

**HARRY BRITT:** But if enough of us are committed that to the idea that we deserve that freedom and are willing to devote our talents and our abilities to that cause, how can we lose? We have supplied the talent for the rest of society's progress-- scientific, economic, political, and all of the other areas. Harvey Milk was fully aware of who we are and all that we can do.

And what he was trying to tell us is that we too should recognize our own importance and our own abilities. If even at this distance, we would only listen to him, we would win our cause because we are able and our cause is just. Again, Whitman from his *Leaves of Grass* bid farewell to Harvey Milk in his "Adieu to a Soldier."

Adieu, dear Tom. Your mission is fulfilled. But I, more warlike myself in this contentious spirit of mine, still on her own campaigning bound through untried roads, with ambushes, opponents lined, through many a sharp defeat and many a crises, often baffled, here marching, ever marching on, a war fight out. I here, to fiercer, weightier battles, give expression.

[APPLAUSE]

**PRESENTER 1:** There you go, ladies and gentlemen. When Councilman George--

[MUSIC PLAYING]

**ROB DITTO:** You're listening to *After Hours* on 90.1 FM, KPFT Houston, listener-sponsored Pacifica radio. And welcome to *Afterwards* where we bring you the latest in news, viewpoints, and information you can use from the heart of our community. Today on *Afterwards*, Rob Hess will be bringing you an update on the quick AIDS test I told you about last week as well as information on alternative treatments.

And Bruce will be here with the homophobia report, and Kay will have our calendar of upcoming events. Also, find out why people in Houston are getting mad about a catch-22 situation that has ground city AIDS programs to a virtual halt. Stay tuned. My name is Rob Ditto, and you're listening to *Afterwards*.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

**ROB HESS:** From the CDC AIDS weekly, the first use of the newly approved Proposition 96 in California has been made. Superior Court Judge George Trammell of Los Angeles has ordered HIV testing for a man convicted of biting a policeman. Fernando Villanueva was convicted of assault on a law officer and sentenced to a year in county jail and was ordered to undergo the test.

LEP Scientific Limited has said that a new blood analysis machine can detect HIV within days of infection. There's no machine quite like it currently available, says LEP scientific director Peter Neumann. He says the test locates HIV within blood cells instead of detecting antibodies to the virus.

Newman continues. The National Blood Transfusion service fear they may miss an infected donor if the infection has taken place only days or weeks before blood is given. This test may be able to remove that doubt. The machine provides results within hours and is almost 100% accurate, costs just under \$11,000.

A new Cambridge bioscience HIV test kit, which we mentioned last week and noted has been accused of being less accurate than current methods, is being defended by its manufacturer. In a report in the *Journal of Clinical Microbiology*, Cambridge says that its recombinant LIA HIV test kit has shown 100% specificity. The five-minute test was used in a trial involving almost 1,500 patients in Zaire.

Pope John Paul has reaffirmed his opposition to condoms, saying they're banned by the Catholic Church. He says that contraception is wrong and could not be justified by any, quote, personal or social circumstance. He continued, it is not, in fact, a doctrine invented by man.

It was inscribed by the creative hand of God in the very nature of the human person. Questioning it is equivalent to denying God the obedience of our intelligence. I assume this means that a nice heterosexual man who's HIV infected through a blood transfusion should continue to be fruitful and multiply even though it may kill both he, his wife, and their children.

While we're on the subject of condoms, a report by the 50 Million Consumers group says that 31 out of 41 brands of condoms they tested failed the tests that they undertook. 28 of the 41 failed strength tests when stretched, and 14 were disqualified because they leaked. A recent move by researchers has been combining AZT and acyclovir, a herpes drug, which works very much like AZT but on a different virus, in AIDS treatment.

According to the abstract of a paper presented October 26 by doctors of Welcome Laboratories, the combination is beneficial in only those patients who are pre-opportunistic infection status. All patients noted showed a drop in mean serum P24 levels, but only those who had not had an opportunistic infection showed benefits such as reduced OIs and 1/5 on normal deaths. On January 20, a symposium will be held in Los Angeles on AIDS and HIV infection.

