

- Oh, there we are. We're back. I hope you enjoyed this way out. We're going to try to bring that to you every week at 1:30, running 1:30 to 2:00. We find that it's easier to get guests if we can put them on at 12:30.

- I wonder why that is. Not everybody is as crazy as we are.

- I guess. I guess

- This is KPFT Houston.

- And you're listening to *After Hours* Radio celebrating life from the heart of Montrose. It's Jimmy.

- And Mike.

- And nobody.

- Actually, it's Regis and Kathie Lee, right?

- Yes. And we're not going to tell you who's who.

[LAUGHTER]

- Buddy's--

- I want to be Kathie Lee!

- OK. Buddy's on vacation. Buddy, that dispatcher from HPD, openly gay. He's taking a--

- Well-deserved.

- Oh, absolutely. Night off. And so we're doing *After Hours* anyway.

- That's right.

- I have a piece-- well, listen, coming up in the next couple of hours, we're going to talk about Juan Palomo's column in Thursday's post.

- Oh, a very powerful column.

- You bet, and we want to talk about something that's going on between Queer Nation, Green Sheet and the House of Pies. They're going to be talking--

- The continuing saga.

- The continuing saga. As a matter of fact, there was a note in my box that Queer Nation is visiting the House of Pies this evening, the one on Kirby, only the one on Kirby. Like I said, we'll be talking about that later.

Also, we're still looking for volunteers for the From All Walks Of Life. That's the 10K walk that's happening November 3 for the AIDS, benefiting the AIDS Foundation Houston. That's one of those wonderful things where you kind of get up and walk 10K with a whole bunch of great people and--

- And raise money.

- Raise money. Sign people up to pledge so many per kilometer. And if you want to be part of the *After Hours* contingent, give us a call at 526-5738. And by the way, I must tell you, that because of the Cajun Gumbo Cookout going on this weekend, there's an answering machine on the 526-4000 number. So you must call on 526-5738.

- If you want-- if you have questions or want to get through or whatever.

- Yeah. So if you want to be a part of the *After Hours* contingent for All Walks Of Life, that's November 3.

- So you still have time.

- Oh, lots of time. Yeah, we're going to be talking about it every week. Give us a call at 526-5738 and Richard or Jim out in the lobby will take the information. We can get you forms and all that kind of good stuff.

Now remember, voter registration deadline is Sunday, October the 6th. That's one week away. So if you are not registered to vote, you must do it this week. Call the Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus at 521-1000 or--

- You need to call Anita [INAUDIBLE] office, the county tax assessor--

- That's right.

- --office. The number in the phonebook has been changed. But I think if you dial the old number, they'll give you the new one.

- OK. OK. Right now, I want to do a special thing I put together because of an event that's occurring today. Today, Sunday. It is Sunday.

- It is Sunday.

- Yeah, we start out at Saturday night and ends up Sunday. And--

- Houston, Saturday night.

- That's before us, yes. Stars Across America is going on today, Jones Hall, the Jones Hall, at 615 Louisiana. That's at 7:30 PM. And what this is is a whole bunch of bands getting together, gay and lesbian bands, and they're going to play a concert.

And I have a special tape that I want to play, and I'll talk to you about it. Why won't we start that tape, and then we'll come in and talk about it.

- OK.

- OK. This is a historic tape that you're listening to. Is it still going on? Yeah, it comes on. OK.

- It just turned down, but it's not that far down.

- I got it by Hook or Crook. It was made in September, on September 19, 1981.

- Wow.

- So it's 10 years old this month, and it's-- can you hear it?

- Yeah. Can you hear?

- OK. No, I guess I'm turned down too low. Ah, there it is. OK, we're going to talk over it for a little bit. Made September 19, 1981, and what you're hearing is the then called Montrose Symphonic Band.

- What are they now called?

- The Lone Star Symphonic Band. I'm not sure the reason for the change, and I really don't care. I think they had some bad years in there. I don't know how old they were back in 1981. But I don't think they had been together too very long.

- I didn't know they were around back then.

- Yeah, see. So they will be performing at Jones Hall today, tonight, 7:30. I think we've been talking about that. But what I wanted to talk about is the importance of going to this concert and supporting the band, supporting the Montrose Singers, supporting heart song. This is where you get a true sense of community.

