

**CHRIS:** [Www.bi-netusa.org](http://Www.bi-netusa.org)

**JIMMY:** That's easy.

**CHRIS:** Very easy. [LAUGHS] Even a dumb blonde like me can ring it right off.

**JIMMY:** There's nothing dumb about you, honey. [LAUGHTER] Tony, thanks for being here.

**TONY:** Oh, it's always a pleasure.

**JIMMY:** And again, the Gay Men's Chorus is having concerts. Let me see if I got it all right here. [CLEAR THROAT]

**TONY:** Yeah. OK.

[JIMMY COUGHS]

**JIMMY:** March 19 at 8 PM is a benefit for the Bering Montrose Clinic and somebody else. And that's 35 bucks.

**TONY:** Well, for special seating. It's 150 seats at 35 bucks. But the majority of seats, two thirds of them will be available at \$15 in advance or \$18 at the door.

**JIMMY:** Oh, I didn't know that.

**TONY:** So, anybody can still come and the money still will go to benefit, but you don't have to buy a \$35 ticket.

**JIMMY:** OK. Got you. And then, on the 22nd, Friday, which is your birthday. [TONY SQUEAKS] At 8:00PM. And on the 23rd, which is Saturday, the day before Palm Sunday, two shows at 3:00PM and at 8:00PM and this is all at Bering at--

**TONY:** 1440.

**JIMMY:** 1440.

**TONY:** Herald.

**JIMMY:** Herald. Yes.

**TONY:** Yes.

**JIMMY:** 1440 Herald. Thank you for being here and we'll see you next time that there's a concert going on.

**TONY:** Oh, yes. There will be one mid-June. The big Pride concert.

**JIMMY:** Terrific.

**CHRIS:** And don't forget next month, we'll be interviewing Barry Safe and Candida Porter covering the celebrations going on in San Francisco this week.

**JIMMY:** OK. Now, a little music from Jeff Krasner from his CD, "Maybe." And we opened the bi-net with Janis Joplin with "Down On Me," and so we're closing it out with Jeff Krasner with "Go Down Easy." And you're listening to it all on After Hours Queer Radio With Attitude on KPFT Houston and Chaos College Station. KPFT, the voice of the many who have no voice.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

[LAUGHTER]

Oh, my. "Go Down Easy" on me. Jeff Krasner from his CD "Maybe." You are listening to After Hours on KPFT Houston, KEOS College Station. I've got a couple of things to-- oops, not there-- to talk about.

First of all, all my MBBs. I want to say hi to Wilson and David and Junior, good old Junior. Randy and Paul, haven't heard from Paul in a while. And Randall and Michael. Hope Michael's doing well.

And the big congratulations to "KNIBL: Knights and Black Leather." That is the fundraiser that Don Gill had this evening for the PWA holiday charities that was held at Rich's earlier this evening. And knowing Mr. Gill, he's probably raised \$20,000 for PWA. He makes a lot of money at that one.

And I want to congratulate *Genre Magazine*. I was just getting ready to cancel my subscription because it had become so lame. And the issue I received, look at this cover.

[INAUDIBLE]

This, just, I mean, this is just an absolutely beautiful man on the cover. And he's gay, thank you very much. Mike Crosby, who is the Harvard varsity water polo player. He's very-- and he's got a boyfriend, so forget it. But it's one of the most beautiful covers that *Genre* has ever done and a wonderful, nice article in there about him. Too short, but very, very nice. So thank you to *Genre* for that.

And everybody has gathered around. I guess I have to pass that one around.

**SPEAKER 3:** Can't open the pages up.

[JIMMY LAUGHS]

**CHRIS:** Kind of stuck together.

**JIMMY:** Sorry, just a little bit. Yeah, well. And let's see, let's see, let's see. A couple of things here. Where are we? First of all, the court, the court, the court. I always like to promote things going on with the Royal Sovereign and the Imperial Court of the Single Star.

Today, Sunday at 8:00PM at the BRB is the Mr. And Miss BRB 2002. Larry has done an outstanding job as Mr. BRB of 2001. Please come by and support him in his step-down.

Next weekend, Saturday the 9th, 7:30 at Chance's is the kick-ass *Cabaret* cast with Vanessa, Doug Alicia, Shawn, and Shelby. And food will be there at 7:30 and the show at 9:00. And all of these shows that the court does raises money for charities in the community. And, of course, on Sunday, next Sunday, Sunday. Sam Houston Park at 9:00AM, the AIDS Walk 2002, benefiting AIDS Foundation Houston.

