

**JIMMY CARPER:** That's truly tasteless.

**CHRIS:** That was all Bill's idea. I had to know every bit of it.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Every bit of it.

**CHRIS:** And we still have a few left, so if you call-- but hey, like I said, their time is short.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh, I see. And it sure did make a mess in the controller.

**BIG ROY:** Carper, whose sick mind could come up with something like that?

**JIMMY CARPER:** I swear, I--

**SARAH** As a member of PETA, I must say you're joking. We just need money. There are no dead kittens, OK?

**DEPALMA:**

**BIG ROY:** Yes.

**JIMMY CARPER:** And that number is 526-5738.

**CHRIS:** And Sarah is a pathological liar. There are dead cats--

**JIMMY CARPER:** Everywhere.

**CHRIS:** --everywhere. There are pieces of kittens dangling off the walls. And there will be more. Trust me. There's fur on my skirt.

[SCREAMS]

[LAUGHTER]

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh.

**SARAH** It is not right.

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** We are not right. We are not right.

[LAUGHTER]

But that number is 526-KPFT, 526-5738. Yes, give your pledge of support to KPFT and *After Hours*. We did very well last week, and we're just not up to par this week. Well, I guess that's the way we are around here. You blow your wad one week, and then you don't have anything left the next. I swear. What's in the news lately, Sarah? We've been kind of--

**CHRIS:** Good night, everybody.

**JIMMY CARPER:** I see.

**SARAH** Well, let me get the fur off the counter first.

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh, OK, hey.

**SARAH** God, there's just fur everywhere.

**DEPALMA:**

[LAUGHTER]

I've heard of the fur flying, but God, I want to know who's going to pay to clean this skirt. Oh, OK, in the news, actually I guess this is in the public service department and a dropping support group for HIV plus teens.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh, yeah.

**SARAH** It's the Montrose Counseling Center. It's 701 Richmond, and of course, that's in Houston. The number is 529-

**DEPALMA:** 0037.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Mm-hmm.

**SARAH** Folks, this group is provided free of charge. There is no excuse for not making use of the Montrose Counseling

**DEPALMA:** Center, free, even no charge.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Absolutely, like no charge. And let me tell you, things are humming over there at that place. I've got a little newsletter from them. And let me tell you about the Montrose Counseling Center, folks. What did we do this year?

Preliminary figures for services provided between September 1, 1993 and August 31, 1994 report-- 1,423 unduplicated counseling clients, over 1,400 folks came in for counseling, 178 HIV case management clients, 23 women's network, 23 men's network, and at least 60 educational presentations to other social service providers, corporations, and organizations, which addressed issues of homophobia, HIV, mental health in the gay community, mental rape, male rape, and chemical dependency.

60 presentations-- that's more than one a week, plus all the other groups going on. I mean, these folks are doing it for the community.

**SARAH** Folks, you can spend money at the bars. Here's a chance to actually help a group who's going to help you, OK?

**DEPALMA:** So save a couple of dollars. Save yourself one beer.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah.

**SARAH** Contribute the money someplace where it really will do some good. And the Montrose Counseling Center is one

**DEPALMA:** of those places. Believe me.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah, OK, and we've got a whole bunch of stuff from Judy, who is like the newperson here at *After Hours*. Judy, who used to be on the show on the weekly basis, is now providing a lot of stories for the community. So we'll be bringing them to you as we can.

**SARAH** And we can. Let me talk to you about the Q-Patrol for a minute. If you're not familiar with them, the Q-Patrol is an offshoot of the old Queer Nation group. And I have to tell you from actual experience, Q-Patrol does fabulous work. If you're concerned about bashing, harassments, threats, taunts, folks, if you're gay, lesbian, transgendered, I don't have to tell you what we're talking about here. You get it all the time.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Mm-hmm.

