

[MUSIC PLAYING]

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

- The good homosexual by James Carroll Pickett. The good homosexual accommodates himself, checks fantasies, behaves properly, purchases good taste, practices impeccable hygiene, begs respect from oppressors. The good homosexual reads only what is recommended, attends all the Westwood cinema, attains season tickets to the Music Center, votes the straight GOP slate, retires from controversy, amasses financial security no matter the social toll, finds AIDS embarrassing, but donates \$50 a year anyway anonymously.

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

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

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

- That's right, Ma. You had it easy. You lost your husband in a nice, clean hospital. You know I lost mine. I lost mine on the street. That's right. They killed him on the street. 27 years old laying dead on his street, killed by a bunch of kids with baseball bats. That's right, Ma. Killed by children. Children taught by people like you because everybody knows that queers don't matter. Queers don't love, and those that do deserve what they get.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

[CHANTING]

- Go ahead and say it so they can hear you in the Capitol. For love and for life, we're not going back. For love and for life, we're not going back. For love and for life, we're not going back. For love and for life, we're not going back.

- I think that's Robin Tyler on the stage leading the chant. For love for life, we're not going back.

- Good afternoon, and welcome to the National March on Washington D.C. for gay and lesbian rights and [? choral ?] reciting. Let's hear it out there.

[CHEERING]

- I'm Leah Delaria.

- I'm Bruce Hudkins.

- I'm a dyke.

- I'm a faggot.

- And we're best friends.

- I want you to savor this next moment. I have the proud task of telling you that the official count of the Lesbian and Gay Rights March, the official count is over 500,000 strong.

- It's all right. You may all come out.

- 500,000 strong. Look at you. 500,000 strong. 500,000 strong. One of the largest marches in United States history.

- It's all right. You may all come out.

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

- We parents want to persuade society that our gay children are not acting out of defiance and self-indulgence. They're being true to their own nature. Our children are fine men and women, and we say to society, the parents and friends of lesbians and gay men, will support their children.

- They've got to understand something. They've got to understand something. We are not talking about white 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 prominence, and I don't care about straight understanding. You better hear me in Washington. We are demanding-- we are demanding our civil rights.

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

- Come on out. Join us. Bring your friends.

- What do you think about the turnout so far?

- Well, it's never enough, never enough, never enough.

- It's all right. You may all come out.

- We must destroy the myths once and for all, shatter them. We must continue to speak out, and most importantly, most importantly, every gay person must come out.

[CHEERING]

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]

[CHANTING]

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]

[CHANTING]

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

[CHEERING]

- Come out and let us fill up that sauna.

- Oh. Is that what we're going to talk about tonight?

- No. Well, yes, actually, but not right now.

- Oh.

- We're going to talk about congratulating Bob Lanier because he's the new mayor or will be the new mayor.

- Oh, did he win?

- City of Houston, yes. He won the runoff tonight.

- I was out at Dickens all day, and so I haven't heard.

- Larry McCaskill is out.

- Oh.

- Beverly Clark is out.

- Oh, really?

- Judson Robinson is in, and Gracie Signs is in.

- Oh, OK.

- So we have a lot to talk about.

- We sure do.

- Also Nelson Mandela will be here today.

- Will he ever.

- At the Rothko Chapel at 11 o'clock.

- Well, 10:30 in the morning actually.

- 10:30, 11:00.

- 10:30, depends on who you ask, and that's going to be very, very limited seating.
- Depends on who you ask?
- Well, you said 11:00. My note says 10:30.
- Well, he'll be here in the morning.
- Yes.
- I can't go anywhere. I've got to go to a union meeting.
- They only have room for 1,000, but later on in the afternoon, at 4:00 PM, he'll be at TSU in the gymnasium.
- He certainly will.
- And there the seating is between 5,000 and 6,000, and it is free. First come first serve.
- We're going to be talking about that and remembering all the things that he went through for years, locked in jail forever down in South Africa.
- Incredible.
- Yeah, he's out but apartheid is still in, and we're going to be bitching about that. Also, probably talking about the new mayor, and what all that means. What else? David Duke is running for president.