**CHRIS:** That wasn't quite the-- wasn't enough oomph in that Sunday thing there.

**JIMMY:** Well, because I'm never-- I'm not up at 9:00 in the morning on Sundays. I'm sorry.

**CHRIS:** No, neither am I.

**JIMMY:** Yeah.

**CHRIS:** Sunday morning, they better not call my house at that hour of the morning.

[JIMMY LAUGHS]

**JIMMY:** March the 10th at the Briarpatch, Rachel's birthday show. It's cast with a great emcee, Rachel Montana, with Zema Gabor, Alicia Dosa Montes and Sofan-- de Saint John with special guests every month. And the showtime is at 9:00PM, shows every third Sunday. Subject to change.

Montrose soccer. Yes, indeed. We've got soccer, friends, right here in River City. Sunday, March the third. There's a lot going on tomorrow. March the third, mark your calendar for the first official practice. Join us at the Woodrow Wilson School in Montrose at 1:00PM.

The field is located at Upjohn and Fairview, five blocks north of Westheimer. Bring your cleats and look for the rainbow flag. For more information, email at montrosesc@soccer.com. They want they want people who have played soccer before and know the rules.

PFLAG meeting this Sunday on March the third. Award-winning author Mark Adams will speak at PFLAG. And he is the author of the Lambda Literary award finalist and Silver Pen Award recipient of The Preacher's Son. He will speak at the monthly meeting at 2:00PM at Christchurch Cathedral 1117 Texas at San Jacinto.

And also, here's some things that's not happening next weekend, it's happening April the 19th. Mark your calendars for the PFLAG HATCH Youth Scholarship Foundation Dinner. That's the Friday evening, April 19th in the Versaille Room at the Warwick Hotel. Cocktails at 6:30. Dinner at 7:30. The tickets are \$100 per person. But folks, this is the fundraiser for the HATCH Scholarship Fund. And last year the Foundation awarded \$57,000 in college scholarships Houston GLBT students and they hope to exceed that this year.

Let's see, let's see, let's see. Let's go to a quick piece of music and we'll probably be back with Big Roy. I see his guests have arrived. And this is a little something that was given to me by a LAB board member here, local advisory board, Michael Pimentel. And he just happened to know all of these different songs and put them all on the CD for me. This is The Moist Boys with Dean Ween and, yeah, The Moist Boys.

**CHRIS:** Oy.

**JIMMY:** Yeah--oy.

And "I'm Gay And I'm Proud." And you're listening to it on After Hours KPFT Houston KEOS College Station. We'll be right back.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

[JIMMY LAUGHS]

Cute little ditty there called "I'm Gay, I'm Proud" by The Moist Boys with Dean. And that, actually, believe it or not, is by a group called Ween who is not gay, by the way. But they're having fun with that little country version.

**CHRIS:** Uh-huh.

**JIMMY:** And now, it's time for Big Roy with the After Hours what?

**BIG ROY:** News and views, news magazine.

**JIMMY:** News magazine there you go. You've got some guests.

**BIG ROY:** I do. But before I get off in the guests--

**JIMMY:** Yes?

**BIG ROY:** I do want to give a sad note that a very close personal friend of mine died this week as a result of being hit by a vehicle, a person who happened to be very active in the gay community for a very long time. Mr. Bill Augusto has died this past week from injuries that he received from being hit by a vehicle while he was a pedestrian. And this is a very serious loss for the community.

**JIMMY:** Simply is.

**BIG ROY:** I have served with Bill. It has been a very honorable pleasure to serve with Bill Augusto as a member of the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus Board of Directors, Board of Trustees. Bill and I served together and we frequently sat next to each other and worked on many things together. And I cannot think of a harder working person in the gay community than Bill Augusto.

And I do want to say that this past July, for the July 4th issue of *The Triangle*, which I still have. There was a huge center article by Bill Augusto. This guy, to me, was a keeper. And I just want to read some things. This was to be a letter. This here was a comment that Bill Augusto had wanted to be up here in this week's *Triangle*.

He wrote this. He did not think that he was going to not be around for it and I just want to share this with our people, with our listeners. And these are Bill Augusto's own words.

