

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

BUDDY Viewer discretion is advised.

JOHNSTON:

HOST 1: It certainly is.

HOST 2: Watch your cahuenga.

BUDDY Cahuenga. Who's cahuenga is this laying out here on the table this morning. Get your--

JOHNSTON:

HOST 1: Oh, it's gonna be a wild show tonight.

BUDDY Jim, you can't put your cahuenga on the table.

JOHNSTON:

HOST 1: But it's a very nice cahuenga.

HOST 2: You just got to learn to keep it under wraps.

BUDDY It certainly is. Hey, where's Bruce and Judy?

JOHNSTON:

HOST 2: Well, they are off to Washington.

BUDDY They're off at Washington. I talked to Bruce today. In fact, he's going to call us later on in the show--

JOHNSTON:

HOST 1: Oh, no kidding!

BUDDY With a live report. The NAMES Project is visiting the back of Ronnie's house. [SNORING] I know Reagan really gives a damn. What's that out on the lawn, Nancy?

JOHNSTON: And did you hear Dan Quayle last week? Ask not what the Republican Party can do for you but-- was that Dan Quayle, John Kennedy? He must be out of his mind.

HOST 1: I heard a great comment--

BUDDY Hello, Dan.

JOHNSTON:

HOST 1: About Quayle tonight.

BUDDY Hello, Dan. Is anybody home? Come on in.

JOHNSTON:

HOST 1: I heard a gwait-- I heard-- I can't talk. I heard a great comment about Quayle tonight at this concert. Billy Bragg, who's a performer, said that Quayle is not a heartbeat but a bladder away from the presidency. If you think about the recent medical afflictions of our past president, it's rather fitting.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: Well, on HBO they had *Not Necessarily the News*, and they have this big long horrible looking thing. And the Chinese were looking at it or something, and they said and the Chinese government now had President Reagan's intestines on display and strung all that [INAUDIBLE] down the way. Anyway--

HOST 1: All along the Great Wall of China.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: Yeah. This is *After Hours*, radio celebrating life, l-i-f-e with a capital life, from the heart of the Montrose. And we're queer and we're here and there are no lesbians in the building. Thank God. No.

HOST 2: No lesbians tonight. I'm sorry.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: Kay, I didn't mean that. We're going to say nasty things today about Ronald Reagan, of course, and Dan Quayle and George Bush. Also we're going to be talking about the anniversary of the National March on Washington for Gay and Lesbian Rights. That happened a year ago this weekend. Can you believe that?

HOST 1: Yes.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: 650,000-plus.

HOST 1: A whole year, I can't believe it.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: Yeah. One of the largest demonstrations of people in our country's history although they ignored us, although they--

HOST 3: National Coming Out Day.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: National Coming Out Day this Tuesday. It's getting ready to happen. I want to tell you all about that. And seriously that we're going to be talking about the NAMES Project. The quilt has returned to Washington. It's not on display at the Mall because the National Park Service decided that they had to seed the Mall this coming week and they didn't want us stepping on all those fresh seeds.

HOST 2: It's at the Ellipse.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: Yeah, it's on the-- it's at the Ellipse right behind the White House.

HOST 2: Oh, right behind it.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: So Nancy and Ronnie can look out. I was so angry today because I watched CNN, and finally they went [ZIPPING NOISE]. What was that? Oh, that was the story about the quilt.

CBS had a nice little piece at the end of their national news. ABC, they're still trying to find Washington DC. NBC, I don't know who's running that show. ABC did have the quilt though last night on *Nightline*. That was really nice. Oh, it's was real pretty.

Cleve Jones and all those people were on there. But we're going to be talking about the quilt and the NAMES Project. This is *After Hours* from KPFT Houston. We want to hear from you at 526-4000. We weren't here last week, and we'll tell you all about that, too. So give us a call and let us know what's on your mind Houston, right?

HOST 2: Right.

BUDDY Should we get going? Huh?

JOHNSTON:

HOST 2: I want to hear what's on some people's minds. [INAUDIBLE]

BUDDY 526-4000.

