

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

MAN 1: Tonight's program is dedicated to the memory of James Stedman.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

MAN 2: 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 words 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]

We must not and cannot fall into the trap of blaming ourselves, even though others are pointing the finger and saying we are at fault. Look at the gentle, loving people around you. Look at them. Do you believe that these people are responsible for the carnage we have seen and the even greater carnage we are about to see?

AUDIENCE: No.

MAN 2: Listen to their voices. Are those voices filled with the bitterness and hate we hear from others?

MAN 3: Every time we let straight relatives bury our dead and push our lovers away, it was an act of perversion.

MAN 4: With courage and guts, he fought for our lives and lost his own in the giving.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

MAN 5: When Harvey Milk was assassinated, I was nine years old, just beginning to deal with my own emerging sexuality, unaware of what had happened in California, unaware of the terrible loss the gay community had suffered.

But while I may have been ignorant of Harvey Milk at the time, still his life and death have affected me a great deal, for my entire generation has been the recipient of the work that Harvey Milk and so many others have carried on since Stonewall. So today, I am here to say thank you, thank you to Harvey Milk.

MAN 6: Two years after I was elected, I got a phone call from a voice that was quite young that was from Altoona, Pennsylvania. And the voice said, thanks. And you've got to elect gay people so that child and thousands upon thousands like that child will know that there's hope.

I know you can't live on hope and hope alone. But without it, life wouldn't be worth living. And you, and you, and you have got to give them hope.

MAN 7: There's got to be a lot more Harvey Milks. There's got to be. There's too many young kids in little towns in Minnesota.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

NARRATOR: The Dakotas began with a routine police raid on a homosexual bar, the Stonewall, on Christopher Street.

MAN 8: We take great pride in what's happened in the gay community and what's going to happen.

REPORTER 1: The people of Dade County has said enough, enough, enough.

MAN 9: There's no question in my mind that the people of California don't want homosexuals teaching their classes.

MAN 10: State Senator John Drake and just conceded the election.

REPORTER 2: Mayor Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk have been shot and killed.

REPORTER 3: Ann White has been found guilty of one count each of voluntary manslaughter.

REPORTER 4: It has now broken loose. Cops are now bashing heads.

REPORTER 5: And here comes the National March on Washington for lesbian and gay rights.

MAN 11: Be power, be equality. That's what this report is about.

REPORTER 6: There are gay and lesbian people singing out here. What's your reaction to that?

WOMAN 1: Well, I think it's terrible. If I had a rock, I'd throw it at them.

WOMAN 2: [INAUDIBLE] of these gay gangs is that every one of us is a winner.

WOMAN 3: Tonight, we are marching, as all others, across America. And we shouldn't have to be.

ROBIN TYLER: Say it so they can hear it 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.

REPORTER 7: I think that's Robin Tyler on the stage leading the chant.

BRUCE For love or for life, we're not going back. Good afternoon and welcome to the National March in Washington DC

HOPKINS: for gay and lesbian rights and coral residing.

[APPLAUSE]

WOMAN 4: Let's hear it out there. I'm Lea Malaria

BRUCE I'm Bruce Hopkins.

HOPKINS:

REPORTER 7: I'm a dyke.

BRUCE I'm a faggot. And we're best friends.

HOPKINS:

REPORTER 7: I want you to savor this next moment. I have the task of telling you that the official count of the lesbian and gay rights march, the official count is over 500,000 strong. 500,000 strong. Look at you. 500,000 strong. 500,000 strong, one of the largest marches in the United States history.

[APPLAUSE]

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

[MUSIC PLAYING]

BRUCE HOPKINS: 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.

[APPLAUSE]

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.

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

[APPLAUSE]

REPORTER 8: Harvey, do you have a few words for KPFA?

[MUSIC PLAYING]

Come on out. Join us. Bring a friend.

REPORTER 8: What do you think about the turnout so far?

MAN 13: Well, it's never enough. Never enough. Never enough.

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

HOPKINS:

MAN 14: Well.

WOMAN 5: Well, good morning.

MAN 14: Why do I feel like I just got off of a bus or something?

WOMAN 5: Or was hit by one.

MAN 14: Or hit by one. How are you, dear? What was that?

MAN 15: It was Bruce.

MAN 14: Huh?

