

[CROWDS CHANTING]

ACTIVIST: What do we want?

CROWD: Gay rights.

ACTIVIST: When do we want it?

CROWD: Now.

ACTIVIST: What do we want?

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CROWD: Now.

BUDDY: It's about 30 seconds 'til Queer Day.

JIMMY: Oh yeah.

[CHUCKLES]

BUDDY: My god.

JIMMY: Happy Gay Pride Day.

BUDDY: I can't breathe anyway.

JIMMY: It's Gay Pride Day right now.

BUDDY: It is?

JIMMY: Yeah.

BUDDY: Oh, OK. The parade's today, right?

JIMMY: Well, it sure is.

STUDIO CREW 1: It's after noon.

STUDIO CREW 2: Kevin, are you al--

JIMMY: And I've got a hot pink--

HOST 3: I want to say hi to Schroder. What do you got a hot pink--

JIMMY: I've got a hot pink umbrella in case it rains. I'm walking down Westheimer--

BUDDY: Are you really?

JIMMY: I am.

ACTIVIST: When do want them?

- Huh?

STUDIO CREW 1: We're going to have a--

BUDDY: It'll be fun.

JIMMY: It sure will no matter what.

BUDDY: OK.

STUDIO CREW 1: So hi, Schroder.

BUDDY: Hi, Schroder. Who's Schroder?

JIMMY: Hi, Schroder. How's it hanging?

STUDIO CREW 1: Schroder's the cute little boy, the cute young man that came up last week.

BUDDY: Oh really? It's 2:00, and this is KPFT Houston. All right?

STUDIO CREW 2: It sure is.

STUDIO CREW 1: It is.

BUDDY: Oh boy.

STUDIO CREW 1: And we are here, and we are hard.

JIMMY: And we're queer.

BUDDY: We're here, and we're ready to roll so stay with us kids.

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

HARVEY MILK: Did I tell you what the gay movement's about? After I got elected, I got the phone call I knew I would eventually get. Got quite a few of them.

[PHONE RINGS]

One was from a 17-year-old child in a small town in Minnesota, and the boy is handicapped. And the boy's parents found out he's gay, and they want to put him in an insane asylum. That boy needs help. And the gay movement is about the letter I got from Southwest Africa when he read about a gay person getting elected here, and that person has hope. And that 17-year-old kid in Minnesota has hope. And we have gay leaders not understanding that and are more worried about their own personal power. They're not gay leaders. They're offensive.

HARVEY FIERSTEIN: That's right, ma, you had it easy. You lost your husband in a nice clean hospital. You know how 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, two of them 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.

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

[MUSIC PLAYING]

HARRY BRITT: I'm here partly tonight to say some good things about Texas. I'm proud to be a Texan. I know that I could not have heard Harvey Milk's challenge to me had not something in my life in this state prepared me to hear the word of freedom that Harvey spoke to us. I am here tonight because it is time that all of us who love this state that gave us life, and has nurtured us, and taught us our values to stand up and claim the history of this state for freedom, and justice, and human respect, away from the forces of narrow-mindedness and bigotry that too often dominate the politics in the state of Texas.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR: I have a dream today.

[CHEERING]

ROBIN TYLER: Say it so they can hear you in the Capitol.

DEMONSTRATORS: 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.

PHILIP MALDARI: Harvey, do you have a few words for KPFA?

HARVEY MILK: Yeah, come on out. Join us. Bring a friend.

PHILIP MALDARI: What do you think about the turnout so far?

HARVEY MILK: Well, it's never enough. Never enough, never enough. 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.

[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 in the stores you shop in.

[CHEERING]

And 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 once, once you do, you will feel so much better.

ACTIVIST: They've got to understand something. They've got to understand something. We are not about crotch politics. This is not a movement from the waist down. We are talking about our right to love, and to choose, and to live. And I don't care about straight tolerance, and I don't care about straight understanding. You better hear me in Washington. We are demanding. We are demanding our civil rights.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR: I have a dream today.

HARVEY MILK: And I ask, I ask people all over this country to do one thing, come out. Come out, America. Come out.

[CHEERING]

ACTIVISTS: Now.

ACTIVIST: What do we want?

JIMMY: Well, we'll be coming out today.

BUDDY: We will?

JIMMY: Yeah?

BUDDY: It's parade day.

JIMMY: It's parade day.

BUDDY: It's part of what it's all about, right?

JIMMY: We're number 9 coming down the street.

BUDDY: We are, number 9. We'll be number 9 in line. So we can't wait, and we're going to invite you to come out and march with us this morning as we celebrate the beginning of the end of Lesbian Gay Pride Week 1989.

JIMMY: And let it not end this week.

BUDDY: That's it. Let it begin. That's why I said, the beginning of the end of the celebration of Pride Week, but it's actually the beginning of the celebration-- I don't know what it is. I can't talk. I can't breathe.

JIMMY: Keep pride week in your life--

BUDDY: What's wrong?

JIMMY: --all year long, along with Christmas and all those other good things. Is that what we're trying to say?

BUDDY: Huh?

JIMMY: You've got sinus problems or something tonight all of a sudden.

BUDDY: Oh god. I knew it. Anyway, we're here, and we're going to talk to you about the parade and what's going on with that. We're also going to redo this little opening that we do every week because I want to explain to you what all these-- please don't do that. I want to explain to you what all these things are that we play, and it's-- well, I can't do that one, so we'll have to scrap that. But anyway, hang on a second.

