

[MUSIC - ACOUSTIC ALCHEMY, "EVIL THE WEASEL"]

**BUDDY** Well, we can't play that one. [LAUGHS] We're not going to play that card.

**JOHNSTON:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** It's messing with the equipment.

**BUDDY** Huh? There you are.

**JOHNSTON:**

**RAY HILL:** Messing with the equipment again?

**BUDDY** I don't know.

**JOHNSTON:**

**RAY HILL:** You try to do those fabulous mixes and all that stuff.

**BUDDY** [LAUGHS]

**JOHNSTON:**

**RAY HILL:** She uses a hyperactive programmer.

**BUDDY** Oh, yeah? What can I say. Uh, what can I say? 526-4000. We've got about 20 minutes, I guess.

**JOHNSTON:**

**RAY HILL:** You're going to do "Ticket to Kill?"

**BUDDY** Yeah, we need to do that. We've got tickets to *Torch Song* trilogy. We've got five pair, 526-4000. We'll give you

**JOHNSTON:** tickets to go see *Torch Song* if you just call in and say, I want them. I think it's only playing, like, another week or so at the Cineplex Odeon.

**RAY HILL:** A must see.

**BUDDY** Is that right, Cineplex Odeon? I want to be sure I say that right. 526-4000. Be sure to give them your name, and

**JOHNSTON:** address, and your telephone number when you call. So I'm going to find out from Margaret how long it's going to run, and then we'll work out something to get them to you. But if you want tickets to *Torch Song*, 526-4000, that's the number to call.

I do want to say thanks to Margaret-- where's her card at-- Margaret Stratton? I don't have it. Margaret Stratton with Cineplex-- here it is-- Cineplex Odeon Corporation. Margaret's the director of publicity and promotions, and she helped us out with posters and tickets. And the people at the Cineplex Odeon have been wonderful to us. I was calling around talking to people at New Line Cinema and people at PolyGram Records and not getting anywhere. And I met Margaret here in Houston, and she's just been fabulous. So 526-4000 if you want the tickets. If that line is busy, try calling 520-KPFT. And we'll give them to you there on line 3, OK?

Also, I want to say thanks to a dear friend of mine, who will be with us March the 28th through the 1st of April, Larry Lash with PolyGram Records. If you go down to Sound Warehouse, and you buy a copy of *Torch Song* trilogy, and you look where it says "producer," you'll see the name Larry Lash. Larry's a very, very wonderful gay brother who will be here in Houston and he'll be on the show--

**RAY HILL:** [INAUDIBLE]

**BUDDY** Yeah, he's a big record producer, and he'll be here with us. 526-4000, that's the number to call if you've ever wanted to say something to Mr. Ray Hill. Can he get 4? Yeah, why not? Let's see what we got.

Line 3, you're on the air. Good morning.

**CALLER:** Hi, it's me again. I have two things-- two topics that I wanted to talk to you about very briefly, one of which is the gentleman who said he was in a straight bar?

**BUDDY** Yeah.

**JOHNSTON:**

**CALLER:** I was wondering what bars were these. Because the bars that I have been frequenting such as Excess and, you know, Cooter's and Shanghai Ritz, just to name a few, you can't tell which which is which! [INAUDIBLE] I don't know what.

**RAY HILL:** Well, there--

**BUDDY** Yeah.

**JOHNSTON:**

**RAY HILL:** --there is one school of thought that if you can't tell the difference, it doesn't make any.

**CALLER:** That's what I mean. I took a friend of mine, you know, who knows my identity for what it's worth, and we went into Excess. And he was scared to make a move. He thought the house was full of fruits.

**BUDDY** Well--

**JOHNSTON:**

**RAY HILL:** Yeah.

[LAUGHTER]

Well, you got to watch the eyes. The eyes will tell.

**CALLER:** Yeah, OK.

**BUDDY** What was the second point?

**JOHNSTON:**

**CALLER:** OK, the second thing I wanted to talk about is I find that there are a lot of, you know, discriminations amongst gay people.

**RAY HILL:** That's true.

**CALLER:** One incident that I had that really embarrassed me was like, I took a girlfriend of mine to the beer bust at the Montrose Mining Company.

