

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

[MUSIC PLAYING]

Oh, yes you've tuned in to After Hours-- the continuing tradition on KPFT, Houston, 90.1 FM. The crew of After Hours is ready to bring you news, interviews, and music geared for gay and lesbian people.

Here at After Hours, we may be diverse, but we have one thing in common, we are out of the closet and urge everyone to come out of their closets. That means standing up for yourself, taking responsibility for your own life, and being proud of who you are.

Realistically, we know not everyone can do that because of age, job, or frame of mind. That's OK. We're here for you too. So sit back, relax, and enjoy this week's edition of After Hours.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

Hello, and welcome to After Hours. I'm Jimmy, and with me, I've got some guests tonight. Starting with someone that you've heard before--

**SARAH** Sarah DePalma.

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Ah, and Gigi. Now, we've been talking about this for the last couple of weeks. And this is After Hours-- Coming Out. Because tonight, the co-hosts represent areas of the community that have not been represented on After Hours before, and I think it's about time.

Now, Sarah, you represent which community?

**SARAH** I'm representing the transgender community in Houston.

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** OK, and Gigi?

**GIGI:** I'm representing the BiNet of Houston.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Mm-hmm. And you're not alone here. We have someone else?

**GIGI:** Yes.

**JAY WILBER:** I'm Jay Wilber. I'm also with BiNet.

**JIMMY CARPER:** OK. And BiNet is?

**JAY WILBER:** The bisexual network.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Ah, OK. So we've got bisexual people, here and transgendered people here. Can we use the word queer?

**GIGI:** Works for me. Works for me.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Because I'm a gay man pretty basically. And we've got some lesbians running around here and all kinds of good stuff. So Sarah, let's start with you. What have you got-- what's on the agenda for tonight?

**SARAH**  
**DEPALMA:** Actually, I brought a couple of things. I have an interview that was taped with Karen Kerin. Karen is the president of It's Time, America. It is a political lobbying organization for transgender people.

And in the 1 o'clock hour, I have something special that I'd like to present. It's about a subject that the transgender community acknowledges but prefers not to discuss. And we'll leave it at that for now.

**JIMMY CARPER:** OK. OK. Fine. And I think I said this the last time you were on, but you do not look like a man with a dress on.

**SARAH**  
**DEPALMA:** Oh, my endocrinologist will be so happy you said that.

**JIMMY CARPER:** I say that and I don't-- this is kind of a learning experience for everybody. So if I step on toes or say something that's going to hurt some feelings, let me know because this is a gay man's reaction and I think from the gay perspective of what we expect a transgender person to look like.

**SARAH**  
**DEPALMA:** Well, it's interesting. I think most people have gotten their education about transgender people from *Heraldo* or from Phil Donahue. And it's very interesting I was talking to a young lady this evening, and she and I have had the same experience. We have had talk shows call us, but they won't take us because we're too normal.

So the normal people-- quote, unquote-- if you want to call me normal--

**JIMMY CARPER:** You look-- you look pretty normal to me.

**SARAH**  
**DEPALMA:** Well, thank you. We don't get on those shows. Occasionally, we get on the news. And when some television station need something different. But by and large, we don't get seen, and most of the time we don't want to be seen. We want to be able to go to work, earn a living, and blend in. So for most people, the objective is to disappear.

I'm a little bit different because I have reached the conclusion that disappearing means we have no political clout. And it is my goal in life to change that.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Ah, OK. Now, the same thing here. Gigi and Jay, you two do not look-- I mean, you look like people. You don't-- I don't see drool, and you know, no one got attacked in the lobby because you're obviously oversexed, right? What's the deal here with bisexual people?

**GIGI:** One of the things we're going to discuss tonight is some of the bisexual myths that occur.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Ah.

**GIGI:** Because there are a lot of misconceptions about bisexuality. And we are like everyone else. We don't necessarily choose our orientation. We don't just grow up one day and say, oh, I think I want to be bisexual today, you know? It's something that-- just like with homosexuals and with the straight population-- it's something that just occurs in our evolution.