ACTIVIST: What do we want?

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ACTIVIST: What do we want?

JIMMY: You mean all those little speech?

BUDDY: Yeah because a lot of people may not understand what all that is. So--

JIMMY: Well, I know I didn't 'til I came here.

BUDDY: I just can't think about what the hell I'm doing right now. This is something we play at the very beginning of the program a lot of times, usually to start the thing.

[CLEARS THROAT]

Excuse me, kids. I can't breathe. And it's Harvey Milk, and Harvey was being interviewed by Greg Gordon at KPFK in San Francisco about, oh, four weeks after he was elected to the Board of Supervisors. So this is usually how we begin the program, and it's Harvey Milk telling us what he thinks the gay movement is all about.

HARVEY MILK: Did I tell you what the gay movement's about? After I got elected, I got the phone call I knew I would eventually get. Got quite a few of them.

[PHONE RINGS]

One was from a 17-year-old child in a small town in Minnesota, and the boy is handicapped. And the boy's parents found out he's gay, and they want to put him in an insane asylum. That boy needs help, and the gay movement is about the letter I got from Southwest Africa when he read about a gay person getting elected here and that person has hope. And that 17-year-old kid in Minnesota has hope. And we have gay leaders not understanding that and are more worried about their own personal power. They're not gay leaders. They're offensive.

BUDDY: So Harvey Milk always says those words of wisdom for us, and then we-- huh?

JIMMY: That's pretty strong at the end.

BUDDY: Yeah, it is. He's talking about leadership, and you got to understand that leadership in this country is usually elected like Congress and the president, but a lot of gay leaders are self-appointed people who, for some reason or another, think they're here to save us from ourselves, people like-- I don't mention any names-- Marion Coleman, for example. But other people, and there were a lot of gay leaders, Rick Stokes, and other people during Harvey's time who never accepted him, and never supported him, and never followed him--

JIMMY: Oh, there's a whole--

BUDDY: --did anything, and he--

JIMMY: --group of them.

BUDDY: Yeah, they were so afraid. Harvey talks about how the gay leadership was so afraid that they were going to get, somebody else is going to get a little bit of the credit, and somebody else was going to get a little bit of the pats on the back. And that's what happens. There are some who struggle, and struggle, and struggle, and never get any recognition, and they give, and give, and give. And then there are others who with their finances or whatever always seem to be leading the way. And it's not always what it looks like, so you got to understand.

Harvey's saying that gay leaders that don't understand what the gay movement's about, we have to get rid of them. And that's part of our job to tell you who's doing what. But anyway, that's one of the reasons we play that. Also every week, we hear from Harry Britt. Now, Harry Britt was speaking at the celebration of life rally down in front of City Hall last year, the rally to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the death of Harvey Milk, and Harry, being the president of the Board of Supervisors from the city of San Francisco, who sat in Harvey Milk's seat for the last 10 years.

And Harry also has some pretty strong words to say that night because Harry was born and raised in Port Arthur. He was ordained a Methodist minister right here in Houston. So there was a lot of emotion, and although Harry Britt was standing on our steps of City Hall in front of about 150 people when he knew there were 40,000 or 50,000 in San Francisco where he could have been, he really felt honored to be here, and it's evident by the words that he spoke to us right now.

HARRY BRITT: I'm here partly tonight to say some good things about Texas. I'm proud to be a Texan. I know that I could not have heard Harvey Milk's challenge to me had not something in my life in this state prepared me to hear the word of freedom that Harvey spoke to us. I am here tonight because it is time that all of us who love this state that gave us life, and has nurtured us, and taught us our values to stand up and claim the history of this state for freedom, and justice, and human respect, away from the forces of narrow-mindedness and bigotry that too often dominate the politics of the state of Texas.

BUDDY: That's pretty strong, too.

JIMMY: Yeah, I remember that.

ACTIVIST: That's good stuff.

JIMMY: He got pretty emotional while--

BUDDY: Yeah, he did. He almost broke down when he said that he was proud to be a Texan and proud to be a gay Texan. And then right about then somewhere, we hear the police report of the Stonewall. It's--

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

[MUSIC PLAYING]

BUDDY: And that fades down.

JIMMY: You know that-- I don't know who that announcer is, but he always sounded like Mike Wallace to me.

BUDDY: Really?

JIMMY: Yeah.

BUDDY: I don't know who that is, but maybe we should try to find out. The next thing that happens-- Oh, wait a minute. The music doesn't start yet, does it?

ACTIVIST: No. Turn that off.

BUDDY: OK. Wait a minute. The music doesn't start yet because we play a piece from *Torch Song Trilogy*. You remember that with Harvey Fierstein talking about-- this is a scene from the movie *Torch Song Trilogy* where Harvey's lover has been murdered by gay bashers outside of their apartment like a block from their house. Harvey's lover gets killed by gay bashers, and at the funeral or at the cemetery rather, later on in the movie, Harvey's mother is saying prayers over her husband's grave and Harvey is saying prayers over his lover's grave.

And his mother says, how dare you? How dare you say things like that to dishonor your father here at his grave. You know, how can you do that? And Harvey said, well I loved Alan. I loved him as much as you loved Daddy, and I miss him as much as I loved Daddy. And she says, how can you say that? I spent 16 years with this man. I did this with this man. I did that with that man, and Harvey said, yeah, you're right.