"If every American gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender did their minimal civic duty, like voting and communicating with our representatives in government, we'd get everything we want. You name it. Employment, non-discrimination, repeal of the sodomy statutes, even gay marriage would be ours in short order."

Folks, this is the kind of person that Bill Augusto was. He honestly believed that everybody be involved and that everybody contact-- you know, I know Bill agreed with me how President Clinton caught a lot of flak. And we wound up with a "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" because the gay community dropped the ball by not communicating with our legislators regarding the gays in the military. When President Clinton first wanted gays in the military, the gay community just said, "Oh, great. The president he can do what he wants." It don't work that way.

Our legislators need our input and I'm just reminded of a quote that I once heard. And it really sums up how Bill Augusto felt and the way he lived his life, which was, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed it is the only thing that ever has." And like I said, Bill is going to be sorely missed and was a great member of the community.

Now, moving on to our guests. Tonight, folks, I have with me, uh--

**JOHN** John Dutchman.

**DUTCHMAN:**

**BIG ROY:** And--

**BRIN DISILVA:** Brin DiSilva

**BIG ROY:** From the Stonewall Lawyers.

**JOHN** Mm-hm. It's the Stonewall Lawyers Association of Greater Houston.

**DUTCHMAN:**

**BIG ROY:** Right. And specifically, we're going to be speaking about immigration and things that you all are working on. And I understand that you guys were out at Club Energy tonight. Tell me about it. How did it go?

**JOHN** Oh, it went fantastic. We had a table set up at Energy tonight and we want to thank everybody there for being so kind and letting us set the table up. We were putting out brochures to allow the Latino community to know that we exist, and also that we offer a lot of information and help to those in need.

In particular, we've set up an immigration clinic that will benefit those who are in need of pro-bono, in other words, free help on immigration issues, such as asylum, HIV waivers, basically anything. We'll give information to everybody. And those in need, we'll provide them with representation in their efforts to deal with the INS.

And we're also doing a legal lines. We've talked with Steve Jerome with the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard and we're trying to set up to where we'll do a legal line on the first Friday of every month where we'll provide legal information. Also, over the telephone, where people can call in their questions or bring in their issues to us. And we have bilingual attorneys who will be there able to help everybody out.

**BIG ROY:** Great. You know, for a long time I lived out there at Glen Mountain Chimney Rock. 5720 Glenn.

**JOHN** Mm-hm.

**DUTCHMAN:**

**BIG ROY:** And that was just before Club Energy moved to where it was.

**JOHN** Mm-hm.

**DUTCHMAN:**

**BIG ROY:** I mean, it used to be on Hillcroft Street.

**JOHN** I used to hang out there. [CHUCKLES]

**DUTCHMAN:**

**BIG ROY:** And I loved Club Energy. Trust me. And I was so ticked off, right after I moved, Club Energy moved to where they are now. I mean, I would have been in heaven. At any rate--

**JOHN** It's still a fabulous club.

**DUTCHMAN:**

**BIG ROY:** But at any rate, I can honestly say, from what my experience has been is that the Hispanic gay and lesbian community-- and I have said this for years-- that the Hispanic gay and lesbian community is growing in leaps and bounds. And I really feel in my heart of hearts that the Hispanic gay and lesbian community is greater in numbers than the white gay, lesbian population here in the Montrose.

**JIMMY:** Well, listen if it isn't, it's going to be.

**BIG ROY:** I mean, it is huge. It is huge.

**JIMMY:** That's why we have the Hispanic segment.

**BIG ROY:** Right.

**JIMMY:** The second Saturday, second half of the show.

**BIG ROY:** That's next Saturday at this time slot.

**JIMMY:** With Francisco Sanchez.

**JOHN** Oh, excellent. And then, that's true. I think I've read figures where the population in Houston is 44% Hispanic now, and 36%, Spanish is their first language. And that's an enormous number. In a city of 4.5 million, I mean, you do the math. It's a gigantic number.

**DUTCHMAN:** You do the math. It's a gigantic number.

**JIMMY:** You bet.

**BIG ROY:** And our next governor, if it's a Democrat, is going to be Hispanic. Regardless, which side they vote, if they vote a Democrat in it's going to be that.