**JAY WILBER:** And not just a phase.

**GIGI:** It's not just a phase.

**JAY WILBER:** It is our orientation.

**JIMMY CARPER:** OK. Not just a phase. I was born this way. So we've got transgender, bisexual, and gay people, and lesbians, and it seems like we all come from the same place, don't we?

**JAY WILBER:** Mm-hmm.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Let's talk more about this. Let's go to a piece of music and get a little organized while we're doing that. It's from Sophie B. Hawkins-- my favorite bisexual singer. And it's off of her new album. I think you'll like it.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

[AUDIO OUT]

[MUSIC PLAYING]

Mm-hmm. Sophie B. Hawkins, "Right Beside You--" some nice words for the gay and lesbian community. Gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender-- the queer community.

**SARAH** Thank you.

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** I have to get used to that. I've been saying gay and lesbian for 6 and 1/2, seven years, and it's time to learn. You're listening to After Hours-- a continuing tradition on KPFT, Houston. Some people say After Hours is radio with attitude. We'll see.

And with me tonight is Sarah DePalma, Gigi, and Jay. And Sarah, you have a piece of tape that we're going to go to right now. And you want to intro it?

**SARAH** I'd like to tell you a little bit about Karen Kerin before we start.

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** OK.

**SARAH** It's Time, America is a political lobbying organization and it was started because we discovered that transgender  
**DEPALMA:** people were not included in ENDA, which is the Employment Nondiscrimination Act. We were not included because a staffer on Ted Kennedy's office didn't want us there. We are working to get that corrected.

But the point that I want to make is about Karen Kerin, who is the director of this group. Karen is a cancer survivor. Karen has fought cancer through a good part of her life, and she has won.

So when you listen to this-- listen to Karen tonight, listen to this in tones of somebody who says, I have won, I can win, I will win. When you hear Karen Kerin, listen to the determination in her voice. This is a woman who is not going to lose.

**JIMMY CARPER:** OK. Let's go to it.

**SARAH  
DEPALMA:**

Hi, my name is Sarah DePalma, and I am a transgender person. It is my hope and my goal over the next few months to help everyone understand what the word transgender means and how transgender individuals relate and are related to the gay, lesbian, bisexual communities.

Since this is my first time on the airwaves of KPFT, I'd like to tell you a little bit about my background and why I am qualified to talk about issues relating to these communities. In 1983, I was a heterosexually married man with an eight-year-old daughter living in College Station.

By the time I graduated Texas A&M in 1985, I had become divorced, acquired a male lover, and become head of one of the organizations which took on the university and won the right for gay student services to become a university-accepted organization. After graduation, I moved to Houston just in time to participate in the fight in the referendum.

In the ensuing years, my lover was killed in an auto accident. I was one of the original members of the first Act Up and a charter member of Queer Nation. In 1991, while still a member of Queer Nation, I began my transition from male to female.

Today, even though I have not had sex reassignment surgery, I live and work as a female, consider myself a preoperative transsexual female. I co-own two businesses with my life partner, who for lack of better terminology is biologically female. I don't know how our relationship would be classified, nor do I care to do so.

One of the first things a transgendered person learns is the labels that have been put upon us. And so many of us accept. And truth mean very little or nothing at all.

In addition, I am co-chair of It's Time Texas/Houston-- a political action group working on behalf of transgender people-- and the Houston media coordinator for the international conference on transgender law and employment policy.

I'm giving you this information because I know there will be listeners who will wonder what a transgendered person is doing on a, quote, "gay and lesbian program" end quote, and why I have any right to be here. My hope is to inform, educate, and help you become more comfortable with transgendered people of varying ideas and beliefs. You may be rather surprised by how much we all have in common.

Now we begin the first of a three-part interview with Karen Kerin, the National Director of It's Time, America. Karen, welcome to the show.

**KAREN KERIN:** Thank you.

**SARAH  
DEPALMA:**

Let's begin by telling the listeners a little bit about your background.

**KAREN KERIN:** Well, I am a former bigot. I'm 50 years old. I'm medically described, I guess, today as a nontransgendered post-operative transsexual [INAUDIBLE] because of cancer.