How could I know the feeling of watching someone be beaten to death out in front of my house that I loved and watch him being carried away in an ambulance, his body all bloody and beaten? How could I know how that would possibly feel? How could I know how it felt putting his belongings in garbage bags and watching the trash men come and haul them away? So just before our theme song plays, we let Harvey talk to his mama at the cemetery. And that's where this little bit came from.

HARVEY FIERSTEIN: That's right, Ma. You had it easy. You lost your husband in a nice clean hospital. You know how I lost mine? I lost mine on the street. That's right. They killed him on the street, 27 years old laying dead on a 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.

BUDDY: Now, that's where the music comes in.

JIMMY: Yes.

BUDDY: That's pretty strong stuff, too, right?

JIMMY: That's very strong.

BUDDY: But while the music's playing--

[WORDLESS SINGING]

JIMMY: And in the context of the movie--

BUDDY: Yeah, oh, it's incredible, isn't it? And that movie's coming out on video cassette like any day now.

JIMMY: I am excited.

BUDDY: I know. Now, the next thing we're going to hear that we usually hear in the opening is from the National March on Washington for Gay and Lesbian Rights in 1987, 5 Hours, which was broadcast right here on KPFT when the dyke and the fag got up on the stage and they said--

ROBIN TYLER: Come one and say it so they can hear you in the Capitol.

DEMONSTRATORS: 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.

BUDDY: And then we kind of cleverly bring that down, and we play one of my favorite little blurbs from Harvey Milk, and Harvey was being interviewed by someone at KPFA in Los Angeles on Stonewall Day in 1978. The interviewer's name is Philip Maldari. Philip works at KPFA now in Berkeley, one of our Pacifica stations, and Philip had the opportunity to ask Harvey what he thought about the crowds there at Stonewall Day in '78, and I think it's one of my favorite pieces of listening to Harvey Milk because you can hear the love in his voice. Just listen to this, kids.

PHILIP MALDARI: Harvey, do you have a few words for KPFA?

HARVEY MILK: Yeah, come on out. [LAUGHS] Join us. Bring a friend.

PHILIP MALDARI: What do you think about the turnout so far?

HARVEY MILK: Well, it's never enough. Never enough, never enough.

BUDDY: And the next piece of our opening comes from Harvey Milk about three weeks before he was killed. San Francisco and all of California, the state of California, were under siege. The gay community was facing something called Proposition 6, put together by a senator by the name of John Briggs who wanted to get rid of all the gay school teachers. And the gay community thought they were going to lose. They thought this was something that they could not win, but they rallied the vote. And they won, and they beat Senator Briggs. And three weeks before Harvey was killed, he got up in front of that crowd, screaming and yelling in San Francisco on the eve of that victory, on the tail end of that victory, and he said--

HARVEY MILK: 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.

[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 in the stores you shop in.

[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 once you do, you will feel so much better.

[CHEERING]

BUDDY: And I don't know what else we could throw in there. There are some things, but we cannot always wrap it up with Harvey Milk screaming out one last thing. This is also from that same speech three weeks before he died, just before he got down off of the podium, when he encouraged everyone in the country.

HARVEY MILK: And I ask people all over this country to do one thing, come out. Come out, America. Come out.

[CHEERING]

BUDDY: Good words, words of advice, right?

JIMMY: Worked for me.

BUDDY: It has?

JIMMY: Mhm.

BUDDY: KPFT, hello? Yeah, push that button. KPFT.

NANCY: (ON THE LINE) Hello, how are you doing?

BUDDY: Fine, how are you?

NANCY: (ON THE LINE) Oh, I'm doing real good.

BUDDY: Oh, really?

NANCY: (ON THE LINE) Yeah, I'd like to wish you all luck on your March today.

JIMMY: Well, thank you.

BUDDY: Well, I hope it doesn't rain, but we've--

JIMMY: Where are you calling from?

NANCY: (ON THE LINE) Well, I'm calling a little distance away, and I'm especially calling to say hello to you.

JIMMY: Why, thank you.

NANCY: (ON THE LINE) Yes, I received a tape in the mail a few weeks ago.

JIMMY: Oh.

NANCY: (ON THE LINE) Don't fall off the chair.

[LAUGHTER]

BUDDY: I wish you could see his face, baby.

NANCY: (ON THE LINE) I do, too. It's been a very long time, a very long time.

JIMMY: Buddy, this is my sister.

BUDDY: I know. I talked to her earlier.

JIMMY: You're kidding. [LAUGHS]

NANCY: (ON THE LINE) No. How are you?

JIMMY: Hi, Nancy.

NANCY: (ON THE LINE) Hello, Jimmy. How are you?

JIMMY: Great, great.

BUDDY: You haven't talked to her since what?

JIMMY: She was two.

NANCY: (ON THE LINE) [LAUGHS] And I'm now 26.

BUDDY: Oh god, so what are--

NANCY: (ON THE LINE) It's been a long time.

BUDDY: Where are you calling from, baby?

NANCY: (ON THE LINE) I'm calling from Atlanta, Georgia.

BUDDY: And y'all had a parade yesterday?

NANCY: (ON THE LINE) We had a parade. Today, we had a rally. It was wonderful.

BUDDY: How did it go?