JOHNSTON:

[MUSIC PLAYING]

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

CROWD: (CHANTING) Say it loud, gay and proud.

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

WOMAN: The people of Dade County have said enough, enough, enough.

CROWD: (CHANTING) Human rights are here to stay. Anita Bryant go away.

MAN: There's no question in my mind that the people of California don't want homosexual teachers in the classroom.

MAN: State Senator John Briggs has just conceded the election.

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

REPORTER: Dan white has been found guilty of one count each of voluntary manslaughter.

CROWD: (CHANTING) Fight back. Fight back.

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

REPORTER: And here comes the National March on Washington for Lesbian and Gay Rights.

REPORTER: Gay power, gay politics. That's what this report is about.

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

WOMAN: I think it's terrible. Had a rock, I'd throw it at them.

WOMAN: The real message of these gay games is it every one of us is a winner.

MAN: Tonight we are marching as are others across America, and we shouldn't have to be.

LEA DELARIA: Come on 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.

REPORTER: Harvey, do you have a few words for KPFT.

HARVEY MILK: Come on out. 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.

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

[CHEERING]

HOST 1: (SINGSONGY) We're here.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: Did you hear Alan? (SINGSONGY) We're queer. 2:00 on a Sunday morning. That only means you're tuned to KPFT and *After Hours*, right?

HOST 1: Right. You got it.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: It's radio celebrating life from the heart of the Montrose, and we're glad you're queer or I mean we're glad you're here.

HOST 1: That's right.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: And if you're queer, we're glad about that, too

HOST 1: We're even happier about that.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: In this state, we're homosexual criminals. We're all criminals in this state because they have sodomy laws on the books in Austin, whatever that means. I'm sure they're still trying to figure that out.

What is this? There's a man. There's a straight-- there's a homose-- there's a heterosexual in the control room now. He's going to call us some down under name. What is it?

HOST 4: What?

BUDDY JOHNSTON: What's that word you call us?

HOST 4: Poofter.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: Poofter.

HOST 1: Poofter.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: Anyway this is *After Hours*. We're going to be talking about the NAMES Project's return to Washington. It's going to be great so give us a call at 526-4000 and tell us what's on your mind this morning if you have a mind this morning that's functioning as mine's not doing very well. Is yours.

HOST 1: Well, it's a little slow.

BUDDY I'm thinking about [HUMMING].

JOHNSTON:

HOST 1: That's a very good [INAUDIBLE]

BUDDY Well, see, I can't say that because the FCC would-- yeah. Your spare tire is flat, you flaming poofter.

JOHNSTON:

[LAUGHTER]

And ladies and gentlemen, please do not try this at home. This is gay radio please. This-- and remember there is no parking in the white zone this morning. 12:12 in the morning on Houston's KPFT. This is *After Hours*, radio celebrating life. 526-4000 is really the number to call so give us a call and let's hear from you. Got some great stuff in store for you so stay tuned.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

Yes, it's 17 minutes after 2:00.

HOST 1: 2:00.

BUDDY Geez.

JOHNSTON:

HOST 1: Body rocking music.

BUDDY Body rocking music. And if you're making your way home from the bars this morning, please drive carefully,
JOHNSTON: buckle those seat belts, and obey all traffic laws because Houston's finest I'm sure they're out there looking for you.

HOST 1: That's right.

BUDDY Right? The NAMES Project back in Washington. Bruce called this morning and said it was cold in DC.

JOHNSTON:

HOST 1: Oh.

BUDDY It's cold enough for him-- how can he be cold with all that body--

JOHNSTON:

Anyhow what is it? Bruce is in here, so we can say all kinds of nasty things about him.

HOST 1: We can talk nasty about him.

BUDDY And we're going to, too. You can bet your bottom dollar because we're going to have a--

JOHNSTON:

[PLAYING THEME FROM THE FLINTSTONES]

[MUSIC PLAYING]

MAN: 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.

[SINGING]

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]

**GLINDA THE
GOOD WITCH:** It's all right. You may all come out.

CROWD: (CHANTING) Now. What do we want? Gay rights. When do we want them? Now. What do we want? Gay rights. When do we want them? Now. What do we want?