MAN 15: It was Bruce.

MAN 14: What's Bruce doing?

MAN 15: Driving the bus.

MAN 16: Don't you have something in there to show these wonderful people?

MAN 14: Yeah, I do. Judy.

WOMAN 5: Where'd he go?

MAN 15: Can you show us, please?

MAN 14: Have you ever heard that Rascally Rabbit that always does drag?

WOMAN 5: Somewhere.

MAN 15: Look at that. Oh, that's wonderful.

MAN 14: Isn't that funny?

MAN 15: Yeah, where did you get it?

MAN 14: It's Bugs Bunny with his hand up to his chin in a pink leotard outfit. It looks like Bruce brought that to me. Isn't that great?

KAY OSTERG: The perfect mascot.

SPEAKER 1: It is?

SPEAKER 2: I bought it last night, [INAUDIBLE].

SPEAKER 3: You bought it?

SPEAKER 1: They had Bugs Bunny in drag?

SPEAKER 2: You silly wabbit. You could have helped me pick it out.

SPEAKER 3: Aw.

SPEAKER 2: But no, you didn't want to go with me.

[CHUCKLING]

BUDDY Well, we--

JOHNSTON:

SPEAKER 1: I heard you had some rally stuff on.

BUDDY Oh, jeez, wasn't that great?

JOHNSTON:

SPEAKER 1: Yeah.

KAY OSTERG: That was marvelous.

BUDDY The rally was last weekend, down in front of City Hall, a Celebration of Life rally. If you missed it, well, what can I say? A life goes on.

SPEAKER 3: You really missed it.

BUDDY It was absolutely beautiful. And we're going to be sharing that with you tonight, so stay with us. We've got a lot of good stuff to bring in from the rally. So all I can say is, it was pretty incredible, right?

SPEAKER 1: It sure was.

BUDDY We told you it would be good, and it was. And I keep telling you that life is full of wonder, and to reach out and take a part of it. Tonight's program is dedicated to a young man by the name of James Steadman, we'll be telling you about later on. Just make a promise to yourself to live your life to its fullest. And if you need a friend, call us at 526-4000.

And we're not going to stop loving ourselves, are we?

KAY OSTERG: No.

BUDDY What's Bruce doing?

JOHNSTON:

KAY OSTERG: No telling.

BUDDY He's giving me that look.

JOHNSTON:

KAY OSTERG: You ought to be used to it by now.

BRUCE: Buddy.

BUDDY What?

JOHNSTON:

BRUCE: Do you know why sex and snow are a lot alike?

BUDDY This isn't going to get us in trouble is it?

JOHNSTON:

BRUCE: No.

BUDDY OK, why are sex and snow a lot alike?

JOHNSTON:

BRUCE: You never know how many inches you're going to get or how long it's going to last.

[LAUGHTER]

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

BUDDY

We can say that and get away with it. Michael Callen, and we're "Living in Wartime," the Celebration of Life rally.

JOHNSTON:

We're going to look back at that, coming up next. 526-4000, that's the number to call. If you're a nice-looking man with a lot of hair on your chest, call me. I would like to-- well, never mind, I'll tell you what I'd like to do later.

"This is no time for dawdling, to stop and wonder why. This is the time for shouting. I don't believe the lies. One way or another, no one will be spared. I call out to my brothers, doesn't anybody care?

It's like living in wartime, just like living in wartime. We are living in wartime. More die every day. This is war. This is war."

KAY OSTERG: "Conspiracy of silence, the enemy within. Complacency and arrogance makes us think we cannot win. Make us think that the battle has been won, but the thunder in the distance says it's only just begun. They try to break our spirits, try to keep us in our place. They do it to the women and the poor of every race. We face a common enemy, bigotry and greed. But if we fight together, we can find the strength we need. We can find the strength we need.

It's like living in wartime, just like living in wartime. We are living in wartime."

BUDDY Thanks, baby.

JOHNSTON:

KAY OSTERG: Mm-hmm.

BUDDY What did you guys think of the rally?

JOHNSTON:

BRUCE: It was wonderful.

WOMAN: It was wonderful.

KAY OSTERG: It was marvelous.

BUDDY It turned out a lot prettier than I thought it would. Because we didn't have a lot of support putting it together, but

JOHNSTON: we did our best.