NANCY: (ON THE LINE) It went, it went super. The weather was great. There was about 6,000 people there.

JIMMY: Oh, that's wonderful.

NANCY: (ON THE LINE) Yeah, it was the largest one yet.

JIMMY: That is well.

BUDDY: That sounds marvelous.

JIMMY: Yeah, and this was your first?

NANCY: (ON THE LINE) This is my first.

JIMMY: Ah, I bet you were tingly all over.

NANCY: (ON THE LINE) [LAUGHS] All day.

JIMMY: I know I was on my first.

BUDDY: I wish you could have seen his face.

NANCY: (ON THE LINE) I'm more tingly right now. I'm very excited. [LAUGHS]

BUDDY: Do you have anything to say to the Houston community because we're getting ready to kick off our parade today?

NANCY: (ON THE LINE) I know. Well, I hope y'all have as good a time as we did.

JIMMY: Ah.

BUDDY: Yeah?

NANCY: (ON THE LINE) And I hope to talk to you soon.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

JIMMY: Yeah.

BUDDY: Are you going to talk to her now?

JIMMY: [LAUGHS]

BUDDY: He's speechless.

JIMMY: I am speechless. This is-- I'd never expected this.

NANCY: (ON THE LINE) Well, it--

BUDDY: I told you it was going to be a good day.

JIMMY: [LAUGHS]

NANCY: (ON THE LINE) I think I'd--

JIMMY: You knew it all along.

[LAUGHTER]

BUDDY: Hey, thanks for calling. He's smiling.

NANCY: (ON THE LINE) Well, thanks a lot, Buddy.

BUDDY: Hang on a minute, OK?

NANCY: (ON THE LINE) All right.

BUDDY: This is *After Hours* on KPFT radio, radio, celebrating life from the heart of Montrose.

[MUSIC - SYLVESTER, "YOU MAKE ME FEEL (MIGHTY REAL)"]

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HARVEY MILK: [LAUGHS] Join us. Bring a friend.

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ROBIN TYLER: Hey, say it so they can hear you in the Capitol.

DEMONSTRATORS: 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.

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PHILIP MALDARI: Harvey, do you have a few words for KPFA?

HARVEY MILK: Come on out. [LAUGHS] Join us. Bring a friend.

PHILIP MALDARI: What do you think about the turnout so far?

HARVEY MILK: Well, it's never enough. Never enough, never enough.

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[MUSIC - SYLVESTER, "YOU MAKE ME FEEL (MIGHTY REAL)"]

MAN: (SINGING) I'm out of the closet.

[VOCALIZING]

I--

[AUDIO OUT]s

[MUSIC PLAYING]

BUDDY: Yeah.

JIMMY: Yeah.

[LAUGHS]

BUDDY: 27 minutes after 2:00, and we're getting ready to break out this morning. It's Gay Lesbian Pride Day in Houston 1989. And we want to hear from you, 526-4000.

SWING OUT (SINGING) And break out.

SISTER:

BUDDY: That's the number to call.

[MUSIC - SWING OUT SISTER, "BREAK OUT"]

What's on your mind this morning, kids? Are you going to the parade?

JIMMY: Yes, I've got a hot pink umbrella in case it rains. I'm walking down Westheimer.

BUDDY: OK, I'm going to strip right in front of Mary.

[LAUGHTER]

JIMMY: Oh, don't let that get around.

BUDDY: I'm not going to strip. Hey, if-- I don't want to play these records. If you want to march with us in the parade today, call us because a lot of the listeners and you may be one of them have called to say that you're going to march in the parade. And you're more than welcome to come down and march with us today. We've got banners to carry that say KPFT on them. We've got banners to carry that say After Hours on them, and we've got flags, rainbow flags with-- what's on that flag, Jimmy? The triangle?

JIMMY: The pink triangle at the top surrounded by blue and then the rainbow streamers hanging-- Oh, it's just magnificent.

BUDDY: And we've got a lot of stuff for you, so if you want to march, this-- Hello? Oh, I think somebody picked that up out front.

JIMMY: Oh OK.

BUDDY: But if you want to march with us, 526-4000, that's the number to call. And let us know. I'll tell you what you can do to march in the parade with the *After Hours* and KPFT folks. It'll be fun.

[VOCALIZING]

You can break out with us this morning.

JIMMY: Speaking of break out--

BUDDY: Yeah?

JIMMY: Well, this was really special for me tonight. As you know, Buddy, I don't-- our listening audience probably doesn't realize but when I was a teenager, some [CHUCKLES] 20-odd more years ago, when my parents found out I was gay, they could not live with it, and I've been estranged from them ever since. And that meant that I, at the age of 18, 17, 18 that I lost contact with my two-year-old sister at the time. And here, recently, we've been writing, and she's now come out. Just in the past six months, she's been coming out, and all of a sudden, I have part of my family back.

BUDDY: She called me tonight.

JIMMY: That's a happy Gay Pride Day for me.

BUDDY: She called tonight and said, are you the guy that does the *After Hours* thing? And I said, yeah. She said, well, I want to call my brother, and I said, what?

[LAUGHTER]

JIMMY: I bet you didn't even know I had a sister.

BUDDY: Yeah. I heard you had said something about sending a tape to you sister.

JIMMY: Yeah, I sent a tape of one show to her.