I remember the first time that I saw the Montrose Singers. And I know I'm not going to be able to convey this the way I felt, but just right in the middle of one of their songs, it just struck me that these are all gay men up there. And that's the feeling you get with the Lone Star Symphonic Band.

These are gay and lesbian people doing all of this. How many times have you gone to a concert or a chorale or something, and you look up, and you say, gee, I wonder if that guy playing the tuba is. I think he might be, and/or--

- That guy up there singing, I wonder he is.

- I wonder if he is.

- You don't have to wonder.

- You don't have to wonder. They all are, and they're doing this. They're not getting paid for it. I mean, just like doing a show on KPFT. They're doing it because they love music, and they want to perform for their community. And to think of it, they could probably join some other group, some non-gay and lesbian group, and probably play a lot more.

- And make some money at it.

- Maybe make some money. But certainly perform more often to bigger crowds. But it's important to these people to perform for the gay and lesbian community. And they're proud to do it, and we sure are proud to go and listen and hear them.

The other thing, especially with the Lone Star Symphonic Band, Mike, you're going to be able to help me out on this. The first time I saw them, I thought, hey, where's the strings? There's no strings here. It's kind of all brass and horns and stuff like that. But correct me if I'm wrong here. This is not an orchestra. This is a band.

- You got it right.

- So these people that you see on the stage can take their instruments and walk down the street in a parade or anything like that. Is that the idea?

- No, I don't think that-- I don't think that's connected with the strings. It's just that--

- Hard to do with a violin, and probably impossible to do with the bass.

- Yeah. Yeah, you've got a point there. Yeah, but basically, a band is just an orchestra minus the strings.

- Oh. OK.

- I mean, I took violin lessons in elementary school, and I was real upset because they wouldn't be play in the band. But you can't play a violin in the band. It's just the rules.

- Oh. OK. I didn't know that. But I got to thinking about it. And I thought, well, maybe that's the deal.

- Yeah, but you got it right.

- And it probably makes orchestrating a lot more difficult, because a lot of the pieces right now, they're doing the Die Fledermaus. And Die Fledermaus, there's a lot of string parts, and so they have to gear up horns or other instruments to sound a little bit lighter. Is that true? Is there a little bit more string line?

- Usually, they give the violins to the clarinets.

- Is that it?

- The violin part goes to the clarinets. I don't know about the other sections where they go. But the violins normally go to the clarinets.

- Oh, OK. At that part, I didn't know either. Can you hear it OK?

- What's that?

- Yeah. That's much better. Thank you.

- I'm playing with the volume level here. I'd rather hear you, to be honest right now.

- Anyway, I'm very excited about this, and the fact that it's going to be at Jones Hall, the Jones Hall.

- The Jones Hall.

- Downtown, and that's a pretty big place. You don't have to worry about good seats, I'm sure. Tickets are, let's see, \$12.50. I see in this brochure.

- Certainly reasonable.

- It certainly is. And I really don't know what to expect. I've seen Lone Star Symphonic Band perform, but this is like all different bands together. It's just going to fill the stage. It's going to be great.

- Is it like a competition or do you know?

- No, I have no idea. I have no idea. But I think it's like these different bands combining as one band is the impression that I've received from people who've been talking about it.

- Oh, OK.

- Yeah.

- Oh, OK. I got you. I didn't realize that.

- So you're just going to have people from one end of that age to the other doing marvelous music. And in fact on this tape, I selected these pieces just because of these pieces, but they do a lot of other things. They do the Star Wars theme. And on this 10-year-old tape, they do the kind of West Side Story theme. All of them.

- Medley.

- Medley, that's it. And they do a little chamber music.

- Wow, and this was 10 years ago.

- 10 years ago.

- Pretty sophisticated--

- Yeah, I think so, too.

- --for a new group.

- Yeah.

- Well, that's it for flavor [INAUDIBLE].

- OK, there's this last piece. I think it's probably their signature piece, so we'll shut up now and let you listen to it.

- Yeah, let's shut up.

- Yeah, and there you have it. A piece of tape that should be part of the archives. That was the Montrose Symphonic Band as they were called back in September 19, 1981.

- Just over 10. Yeah, just over 10 years ago.

- Yeah, and the bands will be performing tonight at Jones Hall, 615 Louisiana, and--

- 7:30 PM.

- Yes, Matt called. And you know Ben's in the band.