**BUDDY** Mm-hmm.

**JOHNSTON:**

**RAY HILL:** Mm-hmm.

CALLER And she was approached by a little Spanish guy who said, [INAUDIBLE] you know you ain't going to get no men in here.

**BUDDY** Uh-huh.

**JOHNSTON:**

**CALLER:** Honest to God, well, why does she have to be, you know, subjected to this type of material? OK. That is not the creme of the creme. Then the bartender started being nasty toward us. And then to top it all off, management put her out because she was a female first of all.

**RAY HILL:** Right and there's been a great deal of sexism, especially among what I call the razor sharped hairspray bars and those along Pacific street. Not only that, but I find that there is probably a very serious anti-Hispanic prejudice over there.

**CALLER:** Mm-hmm.

**RAY HILL:** My companion is from Chile, and so he tells me of some of the instances that he has.

**CALLER:** Oh, yes.

**RAY HILL:** Fact of the matter is that one of the ways that a lot of gay people deal with their own guilt is try to find another group of people that they can put down and that is a sign of--

**CALLER:** Insecurity.

**RAY HILL:** --of insecurity and the guilt that they pack around. As they think better of themselves, a lot of that goes away, and that's ultimately what we're working on is trying to persuade gay people to become aware of their own self-worth and the worth of their peers. And along with that, comes less obvious or apparent sexism and less prejudice against racial minorities.

**BUDDY** Listen. Thanks for calling, baby.

**JOHNSTON:**

**CALLER:** Well, one more thing I wanted to-- well, actually, I'm going to run this real quick, OK? Now, as for the straight bar things, now, I'm a young Black male, OK? And most of the time I frequent bars that cater to 25 to maybe 40.

OK, now, picture, like, say maybe 200 of the most roughest, biggest guys that you could imagine. And it's very easy to get along with them because [INAUDIBLE] at the bar, somebody will find you attractive and will come over and say something to you. And you just be yourself with that individual, and it works. You have no problems at all.

Now, when you're flamboyant or the loud and outrageous brutes, you know, then you're going to suffer a lot of rejection from men who aren't.

**RAY HILL:** Well, that's not necessarily true. Because, I mean, I grew up-- my college thesis was on Black gay people. And back then, I mean, it was like pre-integration days whenever I was going to college.

**CALLER:** Hey, you should party with me.

**RAY HILL:** And so, I used to actually live over there on Dowling Street and hung out at a place called the Red Lily Q.

**CALLER:** And what about Selina's Place? Did you ever go to the--

**RAY HILL:** No, that was--

**CALLER:** --China Gates.

**RAY HILL:** China Gates, of course, darling.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

**RAY HILL:** I thought-- I thought I had to pay rent there. I was in there so often. And I found that a high sissy on Dowling Street on Saturday night, I used to think those people were in serious trouble. Well, the same guys that would make smart comments at one corner would ask them for a date on the next.

**CALLER:** [INAUDIBLE]. Now, that's how they treat folks.

**RAY HILL:** All you've got to do is just carry yourself with dignity and you can flame all day.

**CALLER:** [INAUDIBLE] You said a mouthful there. Now, I hate to take up all--

**BUDDY** Listen, baby. We got to go.

**JOHNSTON:**

**RAY HILL:** Darling, we got to go.

**CALLER:** No, wait. This will be short. This is about the newscaster.

**BUDDY** Uh-huh.

**JOHNSTON:**

**RAY HILL:** Uh-huh.

**CALLER:** OK.

**BUDDY** Ed Brandon?

**JOHNSTON:**

**CALLER:** Yes.

**RAY HILL:** Ed Brandon?

**CALLER:** Now, the person that he was paying money to, he's my friend's next-door neighbor and we--

**RAY HILL:** Darling, would you give me a call at my office?

[LAUGHTER]

**CALLER:** [LAUGHS]

**BUDDY** Call Ray at his office.

**JOHNSTON:**

**RAY HILL:** We need to talk about that. That's a little bit sensitive to talk about on the air. But my telephone number and you-

-

**CALLER:** All right. Let me get a pen.

**RAY HILL:** Well, you don't have to get a pen, darling. You won't forget this telephone number. Believe me, all right?

[LAUGHTER]

The number's 523-6969.