A part of the symposium will include a four hour program on alternative treatments. This will be one of the first times that, quote, "respectable" scientific professionals will gather to present clinical data on the unusual treatments which have been used by PWAs in the community for years. The program will be broadcast via satellite to over 250 locations worldwide, And PWAs and their physicians are encouraged to take part via telephone. I've been speaking with the organizers in California and will let as soon as the local site has been chosen so that you can take part.

Professor Zirimwabagabo Lurhuma of Zaire and Professor Ahmad Shafiq of Egypt plan to test their vaccine, MM2, on four American patients. It's a version of the MM1 vaccine but doesn't have the same side effects. Four patients have traveled to Kinshasa from the United States for the treatment, which will be supervised by American doctors. The treatment includes 20 injections over a three month period, and remission has been observed at the end of another three months. Lurhuma says that they want to let as much time go by as possible to judge the effectiveness of the method.

Those people interested in the drug [INAUDIBLE] will be glad to hear that while the FDA has asked the [INAUDIBLE] Incorporated, based in New Orleans, for an additional 30 days to review the company's application for use of the drug on our patients, the company will still continue to provide the drug to patients in the interim. Those of you with cable should be sure to tune in tomorrow afternoon or Sunday afternoon at 2:00 PM to CNN for their series *World Report*, which tomorrow will focus on International AIDS research and treatments. We'll be bringing you updates next week from the show.

And finally, some more good news-- according to the abstract presented by doctors from the health department of San Francisco and the CDC, using data from the blood collected years ago during the hepatitis B vaccine trials, 6% of those infected with HIV will develop AIDS within three years and 30% within seven years. In other words, 70% of those infected with HIV will still fail to develop AIDS within seven years. Using the two most applicable models, the researchers found that after 15 years, one quarter of the HIV infected would still not have developed AIDS. So a positive test doesn't mean, as some will tell you, that you'll be dead in a year or even two or even 15.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

**BRUCE REEVES:** [INAUDIBLE]. And now the homophobia report. A law enforcement magazine that refused to accept a gay bar's ad because it included the words gay owned and operated agreed to accept the ad with a substitute phrase non-heterosexually owned. This wins the Raspberry Award for this week on the homophobia report.

[BRONX CHEER]

The magazine was *The Wisconsin Trooper*. It did accept the altered ad, which was placed by Bob Janson, owner of the Main Club in Superior. This week, courtesy of *American Gay Atheist*, I have a very short article which is an excerpt from the book *The Homosexual in America* by Donald Webster Quarry, where he gives an explanation of heterosexual abhorrence of gays.

Faced with constant sexual frustrations and paradoxes restricted by a sexual morality which is self-imposed but which cannot be enforced, humanity finds some source of joy in the lower position it can assign to the invert. The man on the street teaching his children continents while practicing infidelity, believing he was a sinner when he masturbated, secretly desiring to cohabit with almost every female passerby while condemning in the harshest terms the victim caught in the flagrant act, protecting the virginity of his daughter yet condoning sexual activity on the part of his son. Bored and dismayed by his wife's frigidity and by his own inability to arouse and to satisfy her, this man, not at all atypical, is anxious to believe that there is some poor, miserable creature who is sexually more a misfit than himself.

He laughs at the eunuch, and his laughter gives him greater faith in his own potency. And finally, the fairy becomes the victim of his anguish. He substitutes invective for reason, ridicule for logic.

His ego is boosted, and by an unconscious comparison, he becomes good, normal, righteous, manly-- hence, superior. His is the better way. Therefore, he is the better person.

Herein can be found the psychology of the superiority feeling which is fundamental to majority-minority group relationships in a civilization in which insecurity is so widespread. Homosexuality is a convenient scapegoat. This is Bruce with the homophobia report for this week.

**BURT LANCASTER:** I'm Burt Lancaster, and I have a confession to make. I'm a card-carrying member of the ACLU. Now you know the kind of people who support the ACLU-- radicals like Douglas MacArthur, Dwight Eisenhower, Harry Truman.

Listen to what John Kennedy said about the ACLU. The American Civil Liberties Union has played a significant role in defending our basic Democratic freedoms. America is a stronger nation for their uncompromising efforts.