[SINGING]

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

[CHEERING]

[MUSIC PLAYING]

**BUDDY
JOHNSTON:** That's Romanovsky and Phillips and "Living with AIDS" from the *Emotional Rollercoaster* album, and you're listening to *After Hours* on KPFT. The key word there is living with AIDS. Unfortunately, the Republican administration and Reagan, they don't give a damn if we live or die. That's obvious because they've ignored us for the last eight years. We were in Washington last year 650,000-plus, and they didn't even look out the window.

And today the NAMES Project has over 8,000 3 by 6 foot panels lying on the Ellipse right behind the White House, and I don't think Reagan really gives a damn. Maybe he does, maybe he doesn't. I know he doesn't, kids. You know I'm here to tell you he doesn't. He doesn't care about us.

And my message to you this morning is I don't give a damn what Reagan thinks. I know that we're good people and we're going to make it. And I'll make you a promise that nobody is going to take that away from us. Gay pride, that's what it's all about, life. And this is radio celebrating life from the heart of the Montrose, *After Hours* on KPFT. 526-4000.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

MAN: Can I tell you what the gay movement's about? After I got elected, I got the phone call I knew I'd eventually get. Got quite a few of them. One was from a 17-year-old child in a small town in Minnesota. And the boy is handicapped.

And the boy's parents know that he's gay and they want to put him in an insane asylum. And that boy needs help.

And the gay movement is about the letter I got from Southwest Africa when he read about a gay person getting elected here and that person has hope. And that 17-year-old kid in Minnesota has hope. And we have gay leaders not understanding that and are more worried about their own personal power. They're not gay leaders. They're offensive.

[MUSIC - CYNDI LAUPER - "TRUE COLORS"]

BUDDY Cyndi Lauper and "True Colors." This is *After Hours*, radio celebrating life from the heart of the Montrose. 526-
JOHNSTON: 4000 is the number to call. We want to hear from you.

PSA: When you see the quilt, you understand how it began with one name sewn with love and grew to thousands of names. Stitched with memories, surrounded by favorite things, each name is a proud inscription, but all of them together make a national monument to those who died of AIDS, a monument that says remember me.

BUDDY And if you happen to be in Washington tomorrow, it's on display, right.
JOHNSTON:

HOST 1: It sure is.

BUDDY At the Ellipse right behind Ronnie Reagan's house. I hope it's not George Bush's house. Speaking of George Bush,
JOHNSTON: today October the 9th is the last day you can register to vote. So if you're not a registered voter, you need to do that. You need to go-- I don't know where you can do that. There's a card here. We'll play that in a minute. Don't let me forget this, guys.

It tells you how to register, and it's very important that you register because if you don't, people are going to take away your rights, well, like we've already got any.

HOST 1: They can always call the GLPC, too.

BUDDY How come you're not talking? Oh there you are. They can always what?
JOHNSTON:

HOST 1: They can always call the GLPC also.

BUDDY The HGLPC. You have to get that right.
JOHNSTON:

HOST 1: Oh, yeah. Sorry.

BUDDY But anyway this is something we didn't give away last week, and I think we didn't give it away two weeks ago. It's
JOHNSTON: a 12-inch mix of that song we played earlier, "Pure Energy" by Information Society. Is that right?

HOST 1: Mmm hmm. "What's on Your Mind."

BUDDY Yeah, "What on your Mind." So if you're the 10th caller at 526-4000. We'll slap this on you. It's the 12-inch mix of
JOHNSTON: "Pure Energy" by Information Society. It's a pretty good sounding song.

HOST 1: It's good.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: Although Harvey Milk's not screaming every gay person must come out [GIBBERISH], but we'll take the 10th caller. 526-4000 if you'd like to pick that up. And, oops, somebody pick that up. I just dropped it. This is--

HOST 1: What is that? I've been looking at that all evening?

BUDDY JOHNSTON: This is-- here. Baby, take a hold of this, would you?

HOST 1: Whoa.

HOST 2: There it is.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: Have you ever seen this?