KAY OSTERG: It was flawless.

BUDDY It was absolutely beautiful, and if you weren't there-- Mark Timmers, openly gay man who's in court now and in

JOHNSTON: all kinds of trouble with the law because you won't stand up for your own rights-- don't blame me because you couldn't get in your car and drive down to City Hall. If you weren't there because you were too busy, all I can say is, shame on you, baby.

Listen, I don't know what it's going to take to get some support from the community, the press, the printed press, in Houston. And I don't give a damn if they ever support us because I don't need them. They need us. They need the movement.

We don't get paid for coming down here. And I think a lot of times the competition, I guess, the printed page, seems to think that everything you do has to be done for a dollar. I haven't paid my rent in four months. I quit my job four months ago because I got so wrapped up in something called life. I'm not trying to get any sympathy from anybody, but I would like to get a little support.

The people that are involved with this program, and the people that were directly involved with the rally, did something wonderful. We added a beautiful page to history. And gay and lesbian pride shone so bright Sunday from City Hall. You should have been there. I can't-- you should have been there.

We got a card I want to read to you. It says, "I want to thank you in this card. First, my lover and I went to the rally for Harvey Milk, and it was great. The speeches were so different from each other, but the message was so clear and united. Thank you for making that rally happen. I only wish it had been advertised more. Many folks just didn't know about it.

Secondly, and most importantly, let me give thanks from my heart to you and the *After Hours* crew. A friend of mine, James Steadman, 19 years old, listened to your program every week before he died last May, 2 weeks short of his high school graduation. He thought you all were wonderful, empowering, and role models for younger gay people.

I have never listened to your program because I can't stay up that late. James had called into your show and was planning to volunteer at KPFT with the program during marathon, before cystic fibrosis stole his life. I was so moved to see the young, proud, gay people, John Burgoe from the University of Houston, Larry Rodriguez speaking at the rally.

You all have helped many young gay people, so many you don't even know. I would like to help pay back the debt of gratitude James had to you. Thank you so much for making a difference in the gay community. We're glad to have you on our side."

Listen, I get tired of struggling alone, but I'm doing it for myself. We're telling you how beautiful life is. And if the people that be can't support us, that's their problem. We tried to advertise the rally as best we could, and we just didn't have any support. So you need to call the printed people, whoever they are, and say, when you get press releases from *After Hours*, and from The NAMES Project, and from the AIDS Foundation, and from all these other groups that are struggling, print them so we know what's going on.

You know, I don't have enough employees and friends to stack meetings, to get my way and get elected to places of power. I wouldn't do that anyway, if I did, because that's not the way things are done.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

Somebody said, well, you need to get over those people. No, they need to get over the movement. The gay leadership in this town, whatever they consider themselves to be, we couldn't even find them last Sunday, except for people like Bruce Reeves and Ray Hill and Bruce Cook. You'll hear them speak in a moment. The rest of them, I don't know where they were. I don't know where they've been.

I'm only concerned about my life. Roger's concerned that we don't get thrown out into the streets. But I think this is a little more important. And for James Steadman, for the 600,000 people who died in Nazi death camps, for you as you listen, knowing that we're telling you the truth, wanting so much to become a part of the movement, don't look to anyone else to do it for you.

There's never going to be another Harvey Milk. There's never going to be another Martin Luther King. No secret person is going to come from anywhere to lead you. We're going to have to lead each other. The people like Mark and the rest of you that are sitting around waiting on something to happen, just listen to Joe Watts at the rally last Sunday.

JOE WATTS Harvey, born a little Jewish boy with quite memorable ears, Harvey Bernard Milk.

(RECORDING):

KAY OSTERG: Well, we're going to listen to Joe Watts in just a couple of minutes.

MAN: It's called live radio.

KAY OSTERG: OK, it's called live radio, right? Or maybe not so live radio sometimes.

MAN: No, it's called reel-to-reels that need money to work better.

KAY OSTERG: Well, that's true too. Maybe we can take care of that at marathon time.

WOMAN 2: That's not coming up for another month or so.

KAY OSTERG: Well, that's OK. My headphones just broke too. I can't hear anybody.

[LAUGHTER]

This is a wonderful evening, Mr Johnston.

MAN 1: They did. Look at that. She's got her earpiece in her hand.