BUDDY: But I didn't know you hadn't talked to her in 20 years.

JIMMY: No.

BUDDY: Anyway, are you going to come out and march with us today? Yes. 526-4000, that's the number to call. I want to see you march right along beside us, and if that number's busy, call 526-KPFT. Right?

JIMMY: That's the one.

BUDDY: Come on, kids. It's OK. It's OK.

GLINDA THE GOOD WITCH: You may all come out. (SINGING) Come out, come out wherever you are.

WITCH:

BUDDY: Hello? Hello, hello, hello.

JIMMY: Hi. Somebody else must have that one.

BUDDY: Hello, KPFT.

CALLER: (ON THE LINE) Good evening, Buddy.

BUDDY: Hello, who's this?

JIMMY: Hi.

CALLER: (ON THE LINE) This is Mike.

BUDDY: Hi, Mike. What's on your mind?

CALLER: (ON THE LINE) Well, I wanted to give you the information on the broadcast, on the television broadcast.

BUDDY: Yeah? Make it quick, dear.

CALLER: (ON THE LINE) OK, we will be going on the air at 4:00.

JIMMY: OK.

CALLER: (ON THE LINE) The radio portion will be on the air at 3:00.

BUDDY: I don't have any idea what's going on there because I'm not involved in that.

CALLER: (ON THE LINE) OK, but the television will go on the air at 4:00.

JIMMY: Oh, great.

CALLER: (ON THE LINE) And I want as many people as can get by between 4:00 and 5:00 to drop by and sit in front of the microphone and say hi.

BUDDY: OK, where are you going to be so they can do this?

CALLER: (ON THE LINE) We will be in front of Mary's.

JIMMY: Well, you'll have no problem getting people to drop by there.

CALLER: (ON THE LINE) Our cam, we will be set up on top of Mary's, but we will have cameras set up in front of Mary--

BUDDY: OK.

CALLER: (ON THE LINE) --with interviewers.

BUDDY: And that'll be what time?

CALLER: (ON THE LINE) We start-- our broadcast starts at 4:00.

JIMMY: OK, we'll be looking forward to it.

CALLER: (ON THE LINE) OK.

BUDDY: All right, thanks, baby.

CALLER: (ON THE LINE) All right.

BUDDY: 526-4000, we want to know what's on your mind this morning. We're getting ready to kick off the 1989--

[MUSIC PLAYING]

--Gay Lesbian Pride Week parade--

JIMMY: Yes.

BUDDY: --celebration of Stonewall, and it'll be fun. Like I said, we've got banners to carry and flags to carry. And we need you.

JIMMY: We sure do.

[MUSIC - CHARLIE MURPHY, "GAY SPIRIT"]

BUDDY: 526-4000, that's the number to call. We want to hear from you. We want to know, and want to know if you're going to be down there to march with us today. It's real important that you come out and march with us. Hey, I got a letter this week.

JIMMY: Yeah?

BUDDY: It's dated, what is it? June 20, 1989. It's in beautiful, beautiful handwriting. Calligraphy, is that correct?

JIMMY: Calligraphy.

BUDDY: Beautiful, beautiful writing. It says, "Dear friends, last week, I was visiting Houston. I turned on the radio at 3:00 AM, and to my amazement, I heard your program recalling the history of gay liberation. That voice of enlightenment in a city famous for its homophobia was very thrilling for me. You have my highest praise for your courage. I've now reached the age of 60. My early years were grim, hopeless, and suicidal. If people like you had dared to speak out as role models, my life would have been positive and creative. Please tell your broadcasters," meaning us, "not to give way to despair or burn out. Believe in our cause and keep working. It is important for those who are out there and haven't found their voices yet. My thanks and love from Alan."

And Alan was visiting the city from San Francisco. Thanks for writing, Alan. 526-4000, we need to know what's on your mind this morning. Come on, kids. I want to see the phones light up. We've also got cassettes to give you if you haven't won one already. We'll give them to the first 10 callers at 526-4000 or 526-KPFT, the celebration of Stonewall cassettes.

I know somebody's listening to me, and I know you're going to be in that parade with me today. It's real important. I want to see you there. I want you to come out and get involved. This is our day. It's our day. You can't imagine what it's like to be in the street with 20,000 or 30,000 queers around you. It's fabulous. It'll be flawless. 526-4000, 536-KPFT if that number is busy. Come on. Give me a call. Let's get this started. It's time to stand up.

[MUSIC - YAZZ, "STAND UP FOR YOUR LOVE RIGHTS"]

You got to do it. Nobody's going to do it for you. 526-4000, that's the number to call, 526-KPFT.

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

[RIOTS]

ACTIVIST: They've got to understand something. They've got to understand something. We are not talking about crotch politics. This is not a movement the waist down. We are talking about our right to love, and to choose, and to live. And I don't care about straight tolerance, and I don't care about straight understanding. You better hear me in Washington. We are demanding, we are demanding our civil rights.

HARRY BRITT: I'm here partly tonight to say some good things about Texas. I'm proud to be a Texan. I know that I could not have heard Harvey Milk's challenge to me had not something in my life in this state prepared me to hear the word of freedom that Harvey spoke to us. I am here tonight because it is time that all of us who love this state that gave us life, and has nurtured us, and taught us our values to stand up and claim the history of this state for freedom, and justice and human respect, away from the forces of narrow-mindedness and bigotry that too often dominate the politics of the state of Texas.