**SARAH** Let me tell you. All you have to do is walk with them once a month. You donate your time, your talent. Of course, **DEPALMA:** they'll take your money. But what they do, folks, is they drive around. They are watching out for bashing. They are watching out for you, folks, tonight as you are leaving the bars.

Folks, they do good work. They don't charge you a penny. Call them, please. They need the help. And you can get them at 643-0029, 871-8519. I can attest to the fact that Q-Patrol does good work. I have had friends who have been saved by them.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh, yeah.

**SARAH** Contact them, please.

**DEPALMA:**

**CHRIS:** About every other week or every third week, we get a call from the Q-Patrol. And they just kind of give us a report of what's going on in the neighborhood and just kind of an on-air thing from their mobile phone. And they called in last week and yeah, just a great group.

**SARAH** I was one of the original 10 members of Queer Nation when it started here in the city. And I remember when Q-Patrol got started, and there were some questions whether they would last six weeks. Folks, they're doing good work. Please help them out.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh, absolutely, absolutely. Delta Lambda Phi was on the show several weeks ago. And there was an article in the *Post*, Rushing for Acceptance, that the Delta Lambda Phi guys-- there's a picture of seven of them having a rush. This is the only openly gay fraternity-- and I say openly gay because what about those other ones.

**CHRIS:** Mm-hmm, who could that be?

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes, openly gay fraternity at U of H and doing rush. And Gilbert's there. Gilbert's been with them since the inception, I believe.

**CHRIS:** When's that boy ever going to graduate? I swear.

[LAUGHTER]

**SARAH** He's on the terminal plan.

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah, no kidding. No kidding.

**SARAH** And I'd like to talk for a second about a play called *Bent*.

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh, yeah.

**SARAH** Oh, honey, I know a lot of people who this term applies.

**DEPALMA:**

[LAUGHTER]

But actually this is a fairly serious play. The little blurb that they have here says it is a shattering hypnotic and gripping play, and it really is. It was produced in post World War II theater, and it focuses on the fate of Germany's gays in the Nazi concentration camps.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah.

**SARAH** Now, I don't suppose I have to tell you too much about that. They say that it was one of the unspoken atrocities

**DEPALMA:** of Hitler's reign. Of course, we now know a lot about that. But it is brought to life. They do say that the production contains nudity. Of course, we all know that gays and lesbians in the city wouldn't know anything about nudity or adult subject matter.

**JIMMY CARPER:** No.

**SARAH** So it is only recommended for mature audiences. Hey, look, tickets are only \$10. This is a serious subject.

**DEPALMA:** Support these, folks, OK?

**JIMMY CARPER:** That's a great play to. In fact, in the original play, Don Johnson was in it. He was discovered by Sal Mineo, who was also in it, and I believe directed it. And there is a male rape scene in the film that was done in the nude.

**SARAH** With Don Johnson?

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** With Don Johnson.

**SARAH** Where do I get my copy?

**DEPALMA:**

**CHRIS:** Naked, naked.

**SARAH** Where do I get my copy?

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** You think about ooh, woo-hoo, but this is a very, very serious drama. I'm looking forward to it.

**CHRIS:** I'm going to get to see it.

**SARAH** I know a lot of people to whom the term "bent" would apply.

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** No kidding. No kidding. Oh, speaking of X, coming to Houston, Lynn Lavner is going to be here on October 1, Saturday, October 1 at 7 o'clock. She was here last year at MCCR at 1919 Decatur. What a great show.

And I'm not a churchgoing person, and her act is not a religious type of act. It just happens to be held at the church. She does a lot of things there. She also does emcee at the National Leather Association events. So I mean, this is really fun. She plays the piano and sings gay songs. And in fact, next week, we've got two free tickets to give away.

**SARAH** And I can tell you from experience, MCCR is a gender-friendly church.

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh, yes.

**SARAH** If you are a member of the gender community, if you're transgendered or transsexual or whatever, I can tell you

**DEPALMA:** from actual experience. I'm not a member of their church, so I get no money from saying this. MCCR is a good and friendly place. You are welcome there.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh, that's nice to hear.