[LAUGHTER]

I remember you saying that when the mighty was defeated.

- I told you he would run for president.
- You did. You did.
- Anyway, we're going to be also talking to one of my favorite folks. Well, one of my favorite places he's turned out to be [INAUDIBLE], folks, talking about one of my favorite places later on, and that's the tubs. I talk about going there all the time, and we're going to be talking about sex. So you need to get your condoms out, and I guess--
- Put them over your ears.

[LAUGHTER]

Because this is *After Hours Radio* celebrating live from the heart of Montrose. 90.1FM. We're here, and we're queer.

- Yeah, and we're going to be here until 4 o'clock in the morning. This-- Jesus Christ, 4 o'clock in the morning.
- I know it.
- This way out with Greg Gordon and Lucia Chappelle will be here.
- 1:30ish.
- Here's Allen to say, nothing.

- Oh.
- Sorry, Allen, I ain't got time for that.
- Huh?
- He kind of just said it.
- Well, we ain't got time.
- Well, OK.
- Say that, Allen. Say something, say something, play something, do something, somebody say something.
- Hello, hello, hello.
- Nobody wants to do anything.
- No, they don't and neither does that. Well, Mary, who's at the front door.
- Well, that's Frank.
- It is?
- Yes.
- Well, don't let him in.
- Oh.
- No.
- One of the other programmers here at KPFT.
- Well, there's so much going on. I'm really scared about this David Duke thing because you don't never know what's going to happen with that queen, do you?
- Well, at least you know where he stands. Like I said last week, we won't have to repaint the White House. Well, Pat Buchanan on one side and David Duke on the other side. You never know. Oh, plus, this is the 50th anniversary today--
- Yes.
- --of something that happened. What?
- m in 1941, December 7, a day--
- A day which will live--
- In infamy.
- What the hell does that mean, infamy? Do you know?

- Bad tidings, bad feelings, bad feelings. Yes, because this is the day that the Japanese declared war on the United States by bombing Pearl Harbor.

- Well, girl, we're live, and we'll get with it here in just a second.

- Will we?

- No, we will.

- Hang on just a minute. Frank came in, and he's going to say a few words.

- Well.

- No, I'm kidding.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- Hang on a minute. I'm tired.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

I'm tired of screwing around. Actually, I'm not. That's what we're going to be talking about, sex. So get ready to listen and call us up and let us know what's on your little brain at 526-- little brain. Did you see that movie, *Defending Your Life*?

- No.

- Hang on, 526-4000 or 526-KPFT.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- Here it is. Become Butch or Nellie in less than a day simply by taking the little pink pill. There's no need to recruit, seduce, or rely on environmental conditions anymore. The little pink pill does it all. Just one tablet before breakfast breaks the cycle of heterosexuality for a full 24 hours.

For years, heteros have been asking gays if they would take a pill if it would make them straight. Well, at last, Queersville Labs have responded to this dilemma by giving heteros a taste of their own medicine. Yes, the little pink pill does it all. The boring, cliched life of a heterosexual can vanish in one gulp. Mrs. Betty Morgan of Gresham, Oregon, talks about the little pink pill.

- My life was a mess. Bridge clubs, gross husband, alcoholism, you name it. Then one morning, I got my act together and took the little pink pill. In an instant, my sexual orientation changed, as did my desire to be married. Well, within a week, I ditched my old man, met a terrific woman, and got joint custody of my children. All this without water retention, headaches, or loss of appetite. Thanks, little pink pill. You made a new woman out of me.

- Results may vary but don't consult a physician. The little pink pill. It does it all.

- And be sure and pick some up for Christmas gifts.

- Mhm.

- Can you do that?

- There's so many who could use it.

- Yeah, let's see.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- And then her and--

- Well, I'm going to go down my Christmas list because there's some people that have been awful hateful.

- Oh.

- And I'm going to name them all by name.

- Oh.

- Spell their names out.

- Hang on a minute. After Hours Radio, celebrating live from the heart of Montrose. We're here--

- And we're queer.

- Yeah, give us a call at 526-4000.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- We might as well. Frank said he saw on *Saturday Night Live* that the Japanese were finally going to apologize for Pearl Harbor.