The type of cancer that I had was an industrial-induced one, and it shot me rather full of cancer. It cost me my left lung in two separate surgeries. And with a bunch of carcinoid cancers in my lower extremities, I was faced with either dying or living a life of being catheterized and colostomized, which would have severely limited my activities, or having a sex change.

Well, it worked rather well to go along with a sex change because I was having to take female hormones anyway because the only male organ I have left is the one that was protected by taking the hormones. And that-- I can't think of a word for it here. It's called a prostate-- kind of slipped my mind there for a moment.

**SARAH** Well, believe me, it happens to all of us.

**DEPALMA:**

**KAREN KERIN:** Yeah. Yeah, I guess it does. In any event, I had SRS-- or Sexual Reassignment Surgery-- in a 12 and 1/2 hour surgery that was ostensibly for cancer but resulted in me being as I am today.

Since that time, as a licensed professional engineer, I have gone on and am now a law school student. I have been very involved in politics. I was the delegate at the Republican National Convention in Houston in 1992, and the following week attended the first international conference on transgender law and employment policy.

Subsequent to that, I became the editor and publisher for the [INAUDIBLE] Reporter, which is the newsletter that goes out for the people who are involved in the law conference.

I've had a rather fulfilling life, and I feel very fortunate to be alive. And as a former bigot-- a person who really had an awful lot of trouble with people in the gender community because I felt uncomfortable about them, I've come to understand them. And I regard them as kind of my family.

**SARAH** Well, lest anyone think badly of our friend the Republican here, let me explain that in Vermont, a Republican is a moderate liberal as opposed to the Republicans in Texas, which are of the Phil Gramm school of Republicanism.

**DEPALMA:**

Well, I know the history of Its Time, America, but I'm sure most of our listeners do not. Why don't you tell them a little bit about how It's Time, America came into being in and why.

**KAREN KERIN:** OK. I have been working very closely with Senator Jeffords' office on a number of different issues and have been cultivating a number of different politicians from both major parties.

In consequence of that, I received a letter from them telling me about he recognized my interest in gender affairs and was very proud to announce that he was one of the co-sponsors of ENDA. That's the Employment Nondiscrimination Act that is currently before the Senate Labor and Human Relations Committee, which is chaired by Senator Kennedy.

I immediately began pursuing finding out what I could about it and subsequently got to know a gentleman in his office by the name of Reg Jones who has been Senator Jeffords' point man and working with the Labor and Human Relations Committee. As a result was determined that because there was going to be a hearing, that I would go down and testify.

I did not choose to go along because I thought it would be a lot more valuable to take somebody with me. And we had hoped to have a very small delegation go. But ultimately, it ended up myself and [INAUDIBLE] went.

We were very, very well received and extremely well treated. We did get to turn in our written testimony. However, we were precluded from speaking.

Now, we should back up, I guess, a little bit and perhaps explain the genesis of ENDA. I had been involved with the Human Rights Campaign Fund and had been supportive of their program for writing in cards and so forth dating back to the-- well, quite a few years-- but it's most especially the march on Washington.

I was quite surprised when I found out that they were the point people for the ENDA program. To the best of my knowledge and understanding, they had employed Chai Feldblum who was an elite member, I guess, of the Georgetown Law School. She's a professor there.

And she had apparently drafted the proposed ENDA legislation. And it was specifically noninclusive of transgendered people. We became quite alarmed at that upon discovering it.

And as we listen to the panels as we were sitting there in the hearing, the last panel consisted of three people, the first two of which were rabid homophobes. And that's probably being about as kind as I can. And the wrap up speaker was this guy, Feldblum.

The next to the last speaker on that panel passed a terrible remark. He represented that the gay and lesbian community should be rather ostracized because there was-- how would they feel if they had a male employee-- a strapping 6-foot man who came into work one day in a sequined gown and 5-inch spike heeled shoes. Certainly, that doesn't describe the gay/lesbian community.

**SARAH**  
**DEPALMA:** No, and it certainly doesn't describe the transgendered people I know, or even most of the drag queens that I know. So I do find that remark rather remarkable.

