

- "The Good Homosexual" by James Carroll Pickett.

"The good homosexual accommodates himself, checks fantasies, behaves properly, purchases good taste, practices impeccable hygiene, begs respect from oppressors. The good homosexual reads only what is recommended, attends all the Westwood cinema, attains season tickets to the Music Center, votes the Straight GOP Slate, retires from controversy, amasses financial security no matter the social toll, finds AIDS embarrassing-- but donates bucks a year anyway. Anonymously.

The good homosexual subscribes to GQ, laughs the loudest at fag jokes, laments the demise of After Dark, prefers porno in brown paper bags, browses Crown Books-- where he purchased "After the Ball," displays National Geographic, misses *Dynasty*. The good homosexual restrains impulse, sustains racism, objects to gay as too frivolous, refers to himself as a bachelor, contains passion, remains invisible, maintains there is nothing amiss.

The good homosexual swallows bigotry, suppresses ecstasy, drives the family sedan just like old dad did, kisses with a dry mouth and closed lips, wears a condom on his tongue-- just in case. The good homosexual nurtures propriety, derives morality from TV shrinks, believes there might be something to inanity, shushes all profanity, insists on anonymity, despises sodomy, fails to see why dykes have to be so pushy.

The good homosexual drinks Coors beer-- as advertised in good homosexual publications, keeps up appearances, longs for the cops to crack down, engages a female for social occasions, relishes assimilation, irons crisp creases in casual jeans. The good homosexual quells excess, attacks radical fags, experiences madness in discreet little doses, waters down intensity, embraces mediocrity, reaps his own self-righteous vanity, does not grasp why silence necessarily equals death.

The good homosexual kills queer."

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

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- When do we want it?

- What do we want?

- Gay Rights!

- When do we want it?

- Now!

- What do we want?

- Gay Rights!

- 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?

- 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, D.C. for Gay and Lesbian Rights and choral reciting!

[CROWD CHEERING]

- Let's hear it out there!

[CROWD CHEERING]

- 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!

[CROWD CHEERING]

- 500,000 strong, one of the largest marches in the United States history! One of the largest marches in the United States history!
500,000 strong.

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

- We, parents, want to persuade society, that our gay children are not acting out of defiance, 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 don't understand something! They don't understand something! We are not talking about Black politics! This is not a movement but the way 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 given us-- never enough, never enough.

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

- 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.

[CROWD CHEERING]

As difficult as it is, 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 at the stores you shop in, you--

[CROWD CHEERING]

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

- 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!
- When do we want them?
- Now!
- What do we want?
- Gay Rights!
- When do we want them?
- Now!
- When do we want them?
- 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, I ask people all over this country to do one thing-- come out, come out America, come out.

[CROWD CHEERING]

- That was scary.
- Whoa.
- No. Damn, that's the first time we've done that in about three weeks, and everything went right.
- I know, I know. I'm just crossing everything I got.
- Oh, well.
- What do we want?

- Gay Rights!
- When do we want them?
- Now!
- When do we want them?
- 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!
- When do we want them?
- Now!
- What do we want?
- Gay Rights!
- Anyway, what?
- What do we want?
- Gay rights.
- When do we want them?
- Now, Mary, now. Hey, can we scream this at the Art Festival tomorrow? The Western Arts Festival--
- We should.
- Anyway, this is 90.1 FM, KPFT Houston. *After Hours* radio, not TV. Thank God. You'd have to comb your hair. Radio celebrating life from the heart of Montrose. We're here--
- And we're queer.

- I'm that faggot that works for the Houston Police Department.
- And I'm that faggot who doesn't work at all.
- Now, wait a minute, I'm that faggot civilian dispatcher.
- Oh, yeah.
- Not a police officer, and I worked for the police department. This is all volunteer, like, we don't get paid.
- Here, we don't?
- No, Mary. Even Frank wanted money tonight. What is it-- all you queens wanting money?
- I know. And I--
- Oh, I know. Stanley put you on a budget.
- Yeah.
- We're going to be taking up a collection for Jimmy to survive on the next three weeks. Stanley comes to his senses.
- Yes.
- Anyway, two weeks from tonight, I'll be in Florida celebrating my vacation from you hateful bitches.
- And your birthday. And since you're going to be there, you ain't get nothing.
- Is that right, nothing? OK, so be it. Anyway, we've got some guests here. One guest here tonight--
- We do.
- --From coronation. And we're also going to talk to him about something else, I guess. I don't know. What are we doing?
- We're going to talk about a lot of things.
- And we're going to do that later on, because we are those hateful queens that come on every week, and just really scare the hell out of all these straight people. Here's Alan to say--
- We're queer.
- Thank you, Alan.
- Anyway, we are-- we're here--
- And we're queer.
- We certainly are. And you know what happens when a bunch of queens get together on a Saturday night, Mary?
- No, what happens?
- Oh, god.