[APPLAUSE]

[MUSIC - YAZZ, "STAND UP FOR YOUR LOVE RIGHTS"]

BUDDY: Hello, KPFT.

JOHN: (ON THE LINE) Hi.

BUDDY: Hi. Who's this?

JOHN: (ON THE LINE) This is John.

BUDDY: John, what's on your mind, John.

JOHN: (ON THE LINE) Oh, nothing. I just wanted to know if anybody over there went to the Romanovsky & Phillips concert tonight.

BUDDY: Yeah, somebody just called me and said that he went, and it was fabulous.

JOHN: (ON THE LINE) Oh, I missed that. Yeah, it was a lot of fun.

BUDDY: I didn't get to go.

JOHN: (ON THE LINE) It was a good time.

BUDDY: Did you go?

JOHN: (ON THE LINE) Yeah.

BUDDY: Was it fun?

JOHN: (ON THE LINE) Yeah, it was a nice evening.

BUDDY: Really?

JOHN: (ON THE LINE) Yeah.

BUDDY: Well, we're going to play some stuff off of one of their albums here in just a second.

JOHN: (ON THE LINE) Yeah, that was a-- it was a real unifying--

BUDDY: Is-- is-- is the parade going to get rained out?

JOHN: (ON THE LINE) Oh god, I hope not.

BUDDY: [LAUGHS]

JOHN: (ON THE LINE) Pray for sun.

BUDDY: You and me both. Thanks for calling, baby.

JOHN: (ON THE LINE) Thanks.

BUDDY: Thanks to Mary out in Southwest Texas or Southwest Houston rather. And, Jennifer, they picked up the *After Hours* cassettes. 526-KPFT, 526-4000, that's the number to call. Come on.

JIMMY: Come out, come out, wherever you are. Yeah.

[MUSIC - YAZZ, "STAND UP FOR YOUR LOVE RIGHTS"]

ROBIN TYLER: Come on and say it so they can hear you in the Capitol.

ACTIVISTS: 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.

GLINDA THE GOOD WITCH: It's all right. You may all come out. (SINGING) Come out. Come out wherever you are.

WITCH:

ACTIVISTS: Gay rights.

ACTIVIST: When do we want it?

ACTIVISTS: Now.

ACTIVIST: What do we want?

ACTIVISTS: Gay rights.

ACTIVIST: When do we want it?

ACTIVISTS: Now.

ACTIVIST: What do we want?

ACTIVISTS: Gay rights.

ACTIVIST: When do we want them?

ACTIVISTS: Now.

ACTIVIST: What do we want?

ACTIVISTS: Gay rights.

ACTIVIST: When do we want them?

ACTIVISTS: Now.

ACTIVIST: What do we want?

ACTIVISTS: Gay rights.

ACTIVIST: When do we want them?

ACTIVISTS: Now.

ACTIVIST: What do we want?

ACTIVISTS: Gay rights.

ACTIVIST: When do we want it?

ACTIVIST: Now.

ACTIVIST: What do we want?

[MUSIC - YAZZ, "STAND UP FOR YOUR LOVE RIGHTS"]

BUDDY: This is a song we're going to be playing tomorrow when we go down Westheimer. It'll be kind of like this, sort of.

[MUSIC - YAZZ, "STAND UP FOR YOUR LOVE RIGHTS"]

WOMAN: It would consist of the police coming in regularly to get their payoffs, and in the Sea Colony, we had a back room with a red light, and when that red light went on, it meant that police would be arriving in around 10 minutes. And so we all had to sit down at our tables, and we would be sitting there almost like schoolchildren. And the cops would come in.

Now, depending on who was on, which cop was on, if it was some that really resented the butch women who were with many times very beautiful women, we knew we're in for it because what would happen is they would start harassing one of these women and saying, huh, you think you're a man. Come outside. We'll show you, and the woman would be dragged away. They throw up against a wall, and they'd say, so you think you're a man? Let's see what you got in your pants. And they would put their hand down her pants.

INTERVIEWEE: The Stonewall-- Oh, that was good bar. That was. Just to get into The Stonewall, you'd walk up, and you'd knock on the front door. You're knocking, a little door would open, and hey, what do you want? A Mary sent me. Good, come on in, girls. When you walked in, to your right was your bar room, no windows. Down at the far end of the bar was an opening in the wall, going into the dance room with the jukebox in that room. And no one is in that room either.

The Stonewall, like all gay bars at that time were painted black, charcoal black, and what was the funny part? The place would be so dimly lit, but as soon as the cops are going to come in to collect their percentage or whatever they were coming in for, from it being a nice dimly lit dump, the place was lit up like Luna Park.

POLICE OFFICER: We felt, well, two guys, and that's very often all we sent in would be two men, could handle 200 people. I mean, you tell them to leave, and they leave. And you say, show me your identification, and they all take out their identification and file out. And that's it, and you say, OK, you're not a man. You're a woman, or you're vice versa. And you wait over there. I mean, this was a kind of power that you have, and you never gave it a second thought.

DRAG QUEEN: The drag queen took a lot of oppression. We were at a point where I guess, nothing would have stopped us. I guess, as they say, or as Shakespeare says, we were ladies in waiting, just waiting for the thing to happen. And when it did happen, we were there.