**KAREN KERIN:** Yeah, it is. What was interesting was Phyllis, Ryan, and I were both sitting there very well identified with badges announcing that we weren't going to be allowed to orally testify. And for reasons that we don't understand, we were never given an opportunity to refute that. I think Chai Feldblum did a very good job at refuting the issues as far as they had gone on attacking the gay and lesbian community. But it disturbed me a great deal that we didn't have an opportunity to defend ourselves.

**SARAH**  
**DEPALMA:** I have a copy of the Employment Nondiscrimination Act that was sent to us by the Human Rights Campaign Fund. And I'd like to read just part of this because it helps to reinforce what you said.

The Employment Nondiscrimination Act of 1994-- called ENDA-- extends federal employment discrimination protections currently provided to all Americans based on race, religion, gender, national origin, age, and disability to sexual orientation. The point that I want to make to our listeners is the word transgender or anything that would be related to transgender is not in that language.

**KAREN KERIN:** And if I may, I'd like to point out that we have a discussion draft from the senate. Senator Jeffords is planning to sponsor and there will probably be a good many other cosponsors. And I would just like to very briefly read the title of it. It is to prohibit employment discrimination on the basis of sexual or gender orientation.

The amendments that we are proposing to ENDA are simply where it says sexual orientation to make it sexual or gender orientation. And in the definition section at the very back of the bill, the word transgender is defined using the same language as was used in the Minnesota statutes.

And if I may, I'd like to read that part. The term transgendered means having a self-image or identity not traditionally associated with one's biological maleness or femaleness. Now, certainly, that's not terribly incongruent with the gay and lesbian community. The elitist attitude that we have encountered with some folks inside the Beltway is not typical of the many gay and lesbian friends that I have, nor does it appear to be within any of the other transgendered people I know and their friends.

We're a fairly small community. And yes, we're a very obvious community. And perhaps-- I might be able to sum it up a little bit better by telling you as I have told my gay and lesbian friends at the law school. I do not have the ability to retreat back into my closet because I can't retreat back into my closet. I have to live as who and what I am.

I feel that for unemployment purposes, people like myself really do need more protection. I'm not looking for any special privileges. I think ENDA was very well crafted in that intent. And I would hope that my many gay and lesbian friends-- and I have some in Houston like Ray Hill.

**SARAH** Dear old Ray.

**DEPALMA:**

**KAREN KERIN:** I would hope that those kind of folks would make their voices heard in the gay and lesbian community very loudly because it is clearly another wrong. And I think that we've had too many wrongs in America. And I've never seen two wrongs make a right.

**SARAH** Well, I think--

**DEPALMA:**

**KAREN KERIN:** Not looking to take anything away. We're just looking to be included as we thought we were straight along.

**SARAH** The fact that-- to the best of my knowledge, this is the first-- this is the first chance or the first opportunity that a transgendered person has had to be on the air on a regular basis anywhere in the country. And that is taking place because we do have friends here in the gay and lesbian community who wanted to make it so.

**DEPALMA:**

And so you're right. We do have friends. I don't think that the attitude in the Beltway is indicative. But then that's true of most politics I think.

We are out of time for our first segment. Karen Kerin, thank you very much. And we will bring-- come back with the second segment of the show next week. Thank you very much.

**KAREN KERIN:** You bet.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

[AUDIO OUT]

**JIMMY CARPER:** Sarah, that was a pretty piece of tape.

**SARAH** Not only was it pretty, but it was appropriate too. I thought that was a terrific piece of music.

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh, thank you. Thank you. Thank you. I liked-- I liked your interview with Karen Kerin.

**SARAH** Oh, thank you. She's an easy interview, and she is a person of conviction. I know a lot of people think that to be a  
**DEPALMA:** politician necessarily means one must be a dishonest liar. But at least in her case, it's not true. She's a-- she's a wonderful person.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Good, we'll have more of that later. And right now, I want to get back to our bisexual friends. And we were sitting around here talking. And, Sarah, you came up with something. I mean, you came up with this question that I think is maybe on a lot of people's lips.

**SARAH** Well, any time I hear the subject to bisexuality discussed in the gay and lesbian community, I hear the same  
**DEPALMA:** question. When are you people going to make up your minds? I mean, really, you're just a gay person who can't say you're gay. And so I was wondering, will you please address that and get rid of that.