- Oh, I didn't know that.

- Yeah.

- I didn't know that.

- And I did forget these two important parts. A portion of the proceeds will go to the Colt 45 trouble fund, so this is a benefit. And the regular tickets are \$12.50. But if you purchase a \$25 ticket, that will help pay for a PWA to attend. So--

- Oh, how nice.

- --if you can be generous, please do so.

- Well, that's great. That's wonderful.

- So I'll see you there. I'll be there.

- That's tonight, 7:30.

- Tonight at 7:30.

- Jones Hall.

- Yeah.

- Downtown.

- And--

- So what's next?

- The next song is one of my favorites, and it kind of goes along with all that we've been talking about. The bands, together for all of those years, the singers, Montrose Singers working their way up, 22 members strong. And it just shows you that everything's possible.

- That's what this song is called.

- Yeah.

[MUSIC - THE FLIRTATIONS, "EVERYTHING POSSIBLE"]

Ah, yeah. The Flirtations, *Everything Possible*. And while we were playing that, and I was enjoying it, we got the rude phone call from a person, a razorback friend of Buddy's, who shall go nameless. And she said, Jimmy, what the hell are you doing? Play something with spunk to it. Well, I thought that that marching music from the band had some spunk.

- Has lots of spunk, yeah.

- Yeah, so I'm going to play something with spunk. And baby, I want to see you dancing to this.

- OK, ready?

- Let's hit it. Yeah. OK, Pat. That unnamed razorback, I hope that was peppy enough for you. Now, Richard has something to say.

- Yes, I have a little personal message here, and it goes out there to Paul, Kathleen, Ramona, Gordon, Laurie, Melissa, Sherry, Rachel, and Rick. I know you're on the way home from Rich's tonight, and I hope you're being careful because I know you've got a long way to go, so.

- That was mother Richard taking care of her brood, OK?

- Thank you.

- Richard, are they all in the same car?

- Well, I hope not.

- Well, wouldn't that be fun?

- Yeah, I guess it would.

- You know what?

- What?

- It's time to give something away.

- I wouldn't touch that line with a 10-foot pole.

- Oh, well.

- I was thinking in terms of a tape.

- Oh, OK.

- We didn't announce it earlier, so only our most faithful listeners are going to get in on it. Lots of times, early on, we say, oh, we're going to give away a tape, trying to lure listeners to stay with us. So this week, it's only the ones that have been with us.

- Only the diehard.

- There you go. We've got a selection of different tapes. We've got the Salute to Stonewall, which is with the original one that Buddy and I made back-- dude.

- A couple of years ago, was it?

- Yeah, because it was the 20th anniversary of Stonewall. But it consists of a lot of stuff that we played then and still do on the show.

- That's a good tape.

- We have gay music favorites. It's one that Buddy put together. We've got the Rock Lobster tape. That's always real popular. We do Rock Lobster, we play that in the spring we present that--

- That prom time.

- That prom time. Yes, because that's the story of Aaron Fricke taking his boyfriend to the senior prom. And then Buddy has put together a couple of tapes, On My Mind Today, which he did last year, which is favorites of his, and all of it has been played here on the show.

And he did On My Mind Today 2, which is a tape he put together for diverse works for their art show. So in order to win this tape, you have to identify the next song that we're going to play. And the 10th caller will win the tape of their choice.

- OK.

- So why don't we get--

- We start counting as soon as we start the music, right? We'll start counting as soon as the music starts.

- There you go.

- OK let me--

- Now the number, let me stress this. The number you have to call is 526-5738 because the answering machine is on the 526-4000 number because of the gumbo cookoff that's going on this weekend. So it's 526-5738 is the only number that you can call for this giveaway. So let's go. 10th caller.

[MUSIC - ROMANOVSKY AND PHILLIPS]

And that was two back-to-back by Romanovsky and Phillips, one of our favorite groups here on *After Hours Radio* celebrating life from the heart of Montrose on KPFT Houston 90.1 FM. And the prize winning song was when heterosexism strikes, and Robert knew that and has a tape of his choice.

And that last one was the title cut, Be Political, Not Polite. And someone who follows that is our friend, Juan Palomo.

- Of the Houston Post.

- Of the Houston Post. And he had an article or his column in Thursday's paper. Really dealt with a subject that we haven't heard much about here lately.