- Oh, yeah, really?

- Yeah, they were going to issue it on CD for \$9.95 from Sony.

[LAUGHTER]

- So go down to your record shop and get your own apology.

- No, I'm just kidding.

- Yeah, just kidding.

- After Hours Radio is celebrating life from the heart of Montrose, 90.1 FM, KPFT Houston. We're here--

- And we're queer.

- And we're into our fifth year. Do you believe this is our fifth Christmas that we've been able to celebrate with you?

- Fifth Christmas.

- And you know what? Every time we do the show, I think the most fun I have is when we start talking about sex.

- Yeah.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- Well, hang on just a minute, kids, have we got a story for you.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- You know what? That's what I think I like most about being queer.

- What?

- Well, back before the AIDS thing.

- Yeah.

- They wouldn't let us do nothing, but we got together and did it anyway.

- That's absolutely right.

- Big piles.

- That's why this song is just a classic for gay man.

- We still do it every chance we get.

- Sure, part of being gay is celebrating your sexuality.

- Yeah, and I hate this safe sex thing because--

- Sensible.

- --20 years ago, I didn't want to get the clap or syphilis or gonorrhea or any of that crap, and you didn't stay out and drink until you couldn't walk, and you didn't do drugs until you couldn't stand up.

- Exactly.

- So I mean, back then, I had friends who were like drugged every night and out every night, screwing every night. And I was like, child, this is going to kill you.

- Yeah.

- That's way before they heard about AIDS.

- Yeah, that's right. I remember that.

- Maybe they were dropping too, and it wasn't-- you just have to take care of yourself, but there are places you can go that are safe. I bitch and moan all the time about the queens being-- well, they're not actually queens-- about these people that are arrested out in Memorial Park and down on Allen Parkway, and I found out last month, I was in a meeting with Queer Nation at HPD this past Wednesday.

- Oh, yeah?

- But I'll tell you about it later.

- Oh, OK.

- But I found out that last month, there were over 300-- I think-- 200 arrests in one-- I think it was over 200 arrests in 1 out of 20s beat, which is what KPFT is in Pacific Street or vice investigations. And most of those were down on Allen Parkway.

- Oh.

- Anyway.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- Here we go. Hang on.

- Oh, yeah.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- Oh, After Hours Radio, celebrating life from the heart of Montrose. We're here--

- And we're queer.

- Oh my God.

- Oh.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- All I need now--

- Just relax.

- --is a bottle of poppers.

- What's that?

- Oh.

- Well, Nancy Reagan got rid of them for you.

- You can buy crack and heroin and cocaine, but you can't buy a bottle of poppers. Actually, a bottle of poppers is like an inhalant. It made you high for a couple of minutes.

- Room deodorizer.

- Mostly while you were like--

- Yeah, in the short strokes. I believe the term is.

- Wow. It's all illegal now, of course, but so is getting naked with another man if you happen to be a man in this state, but that hasn't stopped me yet.

- Nor is it going to.

- Anyway, we're going to be talking about sex in just a minute with Joe, and he has the-- well, he's the manager of a little business in town. It's been around for a long time, and we've talked about it for a long time. We're going to talk about it some more.

- Good.

- And one of the reasons that I asked him to come up here is because I went to Dallas back when a couple of months ago and found out that the Dallas Club-- we're talking about Midtown-- the Dallas Club takes up food donations for Stone Soup.

- Oh, really?

- Yeah, CBC just did that this month.

- Just for Thanksgiving?

- Yeah, and I found out that Midtown does it forever, and I've been trying to get those queens from CBC on for a long time, and they wouldn't come, and I've been trying to get those queens through Midtown on for a long time, and they wouldn't come.

- Well, goodness.

- A couple of weeks ago, I went down there, and I said, listen, get some men in here. I want to come. I said, I want you to come down to the radio station, and we're going to talk about a safe place to play, and that's what we're going to talk about in just a second. Do you know what that is? The tubs?

- Yeah, I was-- honey, I was waiting in line the night they opened back in the '70s.

- You used to have to wait in line to get in there?