The ACLU represents everyone-- from a mother who thought it was wrong to send her child to a segregated school to Oliver North. That's right-- Oliver North. The ACLU is there to protect everyone's rights. To be sure, no one agrees with everything they've done, but I can't imagine a single American who would disagree with the principle that's the heart and soul of the ACLU, of America-- liberty, justice for all.

**MIKE LEONE:** Hi. This is Mike Leone. I answer your calls to KPFT's *We, the People* midnight Monday till 2:30 AM, Tuesday morning. And I need to ask you a favor.

I'm tired of answering the phones, literally. Too many of you are listening and calling in. I need a way out.

But I don't want to hurt these feelings. So please. Do me a favor and stop listening to *We, the People*. Or if you must listen, at least don't call in. Once Odie figures out that nobody is calling in, which might take a few weeks since he's kind of slow, he'll let me stay home Monday nights and sleep.

Now I know we have comedy and news and exciting features and all that, but I need my sleep. Oh, one more thing-- please let this be our little secret. If Odie finds out that I'm trying to get rid of the call-in portion of *We the People*, midnight Monday till 2:30 AM Tuesday, I'll hear about it. And believe me, I'll hear what I've been missing.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

**ROB DITTO:** You're listening to *After Hours*, and this is *Afterwards*. In a few minutes, Kay will be here with the community bulletin board. But first of all, last week, Judy and I gave you a preview of *Baghdad Cafe*, which is a terrific new film that is held over this week at the River Oaks Theater. So if you haven't seen it and you want to, you've got another week left.

Coming up, here's the theme song from *Baghdad Cafe*. The singer is Jevetta Steele, and the song is "Calling You." Isn't that nice? Jevetta Steele, "Calling You," and you're listening to *After Hours*, and this is *Afterwards*. Coming up next, we'll have Kay with the community bulletin board.

[MUSIC - JEVETTA STEELE, "CALLING YOU"]

**KAY HARPER:** Hi. This is Kay with the community bulletin board. It was great to see everybody out at the rally last weekend. What's going on right now is for anybody who's always loved Christmas music, there's a Christmas song fest benefiting Omega House at the Stouffer's Hotel in Greenway Plaza at 5:00 PM this evening. For more information, call Jerry at 665-5855. And this Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, December 9 through the 11th, there will be an AIDS mastery workshop, and that is sponsored by the Center for Positive Lifestyles.

And the person to contact is Stephen Bradley, and his number is 521-0205. Monday, the Gay Fathers of Houston are having an organizational meeting to discuss the formation of a gay parents group or a gay mother's group. That meeting is at 8 o'clock at the Dignity Center.

The numbers for more info are 522-6766 or 861-6495. And Rob wanted me to mention that Planned Parenthood is now doing HIV testing on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 4:30 to 8:30, and it's at their center on Fannin, and it's free. As always, if you want to know more about what's going on, call Gay and Lesbian Switchboard at 529-3211. They have lots of information and are always there if you need someone to talk to.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

**ROB DITTO:** It's the holiday season in Houston. Across from City Hall, there's farolitos, traditional Mexican candles, and paper bags surrounding a brightly lit five story Christmas tree. The people who came to see the decorations Thursday also saw something unexpected-- 24 members of Houston's Act Up organization lying on the concrete in front of City Hall.

**CROWD:** We'll never be silent again. Act up! We'll never be silent again. Act up! We'll never be silent again. Act up! We'll never be silent again.

**ROB DITTO:** December 1 was World AIDS Day, and to mark the occasion, Houston Act Up staged a die in, where demonstrators lie on the ground as a symbol of over 2,000 deaths due to AIDS in Houston alone. The reason for the protest, a three way squabble between Houston's mayor, the county judicial system, and the city's AIDS planning committee over administration of federal funds. Act Up organizer David Fowler explains.

**DAVID FOWLER:** You've got the city and the county fighting over who is going to get federal bucks. As long as the mayor and the county judge continue to argue, our lives in jeopardy. We are here tonight, Mayor Whitmire and Judge John Lindsay, to show the blame lies squarely on your shoulders and your backs.