In fact, when we do hear about it, we hear from the gay press that how much the federal government kind of overlooks a lot of teen suicide, and that's what we're discussing. And how much of it happens in the gay and lesbian community. I'm going to read it because it's that important.

- It's very powerful. You should--

- And if you haven't heard this, I didn't even ask Juan. But he had it in print, and it needs to get to as many ears as possible. By Juan Palomo, Difficult Teen Years Far Harder For Gays.

"A survey released last week by the US Centers for Disease Control found that more than a quarter of the country's high school students thought seriously about killing themselves in the preceding year. Scary, isn't it? That son of yours sitting across from the table gulping down his Cheerios may have actually contemplated ending his own life last night.

Want to hear something scarier? If that child of yours is gay, he is two to three times more likely to attempt suicide than other young people. 'It can't be,' you say, 'not my child. Look at him, he's so, so normal.' Relax. The odds are that your child is straight.

But even if he is gay, he probably won't tell you. Maybe he's heard you talk derisively about faggots, or he's heard you laugh at your friend's queer jokes. Maybe he's listened to your pastor talk about how homosexuals end up in hell, or he's seen classmates harass others at school whom they think are gay. Life is not exactly user-friendly for the hundreds of thousands of young men and women out there struggling with their homosexuality.

Gary Lee, president of the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard in Houston, says his volunteers are constantly getting calls from young people who have no other place to turn to. It's a lonely world, says Gary. We are often talking to some kid on the phone, and then we hear a door open in the background. And he suddenly says, I got to go and hangs up. Lee says it's very sad listening on the sly.

Buddy Johnston, who co-hosts the *After Hours* gay show on KPFT radio, says teenagers living at home make up a large part of his audience. These are kids who are too scared to talk to anybody about themselves. So they retreat to the late night sanctity of their rooms and listen to the show while the rest of the family is asleep.

The suicide figures for gay young people comes from the federal government. They were compiled more than two years ago. Yet, the Department of Health and Human Services refuses to disseminate them because of pressure from right-wing representative William Dannemeyer, Republican from California.

Dannemeyer did not object to the finding that so many gay youths kill themselves. He objected to the report's urging that parents, churches, and society accept homosexuality. So the report gathers dust while young gay people continue to kill themselves.

People like Bobby Griffith, a Northern California teenager, who wrote in his diary, quote, 'Why did you do this to me God? Am I going to hell? That's the gnawing question that's always been drilling little holes in the back of my mind. I'm really not that bad, am I? I want to be good. I need your seal of approval. If I had that, I would be happy. Life is so cruel and unfair.' Unquote.

Griffith apparently never got that seal of approval. The Advocate Magazine reports he killed himself in 1983. The hatred is too much. 'People like Griffith kill themselves not because they're gay,' says the Montrose Counseling Center's [INAUDIBLE] Ansel, 'but because they can't deal with the hatred and discrimination.'

Being a teenager is traumatic enough for many people. But at least, straight teens can go to people and talk about their problems. Gay youths, on the other hand, feel they have no place to go to. Most can't talk to parents, teachers, counselors, clergy, not even their friends, for fear of being ridiculed and ostracized. And it's a real fear.

Organizations like Houston's Covenant House have had to accept numerous teenagers, who were kicked out by their parents when they found out their child was gay. Studies have shown that 50% of the homeless youth under 18 are lesbian and gay. If they don't kill themselves, they very soon end up on drugs or they become infected with the AIDS virus.

Most believe there is something terribly wrong with them. And that it's their fault that they are the way they are. They have no role models to tell them that being gay is not the end of the world. Most parents have no idea how to deal with gay children.

'The problem is, that Dr. Benjamin Spock missed a chapter when he wrote his book on the development years,' says Bill Scott, a social worker, who is on the Texas Board of Health. He left out the chapter on lesbian and gay children. As a result, gay children are reared in isolation and a lot of shame.

Even more tragic, many can't even get help from gay organizations. These groups would like to help but they fear getting sued by angry parents, who might accuse them of recruiting their children to the homosexual lifestyle. The upshot is that the government won't help, churches don't know how, parents and schools aren't equipped to help. And those who want to, can't. So we let them die."

That's the column. Thank you, Juan, for writing it.