**CALLER:** 523-6969.

**RAY HILL:** Now, how can you forget that number?

**CALLER:** You can't. Now, can I beg for a compact disc?

[LAUGHTER]

**BUDDY** We'll talk. Listen, thanks for calling.

**JOHNSTON:**

**CALLER:** OK.

**BUDDY** 526-4000, that's the number to call. Ray, I haven't been involved-- the only thing I ever did for the gay

**JOHNSTON:** community was get down on my knees and-- now, we can't say that-- and pray, thanking god for all-- [LAUGHS]

**RAY HILL:** Glory hallelujah.

**BUDDY** Listen, are we ever going to get-- my what I was going to say-- my involvement with the community has made me

**JOHNSTON:** aware of the bigotry and homophobia and discrimination that is within our own community. Are we ever going to get past that?

**RAY HILL:** That's what I work on. I mean, people see me in roles of being rough and tough on the police and giving Randalls all kinds of difficulty because of their discrimination. I don't really care what Randalls thinks about me. Doesn't make me a damn bit of difference what police officers even say to me. I mean, I don't have time to raise those immature people's minds to another level.

I do that so that gay people and gay men and lesbians are reinforced where they are. It's a public show of telegraphing to gay people that I think that their dignity is worth struggling-- worth struggling for in the hopes that in that process, they will learn to struggle for their own dignity.

**BUDDY** This is-- this is 1989.

**JOHNSTON:**

**RAY HILL:** Yeah.

**BUDDY** We're celebrating the 20th anniversary of stonewall.

**JOHNSTON:**

**RAY HILL:** Yeah.

**BUDDY** I am a young gay and lesbian person listening to you right now at home that goes to school afraid someone's

**JOHNSTON:** going to find out that I'm gay. I am a police officer that's been listening ever since he found out the gay dispatcher was doing the radio show.

**RAY HILL:** Mhm.

**BUDDY** I am that teacher that we had at the pride week meeting two weeks ago that said she was afraid someone would

**JOHNSTON:** see her in a lesbian gay pride week T-shirt. I am the young woman that was at the Harvey milk rally with MCCR church choir getting ready to sing, and she came up to me, and she said I can't be on television. No one can find out. What does Ray Hill say to me in the 20th anniversary on the eve of the stonewall celebration? What would you say to me this morning?

**RAY HILL:** I think more than saying something, Ray Hill stands out there not just being openly gay but rubbing it in the faces of those that would do us literal harm. And I don't get hate cards. I don't get hate letters.

People that call my telephone number have got intelligent things to talk about. And the reason that's true is because all of your fears are only your fears. All of the things, all of the reasons you throw up to say I can't be an openly gay person because I'm a schoolteacher. Waiting in line to get in the men's room-- I was with a bunch of women, and I was at a primarily women's bar, and they used the men's room just like men's bars use the women's room because there's just only so many stools. And the woman behind me and her friend were having a conversation.

And her friend said well, what's it like being a teacher. She said oh, it's just hell, let me tell you. All of the girls in my school have fallen in love with me. She says next year, I think I'll try high school because these junior high school girls and their crushes on their gym teachers just something that I can't stand.

And here she is-- I mean, if you really felt that all those gym teachers all those years that you already knew about were in the closet, who is fooling whom?

**BUDDY** That's what I was just gonna ask you, Ray.

**JOHNSTON:**

**RAY HILL:** Your closets are not protecting you.

**BUDDY** Who are you fooling?

**JOHNSTON:**

**RAY HILL:** I mean Ed Brandon, bless his heart, and Ed-- Ed is going through the hell that every closeted gay man lives in dread fear about. He's going through exactly what your worst nightmare is. But do you know anybody that really thought Ed Brandon was straight? His closet didn't work.

None of your closets are working. Everybody already knows. The only person that is being fooled by your closet is yourself, and you just don't have enough courage, and you just don't think you're good enough.