**SARAH** That is true.

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** That is nice to hear. And listen, next week, for Lynn Lavner tickets, we'll be giving those away. And if you're a little on the young side, you might consider two groups here, 20-Something at Houston. I know a couple of folks. In fact, representatives from 20-Something have been on the show.

And I've got this old flyer. I need a new one because it says it's just forming. Well, it's forming. It's formed. It's together. Give Quincy a call at 541-4217. 20-Something-- a group for young adults, ages 20 to 29, addressing issues concerning bisexuals, lesbians, and gays. Well, maybe they need to start addressing things in the transgender community also.

**SARAH** Well, that would be good.

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** That would be good.

**SARAH** I've got a couple of phone numbers for transgender groups that I'd like to give out.

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah?

**SARAH** The first one is group that's called the Gulf Coast Transgender Community. And I can tell you from experience,

**DEPALMA:** I'm a past member of this group. If you are a transgendered person or you think you are a transgender, you want information about transgender, whatever, I can tell you from experience, they're a good group. You can contact them at 780-GCTC. That's 780-4282.

There is another group here in the city that I can also highly recommend. It's called the Texas Association for Transsexual Support or TATS. There is a little joking about the name, but I can tell you actually that they really do very good work. You can reach their voicemail at 827-5913.

And then there's the group for which I am a member and currently the president, and that's It's Time Texas. And we can be reached at P.O. Box 741193. That's Houston, 77074. And if you would like to support the transgender community or support our cause, please reach us at this P.O. box. We'll be glad to hear from you.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Mm-hmm, something else is going on with MCCR. I am going to talk about this because it's happening on September the 24th. It's the Women's Health Seminar. And heading that up will be Dr. Patsy Salvato, Dr. Mirabel Cordillera.

**SARAH** Easy for you to say.

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** OK, and Dr. Joyce Gayles formed the panel to discuss critical health issues for women. Now, it said that a minimum of 50 advanced reservations must be received by September 15. OK, and that was the other day, but I'm sure there's a lot more spaces available.

Give them a call at 861-9149 for that Women's Health Seminar, very, very important things going on in the community. And gosh, if Dr. Salvato is in on that, it's got to be good.

OK, don't forget Tusk Coffeehouse. We've had those folks on too. That's kind of a hangout place for youth. It will be smoke drug and alcohol free. But it's located at 3412 Mulberry, between Westheimer and Alabama, coffeehouse for teens and young adults, every Saturday night at 8:00 PM until 1:00 AM. Oh, they just get to listen to an hour of us and they have to get out. Classy.

**SARAH** I'll bet they can convince mommy and daddy to let them stay up. I'll bet they can.

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** And Scott wanted me to make sure to let everyone know about a new club that's forming in Texas, BMC, the Big Men's Club. And it says right on here, attention, chubby, chubby chasers and bears, an organization for full-framed men and their admirers is forming in Houston.

Come celebrate with us in a safe and accepting social environment. All are welcome. Now, I don't have a phone number, but you have to write to BMC, 5090 Richmond Avenue, number 305, 77056.

**CHRIS:** Oh, I can't hear.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Ooh, nobody's calling 526-5738, aren't they?

**SARAH** Get the kittens ready.

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Uh-oh.

**SARAH** Sharpen the chainsaw.

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** And gosh, we only have 20 minutes left, so that means that in about 25 minutes, folks are going to be headed over to the Triangle for breakfast.

**SARAH** And we're going to have dead kittens in there.

**DEPALMA:**

[LAUGHTER]

**JIMMY CARPER:** What do you do when you want something to eat this hour? I mean, there's Charlie's. There's House of Pies or there's the Triangle serving buffet breakfast from, like, 2 o'clock in the morning until noon.

I mean, it just goes on and on and on, kind of a neat place, especially if you happen to, like, hang out at Energy or something because they're located-- where is it? Where is it here? 4020 Southwest Freeway. That's 59 at Westland, good folks over there. What? You got anything else?