[MUSIC - NATALIE COLE, "DANGEROUS"]

- Celebrating life from the heart of Montrose. *After Hours* on KPFT Houston, 90.1 FM.

[MUSIC - NATALIE COLE, "DANGEROUS"]

- I want to tell you about a revolutionary new hair color. It's for Lesbians only. You can choose the look you desire, whether you want that mature, politically correct, salt and pepper look, or the matted, sweaty, active style. Sexual Preference by L'Oreal has your number. I let the straight girls be nice and easy. For me, it's strictly Sexual Preference by L'Oreal, because without it, I'm worthless.

[MUSIC - TRACY CHAPMAN, "FREEDOM NOW"]

- 90.1 FM, KPFT Houston *After Hours* on-- well, we're here.

- And we're queer.

[MUSIC - TRACY CHAPMAN, "FREEDOM NOW"]

- When we allow freedom ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state, and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all of God's children-- Black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual-- free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we're free at last!

[MUSIC - TRACY CHAPMAN, "FREEDOM NOW"]

- I have a dream today.

- 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!

[MUSIC - TRACY CHAPMAN, "FREEDOM NOW"]

- I have a dream today.

[CROWD CHEERING]

[MUSIC - TRACY CHAPMAN, "FREEDOM NOW"]

- What do we want? When do we want it?

- Now!

- What do we want?

- Gay Rights!

- 90.1 FM, KPFT. Yeah. *After Hours Radio*, celebrating live from the heart of Montrose. We're here.

- And we are queer.

- Yeah. And we're going to talk about getting mad and fighting back.

- You got it.

[MUSIC - TOM PETTY, "I WON'T BACK DOWN"]

- A practicing homosexual is far more dangerous to society, than a person who commits a murder, per se.

- There's an employer who doesn't want to have homosexual employees. I think he ought to have that right.

- If you want to say I'm bigoted against a bunch of queers rubbing each other, I think it's as sick as anything can be.

- You can't be a faygala and be family-oriented, that's a contradiction in terms.

- You guys are guys who just never matured.

- Sexually retarded.

- Totally repulsive.

- Screw the Gay Community.

- Who cares.

- That's right.

- Let them crow.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- --is far more dangerous to society, than a person who commit a murder, per se.

- There's an employer who doesn't want to have homosexual employees. I think he ought to have that right. If you want to say I'm bigoted against a bunch of queers rubbing at each other, I think it's as sick as anything can be.

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[MUSIC PLAYING]

- What do we want? When do we want it? What do we want?

- Gay Rights!

- When do we want it?

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- What do we want?

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- When do we want it?

- Now!

- What do we want?

- Gay Rights!

- When do we want it?

- Now!

- When do we want it?

- Now!

- Disorders began with a routine police raid on a homosexual bar, The Stonewall on Christopher Street, in the heart of the West Village.

- 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 back! For love and for life, we're not going back! For love and for life, we're not going back!

- 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!

- 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.

[CROWD CHEERING]

- When do we want it?

- Now!

- What do we want?

- Gay Rights!

[MUSIC - PAMALA STANLEY, "COMING OUT OF HIDING"]

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

- We're queer.

[MUSIC - PAMALA STANLEY, "COMING OUT OF HIDING"]

- Is that Epison Frank?

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- "Boots are being polished. Trumpeters clean their horns. Chains and locks forged, the crusade has begun. Once again, flags of Christ are unfurled in the dawn. And cries of soul saviors sing apocalyptic on air waves. Citizens, good citizens all parade into voting booths and in self-righteous sanctity, x away our right to life.

I do not believe at some that the vote is an end, I fear even more it is just a beginning. So I must make assessment. Look to you and ask, where will you be when they come?

They will not come a mob rolling through the streets, but quickly and quietly move into our homes to remove the evil, the queerness, the faggotry from their midst. They will not come clothed in brown, and swastikas, or bearing chest heavy with gleaming crosses. The time and need for such ruses are over.