The mayor and the county judge can cut ribbons when a new statue is dedicated. They can cut ribbons when a new park opens up. If they can do that, they can cut the red tape and drop the bucks.

**MAN:** Right!

**ROB DITTO:** The red tape Fowler mentions itself became one of the symbols in the protest, as demonstrators' necks and wrists were bound with a long red ribbon. Meanwhile, Bruce Cook head of Houston's PWA Coalition, told the crowd of over 70 people how red tape of the government variety is killing people.

**BRIAN COOK:** We're dying of red tape as effective drugs to keep us alive are made inaccessible to anyone without the money to buy them. And some insurance companies refuse to pay for drugs known to save lives because they don't have to and because they fear for their profits. We're dying of red tape, as government has turned a deaf ear on those infected and to our needs.

We're dying of red tape as slow moving legislation has taken years to respond to AIDS, as paperwork and negotiations delay the opening of a housing unit for PWAs, as panels and hearings and seminars investigate, ask questions, and show very little that improves the well-being of PWAs. We're dying of red tape, and we must empower ourselves to cut through this red tape and live.

**ROB DITTO:** According to Act Up's David Fowler, this catch-22 situation holding up Houston's aids programs has placed the city far behind some comparatively less needy US communities in the amount of federal funds for AIDS received.

**DAVID FOWLER:** What are we doing here if every time we turn in a proposal, it's denied? So what the conclusion has come to, that it's a fight now between the county and the city of who's going to get the federal funding. The federal government is funding Orange County, counties in San Diego, which have less cases, less diagnosed cases, less drug abuse than Houston, Texas does. And they say they will not fund Houston until you people start to learn together.

**ROB DITTO:** As the funding crisis worsens, Act Up plans to step up its protests to make city leaders understand the mess they've helped to create. Over the next few weeks, we're going to be developing *Afterwards*, bringing in more local news and regular features. But in order to do this, we need your help.

Specifically, we're looking for people who are interested in gathering local news as well as anyone who would like to present a regular series on health and fitness for the lesbian and gay community. Also, if you're involved in art, music, literature, or anything creative, be sure to let us know. If you want to join us, call the *After Hours* hotline at 529-4636 and tell us want to work on *Afterwards*.

Number again is 529-4636, and that's about finishing us up for today. Our broadcast engineer is Mike Ford, and our contributors this week were Kay, Bruce Reeves, and Rob Hess. You're listening to *After Hours*. This has been *Afterwards*, and this is 90.1 FM KPFT in Houston.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

**PRESENTER 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 if not something in my life and 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.

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

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

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

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

[MUSIC PLAYING]

**DJ 1:** And believe it or not, we're back.

**DJ 2:** Yay!

**DJ 1:** This is-- we're in stereo.

**DJ 2:** We are?

**DJ 1:** Yeah, see? I'm over here.

**DJ 2:** And I'm over there.

**DJ 1:** Isn't that great? So if you're listening in headphones or through headphones, I'm on one ear, and--

**DJ 2:** And I'm on the other one.

**DJ 1:** And we're both queer. So if we say *After Hours*-- if we say something-- I don't know.

**DJ 2:** Hm.

**DJ 1:** We need to hear from City Councilman Vince Ryan, I guess, because he was also at the rally Sunday. Before we listen to Harry Britt, you think?

**DJ 2:** Yeah.

**DJ 1:** OK.

**VINCE RYAN:** I want to welcome you all to your City Hall here tonight because it is your City Hall. Although we work inside City Hall, the members of council and the mayor, we work for you, and you need to remind us that we do that. And tonight reminds me that we do that, and we have to continue to do that in the future.

**MAN:** Yeah!

**VINCE RYAN:** So thank you for inviting me tonight. Thank you for allowing me to speak in between, I think, two great individuals. Ray Hill, of course, we all know and love Ray Hill here in Houston, and Harry Britt. And tonight, we're celebrating two things-- celebrating life and also commemorating the life of Harvey Milk. And that celebration reminds me of what a unique week this has been.