HOST 2: Yes, I have. Yeah.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: Now for you people that don't have your televisions on-- oh, this is radio. This is a--

HOST 2: Sorry.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: This is a big pink banner, a 6 foot long and 3 foot wide, and at the top of it, it says gay and lesbian radio. And it's got the *After Hours* logo on it, the picture of the skyline of the city Houston and a little pink triangle. It says radio celebrating life from the heart of the Montrose, KPFT 90.1 FM.

And the reason this is like this is because when Mark Schmidt, who did our sports on this program, died way back in February, we made a panel for Mark out of this same material. This is half of it, and it had this same thing on it, *After Hours*, and it said Mark Schmidt, January 8 19-- I can't remember 1955 or '56-- to whenever he died. He was 33 years old.

And Mark did our sports, and we made a panel just like this that's lying in Washington on display with the NAMES Project.

HOST 1: Doesn't that give you a good feeling?

BUDDY JOHNSTON: So-- yeah, it does. That's why I wanted this made because Mark wouldn't have been crazy about a panel. I can guarantee you that. Half the people I know that are memorialized on the quilt wouldn't be crazy about the panels. They would much rather take the quilt down to Galveston and lie on it in the sun and have a good time. But anyway that's what that's all about.

And then this big blue one just simply says the NAMES Project. This is when we made up-- when we went out soliciting funds and volunteers and all kinds of goodies. But there are 8,000 of those babies.

HOST 1: 8,266.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: Is that what it is? 8,266.

HOST 1: 16 tons.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: 16 tons, over seven football fields long. It's a very beautiful sight. It really is. Bruce and Deborah said-- or Bruce and Judy said they went up in the top of the-- what is it, Washington Monument, and looked down on it and said it was just absolutely beautiful. What'd you say? Line 4?

HOST 3: Line 4 is the winner.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: Line 4 is the winner. Line 4. Hello.

CALLER: Hi.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: Hi there. You want this 12 inch? You want-- you want the whole 12 inch. I mean, you want the complete full 12-inch mix, right?

CALLER: If that's what you've got.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: You don't want just like a 7 incher. You want a 12 incher.

HOST 1: He wants a big one.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: This is the 12-inch single of "What's on Your Mind." This has never been played, too. What's your name?

CALLER: Robert.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: Robert.

CALLER: Mmm hmm.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: Well, Robert, thanks to-- [BLUBBERING] I was thinking about that 12-inch single. Thanks for listening to *After Hours* and if you'll hang on just a second, somebody will get your name and everything, OK.

CALLER: OK.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: Hang on. We do have a winner. Robert. Yay, Robert. Thanks for listening, Robert.

HOST 1: Yay, Robert. He gets the 12 incher.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: He gets the 12-inch single and--

HOST 2: I'm sure he'll be very happy to get it.

BUDDY JOHNSTON: Somebody throw that 12-inch single over here, too.

[MUSIC - SWING OUT SISTER - "BREAKOUT"]

Oh my God, can you say that on the radio, 12-inch single? This is *After Hours*, radio celebrating life from the heart of the Montrose. It's about 20 minutes before 3:00, and we're ready to break out.

The record's ending. Yo.

HOST 1: And let's not [INAUDIBLE]

**BUDDY
JOHNSTON:** The record's ending. What happens Tuesday?

HOST 2: Tuesday is National Coming Out Day.

**BUDDY
JOHNSTON:** Tell us about that.

HOST 2: Well, that doesn't mean exactly to get out on your soapbox and scream to the world you're gay. That means--

**BUDDY
JOHNSTON:** I'm gay.

HOST 2: Well, if you want to, you can, but it means just taking the next step that you normally would be. My next step, I'm going to run around all over town wearing a t-shirt that says if I look it, I probably am.

[LAUGHTER]

**BUDDY
JOHNSTON:** (SINGING) He's queer.

HOST 2: That's right.

**BUDDY
JOHNSTON:** And he's available. And if you're interested, the number is-- no, we can't do that. Hey, Garland said we could have personals. We could do personals, a personal column. Would that be fun?

HOST 2: Yeah.