**SARAH** No, that's it for me.

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** That's it for you, huh?

**SARAH** That's it.

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Let's take a break here. And I want to play a song that we haven't heard in quite a while because I don't know why. It's just that there's so much gay and lesbian music here lately that I could spend three hours every week just playing music.

And here's one of my favorites from one of my favorite bisexual women, Nona Hendryx. She used to be with LaBelle. Remember when Patti LaBelle was with that group and they did marmalade? They were, voulez-vous coucher avec moi, ce soir?

**SARAH** You can say that at this time in the morning. You're very good. It was very good.

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Well, Nona has been out on her own for quite a while. And she put this album out a few years ago. But this is a really neat song with a great message for all communities, especially the women. And now if I can move some stuff, so I can see which buttons I'm pressing. This will work. OK, folks, here we go, *Women Who Fly*.

[MUSIC - NONA HENDRYX, "WOMEN WHO FLY"]

Who fly don't have a problem, don't have a problem. Women who dream.

Oh, yes, *Women Who Fly* by Nona Hendricks. How'd you like that, Sarah?

**SARAH** I like it a lot. That's a great message.

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah, that is. We've been playing it for years. And I just don't get tired of it because of the message. We do play straight music every now and then, music by straight groups because they have a great message for the gay community--

**SARAH** Right.

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** --every now and then. In fact, I may close out with one that I kind of discovered, Kris McKay, and she does this great song *If Ever You Need Me*. And we've been playing this for years, and I think I just may do that.

I want to remind everybody that October 11 is National Coming Out Day. That means take your next step in coming out the real you, whatever that may be, only you know. You are may be looking in the mirror and saying I'm gay. I'm lesbian. I'm bisexual. I'm a transgendered person.

**SARAH** That's right. I'll tell you, coming out for transgendered people is doubly complicated because they're afraid of the

**DEPALMA:** gay lesbian community. They're afraid of the straight community.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Mm-hmm.

**SARAH** If ever there's such a thing as being in a tight place, this is it. Just hear them out.

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** I hear that same feeling from bisexual people too.

**SARAH** Oh, I think that's absolutely true.

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah.

**SARAH** Bisexuals-- if there's a more ostracized group, I'm not sure I know who that is because they catch it coming and

**DEPALMA:** going, so to speak. And they feel like they really have nowhere to run and not a lot of friends, which is not so.

They just need to come on out and make themselves known to us.

**JIMMY CARPER:** So remember that date, October 11 every year is the National Coming Out Day. And it may not even have anything to do with that. Otis Hardy Maclay came out. He came out as being an actor, and he said that was kind of a tough thing for him to do because of the reputation actors have.

He had worked in kind of a desk job for a long time, but he always had this itch to be on stage and finally did it. And he said that was a really tough thing. So whatever you want to do in life, whatever your dream is, come out and dream it and do it.

**SARAH** I can tell you, there's no more liberating experience. If you feel like you're in a box right now because you're in

**DEPALMA:** the closet, honey, come on out. Let me tell you, there's no more liberating experience. Once you're out, there's no going back, and there's only growth.

**JIMMY CARPER:** That's right.

**SARAH** There's only growth.

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Now, there are times that you have to think about this before you do it. You may be 15 years old and living at home.

**SARAH** Right.

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** And maybe coming out is not the thing to do yet. Maybe you might have to wait a little while. You can come out to that mirror but you may not know anything until you're able to maybe support yourself or able to get through school. You may not be able to come out as much as you want to right now.

**SARAH** I don't recommend you coming out the way I did it. I did it on network television.

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Wow.

**SARAH** And I had to call my parents and say, oh, before CBS comes on tonight, there's something you need to know. So

**DEPALMA:** don't do it that way. Use a little more judgment on that.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Whoa.