This week, of course, started out with the commemoration of the 25th anniversary of the assassination of John F. Kennedy in Dallas. And of course his assassination always reminds me, as I'm sure it does each of you, of the assassinations that followed-- of his brother Robert Kennedy and of Martin Luther King, who we heard spoke of earlier by Bruce. And those three assassinations were followed 10 years later by that of Harvey Milk. And I thought myself on this Thanksgiving week, what do we give thanks for when the assassination commemoration of John F. Kennedy is followed by this remembrance tonight of Harvey Milk, and what does Thanksgiving mean in the context of those events?

Well, what's the most precious gift that we commemorate on Thanksgiving but the gift and the celebration of life, that which we are doing here tonight again? And then what tied those men together? What was common about John F. Kennedy, Robert Kennedy, Martin Luther King, and Harvey Milk?

And it was clear to my mind what ties them together is what ties us each together here tonight. They fought for civil rights. They fought for what they believe was right and proper in this country-- that everyone is equal.

Everyone has a right to live his or her life the way they want to as long as they don't harm another person. And each of those people was assassinated for the same reason. Because they believed in those civil rights, there were people who wanted to take their lives away from them. And in each case, tragically, that occurred.

Tonight earlier, Bruce said in a way, maybe Harvey Milk's life and his death as a martyr maybe progress the cause a little bit faster, a little bit further. And I understand Bruce's perspective on that because in a way, Martin Luther King's life, I guess, did symbolize the fight that he fought and the martyrdom that exists. But I wish tonight, instead of commemorating Harvey Milk's death and remembering the deaths of John F. Kennedy and Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King, all four who fought for civil rights, that they could be here with us tonight, to stand under these stars, to listen to these speeches and these songs, and to light a candle with us. Thank you.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

**DJ 1:** Are we ready now?

**DJ 2:** I'm always ready.

**DJ 1:** For Harry?

**DJ 2:** For Harry, sure.

**DJ 1:** You think we're ready, guys?

**DJ 3:** Yeah. We're ready.

**DJ 4:** Don't mind us. I've been here all alone for like 10 minutes.

**DJ 1:** Oh, poor baby.

**VINCE RYAN:** I needed a radio date.

**DJ 1:** Radio date-- I need a date too. 526-4000. Well, I need a man with hairy chest-- I need a lot of things. I need somebody to pay my rent-- it hasn't been paid in four months-- before I get thrown out in the street. If you have an empty closet, I can-- oh, I don't want to go back in the closet.

**DJ 2:** No, no, no.

**DJ 1:** Forget it.

**DJ 2:** No, no, no.

**DJ 1:** We were very fortunate last weekend to have supervisor Harry Britt--

**DJ 2:** Thank you.

**DJ 3:** There you go. Get it right.

**DJ 1:** --the president-elect from the San Francisco Board of Supervisors in Houston. When Harvey Milk was assassinated 10 years ago, Harvey wanted several people to be appointed to his seat. One of the several was Harry Britt.

Harry had worked with Harvey for several years and on different things-- or several months, really, not several years. But Harvey wanted, and finally his requests were met, and Harry Britt was appointed to that seat Hebert was just reelected as the judge I wanted to say this District C But it's not District C, and it's not-- it's not council. It's not-- what was it called?

**DJ 2:** It's board of director.

**DJ 1:** Well, no, no, no, no, no. Like, Harvey Milk was elected to--

**DJ 3:** The board of supervisors.

**DJ 1:** No, no. Like, District C in Houston.

**DJ 3:** Oh.

**DJ 1:** What was it called?

**DJ 2:** It's the Castro.

**DJ 1:** Yeah, but it was district elections. District five, I think, whatever. The district elections-- that's the word I want, I guess.

They don't have district elections anymore. So all the supervisors are elected citywide. And out of all the supervisors that ran out of 25 seats, Harry Britt received the most votes in the popular election.

**DJ 2:** So they did away with districts again?

**DJ 1:** Yeah, they don't have district elections anymore.

**DJ 2:** Huh.

**DJ 1:** So Harry was appointed as president of the Board of Supervisors. But Harry grew up in Port Arthur, and you'll hear all about it anyway. We'll listen now to the words of the President of the Board of Supervisors for the city of San Francisco Mr. Harry Britt.