REPORTER: On Friday night, June 27, 1969, at about 11:45, eight officers from Public Morals first division loaded into four unmarked police cars. From their headquarters on 21st Street and 3rd Avenue, they headed downtown and then West towards The Stonewall Inn, here at 7th Avenue and Christopher Street. It was the second time the bar was raided that week. The local sixth precinct had just received a new commanding officer who kicked off his tenure by initiating a series of raids on gay bars, and New York was in the midst of a mayoral campaign, always a bad time for homosexuals.

Mayor John Lindsay had good reason to agree to the police crackdown. He had just lost his party's primary and needed a popularity boost, and The Stonewall Inn was indeed an inviting target. Operated by the Gambino crime family without a liquor license, this dance bar drew a crowd of drag queens, hustlers, minors, and more masculine lesbians known as bull dykes. Many were Black or Hispanic. It was a warm night in New York City and a somber day for many. Judy Garland, who had died earlier in the week, was buried that morning. It was almost precisely at midnight that the moral squad pulled up to The Stonewall Inn, led by Deputy Inspector Seymour Pine.

POLICE OFFICER: There was never any reason to feel that anything of any unusual situation would occur that night.

DRAG QUEEN: You could actually feel it in the air. You really could. I guess Judy Garland's death just really helped us really hit the fan.

POLICE OFFICER: For some reason, things were different this night. As we were bringing the prisoners out, they were resisting.

DRAG QUEEN: People started gathering in front of the Sheridan Square Park right across the street from Stonewall. People were upset. No, we're not going to go, and people started screaming and hollering.

POLICE OFFICER: One drag queen as we put her in the car opened the door on the other side and jumped out, at which time, we had to chase that person. And he was caught, put back into the car. He made another attempt to get out the other door. And at that point, we had to handcuff the person. From this point on, things really began to get crazy.

ROBERT RIVERA: My name is Robert Rivera, and my nickname is Birdie. And I've been cross-dressing all of my life. I remember the night of the riots. The police were escorting the queens out of the bar and into the paddy wagon, and there was this one particularly outrageously beautiful queen, stacks and stacks of Elizabeth style, Elizabeth Taylor style hair, and she was asking them not to push her. And they continued to push her, and she turned around. And she mashed the cop with her high heel. She knocked him down, and then she proceeded to frisk him for the keys to the handcuffs that were on her. She got them, and she undid herself and passed them to another queen that was behind her.

POLICE OFFICER: Well, that's when all hell broke loose at that point. And then we had to get back into The Stonewall.

HOWARD SMITH: My name is Howard Smith. On the night of the Stonewall riots, I was a reporter for *The Village Voice*, locked inside with the police, covering it for my column. It really did appear that that crowd because we could look through little peepholes in the plywood windows, we could look out, and we could see that the crowd, well, my guess was within 5, 10 minutes. It was probably several thousand people, 2,000 easy, and they were yelling, kill the cops, police brutality. Let's get them. We're not going to take this anymore. Let's get them.

POLICE OFFICER: We noticed a group of persons attempting to uproot one of the parking meters, in which they did succeed, and they then used that parking meter as a battering ram to break down the door. And they did in fact, open the door. they crashed it in, and at that point was when they began throwing Molotov cocktails into the place. It was a situation that we didn't know how we were going to be able to control.

DRAG QUEEN: I remember someone throwing a Molotov cocktail. I don't know who the person was. But I mean, I saw that, and then I just said to myself in Spanish, I said, oh my god, the revolution is finally here, and I'm just like, started screaming freedom. [CHUCKLES] We're free at last, and it felt really good.

HOWARD SMITH: There were a couple of cops stationed on either side of the door with their pistols like in a combat stance, aimed in the door area. Couple of others were stationed in other places behind like a pole, another one behind the bar, all of them with their guns ready. I don't think up to that point I had ever seen cops that scared.

POLICE OFFICER: Remember these were pros, but everybody was frightened. There's no question about that. I know I was frightened, and I had been in combat situation and there was never any time that I felt more scared than I felt that night. And I mean, it was just there was no place to run.

REPORTER: When the moral squad officers barricaded themselves inside the Stonewall, Deputy Inspector Pine put in a 1041 call, an emergency help request which can only be placed by a high ranking officer. That call was mysteriously canceled, and the telephone inside the Stonewall went dead. It took nearly 45 minutes for the riot police to get to the Stonewall and rescue the moral squad from the smoldering bar.

DRAG QUEEN: Once the tactical police force showed up, I think that really incited us a little bit more.

MARTIN BOYCE: My name is Martin Boyce, and in 1969, I was a drag queen known as Miss Martin. I remember on that night when we saw the riot police, all of us drag queens, we linked arms like the Rockettes and sang the song we used to sing. (SINGING) We are the village girls. We wear our hair in curls. We wear our dungarees above our Nelly knees.

And the police went crazy hearing that, and they just immediately rushed us. We gave one kick and fled.

RUDY: My name is Rudy, and the night of the Stonewall, I was 18. And to tell you the truth, that night, I was doing more running than fighting. I remember looking back from 10th Street, and there on Waverly Street, there was a police-- I believe, cop and on his stomach in his tactical uniform, and his helmet, and everything else with a drag queen straddling him. She was beating the hell out of him with her shoe, whether it was a high heel or not, I don't know, but she was beating the hell out of him. It was hysterical.