**BIG ROY:** But Jimmy, the important thing to remember is that whether you do it or not, you are not alone.

**SARAH** That's right.

**DEPALMA:**

**BIG ROY:** You never ever, never feel that you are.

**JIMMY CARPER:** We're here every week. And there's a lot of us too. There was some strange article here about-- and I had to doubt it. OK, I'll find it. I'll find it-- nearly 20% reported attraction to same sex after age 15. And I'm thinking that's a very low percentage. For one thing, 10% of us are gay and lesbian. And what about all the bisexuals?

**SARAH** Right, that's exactly right.

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** So this 20%-- I don't know where they get it from, but hey, it's got to be more than that, got to be more than that.

**SARAH** Well, there's still a big stigma to saying that a person is bisexual because they fear repercussion both from the

**DEPALMA:** gay and lesbian community and from the straight community. They feel like they're between a hard place and a rock.

**JIMMY CARPER:** That's pretty funny too because it used to be way back when there was a larger stigma attached to being gay is that it was easier to claim to be bisexual--

**SARAH** Right.

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** --than to be out as gay. So I know maybe we've come full circle here.

**SARAH** That's right.

**DEPALMA:**

**BIG ROY:** But as a bisexual, Jimmy, also remember this. What part of you is really discriminated against?

**JIMMY CARPER:** What do you mean?

**BIG ROY:** Is it the part that you're attracted to the same sex, or is it the part that you're attracted to the opposite sex?

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh, I think it's both community.

**SARAH** Yeah, I think it's both. Yeah.

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah.

**SARAH** It's a classic example of being between a hard place and a rock.

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Because a lot of us in the gay and lesbian community went through this coming-out process. And we felt like, OK, if I can accept myself as bi, then I can fit into the community. So we were telling ourselves this in hopes that maybe it would come true. And so a lot of people in the gay and lesbian community feel that to say your body is a cop-out, but I know too many bisexual people.

**SARAH** For a lot of people saying they're bisexual may be a stop-off point on your way to saying I'm gay and lesbian, but

**DEPALMA:** that's not universally true. There are a lot of people who are in fact bisexual. And gee, that doesn't sound like it's such a bad thing to say to me.

**JIMMY CARPER:** No.

**BIG ROY:** But now, if I hear it right though, Jimmy, aren't you bringing on a bisexual DJ or whatever you call it on the program here?

**JIMMY CARPER:** We're going to have-- in fact, when I talked about this National Coming Out Day on October 11 *After Hours* is coming out. For a couple of years now, we've been talking about, especially in the QMC, that we're the gay and lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities, but we sure haven't had much representation on the *After Hours* staff. So we're coming out on National Coming Out Day.

And our show then, I guess it will be the second Saturday in October, is going to feature Sarah DePalma and a man named Garrett Wingfield from the bisexual community. Garrett is a rather androgynous guy, but he's very active in BiNet, which is a new bisexual group that meets every Wednesday night at MCCR.

**SARAH** Good old MCCR.

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Good old MCCR again.

**SARAH** Good for them.

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah, and it's a really nice group. I guess because they meet at MCCR, you get the idea that it's not a meat market.

**SARAH** Right.

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** That it's not just getting there and meeting your next ex or something. And that's true. There's lots of intellectual conversation going on. So we're going to have Sarah and Garrett on National Coming Out Day when *After Hours* comes out.

**SARAH** Well, isn't that wonderful? That's terrific.

**DEPALMA:**

**BIG ROY:** That sounds great.

**JIMMY CARPER:** You did know that. I mean, I did mention that to you.

**SARAH** This doesn't come as a surprise to me. I hope my compatriot may-- this may come as news to him. But yeah, I'm

**DEPALMA:** really looking forward to this. This is great. I have to say it has not been the fault of the gay and lesbian community that the transgendered group has not been represented. The transgender community has been skittish and afraid.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Well, that's understandable.