**HARRY BRITT:** Thank you, and thanks to the people of Houston for letting me come. Even in the good times, Harvey Milk was preparing for his death. I remember within a few hours after he had been elected to the board in 1977 in a moment when all of us were just unbelievably thrilled with the wonder of having one of our own people in a position where all of our city would have to pay respect to gay leadership, Harvey took me aside and told me that he had made a political will, and that I was one of the people that might have to carry on when he was murdered.

He felt that way and thought about his own death because he was so overpoweringly aware of homophobia and the depth of a threat that so much of our culture felt when confronted by lesbian and gay power and the pride and beauty of our people when we stood up for our rights and demanded our place in leadership at city halls and everywhere else in our society. He understood that there was something about our culture that defined man and woman in certain ways that would not permit strength in women and beauty and creativity in men. They would not allow men to weep and women to lead, that lesbian and gay America was a very fundamental threat to.

And he was prepared to take the brunt of whatever reaction there might be, even unto his death. It was important to Harvey, and he talked about it a lot, that he'd be prepared to give up even his own life for our movement because so much of his work was asking other people to give up all of the things that they thought they had going for them in this culture that they thought would be in jeopardy if they took the step of courage that Harvey Milk took-- all of the respectability, all of the economic opportunity, all of the superficial relationships that people use as an excuse to not get involved. Harvey knew that he could, with integrity, go to those people and say give it up if he was prepared to offer even his own life. Harvey knew how hard it was for people who have made some sort of accommodation to turn away from that and to live in honesty and strength and to demand dignity as a lesbian or a gay man in this culture.

Harvey came out in the Navy. Harvey lived in Texas. Harvey was the butt of probably more fag jokes than all the rest of us put together.

And he walked places in California politics that no gay person had gone before. He knew how hard it was when the veneer of respectability was there, but he knew the world was still dealing with him as a faggot. And he because he understood, he didn't try to drag people out of his closets.

But he tried to live his life with enough class. He worked very, very hard to be the best supervisor San Francisco ever had because he wanted his people to see that you could do it, that you could stand out in front of the whole world as an outrageous, if you will, lesbian or gay man and command respect and dignity. And he understood how important it was that all of us are going to take that step-- that first, we make it easy for one another, that we take care of one another, that we take those safe places where we can be together with honesty and freedom and expand them so that all lesbians and gay men can move with freedom into positions of respect.

What Harvey wanted for us, for his people, was nothing less than real freedom. And he understood with a terrible passion that you can't have that freedom unless you're ready to give up all of those phony protections that we put between ourselves and our families, ourselves and our churches, ourselves and our communities, ourselves and our bosses, that prevent us from taking those risks that can make us really free. He came to the ghettos, the Castro streets and the Folsom streets and the Valencia streets in San Francisco, and he talked to people who wanted to get away from homophobia and said, it's not enough to get away and to be gay at night and to be respectable during the daytime. You've got to take the pride and anger you feel in the ghetto and organize around it and become visible around it until there is no need anywhere on this planet for a ghetto of any kind, for one human being to hide from another.

Harvey was a great and wonderful man, but he was a man. And he knew like all of us that sometimes you do get intimidated, and you do get afraid. I've told you often and Harvey told too often the story about when he went to the San Francisco Chamber of Commerce and was intimidated by this very straight white male privileged world which obviously they'd invited in there because he was the new monkey, and they wanted to have some fun with him and how he did not know their vocabulary.

And rather than be intimidated, he simply threw his speech aside and said, look, guys. I'm the new head queen in this town. What are you going to do about that? And challenged them again to learn to deal with his experience as all during his life, he had felt he had no choice but to deal with them.

Harvey gave us that choice-- a choice not between being gay or straight but between being free and continuing to invest value in the illusions that keep us in our weakness. When Harvey was taken away from us 10 years ago today, the power and the magnificence of that day will always be with me. But that night, I was the guy that had to get up in front of those 40,000 people and try to think of something to say, and with all of the hundreds of speeches I've given since then to lesbians and gay people and all other kinds of people, that was the hardest one because what we had to say to one another was that Harvey's dream was real, that Dan White's bullet could not cancel the meaning of the risk of freedom, the decision to be powerful, the dream that other kids growing up lesbian and gay might not have to go through the hell that we had gone through.