KAY OSTERG: I have an earpiece in my hand.

BUDDY What are we going to do to get people out into the streets?

JOHNSTON:

MAN 2: Drag them?

MAN 1: (CHUCKLING) Drag them.

MAN 3: Kicking and screaming.

KAY OSTERG: We've got enough drag in the streets. We need the rest of the people.

WOMAN: Direct routes.

BUDDY I mean, should we even listen to this stuff? Does anyone even give a damn that we play it?

JOHNSTON:

KAY OSTERG: I give a damn. I want to hear it again. I can't hear it enough.

BUDDY I mean, are we just down here talking to ourselves?

JOHNSTON:

KAY OSTERG: No, there are people out there. You need to play it for the people who wanted to come and couldn't come--

MAN 1: Yeah.

WOMAN: Yeah.

KAY OSTERG: --because their parents wouldn't allow it.

BUDDY OK. This is Joe Watts from the rally last Sunday.

JOHNSTON:

JOE WATTS Born a little Jewish boy with quite memorable ears, Harvey Bernard Milk came into this world a Gemini, (RECORDING): screaming and kicking, seemingly without fears. After college, the Navy, and producing on the Great White Way, Harvey felt a calling west to San Francisco. He wanted to be part of a movement of the proud and gay.

From a little camera shop, he began to create his vision of the oneness of man. Dubbed the mayor of Castro, on human rights, he took a passionate, powerful stand. Never one to hold back his tongue, after four attempts at public office, a seat on San Francisco's board of supervisors, he finally won.

The young, the old, the gay, the straight rallied at Harvey's side. They shared his vision. They became his fate. Harvey's time as a board supervisor was sadly cut very short. But the passing of a Gay Rights Amendment and the defeat of Proposition 6 were largely due to his unfailing support.

10 years ago this week, Harvey Milk's ashes were scattered out over the Pacific. But with us, he left a legion of goals and dreams that were very specific. Harvey once said, and this is a quote, "Without hope, life is not worth living."

With courage and guts, he fought for our lives and lost his own in the giving. But ash to ash or dust to dust, we must continue with hope forever hence. Dear Harvey, in the hearts of us all, you will always be our sweet prince.

[APPLAUSE]

BUDDY That's kind of the way the rally started. Well, we heard from MCCR choir and Reverend Gloria Root. And then Joe

JOHNSTON: Watts read that poem that he called "Harvey." It's kind of nice.

KAY OSTERG: Yeah, most of what he does is kind of nice.

MAN 1: It really is. And you were talking while ago about what's it take to get people to come out and be involved in the movement and really take charge of their lives. And--

BUDDY What does it take?

JOHNSTON:

MAN 1: That's a real hard question because I know everyone has their own level of where they are and their own level of where they're ready to go, as far as coming out. And I realize that me, especially, and most everybody up here, have probably come out a lot more--

BUDDY Yeah.

JOHNSTON:

MAN 1: Than most people in the country will come out.

BUDDY Absolutely.

JOHNSTON:

MAN 1: But I agree with Harvey wholeheartedly that we have to come out. We have to come out of the closet. And we have to live our own lives.

WOMAN: And you do feel better.

MAN 1: And you do feel better. And sometimes you feel a little awkward. And it's going to be real interesting when I walk into a company Christmas party next weekend with a male date on my arm, and we get out on the dance floor and do the tango or whatever it is that we're going to do over there.

BUDDY The tango.

JOHNSTON:

KAY OSTERG: The tango, right.

BUDDY I can't wait to see that.

JOHNSTON:

MAN 1: Well, you won't get to, but--

KAY OSTERG: But you'll hear about it.

BUDDY You know, how come--

JOHNSTON:

MAN 1: But if you want to be my date?

BUDDY How come all these people think we get paid, first of all, for coming down here?

JOHNSTON:

KAY OSTERG: They just assume if you're going to do anything, you're going to get money for it.

MAN 1: What?

KAY OSTERG: I wish.

MAN 1: You mean I might get paid for this?

BUDDY I wish we-- yeah, I wish we did get paid.

JOHNSTON:

MAN 1: I thought we were just six months late in my paycheck. What's the deal here?

BUDDY We've spent just about every Sunday morning here for the last year and two months.