**SARAH** It is understandable. And I hope this is a step towards correcting that.

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Well, I mean, you got to really sit down and think about this, OK, what a transgendered person goes through. You kind of touched on it briefly. I mean, you hit the high spots tonight--

**SARAH** Right.

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** --and the cost and the alienation. And I mean, you really give up a lot to be the real you.

**SARAH** My father is Pentecostal, so I think I can leave that right where that is.

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Whoa.

**SARAH** A family support is not a high point.

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** No, not at all.

**BIG ROY:** I guess Jimmy said if our community can accept Republicans, hell I--

[LAUGHTER]

**SARAH** We've hit a new point tonight.

**DEPALMA:**

[LAUGHTER]

**BIG ROY:** Well, I really don't see why we can't accept the transgenders.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Whoa, whoa, whoa.

**SARAH** Well, thank you so much. I appreciate that.

**DEPALMA:**

[LAUGHTER]

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh, gosh, well, it's getting on up there. In the background, you're hearing Kris McKay. She is a straight woman. I want to make that perfectly clear that we-- but she's singing this great song *If Ever You Need Me*. You've been listening to *After Hours*, our continuing tradition, ever changing tradition on KPFT Houston.

And tonight, we've had Sarah DePalma and hope to have her back real soon, expected on National Coming Out Day. And hey, Sarah may be a regular around here. Next week, it's going to be Evelyn and I or maybe Evelyn and Diane. I'm going to make her do penance for staying away tonight.

**SARAH** That'll teach you.

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah, and coming up right after us will be the *Carbon Dating Game* with Eric. Everybody, have a great week. And thanks, Sarah, for being on tonight.

**SARAH** Thank you for having me. I look forward to being back on Coming Out Day.

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** You bet.

[MUSIC - KRIS MCKAY, "IF YOU EVER NEED ME"]

**KRIS MCKAY:** Well, I know we only have this day.

**ANNOUNCER:** Listeners should be aware that the following program contains language and audio images, which may be found disturbing and may not be suitable for your snotty nose little brat who probably cusses like a sailor behind your back anyway. Parental discretion is advised.

**RODNEY:** It's time once again to ask Dr. Science, so let's ask Dr. Science.

**DR. SCIENCE:** That's me.

**RODNEY:** Remember, he knows more than you do.

**DR. SCIENCE:** That's right.

**RODNEY:** Mike Nicole from Colorado Springs, Colorado, writes, dear Dr. Science, every time I see supermarket tabloid, the headline always says something like Frog sings Suwannee River, scientists baffled. Why are scientists always baffled?

**DR. SCIENCE:** The scientists can't understand why tabloid readers would be amazed by what's commonplace in any scientist's laboratory. Two-headed women always give birth to quadruplets, many of whom are born Elvis imitators. Happens all the time.

Scientists choose not to dwell on these quirks of nature but spend their time in the supermarket checkout line scanning lists of random numbers, looking for systematic deviation. They just can't figure out why you don't do the same.

**RODNEY:** Thank you, Dr. Science. Send your science questions to Ask Dr. Science. Remember, he's not a real doctor.

**DR. SCIENCE:** I have a master's degree in science.

**RODNEY:** It's time once again to ask Dr. Science, so let's ask Dr. Science.

**DR. SCIENCE:** That's me.

**RODNEY:** Remember, he knows more than you do.

**DR. SCIENCE:** That's right.

**RODNEY:** Wayne Smith from Williamsport, Pennsylvania, writes, dear Dr. Science, I've been hearing a lot lately about sound bites. Can sound really bite?

**DR. SCIENCE:** It's not the sound that bites. It's the sound that's being bitten. Sound bite is a slang term used in broadcast journalism. It refers to the clipped way certain announcers speak. The most flagrant sound biter was David Brinkley. He snapped off the ends of his words with razor-sharp fangs.

NPR's Cokie Roberts is doing a good job of chowing down on phonemes. Why they do it? I haven't the foggiest. If I wanted to understand what goes on in the mind of your average newscaster, I'd have gone into some pea-brained discipline like psychology or astrology.