They will come in business suits to buy your homes, and bring bodies to fill your jobs. They will come in robes to rehabilitate, and white coats to subjugate. And where will you be when they come?

Where will we all be when they come? And they will come-- they will come because we are defined as opposite, perverse, and we are perverse.

Every time we watched a queer hassled in the streets and said nothing, it was an act of perversion. Every time we lied about the boyfriend or girlfriend at coffee break, it was an act of perversion.

Every time we heard, I don't mind gays but why must they be blatant, and said nothing, it was an act of perversion. Every time we let a lesbian mother lose her child and did not fill the courtrooms, it was an act of perversion.

Every time we let straights make out in our bars, while we couldn't touch because of the laws, it was an act of perversion. Every time we put on the proper clothes to go to a family wedding and left our lovers at home, it was an act of perversion.

Every time we heard, who I go to bed with is my personal choice-- it's personal not political, and said nothing, it was an act of perversion. Every time we let straight relatives bury our dead and push our lovers away, it was an act of perversion.

And they will come for the perverts. And it won't matter if you're homosexual, not a faggot. Lesbian, not a Dyke. Gay, not queer. It won't matter if you own your own business, have a good job, or an S.S.I.

It won't matter if you're Black, Chicano, Native American, Asian, or white. It won't matter if you're from New York, or Los Angeles, Galveston, or Sioux Falls.

It won't matter if you're Butch, or Fem, not into roles, monogamous, non-monogamous. It won't matter if you're Catholic, Baptist, Atheist, Jewish, or M.C.C.

They will come. They will come to the cities and to the land, to your front rooms and in your closets. They will come for the perverts. And where will you be when they come?"

[MUSIC - PAMALA STANLEY, "COMING OUT OF HIDING"]

- As president of the Board-- I mean, as President the Board of Supervisors, it's my duty to make this announcement. Both Mayor Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk have been shot and killed.

- Toto, I have a feeling we're not in Kansas anymore.

- They don't understand something! They don't understand something! We are not talking about Black politics! This is not a movement but the way 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!

- And I ask, I ask people all over this country do one thing--

[MUSIC - PAMALA STANLEY, "COMING OUT OF HIDING"]

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.

- Harvey, do you have a few words for KPFA?

- Come on out, join us.

[MUSIC - PAMALA STANLEY, "COMING OUT OF HIDING"]

Difficult as it is, 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 the people you work with, you must tell the people at the stores you shop in, you--

[CROWD CHEERING]

Once they realize that we are indeed their children and we are indeed everywhere, every myth, every lie, every innuendo, will be destroyed once and for all. And I ask, I ask people all over this country to do one thing-- come out. Come out, America, come out.

[CROWD CHEERING]

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- Radio celebrating life from the heart of Montrose. *After Hours* on KPFT Houston, 90.1 FM.

- Oh, Mary?

- Yeah, boy--

- We'll figure that out later. It sounds good, doesn't it?

- Who was that man who came in?

- It's a secret-- a secret voice. Oh, I'm kind of scared. The opening was great.

- Yeah. You're waiting for something to-- I don't know--

- It usually doesn't work that way. It's like, we do it, and this tape doesn't want to start, or that one doesn't want to start. And other things, but we managed to get on here and say, we're here.

- And we're queer. And Michael, you want to continue with that?

- Yeah.

- Get used to it.

- We have with us, Michael Crawford.

- That's what David Fowler said when he is here from Queer Nation.

- In fact, we were joking with him-- that we were going to sue Queer Nation. Because we've been saying, we're here and we're queer for years now.

- Yeah.

- Oh, well.

- It's gone nationwide now.

- So what's going on?

- What's going on-- lots going on. We're trying to recruit new members because we have lots of actions planned, and we need people to come out and do them. We have a lot of fun things planned. For example, we have lots of surprises in store for our mayor, Kathy Whitmire. Yeah, she's not going to be too pleased with us. But then again, she's never been pleased with us.

- That's true.

- That's true.

- We also have some actions plans that-- just to scare heterosexuals.

- Tell us about what Queer Nation is.

- Well, basically, it's a direct action group that's engaged in fighting homophobia, heterosexual privilege, and queer invisibility. So we're involved in the promotion of homosexuality.

- The ole QI, Queer Invisibility.

- It kills us all the time.

- It does, it does.

- It really, really does.

- It's better than it used to be.

