
- It's not the same thing, huh? In other words, only racism can come from white people.
- No, I didn't say that. I didn't say that.
- Certainly. You keep saying it. I keep going back to it.
- Are you out of the closet at work?
- Absolutely.
- Oh, really?
- So now you're going to question me because I disagree with you.

- No. Obviously, I don't care whether you disagree or not. You're on the air talking. So doesn't that mean that we're going to give you your chance to say something? Jesus Christ, you're talking on the air so we should have some idea that we're going to let you have your little piece. You've been on here for about 10 minutes, ranting and raving, telling us how awful we are.
  - I didn't say how awful you are. I said that you don't represent the majority view.
  - I didn't say that I did. Where in the hell do you people get this at? I never did say I represented anybody but myself, God damn it.
  - Well, you got to get over yourself because it doesn't make any difference--
  - Well, what the hell are you listening for then?
  - Because it's wonderful.
  - Thank you.
  - You're right!
  - We don't have all the answers. We never said that we did.
  - How come people call up and think that we've got all the goddamn answers?
  - There are no representative people of the gay community because we are so diverse. And we know that there's a hell of a lot more gay people living in suburbia than there are in Montrose.
  - Yeah, yeah, yeah, all of them wanting to sit at the back of the bus.
  - But I will say, talking to Rob Bridges, that 20% of Montrose voted, which was higher than the 12% citywide.
  - It just really killed me, too, that John Goodner had the nut-- had the gall to say that the city defeated the referendum vote. Nobody voted at that damn thing, just the people who didn't want us.
  - That's it.
  - A very small percentage of people. How dare him say something like that? The city sound-- rah, rah, rah, rah. If 90% of the people in Houston voted and voted, no, but nobody voted because nobody really gives a damn about racist people like John Goodner.
  - That's the point.
  - I'm glad to hear things like that said because at least who the bigots are. It's better than not knowing.
  - Oh, yeah.
  - Please, why are these people listening? I don't understand. Let's just play some music and forget it. We got these letters to read anyway. We'll do that later on, and we ain't going to say nothing political either.
- Meanwhile, when I, someday, lose my job, nobody's going to give a damn and come protest for me.
- Probably not. They write.
  - Well, let's to non-political radio, baby. It's safe.

- No, of course not.

- But it-- it does take the queer nations and all of the people that stand up and scream and yell. It also takes the people who write the checks, who are in the closet. And it takes the people who are already in government, working behind the scenes. It takes it all together.

- Yeah, well, right now I'm not in the mood to care one way or the other. I don't give a damn if anybody ever comes out of the closet. I really don't. I'm just fed up with all these queens. They've got all the goddamn answers to the universe, but nobody does anything but bitch. And they call back and bitch at us for telling them that.

- We have a couple of good letters.

- Yeah, we do. It's just like HPD. I really do not give a damn if none of those cops ever come out of the closet. I hope they stay in the closet, and I hope they just stay as musty and moldy as they are now because that's what closets are-- dirty and dark and damp. And if they like living that kind of life, more power to you.

But I will not let people take a dump on me without fighting back. And that's exactly what they're doing to everybody that's in the closet. I'm not going to do it. I am not going to sit at the back of the bus anymore. I don't care. I'm not going to do it. No, no, no, no.

- I can't imagine you ever sitting in the back of the bus.

- I am not sitting at the back of the bus.

All we've got to look forward to is maybe, someday, being found dead in an alleyway in a pool of blood because some jerk decided to come save us-- save the world from us. And I don't think that's a hell of anything to look forward to. So we should just be-- we just shut up and sit on the back of the bus and play records and not say anything at all political because people really don't give a damn.

We supported the war. Yeah, the war was great. We spent billions and billions and billions of dollars on that stupid war while people in this country are starving to death. We've got people living in the streets here in Houston. We can't find any money to feed them or any money to house them but, by golly, we had lots of money to send our troops over there to fight for the glory of Kuwait and all that crap, while all those oil wells are still going up in smoke and they're losing billions a dollars a day in oil.

But you see old George on the golf course and everything's fine and everything's-- just keep waving your flag. Problem is somebody is going to break into your house to get your groceries because there's not any food on the shelf.

- There was a little piece in the *Post* about talking about the sting operation in Montrose, where officers pose as gay and lesbian couples--

- Oh, I don't even want to talk about it.