**JAY WILBER:** OK. Yeah, that is a question that's very frequently asked. You know, make up your mind. It's just a phase. You're sitting on a fence, you know? Blah, blah, blah. We could go on forever.

It's not just a phase. We are not sitting on a fence. This is who we are. It is our orientation.

It's hard to describe if you don't have these feelings. But bisexuality merely means you love both men and women. And you don't put a label on yourself really. It's kind of a nonlabel almost.

**GIGI:** I've like to add a little bit to that. I know that when I was in high school, I really had a lot of attractions to both genders. I used to sit around watching people run around track and I got real turned on to both watching the boy jiggles and the girl jiggles.

**JIMMY CARPER:** OK.

**GIGI:** And it's something that from the first time I became sexually aware, I found I was attracted to both. And it hasn't changed one bit from that time till this.

**JIMMY CARPER:** And I don't understand why that's so hard to understand. Men turned me on. I don't actually-- I don't think of women as sexual creatures. And I'll bet a straight man would feel just the opposite. Doesn't think of men as sexual creatures.

But I do think of men as sexual creatures. And that straight man does think of women as sexual creatures. So why is it so difficult to just double that?

**GIGI:** I think part of it is the idea that when one is bisexual, one is necessarily nonmonogamous. And that is a myth. There are a lot of bisexuals that are monogamous.

**JIMMY CARPER:** And I think there's a lot of myths too. Why don't we get into that?

**JAY WILBER:** OK. Well, some of them that we talked about-- bisexuality doesn't exist. It is a sexual orientation-- a legitimate sexual orientation. And it's not one that we're going to change.

I have some friends of mine who are always saying, well, all you need is a good lover and you'll be a lesbian or you'll be straight. And no, it doesn't work that way.

Another very common myth right now is that bisexuals spread aids to the lesbian and the heterosexual communities. And this is-- well, is just patently not true. You know, unsafe sex or sharing needles, that passes HIV. But a lot of people have a lot of antagonism toward bisexuals because they think well you sleep with men, you sleep with women, therefore, you're transmitting AIDS and transmitting HIV.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah, but that's not the point. The point is what you do and how you do it. I'm a safe sex slut. So I mean, what's the deal here? It's--

**GIGI:** Well, it's unsafe sex practices that spreads AIDS.

**JIMMY CARPER:** That's right, or sharing needles.

**GIGI:** It doesn't have anything to do with orientation. It doesn't have anything to do with how you look or who you are. It only means if you play safe or you don't.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Period. Period.

**JAY WILBER:** Another common myth, as we mentioned earlier, is that bisexuals can't be monogamous. People think of bisexuals as being swingers and, you know, because, I guess, since we are attracted to men and women, they think, oh, well, you just sleep with anything. But that's not true. Some bisexuals do sleep with anything that moves. So do some heterosexual, some homosexuals.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes.

**JAY WILBER:** Mm-hmm. There are also many monogamous bisexuals, either in a monogamous relationship with a member of the opposite gender or a member of the same gender-- doesn't matter. They're still bisexual.

**GIGI:** An important issue came up in one of our group meetings the other night. And that was that one of the members said, well, how can I get over the fear of being-- that feeling you get when you deprive yourself of one gender or the other.

And one of the things we had discussed was that a lot of times we equate sexuality with intimacy. And it is possible to be very intimate with a lot of people and be sexual with one person and still call yourself bisexual.

**JAY WILBER:** Yeah.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh, that's easy to see. We talk about this a lot. What is the sexuality of a priest or someone who doesn't have sex at all? That it has nothing to do with any of that. Whether you have sex or not have sex has nothing to do with your orientation. You know in your mind who you want to be with.

**JAY WILBER:** Yeah, it's-- as you say, it's in the mind. It's a state of mind where you think the way you feel. It's what your sexual orientation is.

**JIMMY CARPER:** OK, Garrett you were-- Garrett, Gigi-- you were you said something about "our meetings." What does that mean?