And you're just-- and I'm getting so tired of you living with that zit mentality. You know when you're a teenager, when you got that teenage acne, and you got that zit on your nose that nobody else even notices, but when you walk in front of a mirror, that's all you see. The rest of you is completely out of focus except for that horrible thing on your face.

You're-- stop considering your sexuality like a zit. That is your natural response to the world and the people around you. It is not an infection from outside. It is not going to go away.

The only thing that will go away is your fears, and if you can overcome your fears and come out of your closet, you will do more to win the respect and the admiration of everyone else in your life. Your straight friends, your gay friends, your parents, your peers. If you are honest, that is deserving of far more respect and admiration than living a dishonest life.

**BUDDY** How do you follow Ray Hill, Jimmy?

**JOHNSTON:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** I know it. You don't.

**BUDDY** I love you so much. You don't even know.

**JOHNSTON:**

**RAY HILL:** Stay away from Randalls.

**BUDDY** I hate-- I won't go into Randalls.

**JOHNSTON:**

**RAY HILL:** We're going--

**BUDDY** Building a new store down here at Shepherd in Westheimer. Why the hell they're building it, I don't know.

**JOHNSTON:**

**RAY HILL:** I don't know, but you know--

**BUDDY** Because I don't plan on spending any money in there.

**JOHNSTON:**

**RAY HILL:** I heard-- I heard that in at large city council member who is supposed to be an environmentalist and who is supposed to have been a friend has supported Randalls application to overcome the environmentalist problems they had over there. Because that ground is infected with the stuff. For your own health and basically for your own dignity, shop elsewhere. Join us in that.

There's an election Tuesday. A Joan Raymond, who is a wonderful schoolmarm, needs some new school houses. And so if you want to make Joan a better schoolmarm, help her build new school houses. And the caucus has voted to endorse the bond election. So go to your favorite polling place, the one close to your house, and vote Tuesday for the bond election.

**BUDDY** We got somebody waiting--

**JOHNSTON:**

**RAY HILL:** OK

**BUDDY** --on line two, I think. KPFT, you're on the air.

**JOHNSTON:**

**MICHAEL** Well, good morning, Ray and Buddy.

**STUBBLEFIELD:**

**RAY HILL:** My god, Michael, what are you doing over this hour of the morning?

**MICHAEL** [LAUGHING]

**STUBBLEFIELD:**

**RAY HILL:** This is the--

**MICHAEL** I have no idea what I'm doing up this late.

**STUBBLEFIELD:**

**RAY HILL:** This is Michael-- Michael Stubblefield, who is the chair of the gay and lesbian political caucus computer committee. Who is treading-- straightening out a three-year-old mess.

**MICHAEL** [LAUGHING] And it's a mess.

**STUBBLEFIELD:**

**RAY HILL:** And doing a wonderful job of it.

**MICHAEL** I just had to call in and chat and say hi.

**STUBBLEFIELD:**

**BUDDY** What's on your mind?

**JOHNSTON:**

**MICHAEL** Pardon?

**STUBBLEFIELD:**

**BUDDY** What's on your mind?

**JOHNSTON:**

**MICHAEL** Well, I had to applaud you for bringing up the issues in the pride week meeting last week. That--

**STUBBLEFIELD:**

**BUDDY** I've tried not to say pride week all night.

**JOHNSTON:**

**MICHAEL** Well, I'm happy that you brought it up nevertheless. That's something that needs to be aired bless your little old

**STUBBLEFIELD:** heart.

**RAY HILL:** Well, we passed the resolutions that took care of some of the more--

**MICHAEL** We certainly did.

**STUBBLEFIELD:**

**RAY HILL:** --more stifling things. But there's a lot more work to be done and a lot-- and that work will be done by people devoting their energy toward that work.