HOST 1: So we give you away to the 10th caller?

[LAUGHTER]

**BUDDY
JOHNSTON:** No. No, we're not going to give him away to the 10th caller.

HOST 3: The second caller.

**BUDDY
JOHNSTON:** The second caller.

HOST 2: How about every caller?

[LAUGHTER]

BUDDY How about we--
JOHNSTON:

HOST 1: This is the late '80s. We can't do that.

BUDDY How about we-- how about we don't--
JOHNSTON:

HOST 3: The phones are lighting up.

BUDDY How about we don't and say we did. Listen to this.
JOHNSTON:

WOMAN: I'm here at Edwards Air Force Base. A large crater has been found close to where the Discovery landed. The National Guard just turned on the floodlights. Wow. Someone or something crawled out.

All those cigar butts and cheap wine bottles. Now the guard is tracking the footprints and cigar butts across the desert. They're headed straight for I-10.

MAN: And the mystery begins. Stay tuned to KPFT 90.1 FM for more details.

MAN: Hello. Do you know me? I've appeared in hundreds of Warner Brother cartoons with that screwy rabbit who always does drag. Yet whenever I travel, homophobic troublemakers are always telling me that there's no rooms in the hotels, no available seats in their restaurants, and no cars to rent. It gets downright frustrating.

At first, I wanted to cry. What's my sexual orientation got to do with my being a good customer. Then I got a Gaymerican Express card. Now I use it everywhere from crepes in France to tropical fruits in Honolulu to picking up chicks in Australia. My Gaymerican Express card does it all.

[CLACKING]

Gaymerican Express, don't be homo without it. [CHUCKLING]

BUDDY [IMITATING CHUCKLE]. Can y'all do that?
JOHNSTON:

HOST 1: No, I never could.

BUDDY Yes, ladies and gentlemen, this is gay radio, and we are homosexual. And if you don't believe that, if you have lots of hair on your chest and you'd like to knock on my door, the address is-- no. We can't do that. Somebody said we were soliciting sex one time over the air.

HOST 1: What?

BUDDY I mean, forget these other radio stations that have all these bebop kids from high school and then the DJ's going, hey, yeah, [GROWLING] and all these little high school cheerleaders are going [BLEATING]. [INAUDIBLE] all the boys in the band. I mean, God forbid that they're soliciting anything down there.

And we know there's nothing so-- no one's soliciting sex in this country. If you turn on the telly and look, they're just-- they're really selling Doublemint and Juicy Fruit gum. They're not selling all those gorgeous bodies bouncing around and all those jeans that have all those nude bodies hanging out of them. They're really selling blue jeans. They're not selling sex. What's the sex thing? It's-- everybody's sex, sex, sex. Sex. Oh.

Bruce isn't here, so we should say something nasty about him. Let's talk about the NAMES Project seriously. Because we're going to run a special here in just a minute. It's called Counted Not as Numbers But as Names. It ran on this program back a week before the quilt came here Mother's Day this year. And if you didn't see the quilt in the George R. Brown Convention Center, you missed it, right?

HOST 1: Sure did.

**BUDDY
JOHNSTON:** Because it was absolutely beautiful. Rob, did it come anywhere near Philly because you just--

HOST 2: No, we lost out actually. We were going to have it, and what happened was the city workers threatened to strike and nobody wanted to commit to a venue for the quilt as a result.

**BUDDY
JOHNSTON:** Are you serious? We almost--

HOST 2: Yeah, we were really disappointed, but we all go down to Washington to see it anyway. It's there.

**BUDDY
JOHNSTON:** We almost lost it here, too, because the gay community was too busy fighting as we do all the time. I mean, I was going to say something about the Pride Week meetings, but we haven't had a meeting yet. We've had two gatherings where you get together and they tell you what they've decided and everybody goes yay.

HOST 1: Process junkies.

**BUDDY
JOHNSTON:** Yeah. It's nice going to meetings where you don't have to make decisions. It's like the way this country's been ran for the last eight years but enough of that. The quilt.