- Yes, you did, especially--

- Certainly did.

- Oh.

- Wow.

- Let me take a now or never. I don't have any illegal drugs here, although sometimes I have been accused of having.

- Of course, if you have any illegal--

- No, no, no.

- Hang on a minute.

- See, you can't really talk about sex and have a good time.

- Isn't that strange?

- Yeah, because nobody ever gets an erection. I mean, an election. We just had an election.

- Yes.

- But we might get an erection if we're lucky.

- No one ever has sex in this country, yet they use it to sell everything from bubblegum to potato chips. Do you really think they're selling Pringles when all those naked kids are jumping around in bikinis and blue jeans and Toyotas and--

- Yeah, the whole thing is buy my product, and you will get lots of sex. Well.

- And when you get all worked up--

- And except for, and just here lately, the one product that should have been on saying, buy my product, and you will get lots of sex, which is condoms.

- Mary, we can't talk about condoms because nobody ever has anything to put them on.

[LAUGHTER]

- Except Magic Johnson. God, he needed a condom.

- Yeah.

- No, I'll be nice to Magic Johnson. Anyway, what else can we say of late?

- I could read my Christmas list.

- No, no, no, not yet.

- This music in the background is something that we have heard for years, especially at places like the tubs, and it's called, Relax. Just relax, Mary.

- OK.

- Chill out.

- You know, one night, I went to Midtown and CBC in about four bookstores, and I still didn't find what I was looking for.

- Goodness.

- It was a long night.

- You're real picky, aren't you?

- Hang on a minute. We'll come back in a minute.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- Did you see all these notes?

- Yeah, boy, we've got lots of callers. Christina and Courtney are listening in Pasadena.

- Pasadena.

- Yeah, we got--

- We have a new listener tonight. He's a virgin from the Southwest side.

- A virgin, Dana, hey.
- And Larry who's an undercover straight listener that lives here in the Montrose.
- Hey.
- Undercover? Is he under the cover now listening or--
- I don't know.
- He might be after this interview.
- Has he got a lot of hair on his body? If he doesn't know, it's because he's straight.
- He's straight.
- Damn it.
- Yeah, well.
- Can't win them all.
- You're right. I did one night wander around to all those businesses, and I don't know. Why do we do those things?
- Just the wanderlust in us because there's just something out there that we want, and sometimes, it's just not-- our fantasy is not available.
- That's what this is all-- that's what the tubs are all about, fantasy, because it's not real.
- No.
- You know what I mean? And it's like, the bookstores are scary.
- Especially that story you had the other night.
- Yeah, I can't remember now who went with me. Somebody. I can't remember. One of my hateful queens that I run around with. We had been down to CBC in Midtown.
- Wow.
- And we decided to go down to the ballpark, and I just hate the bookstores because, number one, they're filthy. I mean, filthy. That's what I like about the tubs. They're clean.
- Just like that old YMCA song by the Village People.
- I know, but the bookstores were dirty, and we were there maybe 10 minutes and went into a little room, and we're giggling like-- you know, you never go with your best friend.
- No, because you don't get any.
- No, it takes all the fun out of it, but we were in the back, and we found a pair of scissors, about a 12-inch pair of scissors laying on the floor.