MAMA JEAN: My name is Mama Jean. I'm a lesbian, and I guess you would label me as a butch. I remember on that night I was in a gay bar, a women's bar called Kooky's. We were coming out of the gay bar going toward 8th Street, and that's when we saw everything happen, blasting away. People getting beat up. Police coming from every direction, hitting women as well as men with their nightsticks, gay men running down the street with blood all over their face. We decided right then and there, whether we scared or not, we didn't think about it. We just jumped in.

DRAG QUEEN: But here, this queen is going completely bananas, jumping and hitting the windshield. And next thing you know, a taxicab was being turned over, cars were being turned over things. Windows were shattering all over the place. Fires were burning around the place. It was beautiful. It really was. It was--

MAMA JEAN: I remember one cop coming at me, hitting me with the nightstick in the back of my legs. I broke loose, and I went after him. I grabbed his nightstick. My girlfriend went behind him. She was a strong son of a gun. I wanted to feel the same pain I felt, and I kept on saying to him, how do you like the pain? Do you like it? Do you like it? I kept on hitting him and hitting him. I was angry. I wanted to kill him. At that particular minute, I wanted to kill him.

DRAG QUEEN: I wanted to do every destructive thing that I could think of at that time to hurt anyone that had hurt us here.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

ACTIVIST: They've got to understand something. They've got to understand something. We are not talking about crotch politics. This is not a movement from the waist down. We are talking about our right to love, and to choose, and to live. And I don't care about straight tolerance, and I don't care about straight understanding. You better hear me in Washington. We are demanding, we are demanding our civil rights.

[CHEERING]

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR: But somewhere I read of the freedom of assembly. Somewhere I read of the freedom of speech. Somewhere I read of the freedom of prayer. Somewhere I read that the greatness of America is the right to protest for right.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

BUDDY: 526-4000, that's the number to call. Talking about Stonewall, that was something else.

JIMMY: Yeah, there's a lot of interesting things in that I'd like to talk about later.

BUDDY: Yeah, we will, right after the news. Gina Malone, Miss Lazy J. 1990 called to wish everyone a happy Pride Day, and everyone from the bar, come out to the parade.

JIMMY: Oh, yeah, you betcha.

BUDDY: So they're getting all excited.

JIMMY: You betcha.

BUDDY: It's about 5 minutes before 3:00. Mike and--

JIMMY: We have a lot of friends over there at Lazy J.

BUDDY: Yeah, we do.

JIMMY: They call up quite a bit.

BUDDY: And is his name Mike from the Venture Inn? He listens to us all the time. I want to remind you. I'm sorry to keep--

[SNIFFLES]

JIMMY: Well, you know--

BUDDY: I just can't breathe.

JIMMY: I think what happens is they got to clean up the bar afterwards, so they turn us on.

BUDDY: Oh really?

JIMMY: Yeah.

BUDDY: I wish somebody would turn me on.

JIMMY: [LAUGHS]

BUDDY: Somebody with a lot of hair on their body.

JIMMY: Aha.

BUDDY: 526-4000, that's the number to call if you're a hairy man, and you need some love.

JIMMY: Wait a minute.

BUDDY: I can't say that.

JIMMY: No, no, no.

BUDDY: OK, we'll edit that part out.

JIMMY: If you want to come march in the parade with us or let us know if you're going to even be there to watch it--

BUDDY: Yeah, 536-4000 or 526-KPFT. I keep playing this song. This song reminds me of Gay Freedom Day 1978.

JIMMY: I wonder why?

BUDDY: Because Sylvester sung this--

JIMMY: That's right.

BUDDY: --at the festival.

JIMMY: Our dearly departed national treasure.

BUDDY: And it's in *The Times of Harvey Milk*, so it just means a lot. I just love this song, and I want to encourage you, today is the day to get dressed, and get your butt down to Westheimer, and watch this parade. And if you really want to take a step forward and you want to be involved, you stand there year after year, and you think, wow, that looks like a lot of fun. You need to be with us in the parade. You need to get out and march with us. This is the opportunity to do it because we're all family, and we're inviting you to come be a part of it with us. Right?

JIMMY: Right. Just like my sister just called.

BUDDY: Ah, I wish she was here to march with us.

JIMMY: And she, well, they had their parade in Atlanta today, and she said it was the first parade she'd ever watched. Of course, she just came out, and I know that feeling of watching your first parade. It's unlike anything you've ever done before. It's just this feeling of freedom, and people proud walking down the street. And if you're walking down the street, you can look over, and you can see couples holding hands or embracing and just really enjoying themselves. And even if it rains, big deal.

BUDDY: And what's nice is they are just cheering to beat the band for us as we go down the street.

JIMMY: It's that feeling when you turn that corner and headed toward Mary's, you hear the cheering over the bands, over everything, people hanging from lampposts, screaming and carrying on. It's just wonderful.

BUDDY: Let me tell you something, and I've told this story before. Two years ago, I was working for the Houston Police Department, and I wanted to go to the Pride Week parade. So the only way I could get off work to go was to call in sick, and I did. I called in sick, and I wore dark glasses and a big hat because being a dispatcher, knowing a lot of the cops, I didn't want to be recognized by the police as I stood there in that crowd of 20,000 or 30,000 people and watched the parade go by. The following September in 1987, still working for the police department in Hou--

[AUDIO OUT]