**GIGI:** BiNet, Houston meets every Wednesday night from 7 o'clock till 9:00.

**JAY WILBER:** Mm-hmm.

**GIGI:** And then we meet at the--

**JAY WILBER:** Metropolitan Community Church of the Resurrection-- MCCR.

**GIGI:** Yes. Thank you.

**JIMMY CARPER:** 1919 Decatur Street right off Washington Avenue. And so how did this come about?

**GIGI:** In Houston, a bunch of us saw a need because there's no counseling for bisexuals. I remember years ago I went in for counseling. And they kind of-- even the counselors kind of wanted me to make up my mind one way or the other.

I tend to be one of these bisexuals that's nonmonogamous, and I like both genders. I have relationships on all different types of levels with people-- people that I'm attracted to.

**JIMMY CARPER:** But don't we all?

**GIGI:** Mm-hmm.

**JIMMY CARPER:** We just don't realize how intimate we are with our friends.

**GIGI:** Mm-hmm.

**JAY WILBER:** Mm-hmm.

**GIGI:** One thing I think that's important is that sexuality can be on many different levels. We can be very intimate and sexual or we can have anonymous sex. And there's everything in between. And sexuality is also a spiritual state of being.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh, yes.

**SARAH**  
**DEPALMA:** One of the things that we talked about earlier was about labels and that people seem to be very hung up on labels. You must be gay. You must be straight. Do you think maybe one of the problems is that bisexuals don't fit any particular label? Does that make people uncomfortable?

**JAY WILBER:** Uh-huh. I think another reason that people might be-- especially gay people might be so uncomfortable with bisexuality-- is because they think bisexuals have a heterosexual privilege, you know? Yeah, you're with your gay lover, and then when the heat is on, then all of a sudden, wham, you're back in the straight world and you can walk hand-in-hand with your boyfriend if you're a woman or your girlfriend if you're a man. It doesn't work that way.

I mean, we're not just half gay bashed. It's not, oh, just beat me up on my left side because I'm queer on that side, you know?

**JIMMY CARPER:** I love that.

**JAY WILBER:** I mean, we are as much a part of the queer community as gays, lesbians, transgenders, whatever. And really anyone who remains in the closet retains heterosexual privilege-- you know, anyone who's not out. And so it's not just bisexuals. It's not just, well, on Monday, Wednesdays, and Fridays I'm gay, and Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday I'm straight. And it just doesn't work that way.

**GIGI:** And this brings us to another one of our myths that bisexuals have heterosexual privilege.

**JAY WILBER:** Mm-hmm.

**GIGI:** The reality is that any person, whether gay, lesbian, or bisexual who remains in the closet retains heterosexual privilege.

**JIMMY CARPER:** That's right. That's right. That's one of the reasons for staying in the closet. And the closet-- speaking of closets, how about the transgendered closet?

**SARAH** Well, yeah. I'm really an exception in the transgender community because I'm politically active and I'm

**DEPALMA:** completely out of the closet. For most transgender people, the goal is to disappear.

**JIMMY CARPER:** To pass.

**SARAH** To pass. They want to be assimilated into society.

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh, that horrible A word.

**SARAH** Well, of course, the objective is they want to be able to earn a living. And the theory that if anyone knew they

**DEPALMA:** were transsexual, they couldn't get work, which is at least partially true.

One of the things I would like to ask is, it doesn't seem to me that the bisexual community is politically active-- not in the sense that the gay community is or in the sense that the transgendered community is becoming. Any opinions on why you think that's so?

**GIGI:** I think part of the problem, at least here in Houston-- I mean, we are politically active on the West Coast and on the East Coast because the community is formed and it's become strong and moving. But here in Houston, we're just getting a start. We haven't been around a whole long time as a group, and the group is still very small.

**JIMMY CARPER:** OK. Any more myths?

**JAY WILBER:** Yes, there is one more myth we want to talk about is that bisexuals are not a part of the lesbian, gay community, which I guess kind of ties into this question here. There are bisexuals who are active-- politically active. There are bisexuals who are not.

Most of the bisexuals who are active as Gigi said, we don't have a bisexual community in Houston. So we work through the lesbian and gay communities. And because there is such biphobia in the lesbian, gay communities, we have a tendency not to talk about that. We just talk about our same sex lovers, not about our opposite sex lovers.