- Now, isn't that scary. Now, what the hell are they doing in there?
- Well, I don't know. But one year, this is eight-- one year, on 1988, was it, when I got mad and quit HPD, [? Monty ?] Lewis was the manager down at CBC, and I was in the pool there and wound up working for-- I don't know-- how long?
- Oh, six months or longer.
- I was the assistant manager at CBC, which was awful, but actually, it was fun. What was discouraging about it was you saw a lot of the same guys come in and buy membership cards. See, what's nice about the clubs are, they're not open to the public. You just can't go in. You have to have a membership card, and that protects the members.
- Private membership club.
- These guys were coming in every day buying a new card, and I was like, why are you buying a new card, and they were saying, well, I feel guilty about being here. So I tore it up, and I was like, well, child, this is too expensive. Let me put that baby on file for you. And when you feel guilty, you don't come back, and when you feel like you want to come back, you come see us.
- Just say, hey, my card is on file.
- Yeah, but I was having an awful time at CBC and Midtown here in Houston about-- I don't know-- a year or so. Because ever since the AIDS thing, everybody's gone to hell with sex. I mean, we went from having lots of sex to having almost no sex.
- Yes, and it's just coming back again.
- And safe sex means like no sex to most of these dizzy bitches.
- Yeah.
- Unless you turn the lights out. Then they just go back to the 1970s.
- Yeah, no, that's not good either.
- No, it wasn't good back then.
- We need a place that will foster sensible sex.
- And what I liked about, and what I still enjoy about the tubs, is that the clubs were clean.
- You bet.
- The environment is safe, and it's lit up. So if anybody's got a 12-inch pair of scissors or anything else, you can see it coming at you.
- Well, it's hard to hide a 12-inch pair of scissors when you're wearing those little towels.
- Yeah.
- Anyway, we're talking about-- what's the word? What word do they want us to use, Joe? You've managed Midtown spa here in Houston. CBC hates the word tubs because they say it's not a bathhouse anymore.
- Yeah, OK.

- What's a good word? It's a club, right?
- It's a private cloud, yeah. Most people call it a spa. The terminology still is a bathhouse.
- Because I mean, let's face it. People don't go there to watch TV.
- Well, some people do.
- I know some hateful queens that say they do.
- And there is exercise equipment.
- Right.
- Right.
- And I've seen lots of people use it.
- Well, Roger used to go to Midtown religiously and work out because there was no gay gym to go to. And you still have gym equipment, right?
- Yes, we sure do.
- Quite a bit of gym equipment.
- Quite a bit.
- Plus, you have a-- I don't know what size that pool is. Olympic size?
- Yes, it's an Olympic-sized pool.
- It's wonderful and indoor.
- It is indoor.
- So you can swim 12 months out of the year.
- Wow, wonderful.
- Actually, it is nice. It's got this huge pool, and then there are saunas, and then there are private rooms in other areas of the building, which hmm. And I was-- back to this story though, I was having an awful time at CBC and Midtown here in Houston because I don't know what's going on with this. Everybody is just into this Calvin Klein thing for number one. If you're not gorgeous, nobody's going to grab you, and it's like all these gorgeous people. No, I shouldn't say that because it's hateful.
- Well, Mary, they work out, and they just-- never mind.
- You're talking about the muscle queens?
- Well, yeah, but I mean, just because you're gorgeous, you still can't sleep around with everybody. Right?
- No, no, but we're talking about a virus here. We're not talking about, oh, OK, only the ugly ones get it.
- No, no, no.

- Exactly, but it's this weird thing about sex because, number one, there used to be, and I don't know if there still are or not. Actually, I know there are because they did a show the other day on Joan Rivers about straight sex clubs that are on the rise back. In New York, it used to be Plato's Retreat. Is that right?

- Yeah.

- The most famous, and it was for straight-- well, actually, it was for anybody. Men and women. Mostly straight people were in there in like piles in the '70s. Then when AIDS came along, that drifted away.

- Yes.

- Joan Rivers just did a show which really made me think about asking you to come down here, Joe, and talk about the club itself. She just did a show a couple of weeks ago on sex clubs in the straight community. They're coming back now because of AIDS, because people were afraid, and you can't just go out and screw around like you used to. So if there's a core group of people that you know, and everybody's responsible, does that-- you see what-- you see the mentality?

- That's the whole point of the bathhouses for the gay community.

- And the whole idea of a club, Midtown spa or CBC, it is a club, and if you know people, and you're accustomed to seeing the same people, and you respect those people, and you get to know those people, then you find out real quick in that environment who takes care of themselves and who doesn't.

- Right.

- Right?

- Right.

- And you see who's running around in everybody's room, and the ones you have to chase all night, and then the ones that chase you all night that you're running from, but sex is just a weird-- I don't know. It's not a weird thing. It's just something we don't talk about in this country, and I think that's unfortunate. And this has been forever.