- Oh, just this one little bit. And one group of kids who were arrested for whatever they did to the police officers apologized to the officers. They said, oh, I'm sorry, we thought you were queer, as if that was going to be OK.

- Yeah, they just wanted to come down and beat up faggots because it's OK to be up faggots.

- I read that report from LA, from Los Angeles, on the King beating-- Rodney King beating. They did an investigation on the mobile data terminals, the computers that are in the police officer's car. They send messages back and forth.

They did an investigation, and they said some of the most blatant attacks were against gay and lesbian people. One cop said it was easier to thump a queer because nobody really cares. That's true.

- It's not news to us.

- I've been doing this damn thing for four years. And I go over to channel 13 a couple of weeks ago and do that thing and say, HPV and gay in the same breath, and now I'm treated like a leper at work. I'm over this crap. Who needs this garbage?

- But we need to get all of this kind of stuff in front of the public ear.

- To hell with them, Mary. Anyway. They don't understand. They don't care.

Every week, we ask you to write us, and some do and most don't. But anyway, here's a couple that did.

"Dear Buddy and Jimmy, I'm one of your many non-gay listeners and I wanted to write and let you know how much I enjoy the radio show *After Hours*. I worked the graveyard shift on Saturday night and Sunday morning, and your show helps me pass the time, which seems to go so slow.

I also enjoy listening to the show right before you and the blues after you, so I have entertainment all night. I've been listening since October after finding out about your program from a coworker. And sometimes I even tape the show so I can listen to it again later in the week.

Even though I'm straight, I understand what gay people go through because I am an atheist and I have received a similar treatment because of what I believe. People who are different from the so-called norm are always treated like the enemy. I guess we scare other people.

I do enjoy the music you play-- both gay and straight. You're so right to keep telling gay people to come out of their closets. I have many atheist friends who are hiding in their closets, also, and it makes me very sad. It's hard to be happy if you're not being your true self. It just eat you alive inside.

I know because I used to be in the atheist closet, and I felt terrible until I came out. Keep up the bitching. And maybe, one day, everyone will come out and be the person who they were meant to be.

Again, I want to thank both of you for helping me get through my work shift. I do not know if I could get through the night without your show. I'm enclosing little present for you. Divide it up any way you want. I hope you will take care. Love, Vera."

And here's some little computerized envelopes. Here's some for you, Mary. This is Mickey Mouse.

- Hi, Mickey. And Barney. Barney and Fred.

- Fred Flintstone.

- Oh, look, little footprints all around.

- Thank you very much.

- That's great.

- Red and green and blue. These are pretty, aren't they? Give some to Richard and Jim out there in the library. We will distribute those very quickly.

Here's a very special letter-- and you can write us, too, and please do, because we're non-paid bitchers. We don't get paid anything for complaining.

- We do all this bitching for free.

- Yeah, we just come down here and bitch about the world and don't get a nickel for it. All we get is grief.

Anyway, you can write us that After Hours, KPFT Houston-- 419 Lovett Boulevard, Houston, Texas, 77006. And if we read your letter on the air, you'll get \$10,000.

- What?

- No.

- Well, they might write. We never get any letters. If we read your letter on the air, you don't get nothing. You could hear us bitch about your damn letter that we had to run on the air.

- [LAUGHS]

- No, not really. Anyway-- this one-- I'm going to read this one, I think. I have a sinus problem. I can't breathe. That's why I sound so good tonight.

- Yeah, I was wondering.

- And it's like 120 degrees in here.

- It is.

- Anyway, let's read this. Tell me what this word is before I get down there to it. C-E-D-E-L--

- Oh, that's a name.

- Oh, I'm sorry. Who is that?

- Cedel.

- Cedel? OK, Cedel. Let's see. "Dear *After Hours* and listeners"-- so that's to us and you, the listener. This is nice.

"I have been a devoted listener to your program for about two years now. And I felt I had to write what you guys mean to me before I leave for North Carolina to attend college. When I first put it together, that what I felt and thought and did was gay, I had an incredible overwhelming urge to bond with other people like myself. A friend of mine told me about this community radio station, KPFT, and a couple of the programs that aired there weekly.

Ever since, on Saturday night, Sunday mornings, I've crawled under my sheets with my headphones and have very quietly laughed, cried, and gotten cotton-spitting mad. I began to research all the articles on gay rights, parades, bashings, and-- et cetera that I could dig up in my high school library.

Then I started writing speeches and giving them in class, holding hands with my girlfriend in public, and telling virtually everyone I knew and had just met that I was a genuine baby dyke."