- It's better, but it's especially hitting as hard in Houston. Because while other major cities have been galvanized by the AIDS crisis to get out and come out and act up, we haven't here.

- Why do you think that is?

- I think one thing is that-- OK, Act of Houston did not fly for several reasons, which I don't want to go into. But also because there's a bunch of apathetic queens in this city.

- I don't understand that. When we first started doing this program in September of 1987, and I work for the police department. And I just knew that the police department was going to run over here and like, jerk me out of here and beat me up in the parking lot. But they really don't care. And if they've been anything, they've been supportive.

I mean, I quit the police department in 1988 to help the gay community, and they don't want any help. A lot of these groups-- you go to different meetings and that you sit there, and you feel like the bastard at the family reunion-- they don't want anything to do with you. So after being hungry, I went back to HPD. I thought, oh God, they're not going to hire me. But they did.

And I went over to city council one day and said, thanks for having the courage to hire an openly gay person. Maybe we really didn't need that referendum thing back in '85. And then get asked to run for the president. I was asked to run for an office of the civilian union there. So I'm president of the Houston Police Support Personnel Union.

And the reason I'm telling you all this, I get nothing but respect and support there. And all of the flak that we get since we went on the air is from all these good homosexuals that James Carroll Pickett was talking about at the beginning of the show. So I understand what you're saying, and we know what you're saying, we just can't understand how-- we can't figure out how to undo it

- I think what it's really going to take is a massive education campaign. We're going to have to alert the queers in the city to how bad the situation actually is. I mean, how many people out there actually know, for example, that the city of Houston has yet to spend a dime on AIDS? And we have what-- 3,500 people dead.

We have no job protection. A member of Queer Nation was fired a couple of weeks ago from his job at McDuff electronics because he was wearing an earring. And apparently, real men don't wear earrings.

- Well.

- I know HPD wants me to pick this one out. They just haven't said anything.

- No, no.

- Yeah, I mean, we're still not allowed to marry.

- Was he out at work? I mean, out, out or--

- I don't know. I mean, he's out everywhere else, so--

- Well, was he out at work--

- I really don't know.

- Because that's what I've found out, especially in an environment like the police department. When you're out, and you're open, it's like-- I can't think of his name, Jimmy. In the army, that just sued and won in the Supreme Court. What was his name?

- Perry Watkins.

- Perry Watkins. When you're out and doing your job and they know about it, and you don't have anything to hide, there's nothing they can really do to you.

- Yeah. There's a new guy-- ROTC, and all that. They tried to throw him out, and he was openly queer. And he managed to get back in.

- It's reassuring now to know that this gay man lost his job at this electronics store. We don't want to mention the name McDuff.

- Right.

- And everybody in Houston, all these good homosexuals, rallied around him. And are going to help support him and stand up for him because he's been abused, right?

- Yep. So--

- Yeah, right. There all over here on Pacific Street and every other bar, jumping and dancing. And at the bars, and the bathes, and the bookstores, and doing whatever it is we do on Saturday night. They're certainly not listening to us.

- Well, that's one of the big problems. I mean, a lot of the people here are only queer on weekends. They'll go down to Pacific Streets, get drunk and sex themselves silly. And then on Monday morning, they'll go back to being straight acting.

- Yeah.

- I don't-- I don't understand it.

- That sounds like it came right from the queer quotient that we did a few weeks ago. Yes, are you--

- We need to do that tonight, Mary. In fact, we will. So get your pens and-- your pens and papers out. Later on, we'll have a test. Get Frank in here to help us with it.

- That's right.

- So can you tell us about some of the actions that are coming up, anything really big getting ready to happen?

- Really big. OK, we're going to deliver a report card to our lovely mayor Kathy Whitmire, and she's going to be graded on queer-related issues. I really don't think she's going to pass. But we're going to be honest about it. So at that point, we are going to go and deliver this to her. And we're going to ask-- we're going to come back and ask all the queers in the city to show up and expect to see 200,000 screaming queers at City Hall.

- Yeah, right.

- Yeah.

- Isn't it aggravating as hell? I mean, really?

- Well, I'm still kind of new to the whole thing. So I mean-- I'm not overly angry yet. I mean, I am angry at a lot of the assimilationist who-- I mean, I get more flak for wearing my Queer Nation apparel from gay people than from heterosexuals.

- I bet.

- It's wild. It is wild.

- You bet.

- It just kills me--

- There's so many out there that think, oh, if we're nice and quiet, and don't make any waves, we'll be accepted.