JOHNSTON:

KAY OSTERG: Having a ball.

MAN 1: But you know, Buddy?

BUDDY Oh, it's great. That card makes up for it.

JOHNSTON:

MAN 2: We do--

MAN 1: We do get paid. And that card is--

BUDDY Yeah.

JOHNSTON:

MAN 1: --is the pay.

MAN 2: Exactly.

BUDDY I just get angry when we don't get any support from people that could help the movement. If it wasn't for Lobo

JOHNSTON: and the River Oaks Theater, we wouldn't have had anything at all because they fronted a bunch of the dollars--

KAY OSTERG: That's true. The other people that have the bucks--

BUDDY --to get all that going. Yeah, the people that have the money are--

JOHNSTON:

KAY OSTERG: They're busy supporting themselves.

BUDDY --too busy doing other things. But we also got a lot of foot power on Friday and Saturday night before the rally.

JOHNSTON: Members of the Gay and Lesbian Students Association--

[CLAPPING]

MAN 1: Yay.

MAN 2: That's right.

BUDDY --from the University of Houston were out on foot passing out some of the 5,000 fliers that we had printed to

JOHNSTON: promote the rally. And it had to have been one of the most powerful speeches.

KAY OSTERG: I would imagine so.

BUDDY Would you say?

JOHNSTON:

KAY OSTERG: Yes.

BUDDY John Burgoe from the Gay and Lesbian Students Association at the University of Houston at the Celebration of

JOHNSTON: Life rally last Sunday.

JOHN BURGOE When Harvey Milk was assassinated, I was nine years old, just beginning to deal with my own emerging sexuality, **(RECORDING):** unaware of what had happened in California, unaware of the terrible loss the gay community had suffered. But while I may have been ignorant of Harvey Milk at the time, still his life and death have affected me a great deal. For my entire generation has been the recipient of the work that Harvey Milk and so many others have carried on since Stonewall.

So today I am here to say thank you. Thank you to Harvey Milk and to Harry Britt. Thank you to the Ray Hills, the Marion Colemans, the Buddy Johnson's, all the lesbian and gay people who've worked so hard to ensure that the lives of the younger members of our community would be better than theirs were, that we could live with just a little more pride, a little more hope.

The changes that have come in our society didn't happen by themselves. And I want to thank the people who made them happen. Thank you for making it possible for there to be a Gay Lesbian Students Association at the University of Houston and for making it possible for me to be an openly gay student with little fear of violence or harassment.

Thank you for creating a climate where we can elect openly lesbian or gay public officials, people like Harry Britt, Gerry Studds, and Barney Frank. Thank you for our houses of worship, where we can engage in religious activities without hiding, without fear. Thank you to the lobbyists and the lawyers who fight every day in the courtroom and the state house to protect our rights.

Thank you to the men and women of the lesbian and gay media who work so hard to inform and unite our community. Thank you to the people who organize our rallies, our parades, our protests, to draw us together and show society what it means to be gay or lesbian.

But most of all, thank you for ensuring that the lesbian and gay people of my generation did not have to go through the same feelings of isolation that so many others have in the past. Because of your work and your willingness to be open, to be out of the closet. We could look at the world around us and see that we were not alone in our feelings, that we were part of a community, and that, for us, there was hope.

Your willingness to commit your time and energy towards these ends and to risk your jobs, your families, even your lives, moves, motivates, and inspires me. You have given much to my generation, and we owe you a great debt. I doubt it can ever be repaid in full.

But let me promise you that we will see to it that all of your work will not have been in vain. Thanks to you, we have the confidence, the respect, and the love for ourselves to carry on the struggle. We will not be the last generation to benefit from all that you have gained. We will not be content to rest on your accomplishments.

But rather, we will move forward in the fight for civil rights, in the struggle to bring true freedom to this society, always, always keeping in mind the young children who are out there, everywhere, who so desperately need for us to be there, for us to give them hope. We will do for them what you have done for us. In this way, we will repay the debt we owe you. Thank you very much.

[APPLAUSE]

[THEME MUSIC]

BUDDY Wasn't that incredibly moving?

JOHNSTON:

MAN 1: It was wonderful.

KAY OSTERG: That really is.

WOMAN: That really was.

KAY OSTERG: John's got so much going for him.