**JOHN** Let's hope that occurs.

**DUTCHMAN:**

**JIMMY:** Yes.

**BIG ROY:** All right. Now, John, where do we stand now in gay rights for the Hispanic immigration and all that?

**JOHN** Well, I think if you look in terms of where we stand, in the United States we've certainly seen an incredible movement in terms of greater political power, in terms of the groups that have come about, in terms of feelings of empowerment, in terms of-- in, at least, a lot of the country-- decriminalization of sodomy statutes. And all of these are going to work for the immigrant community also. Because, as attitudes change, then you're going to see greater movement towards, hopefully, reaching a point where, on all of the issues involving immigrants, we'll be at a point of fairness.

And right now, of course, we've moved a lot on asylum issues. Asylum has been a very, very-- there's been tremendous movement. Right now, as of 1996, gays and lesbians could petition for asylum and be considered a group for purposes of seeking asylum. We wouldn't send people back to places like Saudi Arabia where they could be killed basically on the basis of their being homosexual. Transgendereds, also, under a very, very important case called INS versus Hernandez Montillo, they also can be considered a group for purposes of seeking asylum. Those with HIV, also.

And so, on asylum we've seen movement, but with regard to same-sex partners, a person here who-- a US citizen or permanent resident-- who has a alien partner cannot sponsor that partner. And we're about the last Western, industrialized nation in the world that doesn't allow it. Saudi Arabia, South Africa allows it, almost all of Western Europe allows it. We've seen Australia and New Zealand. But we're about the last of the dozen. And of course, we're one of the last that also still has sodomy statutes.

**BIG ROY:** And we're one of the last that still prohibits openly gay people in the military. I mean, we have this big multinational group out there in Afghanistan and you have openly gay people in the British military, in the German military, and whatnot. And if you go out into a Middle East, like Israel, there's openly gay and lesbian people in the military in Israel and it's no problem. But with us, our panties get all up in a bunch.

**BRIN DISILVA:** Well, I tell you, it really depends on the information that is brought to the people. I, myself, served in the Navy. I served openly in the Navy. I had no problem. I was very fortunate and to be stationed with officers who are very understanding.

And as long as you are doing your job and doing it to the best of your ability, they didn't care what you did in your private time. And that's what we always hoped. We always called ourselves the 10% club because we were always the top 10%. We were always professional on the job and they knew they could count on us. And when they needed something done, they came to us.

So I think the military, under the surface, where they're not on camera, honestly believe that we have a very big contribution and have made through the years a very large contribution towards the mission of securing our nation. But, when you put cameras on them and no one wants to stand out there bravely and say, "Oh, well, I'm for it."

When the airplane crashed in the Pentagon, it killed a young man who was leading the march, and actually had several members of our top command willing to overturn "Don't Ask, Don't Tell." But unfortunately, it cut his life short and so the movement is having to start again, building up new leadership. But I will tell you right now, I know of people serving openly in the Pentagon.

**BIG ROY:** OK. I know that there's also people that are very open about their sexuality in the State Department. And there was people from the religious right or political right who tried to get President Bush to remove them and he wouldn't.

Now, going back to some of the topics you were talking about, especially like asylum. What about from countries in, say, Central or South America where, just because they're Hispanic, many of those countries are borderline fascist dictatorships. I think, Peru comes to mind, Argentina, and others that are really borderline fascist dictatorships.

**JOHN** Surprisingly, the only nations in Latin America that still have sodomy statutes on the books, Nicaragua and  
**DUTCHMAN:** Puerto Rico, which of course, is a protectorate of the US, so that should be no surprise that they're one of the few that still has anti-sodomy statutes. Now, the reality, of course, is that with the prevalent *machismo* in the culture that you're still going to find, probably, not widespread acceptance.

But what we have seen-- my partner, Rich, who is Colombian, we were very impressed and pleased to see last year that Colombia introduced a bill that would provide equal rights to gays and lesbians in Colombia. And this became just the rage of the press. It became all over the newspapers, every broadcast dealt with this issue. And for the most part it was very positive. In fact, it went through a series of four committee meetings and the first one it passed nine to one, in favor.

And there are going to be a lot of Latin nations that are going to watch to see which-- whether it's Mexico, whether it's Costa Rica, whether it's Colombia, Brazil-- when one of these nations takes that step, you'll see the domino effect, as fast as you saw it in Scandinavia and Western Europe. And it's real important that we support those efforts of in those countries doing it because once we see Canada, which allows same sex partnership benefits, widespread GLBT rights, and Latin America, also, allowing the same, it's going to shame this country into finally doing what's right.