Because I remember when I was in high school back in 1972, actually, '71. '70 or '71. We had an exchange student from France that was here visiting in the United States, and we went to a party and everyone was going to get into the pool, and this young woman just like came out of her clothes and was naked and in the pool before she realized that we don't do that in this country.

- Oops.

- You know what I mean? You know what I mean? Because you've been to Europe, right?

- Yes.

- And people in Europe look at sex a whole lot different than they do in the States.

- Yeah, sure do.

- And what kills me with the people in the United States is that a lot of these guys think they're the only ones that have anything hanging between their legs. Sorry, girl, everybody's got one, except those women, and the lesbians want-- well, they don't want it anyway.

- Well, Joe, let's make believe that I've never been to a club before. What can I expect when I open that door when I walk in--
- They've heard us talk about it for almost five years. What do you expect?
- Well, I can remember just shortly-- about a year ago, coming into the bathhouse. I never heard of a bath house before, and a friend had brought me up to it. I was scared, kind of shy. I didn't know what to expect, but I soon realized that there was a lot more people than just me that was walking through that door, and the desk people were really nice and pleasant. They helped me out. They told me that if I needed anything, to just come back and let them know.
- This was last year?
- This was just last year.
- Oh, child, I remember moving to Nebraska in the early '80s, or no, in the late '70s because I've been in Houston almost 10 years and going to my first bathhouse. A place called Man's World in Council Bluffs, Iowa. And for the first three weeks, I stood at the desk and talked to the guy at the desk. It's like, I'm not going in there. Even when I went back there, I was like, child, how come you haven't been back there before.
- Really? Really?
- So I walk in the door, and there's going to be like a desk and a counter, and what's going to happen?
- Correct. They kind of let me know what kind of memberships are available and told me about the rooms and the lockers, video rooms and non-video rooms. And me, I wanted a video room because I thought that's really basically all it was to it. I spent about two hours in the video rooms before I realized that there was more to it than just what was on the screen.
- Oh.
- Slowly wandered out to the real world.
- I remember working, when I was at CBC one night. I don't know. You know because you were the manager there. I was assistant manager, and I was called down there for some craziness that went on in the middle of the night, and this little kid who looked like he came out of Pig's Knuckle, Texas, came up to me with this excited look on his face, and he was like, is this place open all night?
- Yes, honey, we never close.
- Girl, we never close.
- Never.
- Never.
- That place is never closed.
- Uh-uh.
- But there is a certain excitement, right? Once you realize what's going on, it gets even more exciting.
- Yeah, my first night was on a Saturday night. What a night to come to the baths for your first time.
- No kidding.

- The crowd, it was pretty festive. Slowly kind of wandered out like a small child and kind of wandered around and looked around bleary eyed, but I realized real quickly that they were all there for the same thing, and that was just to have fun.
- Have a good time.
- Just to have a good time and just enjoy yourself. And after that, I lived outside of Houston and came several times after that in one week's period, and it became home away from home.
- Oh, yeah
- Listen, I was in Dallas back a couple of months ago, and the tubs in Dallas are a lot different than the tubs in Houston.
- Yes, they are.
- Do you know why? Why, actually?
- From working in both clubs at different time periods--
- Is it just attitudes in the cities?
- Yes, it really is. Dallas is a little bit more uptight, and Houston is a little bit more liberal.
- That's funny because I had a much better time in Dallas than I've had here and--
- I told you what that was. You were new meat in town.
- That's right.
- Is that it? Is that all? Well, please, that's no [? foul. ?]
- I remember when I went to Dallas, everybody just looked and stared and wanted the fresh meat.
- Sure, but when they realized who it was, then they kind of calmed down a little bit. But I remember when you went up there and--
- Don't tell everything, Joe.
- That's right. You were working. He was working up in Dallas. In fact, that's where I met you in Houston, though, originally.
- Originally.
- But I ran in to Larry, I guess, one of the owners here in Houston and said, you need to straighten this place up. Because, number one, the police-- people wonder why the police don't bother you. I work for the police department, and I get irritated because we have to go down to 3600 Allen Parkway, right?
- Yes.
- Get your pencil and paper and write that address down.
- Actually, don't because--
- You shouldn't be there.
- No, too many hateful queens have that address already. 3600 Allen Parkway is a little Jewish cemetery.