- Baloney.

- Baloney is right. I've been in this--

- They do not like us. And we've said this before, when the Civil Rights legislation was passed in 1964, the world did not just magically not dislike Blacks.

- No.

- I don't understand Sheila-- or not Sheila Jackson Lee--

- Rosa Parks.

- No, no, no, no. What's that lovely lady's name that praise to Jesus on city council-- that one because of Jim Westmoreland.

- Oh, Ernest McGowan? Oh--

- Ernest McGowan? That is not a lovely lady.

- You never let you praise to Jesus.

- Yes.

- Beverly Clark.

- There you go.

- And when the city should have dumped Jim-- Jim Westmoreland not a long time ago, because he just never showed up, and he was making all this money. But we need to understand that, the Black community has known for years that those folks still don't like us.

- Yeah, they don't like me.

- And they would put up colored water fountains tomorrow at City Hall, if they thought they could get away with it.

- And that's a key thing. Because they know that if they try that, me and thousands of other Black folks would rip City Hall apart.

- Exactly.

- And that's what we need to do. They treat us like dirt. They step all over us. I mean, when the elections come up, they don't even mention our issues.

- Exactly.

- Because we let them get away with it.

- I was going down to the gym one morning in 93Q, who I just hated when John Lander was here. Had this character called Randy in the mornings. Not anymore. I don't know-- I don't listen to him anymore. But they had this character named Randy, who was-- he did the television reviews, and he just swished around on the radio.

And I called up one day, and I was so angry, and I said, you know, I do this gay radio program at KPFT and that I work for the police department. I said, why don't you guys have a little Pedro character, or an Aunt Jemima character. And they said, because the community-- the Black community and the Hispanic community would come down here and tear this place down.

- Exactly.

- And I said, well, Mary don't you think the gay community is a little hot about this?

- Oh, please, those queens.

- And they just laughed because it's true.

- It's true.

- I mean, we get in here and rant and rave, and the people who really hate us that listen they go, ha ha ha, that faggot from the police department-- nobody listens, nobody cares. And you wonder, where's the gay community at? Because this guy lost his job, we should be down at McDuff electronics walking around with picket signs.

- Exactly.

- You know what I mean?

- I mean, and as bad as that is, it's a lot of other things. I mean, for example, our kids learned nothing-- absolutely nothing about us in school.

- That's true.

- I mean, when it gets to like, Walt Whitman and President James Buchanan, they never mentioned that they were fags.

- Right.
- So-- I mean, there are so many issues that we could get upset about and angry about. But a lot of people seem not to be.
- Has Queer Nation been received well by other people? Or not by the gay community, I mean, they don't receive anything well, but there are a lot. When David was here, David said there were a lot of people interested, and you were getting a lot of new people coming in.
- Yeah, we're getting--
- --fighters and really active in doing something, or are interested in doing something.
- People come to us because they're angry, and they're ready for action. They're sick of the talking. They're sick of the discussing and analyzing, and this, that, and the other, they just want to act. So I mean, and it's great. Because we're getting a diversity of people. I mean, we have seasoned activists like David. We have a bunch of college students. I mean, and it's a really good mix. I can only see Queer Nation getting bigger. And we're also going to be more visible.
- You were pretty visible when all of those flags came on the overpasses for the freeway a few-- a few weeks ago. That was fabulous.
- Tell us about that.
- Well, some queer is unknown to me. I have no idea who they are, but they got up one morning, who had painted these banners. One said, we're here, the other said, were queer. Third one said, get used to it, and the fourth one said, Queer Nation. And they went and hung them along the overhead little signs on 59.
- Coming into town.
- Yeah, right.
- Well.
- 50,000 commuters saw that.
- And since they were stuck in traffic, they had nothing to do but contemplate the signs.

[LAUGHTER]

I mean, things like that are going to be gone again. But we're also going to be-- I personally like the bigger actions where we're seen on 13 kissing and--

- You bet.
- --in the post. Because everybody gay doesn't live in Montrose. And Houston's a really big city.
- They don't, Michael.
- I don't.
- Are you kidding?
- See? We do become ghettoized, I've been talking about that for weeks now. I live in the Montrose.

- That's what Edward Albee was talking about--

- --and I never get out of-- I never get out of the Montrose.

- But the gay community is not in Montrose. We have had so many groups in here that say, well, we're doing this fundraiser, or we're having this rodeo down at the coliseum and we have stories in the Montrose Voice and the TWIT.