MAN 1: Find out who writes that guy's speeches, and let's get him to the next Democratic presidential nominee.

MAN 2: I was going to say, I have a sneaking suspicion that after I campaigned for Ray Hill, I'll be campaigning for Bruce Reeves and then campaigning for John Burgoe

KAY OSTERG: Amen.

MAN 2: --somewhere down the line.

BUDDY Coming up next, we're going to listen to Bruce Cook, president of the People with AIDS Coalition.

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY: Oh, boy.

BUDDY And I said they should have named it the People Living with AIDS Coalition because, believe it or not, folks are

JOHNSTON: actually living with AIDS and surviving.

KAY OSTERG: Yes, they are.

BUDDY And, Jimmy, why did you say oh boy?

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY: I remember Bruce's speech.

BUDDY Didn't he say one of the seven dirty words you can't say on--

JOHNSTON:

JIMMY: He sure did. Boy, did that get some attention.

KAY OSTERG: At least one.

BUDDY He described an act done by gay men like me that, well, I can't even describe it to you, or we'll get in trouble.

JOHNSTON: But I hope we don't miss the button when he says it now. I'll get it. OK. Bruce Cook, president of the People with AIDS Coalition.

BRUCE COOK This past May, as I was at home recuperating from PCP pneumonia, I experienced some of the love that helps us

(RECORDING): to celebrate life, the love from the friends I'd made during The NAMES Project tour, the love of my friends in the Gay Lesbian Parade Week, '88.

Now, that may have partly been because I'd been threatened with my life if I wasn't well enough to participate as co-Grand Marshal, but it still counts, still counts. And the love from all the people I've met during my time when I was involved with Stone Soup.

That was all love born of crisis, those times when our emotions are highest and we feel the need to express love now or never. But we soon seem to fall back into our safe, regulated lives of normalcy, lulled into a sense that everything's all right once again, that the world's going along as it should. That's where we are wrong.

That's where you end the celebration and pack it away like so many Christmas ornaments until the next crisis requires that we dig into the back of our closets to retrieve our pride and strength as gays and lesbians. We must celebrate our lives as gay men, faggots--

BUDDY JOHNSTON: Now this is where he says the dirty word that we can't play for you. So we're just going to say that nah, nah, nah.

BRUCE COOK (RECORDING): --every day we're alive, not just when our friends' deaths cover us as a smothering shroud, not just on a sunny Sunday during the Gay Pride parade, not just when the right political activity comes along, but every day that we pay our gay income taxes to the government, every day that we pay our gay insurance premiums to companies like Prudential, every day we spend our gay incomes to travel, buy homes and new automobiles, and every time we have the chance to elect our governmental representatives.

If you even want to be allowed to celebrate your life as gay or lesbian, you must proudly and openly do so to let those moralists, Republicans, bigots, and homophiles know that we indeed are everywhere, working, shopping, living, and even praying, side by side with them every day.

And that every bit of anti-gay legislature that they support, every mouthful of anti-gay hate that they spew out, is not going to get rid of us. My hope is that all of their united efforts will only unite us more, to join together and fight them back as never before, empowering us to fight for our rights as loving human beings.

To celebrate life, we must not do it through silence, indifference, and inactivity. To celebrate life, we cannot depend on our dead heroes, Harvey Milk, Fred Paez, or the 40,000 dead PWAs across America to do it for us. To celebrate life, we must participate in that great celebration of being openly gay and saying it proudly. I am gay. Shout it with me. I am gay! I am gay!

[MUSIC PLAYING]

BUDDY JOHNSTON: That, of course, was *Heartsong*--

KAY OSTERG: Yes.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: --singing at the Celebration of Pride rally-- Celebration of Life rally, a celebration of pride. That was-- *Heart Song* was great too, by the way, weren't they?

MAN 1: They were. They're always wonderful.

KAY OSTERG: They are a wonderful group.

BUDDY God, they sounded wonderful. And I have to apologize to *Heartsong* publicly because while they were singing--
JOHNSTON: practicing at the library, I was on the steps of city hall. We were emceeing it. I said look across the street at that group of lesbians or something. And *Heartsong*'s not all lesbians.

KAY OSTERG: No, it's not.