When the quilt came back in May, we got this wonderful letter from someone that I'd like to share with you. It says dear folks at *After Hours*, I just wanted to thank you for the approach your show takes. As a straight person with far too many conservative influences in her life, I'm pleased to say that your show really touches me and helps me to keep from giving up all of my hopeful visions of a better society. If not for you, I wouldn't have learned about the quilt.

Even though the only people I knew were people like Liberace and Rock Hudson, I enjoyed studying the pan-- I enjoyed studying the panels and getting to know the people through the love of those who knew them. Before I left, I turned to look at the quilt one last time. Suddenly, I thought I could see each person standing on their panel. Some were holding babies, some beckoning others to stand with them because these others had not had people to make panels for them. Everyone was holding hands, and through their strength and their sadness, it was beautiful.

I, too, am sad, but *After Hours* helps me have faith. Love and light, Seri. And Seri sent us that back in May, and, Seri, we want to thank you for listening to *After Hours* and for taking the time to go down and see the quilt. It was a very, very beautiful thing.

The first time we talked about it on this program was in January. We had been to a leadership conference out at the University of Houston, and we had some guy by the name of Ray Hill in here. And he was talking--

HOST 1: Who?

BUDDY JOHNSTON: Some queen by the name of Ray Hill-- and we were talking about the quilt, and we happened to get a phone call.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

And when you work in live radio sometimes, Rob-- we're having a class now, ladies and gentlemen. Rob, when you work in live radio, sometimes you push the wrong button like when you don't look over and see what card it is. Well, that was one of those times, but we did get that phone call. Are you ready? Now, Rob, push this button.

See, I try to make it look like he's the one that screwed up. No, it was me, but this is what the phone call sounded like.

MAN: [INAUDIBLE]

MAN: And so-- so--

MAN: Dave.

MAN: Yeah.

MAN: You remember the Marys panel?

MAN: All of the Marys panels. There were so many of them. Yes.

MAN: That struck me, and my friend was not part of that. However, seeing that panel and seeing those people--

MAN: I knew all of this people.

MAN: I didn't know all of them, but that segment of panels brought me to my knees. Mack panel.

MAN: Mack's panel, yeah.

MAN: Mack Thing that at the far end of that quilt was a moving experience. And I know there are people out here listening to me who saw it also.

MAN: Well, there are a lot of people listening to this program. All kinds of people listen to the *After Hours* show-- insomniacs, people on their place

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

MAN: And, and , and , and.

MAN: So I want to say something that perhaps will help those people that didn't experience the quilt as you or haven't experienced losing someone to AIDS as everyone in this room had. Let me tell you, I am 47 years old. I have lost more of my friends to AIDS and violence than my mother has of her friends, and she's 74. That is an unnatural environment. That sort of thing ought never in the history of humankind to happen.

But I have learned more about life from the direct experience of learning about death and know how precious every minute that I have is. And I know how precious every minute that I spend with a friend is to my hope in the world. I want to invite you to start planning now to make time available on Mother's Day 1988 so that you can come and experience the rich tapestry of people young and old, straight and gay, who have died in at least some small part of the hope that never again will we hate one another, never again will we waste our lives.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

LIZ FULTON: What you're listening to took place at dawn on October 11, 1987, as the sun rises majestically over the Capitol building in Washington DC under the silhouetted spires of the Smithsonian Institute across the Capitol mall, the inaugural unfolding of the largest community arts project in the world taking place, the unfolding of a huge quilt four football fields in length assembled from 3 foot by 6 foot patches from all across the United States. Slowly you begin to realize that most traditional American quilts shouldn't make you cry. This one does.

WOMAN: You saw that quilt go down and it was at dawn and people were reading the names and the names and the names of all those people that have died and all the talent gone and the lives lost. And it simply became an overwhelming experience. It became a lot more than just my son.

MAN: Richard Anderson.

Gary Barnhill.

David Talgaro.

Bobby Campbell.

MAN: It was a very overwhelming emotional experience, more than I had even anticipated that it would be. And part of that was because of the personal nature of the project to myself and having created several panels for people that I knew. The sense of accomplishment was wonderful in the sense-- the power and the sense of the drama of it, and it really did its job.