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[MUSIC PLAYING]

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**DR. SCIENCE:** That's me.

**RODNEY:** Remember, he knows more than you do.

**DR. SCIENCE:** That's right.

**RODNEY:** Morris D. Ashby from Deer Park, Washington, writes, dear Dr. Science, how do the inspected by number 5 slips get into the pockets of new pants?

**DR. SCIENCE:** They're the egg from which the pant is hatched. For polyester pants, the slip reads number 5. All cotton? It's number 8. A wool polyester blend usually doesn't have an identifiable slip. It's been eaten by the larvae after hatching.

My colleagues in the garment industry tell me the Yugoslavians are coming out with pants that are actually vegetables, so the slips in their pockets will be seeds, not eggs. I haven't seen an example of their work. But if they're anything like a pair of Yugoslavian work shoes I once bought at a discount store, you'd do well to stick with name brands.

**RODNEY:** Thank you, Dr. Science. Send your science questions to ask Dr. Science. Remember, he's not a real doctor.

**DR. SCIENCE:** I have a master's degree in science.

**RODNEY:** It's time once again to ask Dr. Science, so let's ask Dr. Science.

**DR. SCIENCE:** That's me.

**RODNEY:** Remember, he knows more than you do.

**DR. SCIENCE:** That's right.

**RODNEY:** Rob Ian from Saint Paul, Minnesota, writes, dear Dr. Science, I've often noticed that when I make toast and then set it on a plate, a strange liquid forms in the plate that lies under the toast. Why is this?

**DR. SCIENCE:** The toast is weeping for its lost youth as bread, but most of all, for you. After all, you're the one who's going to assume the karmic debt for eating a helpless piece of yeast-infected grain amalgam after putting it through the tribulation of near purgatory in the toaster. Next time you wash the plate, taste that liquid the toast left behind. Is it salty? If so, grab the rest of the bread loaf and start apologizing. What goes around comes around.

**RODNEY:** Thank you, Dr. Science.

It's time once again to ask Dr. Science, so let's ask Dr. Science.

**DR. SCIENCE:** That's me.

**RODNEY:** Remember, he knows more than you do.

**DR. SCIENCE:** That's right.

**RODNEY:** Dean Cauley from Bethel, Alaska, writes, dear Dr. Science, how do brainstorms compare with thunderstorms?

**DR. SCIENCE:** Both can be described as progressing through three distinct stages, building, mature, and dissipating. The feeling that you're on to something corresponds with the darkening clouds that loom ominously on the horizon. A mature thought is one that causes you to run indoors, maybe hide under the kitchen table avoiding windows and trying to remember childhood prayers.

Finally, there's the glorious oblivion of the half-remembered mental spasm, the epiphany that dematerializes as quickly as it's formed. Perhaps there is a rainbow to remind us that something profound just happened, even though we can't for the life of us remember what it was.

**RODNEY:** Thank you, Dr. Science. Send your science questions to ask Dr. Science.

It's time once again to ask Dr. Science, so let's ask Dr. Science.

**DR. SCIENCE:** That's me.

**RODNEY:** Remember, he knows more than you do.

**DR. SCIENCE:** That's right.

**RODNEY:** Boogash Nomoli from Urbana, Illinois, writes, dear Dr. Science, why are there two dots above the I in naive?

**DR. SCIENCE:** To make you feel even more insecure about your language abilities, two dots over a vowel means you're supposed to vacillate over the sound wavering for a moment or two in fearful anticipation of the succeeding consonants.

So it's actually pronounced "na-iiiv." Grammarians call this a murmur diphthong. And enunciating one in more than sotto voce is a felony in most states. The insecurity it provokes in listeners can lead to social unrest or mass speech impediments. It's best to substitute another word like dumb or young or maybe young and dumb for "na-iiiv."