- Yeah.

- Well, Mary, the gay community doesn't see the Montrose Voice and the TWIT. I'm sorry.

- 10% of the gay community, maybe.

- If 10%.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

- Because it's only about 10% of the gay community lives in Montrose.

- And those publications are made for the bars.

- Yeah. I mean, you don't get news in them.

- We're not knocking them, because they play an important role in the community, for the people that go to the clubs.

- Yeah.

- But how many people are there that never see them? And I get real angry, they say, well, we get 20,000 down here for the parade in the summer. Well, that's a pretty crummy figure when you realize that there are between 4 and 500,000 of us in the city area, in the Metroplex. And we get 20,000. Wow, we're really raking 'em in, kids.

- Well, another thing that Queer Nation has coming up that I'm hoping it's going to get bigger press attention is National AIDS lobbying week. And that's being sponsored by ACT UP in D.C. And basically what it is, is that queer groups around the country are getting together to go lobby their congressmen about AIDS-related issues. And the reason Queer Nation is taking it on, is because no one else is going to.

- Well I'm sure there are a lot of issues in this city that other groups just won't touch.

- Yeah, we're going to be testing those.

- Good. Good.

- We're going to touch the untouchable.

- Well.

- Well for one reason or another, I can understand some groups not being able to touch. The AIDS Foundation needs to collect all the money it can, and it can't afford to make a whole lot of people mad and have any funding cut off, so--

- Exactly.

- --a group like Queer Nation can really help out.

- I mean, whereas the AIDS Foundation could not down the health department, because their funding was cut by \$35,000 with the last two years. I can say that.
- Right.
- Because I think the health department is engaged in a systematic attempt to sabotage the community-based organizations.
- You bet.
- They want to force them out of the business to keep all the money for themselves-- for administrative overhead.
- Well, there's also the other aspect about the city looking at AIDS, without the gay men included. If they acknowledge AIDS, they acknowledge IV drug users or babies, or--
- One of the so-called innocent people.
- Right, right. Boy that gets me upset.
- So I mean, and they do this because we let them get away with it. I mean, where are the-- I mean, there are 5,000 people with AIDS in the city. Where are all these people ripping Thomas Street Clinic apart, because it's such a bad facility. I mean, the building itself was falling down. And it's like they do it only because we let them get away with it.
- Yeah.
- I mean, the post and channel 11 ran nothing about the March on Austin. Well, TWIT didn't either.
- Well, channel 11 had a story, but they pulled it. I complained about that.
- Actually, it was those same thing at the post.
- They ran the Presbyterian story but--
- Oh, those Presbyterians.
- Yeah, exactly.
- Some church group--
- But the biggest, the biggest rally in Austin ever, was not publicized.
- I know.
- Except for CNN.
- But you're right, a lot of the gay press. I don't want to mention any names.
- No, but it's not effective for the gay community.
- Yeah. Well, one thing-- OK, one thing we can use to contrast the lack of coverage of the March on Austin is recently, 11 guys were arrested in Memorial Park for public lewdness and other kind of things. Now, these guys-- they got really big story in the post.
- That was on the front page. But did you also read that it said that these were not homosexuals?

- I'm like-- wait, wait, wait. They were playing around with other men and they're not homosexual.

- They're married, and there are wedding rings and there's pictures with children in there.

- Respectable folk.

- Yeah.

- Let me tell you something, from the age of 14 through 21, that's what I thought all gay activity was-- having sex with married men.

- Now, Mary, oh, OK. You can say that.

- Yeah. Well, it was way--

- Nervous from--

- No, that was way back in the 60s, and that's how I came out, and that's what I thought it was.

- If a priest has had an affair with a young man for two years, and the young man who's probably 18 or 17-- or 18 decides that he wants something he can't get, and decides to tell everybody. The priest automatically-- or a schoolteacher, loses everything.

- Exactly.

- Sure.

- And the kid loses nothing.

- That's one of the results of us not coming out.

- Yeah.

- I mean, we had this constant-- there was always this constant fear that someone's going to drag us out.

- And if a gay-- not a gay, if a child is molested by someone of the same sex, it immediately hits the front page of the paper. And working at HPD, I can't even begin to tell you how many cases of child abuse are taking place in our city as we speak. I mean, this past week, we pulled a baby out of a dumpster. Are you listening, ladies and gentlemen? A baby, a child, a living, breathing child was thrown in the trash. And they say we are obscene. Give me a break.