It was hard to say that, but it was impossible not to feel it looking out at those candles and feeling the strength of Harvey Milk's people in San Francisco. When Harvey said on his death tape that he wanted the bullet that took away his life to open every closet door in America, he was challenging us to say, what more has to happen before we give up our illusions? What more do they need to do to us before we realized that if we would be free, we must be brave, and we must take the challenge of leadership to teaching not just San Francisco and Los Angeles and Houston but every village and community in this country the meaning and the beauty of lesbian and gay experience?

He was saying to us, are you ready yet to do what you have to do to get rid of homophobia? The reason that I'm in Texas tonight instead of with the tens of thousands of my lesbian and gay friends in San Francisco who I love in a city that I now call home is because I'm a Texan. My first time I ever reached out to another person of my own sex for affection was in Port Arthur.

Six months later, that boy died of cancer, and it was so clear to me because I was a good Port Arthurian that God had something to do with that and that I was being punished for those feelings. It was in this city that I was ordained as a United Methodist minister, and it was in the city of Austin five years before I ever knew Harvey Milk at a gay rights rally that I first heard gay people speak with pride of their lives. There was nothing in my growing up in Southeast Texas that taught me how to deal with homosexuality, but there has to have been something that taught me about pride and self-respect that made me want them to have the best that life could possibly offer to me, that could make me want to be an honest friend to my friends, a person who could stand before the world without shame about any part of my life.

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 and 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. In San Francisco, there's no kind of reason I'd be in the closet about being gay, but I do have to be a little careful about being totally open about being a Texan because you can play something of a political price for that. Sometimes Texans misplace their pride. I think it's probably spiritually good for this state that the Cowboys are having a lousy year.

But we are a people with pride and a people who don't want to settle for anything but the very best. It is my pride in myself that I learned as a son of Texas that makes me want nothing but the best for the people of this state and does not want to see another decade go by when the family of the state of Texas is defined by any leadership in this state political, religious, or social in a way that does not include the beauty and the power of the lesbians and gay men of this state. We-- Texas has a history beyond the Cowboys and all of the beating up on all of the different people.

It has a history of proud and strong women, a history of creative men who are our ancestors, and it's heritage we must claim. When Harvey said to us, be free, he wanted us to claim our history, not to get away from our history, whether it be in Texas or New York or anywhere else, but to claim our heritage and our birthright. Sometimes when I talk to people from this part of the country, they start explaining to me about all of the Southern Baptists that they have to deal with down here, and I admit in San Francisco, we're a little short on Southern Baptists and Republicans and other somewhat difficult to understand groups of people.

But I want you to know my dad was a Southern Baptist. But somehow, by coming to San Francisco and meeting the lesbians and gay men of our city, he was able to come to feel real pride in his son and in the community that he was part of. And there's no better Baptist in this state than my 95-year-old grandmother in Fort Worth, who stayed up until 3 o'clock in the morning last Tuesday to find out how I did in that election because of her pride in what we've achieved as openly gay people in San Francisco.

If we believe in our community and our state and our religious heritage, we have to believe that if confronted honestly with our life experience, the bigotry will go away. Harvey Milk's people, like Martin Luther King's people, are challenging this state and the south and America to build a future that is not narrow-minded and authoritarian but based on appreciation of the freedom of the human spirit and the diversity of the American dream and the American family. On January the 9th, I will be sworn in to the second highest office in San Francisco, and the judge that I have asked to swear me in that day is a remarkable lesbian named Mary Morgan.

When Mary was sworn in as a judge some years ago at City Hall in San Francisco, it was one of the great moving experiences of my political life. All the judges were there, maybe a few too many judges and lawyers and politicians. But the whole spectrum of the San Francisco family was there-- labor, Filipino Americans, Korean-Americans, Black Americans, Jewish Americans, the whole city-- with enormous pride in Mary and in what she had to contribute as a lesbian to the understanding of Justice and the furtherance of our community.

One of the great and wonderful things that's happened in San Francisco, even in the last two years, is the extraordinary outbursts of lesbian leadership that is setting new directions for lesbian and gay politics in San Francisco. The other important change, of course, is the repercussions of the AIDS epidemic. A community that 10 years ago was united in a war against homophobia is now united in a war for our lives. The political work that we have done has taken on a kind of meaning it never had before because we know our lives are at stake.