**RODNEY:** Thank you, Dr. Science. Send your science questions to ask Dr. Science.

It's time once again to ask Dr. Science, so let's ask Dr. Science.

**DR. SCIENCE:** That's me.

**RODNEY:** Remember, he knows more than you do.

**DR. SCIENCE:** That's right.

**RODNEY:** Brad Schnoor from Deerfield, Illinois, writes, dear Dr. Science, do you own a pet? What kind of pet is it? Is it well-trained.

**DR. SCIENCE:** I have Rodney, my research assistant. Most of the time, he does what he's told, and when he does it, well, the shock collar corrects his random deviation. As for nonhuman pets, well, most of them have been reptiles or amphibians. They make Rodney seem positively warm-blooded in comparison.

When I was a boy, my parents took me to a Mexican beach on vacation. It was there that I stumbled across a giant sea turtle laying her eggs. Fortunately she fit neatly in the trunk of our car. And well, today, she's queen of the radiation containment pond here at the lab.

**RODNEY:** Thank you, Dr. Science. Send your science questions--

It's time once again to ask Dr. Science. Remember, he's not a real doctor. So let's ask Dr. Science.

**DR. SCIENCE:** That's me.

**RODNEY:** Remember, he knows more than you do.

**DR. SCIENCE:** That's right.

**RODNEY:** Judy Richard from Colorado Springs, Colorado, writes, dear Dr. Science, I'm disturbed by the fact that single-celled organisms multiply by dividing. Is this an attempt on their part to undermine our faith in arithmetic principles?

**DR. SCIENCE:** What faith do most of us really have in arithmetic? For a while in college, I tried having faith in calculus, but soon reached the limit of that belief when my professor, who lost in thought over some convoluted proof, was struck down by a bus.

Abraham Lincoln was actually referring to the reproductive methods of single-celled organisms in the Gettysburg Address when he said a house divided against itself cannot stand. And indeed, no single-celled organism has legs to just stand on, much less feet. Instead they ooze around dividing and subdividing asexually, I might add, making mockery of our notions of romance and arithmetic.

**RODNEY:** Thank you, Dr. Science. Send your science questions-- it's time once again to ask Dr. Science, so let's ask Dr. Science.

**DR. SCIENCE:** That's me.

**RODNEY:** Remember, he knows more than you do.

**DR. SCIENCE:** That's right.

**RODNEY:** Pamela Fleury from North Pole, Alaska, writes, dear Dr. Science, if I follow the instructions in my toothpaste tube, which say, for best results, squeeze tube from the bottom and flatten it as you go up. Will this give me whiter teeth and fresher breath?

**DR. SCIENCE:** No, but it will put you on the side of progress. If you can follow instructions like that, then you're part of the team that knows that Crest has been shown to be an effective decay preventing benefits when used in a conscientiously applied program of oral hygiene and regular professional care.

Your best buddy is our friend, the atom. No doubt you have an all-electric kitchen. A World Book Encyclopedia graces your living room or better yet, a den. At night, you browse through the acetate pages of the visible man. You thank your lucky stars that you're the kind of person who can read, comprehend, and follow directions. You're going to go far in this world.

**RODNEY:** Thank you, Dr. Science. Send your science questions to-- it's time once again to ask Dr. Science.

Remember, he's not a real doctor. Remember, he knows more than you do.

**DR. SCIENCE:** That's right.

**RODNEY:** Rick McGuire from Birmingham, Michigan, writes, dear Dr. Science, if theoretically you were in the exact center of the earth and you dropped a ball, what would it do?

**DR. SCIENCE:** It would find your face at great velocity. Most probably it would damage one eye, and if your reflexes were slow enough, it could permanently blind you. That's why it can't hurt you strongly enough to leave experiments like this to trained scientists.

We've been there before. We know what to expect in situations like this. I wouldn't think of going to the center of the earth without protective eyewear nor would I tamper with terrestrial forces without first having done my homework.