BUDDY And one woman got all upset. And I didn't mean to upset her. But Ray Hill told me, he said, I thought it was a
JOHNSTON: counterdemonstration, so I was going to go over there and break it up.

[LAUGHTER]

So it didn't quite work out that way. But anyway, it was beautiful. And in addition to *Heartsong*, we heard from The Mantra Singers and the MCCR choir. I wish we had time to play all of it for you. We just don't. You can only squeeze so much in two hours.

MAN 1: They'll all be performing together very soon.

BUDDY Yeah, do we know when that's going to be, at the Christmas concert?

JOHNSTON:

KAY OSTERG: The Christmas concert is the 17th, which is Saturday.

BUDDY This coming Saturday?

JOHNSTON:

KAY OSTERG: No, it's a week from this coming Saturday.

BUDDY A week from Saturday. So you'll get to hear *Heartsong* and The Mantra Singers and the MCCR choir again. And
JOHNSTON: where is it going to be at, Kay?

KAY OSTERG: It's going to be at Jones Auditorium at the University of St. Thomas.

BUDDY Ooh, right here in the Montrose area.

JOHNSTON:

KAY OSTERG: Yeah, it's real close by.

BUDDY Sounds good.

JOHNSTON:

MAN 1: And Lone Star.

BUDDY And the Lone Star Symphony.

JOHNSTON:

KAY OSTERG: Yes, that's right.

MAN 1: That's right.

KAY OSTERG: The Lone Star Symphonic Band.

BUDDY I also wish that we could play Reverend Gloria Root's message to us at the rally last week and all of the beautiful music that Cindy Friedman sung. Cindy helped me emcee the program, and she was singing in between different things. And she was absolutely wonderful. We will be playing some of Cindy's music later on. And we will be using some of the songs later on. And I'm sure you'll hear the speeches. But I just wish we had time tonight to play most of it for you.

We also heard from Bruce Reeves. Who's that?

MAN 1: Wonder.

MAN 2: Beats me.

KAY OSTERG: Some strange man.

BUDDY And Don Sanders with the American Gay Atheists--

JOHNSTON:

MAN 3: At least I'm a man.

BUDDY --who had--

JOHNSTON:

KAY OSTERG: Never had any ambition to be a man.

BUDDY Listen to these kids.

JOHNSTON:

MAN 1: Don't mind us.

BUDDY We listened to Don Sanders, with the American Gay Atheists, who had a wonderful message about how the community should get together in the struggle and support each other. And it's a shame that-- no, never mind. Certain people weren't there to hear that, but that's OK.

And Don was also talking about how we need to get our dollars out and support our own fight and our own struggle because nobody else is going to do it for us. We also heard from Roger Kinser. Roger read a poem by Pat Parker that we hear a lot here on the show called, "Where Will You Be When They Come?"

We heard from Larry Rodriguez, a young man that's listened to us for about a year. You heard him in the beginning of the show reading some words of Harvey Milk. We also heard from Vince Ryan, who we'll be hearing from in the second hour of this show this morning.

And, of course, some guy by the name of Harry Britt. Harry was the president-elect of the Board of Supervisors for the city of San Francisco. Harry is the one that sat in Harvey Milk's chair for the last 10 years. And we were very lucky to have Harry Britt in Houston on Sunday. Although, after the rally was over, did you hear me call him Harvey Britt?

MAN 1: I called him Harvey Britt in my speech.

BUDDY When I was thanking everyone, it was going through the credits at the end of the thing, and I said, and we want to thank Harvey Britt's office, or whatever. Roger said later, he said, you said Harvey Britt. And I said, no, I didn't. And I listened to the tape, and we sure did.

MAN 1: I asked Harvey if he ever got tired of people calling him-- I asked Harry--

[LAUGHTER]

MAN 2: There you go.

MAN 1: --if he ever got tired of people calling him Harvey.

BUDDY What'd he say?

JOHNSTON:

MAN 1: Because I called him Harvey in my speech. And he said that, actually, he took it as a compliment.

BUDDY It was great. His message--

JOHNSTON:

MAN 3: He's a wonderful man.

KAY OSTERG: He's a really nice, nice man.

BUDDY His message to us was great. And again, we're going to hear that later on, in the next hour. We're going to hear from somebody now by the name of Ray Hill. I don't know who he is. If anyone needs to have a pat on the back, it's people like Ray Hill.