- Yes.

- And for years, it's been notorious for people going down there in the woods, which is stupid in the first place.

- It sure is because vice is all over.

- Well, this year, there's some poor little lady down there putting flowers on her dead husband's grave, and she sees two guys in the woods. And the next thing you know, she's complaining to the City Hall, and the City Hall--

- And she should.

- Of course, she should.

- And the City Hall calls the police department, and we send vice out there. We made a couple of arrests just in November.

- Yeah.

- Now, out in Memorial Park, it's even worse, but I don't think it's a lot of gay people that-- not the gay people to go to the bars.

- No, not-- you mean-- openly gay people.

- Yeah, it's a lot of people in three-piece suits with pictures of kids in their pockets.

- Right.

- Oh, God.

- Yeah.

- And they go to those public toilets out there.

- Yes.

- And I have to sit there at work and make up case numbers for the vice officers, and I get like real irritated because, number one, in Houston, Texas, in 1991, there are too many other places you can go that are safe because this is not safe. I mean, being out in public in a park where you don't have any protection, and you're out there, you know what I'm saying? And you don't know who these people are.

- Yeah.

- And you don't know what all kinds of things they get in their little pockets and stuff, and people don't think about that. I guess, maybe I do because I've been around the police department for so long, but I've become so irritated at these idiots for going out into the parks. Number one, I don't want to take my niece or nephew to the Memorial Park for a picnic and see anybody having sex out in public.

- Male, female, straight, gay.

- No, that's not the place for it. And if you do, you need to go to jail.

- Now, what bothers me-- it don't bother me as much now because I know it's not true. 10 years ago, the police would see a man and a woman on a park bench at Memorial Park and run them off. They would see a man and a man on a park bench and take them to jail.

- Oh, how has that changed?
- It's changed because I think now they've matured a lot, and they would take everybody to jail.
- Now, they could surprise me. I don't know.
- Well.
- But you have no business doing such things, and then I know of cases where they've seen men and men and said, you need to get the hell out of here and before we do drag your happy little rears to jail.
- Yes.
- There are too many places to go. Number one, you should be going home anyway. If you can't though, there places to go to get out of this.
- Wonderful, fun places like Midtown Spa.
- Yeah, exactly, but I went to Dallas, and I had a wonderful time, and Midtown has changed a lot, especially since you got back, got into town.
- How has it changed?
- Food pantry specials.
- Ah.
- We've increased the days on that.
- Which means you take food for Stone Soup?
- Correct, any kind of non-perishable food items and/or toiletries. We do take toothbrushes, shaving cream, or anything of that nature. In exchange, you receive half price on a room or a locker.
- Oh, OK, and--
- See.
- And they've been doing this at Midtown forever. I didn't know that, even here in Houston.
- Originally, we had done that in Dallas. Whenever I had went to Dallas, they were doing it one day a week. They had just started it, and I had came in and said, well, why don't we just stretch it to four days a week.
- Sure.
- It's a way that you can come in and have fun, give something, and receive something in return.
- That's great. That's a wonderful idea.
- Other than just getting a towel at the front desk.
- Yeah.

- And putting all your valuables in the security thing.
- Plus, over the last year, you've offered self-defense courses.
- Correct.
- Right, to teach people self-defense.
- Yes, we did that in Houston and in Dallas. With the way the crime rate has increased, we felt like our brothers and sisters needed to know how to defend themselves.
- And also, you offer HIV testing?
- Correct, every third Friday of the month at 9:00 PM, the clinic comes down, and they give the testing. The Montrose Clinic. They give a little discussion on do's and don'ts and just the informative.
- And, of course, that's all anonymous.
- Correct, it is anonymous.
- Yeah.
- Is that free, or--
- It is free.
- Isn't that wild?
- I remember years ago, the Montrose Clinic used to come in for VD testing. Do they still do that too?
- Yes, it's really basically all sexually-transmitted diseases.
- Oh, OK.
- The HIV is on the top of the list.
- Joe, right off the top of your head, do you have any statistics on how those tests always come back? I don't know I don't want to put you on the spot, but I know from working at CBC that those tests are always a lot lower within the club than they are just out in the general population.
- Just people walking in to the clinic.
- Yeah, isn't that wild?
- Well, I've been there, and there are sensible-sex posters up all over the place. I mean, you're constantly reminded.
- Well, plus, you have safe-sex workshops too that have to be done by the AIDS Foundation. Are those ongoing, or are those things that just happen once in a while?
- Just things that happen once in a while.
- OK.