**BIG ROY:** Jimmy, you had a comment there?

**SPEAKER 2:** Yeah. I need to break in here and let people know that they are listening to After Hours Queer Radio With Attitude on KPFT Houston and KEOS College Station. KPFT, the voice of the many who have no voice. We'll be right back.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

**ROB LOVE:** Yo, what's up? It's your man, Rob Love, representing DJ Good Grief in the Early Morning Groove Show. Check us out every Saturday night from 3:00AM to 6:00AM. Now, we're going to play all your favorite old-school R&B, all your favorite brand-new R&B, and we're going to rock it out every night with the super grief mixes, baby. You got to check it out, every Saturday night, 3:00AM to 6:00AM, baby. All love, DJ Good Grief, Early Morning Groove.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

**JENNIFER** My name is Jennifer Wagner.

**WAGNER:**

**HOWARD** My name is Howard Hayden. I'm the final Avenger.

**HAYDEN:**

**JENNIFER** Howard and I do a show called Reach Out In The Darkness, late night Monday, early Tuesday morning 1:00 to 4:00AM.

**HOWARD** Jennifer and I play the sounds of the 60s directly from the vinyl it was originally recorded.

**HAYDEN:**

**JENNIFER** That's right. All vinyl, all night. One to 4:00AM, late Monday, early Tuesday morning.

**WAGNER:**

**HOWARD** Reach Out In The Darkness on 90.1 FM KPFT.

**HAYDEN:**

**JENNIFER** Pacifica Network Radio from Houston, Texas.

**WAGNER:**

**BOTH:** Sounds of the 60s.

**JIMMY:** Just a couple of the wonderful shows that you can hear on KPFT. And now, back to Big Roy.

**BIG ROY:** OK, John. Where were we? OK.

Now, I'd like to ask you what, if any, rights do domestic partners, who are US citizens, have with someone who may be gay or lesbian from a foreign country?

**JOHN** The sad truth is they have none. The current INA code, it deals absolutely not at all with GLBT issues. You won't see the word gay or lesbian written in the INA code. What we do have, we have a temporary visa called an H1 visa that someone from with the high degree in another country can come to this country and work temporarily and actually move on to get a green card.

The only reference to GLBT issues that you'll see in the code or the code of federal regulations deals with allowing those individuals who are coming here, non-citizens of course, to work here temporarily. They can bring their partners in under a very little-known memo that allows them to say, I want to bring my same-sex partner in.

They can apply for a visitor's visa and bring that partner in. And they can keep getting renewed on that. And the sad thing is, I'm glad they allow that, we need to allow that because we are losing a lot of fabulous workers to other countries. We're losing great talents because they couldn't bring their same-sex partners here.

But these are non-citizens. We're going to allow them to bring theirs in under this little-known, secretive memo, basically, and let them bring their partners in. But we won't let US citizens sponsor their own lovers, their own partners. We make them, basically, live in secret, try to find some clandestine way to be able to stay together. And that's what's really sad these days is that, when it comes to our citizens, we don't respect the relationship. But we will respect it in other circumstances.

**BIG ROY:** Well, I guess, an American citizen an American citizen could say that I want this person to come in because this person will be working for me. I have a job for them.

**JOHN** Yeah. And if they were found out--

**DUTCHMAN:**

**BIG ROY:** But then, that's kind of a shady line.

**JOHN** Well, a lie found out by INS will result in a lifetime ban from being able to come into the US. So, if it should be found out that that's the case, then it can be very, very severe repercussions for that.

**BIG ROY:** Now have you seen any kind, of course, would be unofficial racial discrimination regarding race or national origin or ethnicity? Like, it's OK for a Hispanic gay person to come in, but let's not let no Arab gay person come in. You know what I'm saying? Anything like that.

**BRIN DISILVA:** There have been unofficial quotas set up as far as which nations will allow so many citizens to immigrate into the United States to begin with. So there are actual limits on the number of visas that are issued to each country. So that begins sort of a filtering system right there.

Another thing that you might want to point out is that it's not just a disrespect of allowing our own citizens less rights than a foreign immigrant. It's disallowing that person to self-identify who his family will be or who her family will be.

If I can define who I'm going to live the rest of my life with, I should be able to expect those government entities who serve me to respect that relationship and they don't. And that, I think, is the core of the problem that we have, not just in immigration but in our civil rights movement.