So we are out there. We are in the lesbian, gay community. We are very committed to the queer movement. But we just-- it's kind of hard to see us sometimes.

**SARAH** Is that difficult that? Is that a double closet? You're rejected both by the straight community and the gay

**DEPALMA:** community?

**JAY WILBER:** Yes.

**GIGI:** Definitely.

**SARAH** Well, how do you handle that?

**DEPALMA:**

**JAY WILBER:** Well, it's just very difficult. I feel like I'm split in two. When I'm with my straight friends, I can talk about, oh, look at that cute guy. Isn't he really cute? When I'm with my lesbian friends, I say, oh, look at that cute woman. Isn't she really cute?

But I can't really switch back and forth. If I'm with my lesbian friends, I say, look at that cute guy, they all say, oh, she was backsliding again.

**SARAH** Makes sense to me.

**DEPALMA:**

**GIGI:** Back on that fence.

**JAY WILBER:** And it's really tough. It's really-- it's really very painful. As you say, it's like a double closet. And I really have to watch myself with everybody.

And that's one wonderful thing about BiNet is I don't have to watch what I say. I can sit there and talk about--

**JIMMY CARPER:** Good. Let's have a plug for BiNet here.

**JAY WILBER:** OK. Well, as you said, we do meet on Wednesdays at MCCR. Anybody is welcome-- bisexuals mostly, of course. But anyone who's bi-friendly-- gay, straight, transgender, whatever. I mean, we've had all sorts of people come.

**JIMMY CARPER:** So, basically, whether-- this is like a place to meet your next ex-lover or what?

**JAY WILBER:** No, no. It's not a social club or anything like that. It's not a big swinging singles. I guess you could say we're a social support group. We do offer support but it's not really like therapy or anything like that. I mean, none of us are psychologists. We don't have an official psychiatrist or anything like that. But it is a place to get together to talk about bisexual issues and just to hang out with other bisexual people-- get out of that closet so you don't have to watch what you say so much.

**GIGI:** I think our mission statement also puts things into good perspective.

**JAY WILBER:** Mm-hmm.

**GIGI:** The Houston BiNet is a support group that's a social, political, group of bisexuals and bifriendly individuals who promote a diverse set of alternative lifestyles, sexual preferences between same sex partners, opposite sex partners, transgender people, and monogamy or polygamy in relationships. We serve the community by providing a safe environment to explore bisexual issues and to meet other individuals who share similar beliefs about human sexuality and sensuality. We are involved in dispelling myths, misconceptions about the bisexual experience through group education.

**JIMMY CARPER:** And by hanging out on this show, maybe we're going to kind of dispel myths as we go along. And we'll find out that bisexual people, transgender people are people who like to go and see the same movies we talk about and like the same music that we play on the air and have very similar interests.

**GIGI:** And one thing I've found, sometimes going into the gay bars, I have gay people come up to me and say, well, you know, every once in a while I like a woman, but I don't like to tell anybody that.

**JIMMY CARPER:** I'll bet-- I'll bet you hear that a lot.

**GIGI:** Uh-huh.

**JIMMY CARPER:** I'll bet you do.

**GIGI:** And there's some fear and in both the straight and the gay world that if I identify as bisexual, I'm going to be cut off somehow.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Sure, sure. I'm in the gay community, and I've seen it many, many times that people who are bisexual or are exploring that avenue will shut that door and they don't want anybody to know.

**GIGI:** I think another myth that comes up a lot of times is that-- well, like in California, they have publication called Anything That Moves.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes, I've seen that.

**GIGI:** That's fair game.

**JIMMY CARPER:** I've seen that publication.

**GIGI:** And what the truth of that is that I'm attracted to some men, I'm attracted to some women. There's a lot of men that turn me on. There's a lot of women that turn me on.

**JIMMY CARPER:** See, in here, we in the gay community have been telling the straight community that for eons. It's the old-- the gay-- the straight male idea that if he lets down his guard for a moment, no matter how old or ugly or awful he is, that 10,000 gay men are going to grab for his crotch.

**SARAH** You mean that's not true?

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** It isn't.