There's a lot of good news coming out of that epidemic. I met a few days ago with researchers from the various campuses of the University of California to talk about where they stood in terms of AIDS research. And the message that I'm hearing is not that there's some miracle cure that's going to come along in the next few months. I don't think that's the way research is going.

What I'm hearing is that we are making solid and real advances in our ability to manage the AIDS epidemic-- that those people affected by AIDS, the seropositive people and the people with full-blown AIDS, have increasingly at their disposal ways medical and non-medical of managing an illness and of enjoying long term health as people affected by this epidemic. All of us at this point in time who were once defined in terms of our sexual orientation are now defined in terms of our connection with this epidemic. And our political work will reflect that.

The right will continue to try to protect real people from AIDS. The left will continue to try to educate people about AIDS. Our job as lesbians and gay men is to look at the lives of maybe those 2 million people who are seropositive to AIDS and be sure they do not get lost in the continuing political work that they need to begin to manage their life to have long and healthy experiences in a post-AIDS world. The politics of AIDS is a politics of pride, and if there was ever a moment when we could no longer offer any excuse for not getting involved, it's when the lives of so many of our people are so much at stake.

Another good thing that happened to us on Tuesday in California was the defeat of proposition 102. Last year we had to take on Lyndon Larouche, and it took millions of dollars and thousands of hours of people who would rather have been fighting AIDS directly. And to have to find after that that major leadership from the Republican Party in our state was prepared to sponsor an initiative that would forever destroy confidentiality of AIDS testing in our state was something we didn't want to handle and didn't feel we could handle, and we were 25 points behind in the polls. And it was not a year we wanted to deal with it.

But the way our community responded and the leadership we showed and the fact that people all over California showed respect for our efforts to fight this epidemic not just in San Francisco and Los Angeles but in Bakersfield and Fresno and in the mountains and in the Redwood forests and in the deserts of the south showed the power that can come out of this community when we let the world see us as we really are. The spirit of Harvey Milk is very much with us in that fight, challenging us to put aside our illusions that we have something to lose by standing up for our freedom and that our future can be safe until we are strong and teach the world the beauty and the strength and the power that he was prepared to die for that we see in one another. Thank you very much.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

**DJ 1:** Well, what can you say after that?

**DJ 3:** Bye! [LAUGHS] What else is there to say?

**DJ 1:** Yeah

**DJ 5:** That's wonderful to listen to.

**DJ 1:** Did you enjoy the rally?

**DJ 5:** Absolutely.

**DJ 2:** Oh, it was wonderful.

**DJ 1:** Did you enjoy what we played for you? 526-4000. That's the number to call.

I want to talk to somebody if anybody's listening and enjoyed any of it. We put a lot of work into the rally. I want to thank Mike Ford, who was the board engineer that night. Without his help, we couldn't have got on the air

**DJ 2:** Yeah!

**DJ 1:** I want to thank Cherry Wolf from the Breakthrough program. Cherry was our on-site recording engineer. Without her, we wouldn't have had these tapes to listen to.

**DJ 2:** And they're good too.

**DJ 1:** And I want to thank Dan Gidfrey, our remote engineer. Without him, we wouldn't have had a signal, and you couldn't have heard us over the radio last Sunday.

**DJ 2:** Thank you, Dan.

**DJ 1:** And I also want to thank all you guys for being here. It's been great.

**DJ 2:** Thank you, [? buddy. ?]

**DJ 1:** And we'll see you next week. I don't know what's happening next week, but I think we're going to cancel it, whatever it is, and just have a Christmas show. I feel like--

**DJ 2:** Oh, wow.

**DJ 5:** That's wonderful.

**DJ 1:** So don we now our gay apparel. We'll see you next Sunday.

**DJ 2:** Don't we all?

**DJ 1:** So until then, well, just what?

**DJ 2:** Come out!

**DJ 1:** Say that again.

**DJ 2:** Come out!

[MUSIC PLAYING]

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

[MUSIC PLAYING]