**BIG ROY:** Well, go along with that whole train there. I know that in this country, we have a serious problem in discrimination of gay and lesbian family. You know and I know that, especially since September 11, we're also having a problem with anybody of Middle East origin.

I don't know if this is true, but supposedly, one of the hijackers was a gay Arab who flew into the Twin Towers. You know, I do not know for a fact. But this is the stuff that the media-- and the media just may very well have just cooked that up as a lie. It would not surprise me one bit.

**BRIN DISILVA:** Well, let the media also focus on the fact that aboard the airplanes that went down fighting for their lives and for the lives of loved ones on the ground were gay people.

**BIG ROY:** We get quickly silenced.

**BRIN DISILVA:** And the rescuers who came to that building, knowing that it could fall down around their ears at any moment, were also gay people. That in the health-care professionals that set up camps to help the injured, to do the triage, were also gay people. And in the families and friends and loved ones of the people that were lost were gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered. If we're Americans and, by God, we're Americans in life as well as death. And that should be respected.

**BIG ROY:** Well, like I said, the media does not respect. I mean, they would point out that they're American, but it's like a quick, "and they were gay." Trying to really pass it off, real quick.

**BRIN DISILVA:** Well, that's our job.

**BIG ROY:** That's what I'm trying to say. But now, I'm kind of worried about any gay Arab person or Muslim person trying to seek asylum or to come into this country. I have this is again see what's going on in Asia and Egypt.

**JOHN DUTCHMAN:** But also, all that has happened in Egypt and all that we've seen, the horrendous beheadings in Saudi Arabia, all of these are being tremendously well-documented by groups like the International Lesbian and Gay Association and the ILG, HRC. All of these groups are doing a lot to make sure that these are well-documented because, when these asylum cases come up, we can be prepared with monstrously thick packets ready to be presented to show that, if this individual is sent back, this is what they'll face. And they will. Because they're going to be branded that as they're set back.

And one nice thing about the decisions, in terms of some of these cases that I mentioned earlier, is that they're precedent right now. They have to be respected. And if someone can show that they fit in, basically, under the cases, then they're going to be allowed to stay. Now, of course, we're still pretty new since September 11th. But I haven't seen, really, closures, at least in asylum matters.

What is going to be difficult is, people in those nations who want to be able to come here, they're going to be facing a lot more difficulty right now.

**BIG ROY:** So how does this process work? I mean, if I was from Egypt, what would I be facing?

**JOHN** If you came to the United States?

**DUTCHMAN:**

**BIG ROY:** Right.

**JOHN** You would, hopefully, if you were--

**DUTCHMAN:**

**BIG ROY:** How would this process work?

**JOHN** If you were in a city like Houston where we now have a clinic going that is able to provide representation in these matters, and if you were in need of having representation because you didn't have the funds to have your own attorney, well, organizations such as ours are set up, basically, to be able to deal with these matters and deal with the immigration system so that the petitions filed, so that the packet is presented, so that we can get the information from you that would be needed in order to make the best possible presentation in an asylum matter.

In other cities, you may have to do some looking because it's certainly not every city. We never had anything like this in Houston before. That's one reason why I'm very glad that the Stonewall Lawyers Association has stepped up with the Lesbian and Gay Immigration Rights Task Force to actually do this. We've received some help from the National Center for Lesbian Rights in San Francisco that was instrumental in getting their system set up there, so that we can have something in place here.

Because, in a city as international and as multicultural Houston, we need to have that. So there are options. There are a lot of organizations that are ready to assist. And I mean, it's a daunting process, but it's certainly not an overwhelming one that's so overwhelming that people can't get through it.

**BIG ROY:** Now, what about you, have you had any experience here in Houston with gay people from the Middle East?

**JOHN** Yes. I have, actually.

**DUTCHMAN:**

**BIG ROY:** How big is that community, what's that like?

**JOHN** It's very interesting you say that. I've dealt with people even with the new Arab-American Cultural Center which just open out on the West Side who've been very receptive to making sure that the issue's covered. Now, I don't think that they're going to make it their number-one priority because there are cultural sensitivities at play, but there are people within these organizations here in Houston who've been very receptive to trying to have some method and something in place, so that their gay and lesbian and bisexual, and transgendered people can also receive help and assistance as needed.