**MICHAEL** Well, let's hope that there are more people that are willing to get involved.

**STUBBLEFIELD:**

**RAY HILL:** And so I believe it's the last Thursday of the month.

**MICHAEL** Right.

**STUBBLEFIELD:**

**RAY HILL:** At the-- I beg your pardon.

**BUDDY** Parkway Athletic Club.

**JOHNSTON:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Thursday of the last full week.

**RAY HILL:** Thursday of the last full week.

**BUDDY** 800 [INAUDIBLE].

**JOHNSTON:**

**RAY HILL:** Which is-- I mean, it's like-- it's like [INAUDIBLE].

**BUDDY** Call the switchboard, get the information.

**JOHNSTON:**

**RAY HILL:** Call the switchboard and get the information.

**MICHAEL** Right.

**STUBBLEFIELD:**

**RAY HILL:** And please attend.

**BUDDY** Thanks for calling Mike.

**JOHNSTON:**

**RAY HILL:** You won't be able to vote the first time you go, but you will a second.

**BUDDY** Thanks for calling.

**JOHNSTON:**

**MICHAEL** All right. You have a good evening.

**STUBBLEFIELD:**

**RAY HILL:** Bye-bye, Mike.

**BUDDY** What about it's no secret that pride week is a bitter subject in my mouth, but what-- what about pride week, Ray?

**JOHNSTON:**

**RAY HILL:** Well, say pride week doesn't-- you know one monkey don't stop no show. And pride week is in a situation where it goes back to where pride week was when the people rose up and took it over. And the-- I mean just the constant ins and outs of who's running what or who's getting credit and glory.

Let me tell you something about some people in the community. I give-- and this is something that I don't put out a lot and don't talk about it. But people know what kind of poverty I live in, but I give about half of my total income to some element of the movement. About half.

**BUDDY** I can relate to that. My rent--

**JOHNSTON:**

**RAY HILL:** Right.

**BUDDY** --is a couple of months behind now.

**JOHNSTON:**

**RAY HILL:** Right. I give-- I give half of all of the money that I make, and it may not necessarily be a gay and lesbian rights movement, maybe the first amendment movement and or it may be the prison reform movement, but to the movement, about half of my income. And that's been pretty consistent whether I made \$15,000 a year, whether I made \$60,000 a year. And so I get real upset when people who use corporate funds, whether they be males or females in this community. Who, every time they give 150 bucks, have to have a story in *Twit* and a story in *The Voice* and the back cover of this pamphlet that is passed out at the rally and all of that crap about patting themselves on the back.

I give more cash dollars than they do. Cash dollars. And I certainly give a hell of a lot more of my income because my income is frequently less than a 10th of theirs. And that is the situation of the person that is managing lesbian and gay pride week right now. A woman who has got to have the glory but don't back it up with the back-- the good stuff, all right.

And she's very busy. She's a very important woman. She's a very successful businesswoman. She's a very busy woman, and she really doesn't have time to conduct a movement.

So what she tries to do is create a lesbian and gay pride week that is after the closeted set. The blending set.

**BUDDY** [INAUDIBLE]

**JOHNSTON:**

**RAY HILL:** And that ain't going to work. That wouldn't-- that didn't work in 1975, that didn't work 1977, and it damn sure ain't going to work in 1989. There's a spirit alive here. Suddenly people have realized-- I mean, the only way I can become president of gay and lesbian political caucus is for there to be a change in the wind.

**BUDDY** The wind is blowing.

**JOHNSTON:**

**RAY HILL:** The wind is blowing in an entirely different direction. The days of the hiding and the blending in is over with. The days of the getting on your hands and knees and begging some half-cocked politician for a crumb at the table is over with. The time has come for demanding and taking and capturing and holding.

The struggle is going on internally and externally. We have beaten ourselves to death over the last few years over a damned referendum that we shouldn't even have had to face in the first place. And in the second place, if we had to face it, we shouldn't have cowered from the bite--

**BUDDY** That's right.

**JOHNSTON:**

**RAY HILL:** --we should have stepped forward and taken a row.

**BUDDY** And believe me, when you cut off their money-- if every queen in Houston stopped going to Randalls, they would listen to us.

**RAY HILL:** Absolutely. And those of you who are in the catering business who are still getting your little munchies from Randalls and getting those Randall stickers, you can get the same price at Jamal's, and they've got a much more prestigious sticker. And so, you know, get over it. Rice food market-- I can't tell you what all rice food market is doing to help the AIDS foundation and stone soup because we don't have enough time left in the show to list it.