- Well, when do we go?

- No, no, it's fun because we haven't even touched on all the facilities there yet because it's not just rooms and videos, and we touched on the Olympic-sized pool that's indoors, which is really nice. And you've got what else?

- We've got the dry sauna and the steam room. We've had some questions asked whether if it was OK for straight people to come in. And the first thing that I tell them is that we are not only designed as a bathhouse, but we do have these facilities available to any man, gay or straight, and there are people who just enjoy being around men. I mean, not just-- you know what I mean? That male bonding or whatever that I've read about.

- Well, yeah, it's a nice place to hang out because you've got a TV room, right?

- Yes, we have the TV room.

- Snack bar.

- Snack bar.

- And you're showing movies now on Fridays?

- Correct, we sure are. We show it in the TV room.

- Oh, OK, and you've got shower facilities upstairs and down.

- That's the main feature that I liked about the bathhouses was that you can clean up before you left.

- Before and after.

- Yes.

- That's exactly why I like the tubs, and I have always liked the baths. Because if you go to the bookstores, number one, the toilets are running out under the floor.

- Oh, yes.

- Plus, they're filthy because they never stop. They never close either, and they don't have anybody scrubbing the floor with Pine-sol and Windex.

- At the tubs, people are cleaning 24 hours a day.

- Yes.

- The rooms are clean. The facilities are clean, and you're right. That's what I enjoyed about going to the baths was that the showers were there. So when you do go out and do your thing, you can go, and you can shower and clean yourself up. And I think that's one of the reasons the sexually transmitted disease levels have always been such lower numbers in that environment than out in the general population. Because, girl, at those bookstores, they just pull their drawers up and go on to the next one.

- Yes.

- Please, please. No, thanks, and it's not safe. I'm sorry.

- No, no, it is not safe because they're not private clubs or anything like that.

- And you just pay like \$2 or \$3 to get into the thing, to the bookstores. Number one, if you're going to come in and harass people, you're not going to go to the tubs because you have to have membership cards, and there are fees to get in and out. You know what I mean? It's like paying up.

Queens used to bitch about paying fees at the door to the bars. Not now because everybody's charging \$10 to get in anyway. It seems that way. But back in the old days, we used to-- everybody used to bitch about, why is it \$5 cover? Well, because people that are going to harass us are not going to come down. Pay \$5 to get in to harass us.

- Yeah, that's true.

- But I agree. I would rather be in an environment that's safe where you don't have to worry about your wallet being stolen than to be out wandering around. And let's face it, if you're going to be out, you had better be out somewhere where it's safe, taking care of yourself.

- Being sensible about what you're doing.

- And a lot of you babies think that just because you're young that if you just do it-- the nasty-- with somebody else that's young, you're OK.

- No, no, baby.

- That ain't true, and that's why I'm glad that you guys have those safe-sex workshops and do that HIV testing because it's real important that we educate people. That's one of the reasons I got so frustrated with CBC and quit because you have to give people more than a towel, and a lot of times, we didn't do that. It was like, come on in, and we're going to sell you our towel and, that's it.

You're not getting nothing else, and I think that businesses, especially a business like that, has got to be responsible to the community that it serves. I really do, and that's why I'm excited about the Stone Soup thing going on for so long. Because if there are people who need help, it's people like Stone Soup. Because until recently, when we got this big donation from George Foreman, the Stone Soup pantry was getting ready to shut down. I don't know if you knew that.

- They were in bad shape.

- Oh, baby.

- They were in bad shape. They were in awful shape. They were getting ready to close down.

- I didn't realize they were in that bad of a shape.

- [INAUDIBLE].