But there's also large pockets that are very much against it, also. But we have a sizable Arab population in Houston a lot of North Africans. We have a large number of Lebanese. And so, the numbers are pretty high, actually. I think we have consulates from just about every one of the Middle Eastern nations right now here in Houston.

**BIG ROY:** OK. Now, what about from Asia? Do we have any kind of a sizable gay Asian community? It seems like that's starting to grow, or something.

**JOHN** I mean, the Long Yang Club just had their National conference here in Houston last year. Right now, I don't know of any particular group other than the Long Yang Club that focuses on the Asian community. I'm a former President of the Asian Pacific-American Law Students Association, that's South Texas College of Law. I had to think of all these acronyms.

**BIG ROY:** (LAUGHING) Oh. That's like the court. We call it the court because we cannot remember the whole long name.

**JOHN** We had about 60 members. And I was very out when I was in law school and there was a lot of concern that I wanted us to have some branch within the PALSA that would focus on GLBT issues because I knew we had members that were, some of them closeted. And I had absolutely nobody against it. Individuals like Gordon Kwan, who's now a council member, who was very helpful with our group then, was very interested knowing about the issues then.

I'd like to believe that maybe we played a part and bringing him about in terms of his views on issues. He's very, very fair [INTERPOSING VOICES]

**BIG ROY:** I think Gordon Kwan made a very impressive issue. I mean, a very impressive presentation before the caucus.

**JOHN** Sure.

**DUTCHMAN:**

**BIG ROY:** When he came, which is what-- we did support him. We did endorse him. And I was on the screening committee that screened him. And I'll tell you, knocked my socks off, I really didn't expect that from Gordon.

**JOHN** Yeah. He's a good guy.

**DUTCHMAN:**

**BIG ROY:** Have they been having any problems with immigration, coming in?

**JOHN** Asian-Americans. Right now, I think almost--

**DUTCHMAN:**

**BIG ROY:** Well, not necessarily Asian-Americans, but Asians.

**JOHN** [INTERPOSING VOICES] of the Asians coming in. I think Indonesians right now and Filipinos are being scrutinized  
**DUTCHMAN:** more than most. Malaysians, also, just because of the large numbers of Muslims in those nations. The subcontinent, of course, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan are having difficulties.

And then, at the same time, I've had clients who-- I'm an immigration attorney, of course-- and I've had clients who've had interviews at the embassy in Islamabad and Pakistan and had no trouble. So it's very difficult to say where-- I don't know if we've seen substantial drops, but I do think that there is a concern around the world right now of trying to make that trip to the US in the aftermath of September 11, just because of concerns that they'll face at the embassy and consulates.

But I don't think I've seen anything in the way of really lower number, other than just lower number of tourists.

**JIMMY:** John, you may have covered this and I was doing something else, but is there quotas on people coming into the United States? Because I'm thinking, like, the whole world can't come in. [LAUGHS]

**JOHN** There are.

**DUTCHMAN:**

**JIMMY:** But how do they figure that out?

**JOHN** They figure, based on the numbers that have been sent before, basically. And it works in all different facets of  
**DUTCHMAN:** INS, whether in family immigration or work immigration. We have a process called the diversity lottery, which basically allows almost anybody in the world, unless they've been previously deported or if they have a major criminal record, they can apply for a lottery, basically. And if they're chosen, they get to come to the United States.

But the strange thing is that a lot of countries are not allowed to do it because they've sent so many to the US in the past. So many countries, including Colombia and Mexico and the Philippines, they are not allowed to utilize this process, but other countries are. And I've seen figures where some nations they allow like 30. And then, other nations it's 112,000, you know. [BIG ROY LAUGHS]

And when it was originally came about, it was-- the Kennedy's were really behind this diversity lottery and the nation that was benefiting the most was Ireland for years and years as a result of that. [LAUGHTER] Go figure.

**JIMMY:** Yes, the workers. [JOHN LAUGHS] I understand that, and maybe it's based on what's happened before, but what happens if there's, like, an overthrow of government and suddenly a whole slice of a country's population might be killed by this new regime? And what--

**JOHN** It makes it difficult. We didn't exactly allow a bunch of Bosnians to come in during the, you know--

**DUTCHMAN:**

**JIMMY:** Right.

**JOHN** Or Somalis either. But what'll a lot of times happen is you'll see that when they have a lot of their citizens here in  
**DUTCHMAN:** the United States,