- That's very powerful column. It's just incredible. When I read that, the first thing that struck me was how odd it seemed to see an article staring at me out of the Houston Post, an article with the name Difficult Teen Years Far Harder For Gays. Obviously, you know it's going to be a sympathetic column. Second thing that struck me, was there is ol' Juan Palomo, and he didn't waste any time getting out there and writing gay articles.

- That's right.

- If that had been me, I'm ashamed to say. I would have said, well, we can sort of ease into this.

- Juan's-- I think this is his fourth article since he's been back. And I think it's the first one that's dealt with the gay problem. But we in the gay and lesbian community have known this problem for quite some time. We know about that report by the government, about the high incidence of gay and lesbian teen suicide. And we're very angry that the government keeps the lid on it and doesn't let it out.

- Yeah, and the churches don't help. I mean, I remember going through a phase. I mean, I was older than a teenager. I was more in my 20's. But what the church party line, at least the church I was involved with, what they said was, if you really wanted to change, God would change you. But you must not really want to change, or God would have changed by now. And at that time, I really did want to change. But it didn't happen. And now, I'm sure they're feeding that line to the kids.

- Sure. Sure. I don't think it's changed. And these kids, the lucky ones, listen to programs like this, and Wild and Stine, and Breakthrough, and find out they are not the only ones. Or they finally find a bookstore like Inklings and Lobo, and they can read some positive things about gay and lesbian lifestyle. The unlucky ones end up like Griffith here, who committed suicide back in '83.

- That's tragic.

- Coming up at three o'clock, we have the BBC News. And in the last hour, we're going to talk about Queer Nation, and Green Sheet, and House of Pies, and how they seem to be related here lately. What time is it, Mike? I can't see my clock.

- Oh, we got about four minutes to go.

- Oh, OK.

- Four minutes till three.

- Four minutes till three. - Yeah, I'll be curious to hear what's going on with the House of Pies. We've been having an ongoing-- I was in the car that night driving to Austin listening to *After Hours*, when we had Jay Lee--

- Oh, yes.

- --who's doing the live report. And luckily, I was able to pick up most of the show. But even that late at night, it carries pretty far, so I was able to hear almost all of them before I lost it.

- That was a great show. He just happened to be driving by, too, and saw the protesters, and made a report on it, and then came back to the station to report live. Before we go to the BBC, though, I want to remind you about the Stars Across America, the Lone Star Symphonic Band, and other bands combining to perform a concert tonight at 7:30 at Jones Hall.

Tickets are \$12.50 or \$25. If you want to be able to give a ticket to a PWA and proceeds go to the Colt 45's trouble fund. Also, I want to mention, you can still call 526-5738 to become a part of *After Hours* and KPFT's contingent for All Walks Of Life, benefiting the AIDS Foundation Houston.

That's occurring Sunday, November 3. Give us a call and find out more details about that. Yes?

- Let me mention something.

- Sure.

- I certainly don't want to steal any thunder from Stars Across America. But luckily, I don't have to. That's why we have VCRs. But tonight, at 8 PM on Channel 8, they're going to show the film Longtime Companion.

- That's right. You told me about that earlier. That's very exciting.

- And I mean, it's a wonderful movie. I saw it in the theater. And if you didn't see it in the theater, or even if you did, it's well worth your while to get a VCR, going in and tape that.

- You bet. You bet. Or at least watch it if you don't have a VCR. This is your chance. If you were afraid to go to the theaters before because it was too gay-identified, you can watch it in the privacy of your own home. That's right. And don't forget, Sunday, October 6 is the deadline for voter registration. If you want to make that change, you have to be registered to vote.

- You got to do it to be able to. Yeah.

- Thank you again to Robert, who called in and correctly identified that song. You'll be receiving that tape sometime this week.

- [INAUDIBLE] got it right in the mail to you.

- Yeah, I'll get it in. Yeah, Stanley's out of town this week, so I'll be able to do that.

- So you have some free time.

- Yeah. When he's in town, it gets kind of hairy, so. Sometimes, I don't get a chance to mail things out. You know how that is.

- We had to mention [? Harry. ?] Even though Buddy's not here now. We had to get [? Harry. ?]

- That's right. [INAUDIBLE] That's--

[LAUGHS]

I'm sure wherever he is, there's hair.

- And we don't mean his.

- Oh, that's fun. OK. How much time we have left here before the BBC coming up? And--

- None. We're going to go right to it right now.