MAN: Bruce Harris.

David Hicks.

LIZ FULTON: Each panel of the quilt displays the name of a person who has died from AIDS. As the quilt is unfolded, the names are read aloud. That's when you begin to understand that AIDS not only affects the lives of those who suffer from it but the lives of their family, their friends, and their co-workers.

WOMAN: Norman Armentrout. Tim Barbeau. Richard Brower. Gary Christofoletti. Jim Crandall. Ed Knight. Dennis Dunwoody.

MAN: The most important thing about the quilt is the-- it shows the humanity behind the statistics and it shows the number of people who've been affected, not just the people who have died but the people who are making the quilt.

LIZ FULTON: I'm Liz Fulton. For the next half hour, you'll be hearing the stories of the NAMES Project, the people who are taking the AIDS Quilt on a national tour of the United States to 20 cities and crossing 12,000 miles to carry the memory of loved ones who have died from AIDS home again.

[MUSIC - CYNDI LAUPER - "TRUE COLORS"]

WOMAN: We had a good time making it, and it was fun to remember David. And he brought a lot of joy into our lives, and we think about him with great fondness. But it was important to do something we thought that was connected to a larger expression of loss in the country from AIDS.

[SINGING]

WOMAN: What I love about this pink fabric is it reminds me of Arturo's cheeks. They were so beautiful and rosy always.

[SINGING]

MAN: There is a panel for a man by the name of Sean, and the image, the colors, everything on that panel, it just works and it jumps off the fabric. And you sense who this person is, and there's a great amount of love that you can see that went into making the panel. And it's very moving, and it's hard to walk away from.

LIZ FULTON: The quilt is a powerful display of the human toll taken by AIDS. In addition, it's a colorful, loving tribute to those who are currently battling the disease.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

Peter has AIDS. We were with him the first time he walked on the quilt and stopped near the patch for his brother Cap.

PETER: It brings up a lot of sadness for me. It's the first real memorial of Cap that we have, and seeing it, it surprised me. I wasn't sure how I'd react. But seeing it just brought up a lot of sadness for me, but being here, seeing this quilt, it's just amazing. Seeing it on television and seeing photographs is not the same, but actually walking through and seeing it, it makes me feel really good. It makes me know that we won't be forgotten.

LIZ FULTON: Actress and comedienne Lily Tomlin was there also standing on one of the walkways that crisscross the quilt as she told us how she felt.

LILY TOMLIN: Well, what-- what-- it's so-- it's overwhelming just the pause-- is-- the positive quality of it I think because the fact that so many individuals put so much care and atten-- and caring into making these squares and then to make each one is so-- what leaps out to you is that each one is so personal. I was driving over here, and I was thinking about the crosses at Arlington and the huge collective but anonymous quality of it and how profound it was. And this is so much more individual and personalized. And every-- each one of these individuals is a living person to you and their little mementos and their shirts and their little symbols that reflected something sweet and dear about them to the people who knew them and loved them.

LIZ FULTON: I'm Liz Fulton. You're listening to the stories of the people who work on the NAMES Project.

Cleve Jones founded the NAMES Project as a grassroots organization last year. He's also tested positive to the AIDS virus. Cleve Jones continues to battle the disease alongside of his friends with an enormous commitment, a need to say something about this epidemic to the world. His reasons for doing it are clear.

CLEVE JONES: Some days I can barely tolerate it. The worst days are days when I open up a package that's come in the mail and learned that another person that I knew died. In one month, I found out that everybody that lived in the same house with me in the early '70s in the Haight-Ashbury has died.

LIZ FULTON: Cleve Jones believes in challenging people. One year ago, Cleve stuck his neck out by telling people he was assembling a quilt to unfold at the National March on Washington in October of 1987. That was only eight months away from the day he made that announcement, an impossible task for even the most experienced crew.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

And Cleve depended on the help of anyone who had some free time. The people who volunteer for the NAMES Project are courageous, loving, hardworking people, most of whom work full-time jobs and volunteer around the quilt in what used to be their free time.

[SINGING]