I can't tell you what Disco Kroger is doing. I can't tell you what Safeway is doing. Everybody else in the grocery business is doing the best they can to meet the needs of people who need their support. And Randalls-- Randalls, well, they have punished a man for being a good Samaritan. And those are the suckers that claim to be Christians.

There's something wrong here. And there's something seriously wrong here. And the only redress that you have, I don't care whether you're straight or gay or who you are or where you come from if you believe in honesty and integrity and dignity of human beings and respect for people who may well be sick and dying and need compassion, then what you need to do is simply shop elsewhere.

**BUDDY** It's just that easy.

**JOHNSTON:**

**RAY HILL:** Just that easy.

**BUDDY** Listen, sir, thank you so much for coming by this morning. I know it's past your bedtime.

**JOHNSTON:**

**RAY HILL:** I appreciate you having me. Patrick's--

**BUDDY** Because you've got to come back and do the prisons program thing.

**JOHNSTON:**

**RAY HILL:** Patrick's past his snoring spell. Actually, I'll sleep better when I get home.

**BUDDY** Oh, you know you're welcome here any time. Get your pencils out because I want to give you an address in just a second. And--

**RAY HILL:** And if--

**BUDDY** What?

**JOHNSTON:**

**RAY HILL:** --it can have plugs the next caucus meeting.

**BUDDY** Yeah. I was going to ask you when-- when and where, and how do people get a hold of the caucus?

**JOHNSTON:**

**RAY HILL:** Well, we meet-- the caucus meets on the first and the third Wednesdays of each month. The telephone number is 5211000. It's real simple to remember that. Number two, the next meeting, which will be the 15th of February at the Travelodge Vacant Hotel out here on southwest freeway between Kirby and Buffalo Speedway, can't miss it. The next meeting, bring your stationery.

We're going to be writing our state representatives and our senators about bills that are very important to the gay and lesbian community and human rights generally. So bring your stationery and your pens and your pencils and help a write your legislature-- legislator, and we will talk about issues that need your support and the Texas legislature. And we will, generally, be talking about legislative politics at that time.

**BUDDY** Can you give me your 60-second get-involved speech?

**JOHNSTON:**

**RAY HILL:** Well, how do you not get involved? I mean, gosh, you're an awfully valuable person to waste, you know. And you, as an individual, as a human being, deserve better than you're getting. And the only way that you can achieve that, you can't achieve it by dressing better, you can't achieve it by putting somebody else down, you're not going to be able to pull off this sham by pretending that your guilt will go away.

Do something real healthy. Get around a bunch of gay and lesbian people who are doing serious things. I don't care whether it's the AIDS foundation or the caucus or the after hours show, get involved with people who are obviously excited about what they're doing, and your life will get better instantly.

**BUDDY** My name is Buddy. We've been listening to Ray Hill. Someone by the name of Ray Hill with the president of the gay and lesbian political caucus. Beyond the Prison Program this afternoon. The show is called *After Hours*. We're at KPFT 419 love it. Boulevard Houston 77006.

Our phone number is area code 7135294636. There's a brand new show coming up next, so stay with us. Things are-- we've got the cart right here to play, and it's going to be great. So enjoy it. All I can tell you is I can't do it for you, Ray Hill can't do it for you, Dr. King couldn't do it for the black community.

When I talked to Scott Smith, Harvey Milk's ex-lover. And I said, what do you remember the most about Harvey? He said I remember the day that we went to the funeral hall to dress him after he had been killed. And I remember digging through his clothes and not being able to find a pair of socks that didn't have a hole in them. So you may have holes in your socks, but there's pride that's in your heart that they can't take it away from you kids.

I love you, and we'll see you next Sunday. Thanks, Ray.

**RAY HILL:** Thank you.

**BUDDY** Bye.

**JOHNSTON:**

[MUSIC - MUDDY WATERS, "MANNISH BOY"]

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[MUSIC - MUDDY WATERS, "MANNISH BOY"]

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[MUSIC - MUDDY WATERS, "MANNISH BOY"]

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[MUSIC - MUDDY WATERS, "MANNISH BOY"]