MAN 1: Absolutely.

BUDDY I don't know where we would be in Houston without the struggles that Ray Hill has been through. And, unfortunately, a lot of times, Ray Hill is like Harvey Milk. You know Harvey ran for office four times and never once was supported by the gay, quote, "leadership"?

MAN 2: That's right.

BUDDY He did it because the people cared. And we tell you that all the time. The Constitution begins with the words "we the people." And we are the ones that control our lives. But when you go to vote and elect politicians that control your lives, if you don't have their support, well, you're in trouble.

Council person, is that right, Bruce?

BRUCE: Member.

BUDDY Council member Vince Ryan, from the district C council seat, from downtown Houston, spoke at our rally. And we'll be hearing from Councilman Ryan and from supervisor Harry Britt in the next hour. Before the news crew comes in though, let's listen to Ray Hill.

RAY HILL It's been a wonderful evening. I must have heard the Altoona speech two or three dozen times. I think I've even
(RECORDING): given it twice. But I don't think I ever clouded up and cried, like I heard it presented tonight. You see, I didn't know Harvey Milk very well. We only had three conversations before he died, and two of those were arguments.

I wanted to call for a national congress, and he wanted to lead a national march on Washington. He won the arguments. You see, I was hung up on the nuts and the bolts of building a movement. And Harvey was committed to win the souls and build the hopes of lesbians and gay men. He won because he was right.

We had no movement to build until our people were convinced they deserve the freedom for which we were about to struggle. And in 1978, we had not yet achieved that. And in 1988, we're still not there. But because of Harvey Milk, we're on our way.

There have been some detours. You understand, Harvey died before AIDS. Harvey died before the White House of the United States became a hostile force against us. Jimmy Carter didn't act like that. Harvey had no notion that the Justice Department of the United States of America could be used as a bully pulpit by the religious fanatics who openly call for our death and destruction. And Meese did that.

Frequently, I have wished I could pick up the phone and call Harvey for his advice. What do we do now? How do we get out of this mess? How do we accomplish our goals with no money, no support, and very slim resources? The great and continuing questions of our movement, in our time.

We have an ancestor, Walt Whitman, who peered ahead in history and left a few words so that we would know he understood that loss. From the *Leaves of Grass*, "O Captain! my Captain!", he wrote, "it is some dream that on the deck you have fallen cold and dead. My Captain does not answer. His lips are pale and still. My leader does not feel my arm. He has no pulse nor will."

But Walt Whitman's clairvoyance and wisdom is of little help if we are fighting a plague, confounded by a plague of indifference, and a plague of fear and ignorance, and a plague of hate and violence. I instinctively know that Harvey Milk would not buy for an instant that what we suffer is an accident. The thousands who have died and the scores of thousands who are dying of AIDS are no more victims of an incidental medical curiosity than the nearly 300,000 gay and lesbian people who died in Nazi death camps or the products of an historical accident. Someone is to blame.

AUDIENCE: Right on.

RAY HILL We must not and cannot fall into the trap of blaming ourselves, even though others are pointing the finger and
(RECORDING): saying we are at fault.

AUDIENCE: Right.

RAY HILL Look at the gentle loving people around you. Look at them. Do you believe that these people are responsible for
(RECORDING): the carnage we have seen and the even greater carnage we are about to see?

AUDIENCE: No! No!

RAY HILL Listen to their voices. Are those voices filled with the bitterness and hate we hear from others?
(RECORDING):

AUDIENCE: No.

RAY HILL Now consider those in the seats of power, with their cold indifference, their calculated excuses, their history of
(RECORDING): war and violence. It is as clear to me as it would be to Harvey Milk, we are not responsible. The difference is, he may have known how to better fight this battle than I.

10 years ago, on a makeshift podium across the street there by the library, only hours after his assassination, I likened Harvey Milk to Moses. I said Harvey's job was not to lead us out of bondage but to show the way so that we could set ourselves free. I still believe that.

I learned from my prison experience that it is the convicts that build the prisons. We are the keepers of our own keys. And it is incumbent on each of us to declare our freedom and struggle for it. For without struggle, there is no freedom. And without declaration, there is not even the hope of freedom. It is possible to win or lose that struggle.