- Wasn't by a hetero-- a homosexual person either.

- No.

- Give me a break.

- So I mean-- I don't know, I still have hopes for the Houston Gay community.

- That's why we're here, Michael.

- Yeah.

- That's why we're here. We had some people come in one time from L.A. And they said, why don't you come out to KPFF in Los Angeles and do this show, and because Houston needs this show.

- Yeah.

- And I'm like you, one of these days this community is going to wake up.

- And the thing is, I want them to wake up now. Because I plan on getting married soon, and I'm official-- of marriage license, and all that other stuff, like adopting kids and everything. I mean, I don't have time to wait just because a bunch of scaredy cats are sitting in their closets.

- We're talking to Michael Crawford with ACT UP. Is there another group where-- I'm sorry, I'm owing to act up, Mary.

- Well, I--

- Take that name away from that group, that Queer Nation. Because ACT UP-- wow, that's another show. Michael, there's another group that you're a little involved in?

- Another group that's trying to get involved--

- Well, do you want to come back some time and talk about that? Because we really do want to talk about that.

- OK, sure.

- We've tried for-- how long, Mary?

- We have--

- Three years.

- Yeah.

- 3 and 1/2 years, to get someone from the Black community here. I mean, I went to a Pride Week meeting one time, and they were yelling and screaming about how the community was not represented, and we couldn't find anybody.

- Yeah. Well, part of it is. I mean, I know for me, one reason I don't particularly-- I would not have got involved in the gay community if it hadn't been for coordination is because a lot of those other groups have no interest in me. I mean--

- That's very true.

- --even like the GOPC, I mean, they talk about inclusivity, but that's just talk. I prefer groups that are like Queer Nation in that it has no officers and doesn't have a board. Because when you get a board, basically, what you get is a bunch of white guys, and everybody else is relegated to minority committees, or women committees, and they never have an actual say in what's going on.

- You are absolutely right.

- I know you're true, you're being honest. And I-- not in defense of those people, but they don't like me either. You know what I mean? And it's because we're so out and so queer, and they can't stand it.

- Yeah.

- It's like Jimmy said a few minutes ago, if we would just be nice and quiet, and relaxed, we'd be accepted. And it's never going to happen.

- Hasn't worked in 25 years.

- It's not going to happen. We know that's not going to happen. If this group does get together or does happen, would you please come back and talk to us about it?
- Sure, I'll be happy to.
- So how can people get a hold of Queer Nation if they're interested? Because I know they are.
- OK, our phone number is 529-0100. And also, we have a meeting coming up in a couple of days on Tuesday. And it's going to be held at the Montrose palace, which is 1501 Commonwealth, corner of Commonwealth and Nevada.
- You bet.
- And it's going to be at 7:30.
- I haven't been down there since they redid whatever they're doing there.
- It's cool, and they give us a good rate because they like us and all this kind of thing.
- Now the meetings are like, they're pretty-- I mean, like, once or twice a month is it?
- They're twice a month, on the second and fourth Tuesdays.
- OK.
- But in between-- I mean, in between that time, the various groups who are going out and doing things. And they're always someone doing things, they meet on their own.
- Well, good, good. Listen, thanks for coming by.
- Thank you.
- And any time, especially--
- I've had a good time talking to Michael.
- Yeah.
- We were talking beforehand, and it's-- he's where I am now, and it took me 43 years to get here. So we've been talking on a variety of subjects.
- That's what's exciting. I mean, we have a lot of young people--
- Very exciting for me.
- The group from the University of Houston has been here, the young people out there. And it's very, very exciting--
- Part of them are involved in Queer Nation.
- --to see a lot of young people involved. Because they're the hope-- the hope of our movement, really.
- You bet.

- Anyway, so if something really important happens, would you say, hey, those faggots down at KPFT want to know about it. So be sure you either call us or get something down here to us, especially when you're planning a big action or something where you need a lot of help.
- OK, well, Frank is also involved in Queer Nation so we're going to keep him well-supplied.
- Good, good.
- So what's the phone number again?
- 529-0100.
- Michael with Queer Nation, right?
- And one of these days we'll take back that word faggot and queer, and it'll be ours.
- Thanks for coming by, baby.
- Thank you.
- Have a good night. Hang on a minute. Every Saturday night at midnight on *After Hours*, we play music.