- Ah!

- "I've been laughed at and taken seriously, beaten up, cursed, and hugged for telling people about my lifestyle. I've bought dozens of books from Inklings and Bookstop et cetera, and carried them, and, in the earliest hours of the morning, read them.

I've managed to keep my orientation from my parents, I think. If they don't know, they're doing an awful good job of hiding it. They're basically the only people who don't know. My bosses, friends, relatives teachers and neighbors know, and I've never had problems telling other people.

Anyway, I'm going to be leaving soon. North Carolina is not my choice of politically safe states, but hey, maybe my vote will be the one to oust the big louse, Mr. Jesse Helms himself.

God, I hope there are as many wonderful gay and lesbian people up there as there are in this great city. If we think about it, yes, there is an insufferable prejudice to confront, crimes which kill and rob us and leave our hearts too barren for words, but at least we have each other. At least there's a community to speak of.

Many nights on *After Hours*, we've all gotten so frustrated at hate and ignorance. We've been unable to explain our emotions over the heartless slaughter of people like Paul Broussard. But the last couple of weeks, I felt the double remorse that I will not be able to listen to you guys anymore or see so many familiar gay and lesbian friends.

This sounds kind of selfish, but my life is virtually built around my gay family. And leaving Houston is like leaving an entire part of my body. The feeling I get when a gay person catches my eye and I catch theirs-- it's such a positive, uplifting one. I know that we're everywhere, even in North Carolina, but it just isn't going to be the same.

I will miss you greatly, Houston. Thank you, *After Hours* Buddy and Jimmy, Wallenstein, Debra, Bruce, and Jack, and Breakthrough, Pokey, and Cherry.

Thanks to all the teachers, coaches who've been such super role models to all my friends who've given me love, listened, and companionship. To Angela, my best friend, may you make friends in College that will care for you as much as you care for everyone else. And to Cedel, my girlfriend"-- I hope I said that right. "I love you, and I will be back. Bye, guys, from one gay to another. All my love and best wishes, Holly.

PS, I would love it if you guys would read this on the air. The names I've mentioned, including my own, are perfectly OK to say over the radio. Catch you around and back the pink."

Just tired, baby. You know what I mean? That's the show we need to do, but we can't because we're tired. Lamar was right. Just physically exhausted from coming down here and knocking myself out.

- That was a nice letter from Holly.

- And getting nothing but complaints from people.

- Except that letter from Holly.

- Well, you know what I mean. Holly's one out of a million that take the time to write us. How many times every week do we say, write, and we get one letter every two or three weeks?

- Yeah, I know.

- So you know what I mean?

- But what a letter.

- How many faces I see of gay police officers, and they're so damn scared? I don't know what the hell are so afraid of.

Anyway, it'll be all right. We'll just keep plugging away, I guess. I don't know what else to do.

- Did she say she was going to be in North Carolina?

- Oh, child. Oh, well, it'll be OK, baby.

- How close is that to Georgia?

- I don't know. Who is this?

- My sister is down there, right outside of Atlanta in Dallas.

- What's this, Mary?

- Oh, that looks good. Oh, Richard.

- Thank you, baby. What's that say?

- I don't understand this. I guess this man has his own opinion.

First of all-- it's from Cecil to Rob, and he was wanting to make a dedication. Anything would be fine. But he also said all this publicity about the bashing is only making it worse. Why can't they leave us alone?

- It did make it worse.

- I can't agree with it, though.

- But it did make it worse.

- I don't know that it made it worse.

- The police officers that I talk to that are working in the sting operation said more people are coming in, trying to bash folks. They see it on the TV, that the police are down there working undercover, but they still come. You know why? Because the world's full of hate and ignorance and-- oh, never mind. Wait a minute.

- Do you think it's worse?

- Yes, don't say that. We'll say something political, Mary. They don't want to hear it. Let's play music before we say something we'll regret.

- When do we want it?

- Now.

- What do we want?

- Gay rights.

- When do we want it?

- Now.

- I don't want to make anybody mad. You know what I mean?

- No, I don't.

- Yeah, you do. You're just being nice.

It's almost 2:00 in the morning on a Sunday. So you must be listening to *After Hours* on KPFT Houston-- Radio Celebrating Life in the heart of Montrose. We're here.

- And we're queer.

- Yeah, we're taking your calls the 526-4000 and 526-KPFT.