

JIMMY CARPER: Demonstrate commitment or contribution to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender community. Demonstrate financial need and follow the Legacy Lesbian's leadership's scholarship guidelines. Oh, my god.

[LAUGHTER]

Did they do that on purpose?

MAN: We need a teleprompter, you know?

[LAUGHTER]

JIMMY CARPER: No, this is very important because they offer scholarships from 500 to 2,500, depending on need and what's going on with you. For more information, go to wcubeduncommonlegacy.org, or you can contact Dr. Joyce M. Gales, who is the outreach coordinator for Houston Legacy, at 713-667-6047, or email transworks@aol.com.

And happy anniversary to WIPS, Women in Power Society. They're celebrating their fourth anniversary. And Mistress Elizabeth is gearing up for a fun next year and some big celebrations on the fifth anniversary. And do we have--

MAN: No.

JIMMY CARPER: --Dean Becker yet?

MAN: No. I thought you wanted me to be a WIP. [INAUDIBLE].

JIMMY CARPER: No, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no. No, not you. Anybody but you. And don't forget, Houston Gay Lesbian Pride 5K Fun Run and Walk, which is happening Saturday, June the 8th, at 7:30 AM. I won't be there.

[LAUGHTER]

Benefiting Sisters, and this is one of my favorite organizations. This is a group of wonderful women who help other women who need help. And I mean it maybe just going to the store or mowing their grass or painting their bathroom, but this is what these women are about. And-- bye.

MAN: Hey, [INAUDIBLE] yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: Dead air, dead air. While I wave goodbye to one of my favorite hatchlings, yes. Here we go. Let's see.

MAN: Hey, I think I know who that is.

JIMMY CARPER: Now, I pick this up at Lobo. So the fun run information is probably there, yes. Pick up packet will be at Lobo Bookstore, 3939 Montrose.

MAN: Really?

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

MAN: Oh, god.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, yes, yes. OK, I hear the phone ringing, so I bet Dean is on the line, and Big Roy is going to be answering it. The music that you heard before I started yapping was a new music by John Raymond Pollard from his CD "Passion, Poison, and Politic." Boy, that's popping your peas, isn't it?

[LAUGHTER]

And that was called--

[LAUGHS]

--"Quicksand." Yes, "Quicksand." And let's go to this and we will be right back.

[MUSIC - JOHN POLLARD, "QUICKSAND"]

PRESENTER: *Technology Bytes*, a call in show about computers and technology airs here on KPFT 90.1 FM Wednesdays 8:00 to 10:00 PM. Here with the celebrity endorsement, the bit from Tron.

TRON: Yes.

PRESENTER: What do you think about *Technology Bytes*?

TRON: Yes.

PRESENTER: OK, do you like *Technology Bytes*?

TRON: Yes.

PRESENTER: Do you listen to *Technology Bytes*?

TRON: No.

PRESENTER: That was a bust. Oh, well. Tune in anyway. That's *Technology Bytes*, Wednesdays 8:00 to 10:00 PM here on KPFT.

JIMMY CARPER: OK, we've got Dean Becker on the line. Just a moment. Let me get him--

MAN: [INAUDIBLE]

JIMMY CARPER: --geared up here. Dean.

DEAN BECKER Jimmy.

(OVER PHONE):

JIMMY CARPER: Hey, how you doing?

DEAN BECKER I'm doing great. How are you all this evening?

(OVER PHONE):

JIMMY CARPER: Wonderful, wonderful. So what's going on with Cultural Baggage?

DEAN BECKER And, well, I tell you what, all kinds of great news is happening. The first comes from Great Britain. The members **(OVER PHONE):** of the British Parliament have issued their home office report, which basically is making the recommendations on the laws they want passed. And they've downgraded cannabis possession to being a non-arrestable offense.

JIMMY CARPER: Wow.

DEAN BECKER Yes.

(OVER PHONE):

JIMMY CARPER: That's great news.

DEAN BECKER Oh, yes. And they're going to kind of look askance at home grow operations. They're building cannabis clubs, as **(OVER PHONE):** we've talked about earlier. And they spoke-- the report asked to downgrade ecstasy from the highest level to the medium level, but some of their drugs are his own no, no, not yet. We'll examine the experience with cannabis first.

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

DEAN BECKER Now, they said their priorities over there. They want to have a realistic education, readily available treatment, **(OVER PHONE):** and harm reduction. And I think anybody can realize that's a positive step.

JIMMY CARPER: Sure.

DEAN BECKER They talk about the criminal law should be reserved primarily for dealers. So they're not really going towards **(OVER PHONE):** legalization. They're still going to keep the black market, you know?

We know that's not right, but they want to help young people, they want to protect their communities, they want to enable people with drug problems to overcome them, and to disrupt the supply. And I can understand that to some degree. We want to control the supply, keep it out of the hands of children.

JIMMY CARPER: That's exactly right. Just like we would do with alcohol.

DEAN BECKER With alcohol, a much more dangerous drug than any of these we're fighting against. **(OVER PHONE):**

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, yes.

DEAN BECKER It kills so many people each year, 400-- I mean, excuse me, 200,000 people die of alcohol each year, and that's **(OVER PHONE):** just from-- not accidents. I'm talking about cirrhosis and killing themselves otherwise. We just won't dabble.

JIMMY CARPER: I had no idea.

DEAN BECKER Yes. Well, tobacco's 400,000 per year and-- **(OVER PHONE):**

JIMMY CARPER: That, I knew, yes.

DEAN BECKER And doctors prescriptions that are filled in incorrectly, 100,000 per year. **(OVER PHONE):**

JIMMY CARPER: Really?

DEAN BECKER Yes. And marijuana has not killed anybody in 5,000 years that we know of. Their conclusion, they want to build
(OVER PHONE): things for a better generation. And the more interesting thing to me is on Thursday, the Senior Law Lord, who is basically the Supreme Court for Great Britain, he studied the report and here's what he had to say.

He said we should legalize the drug, speaking of cannabis. It is stupid having a law which isn't doing what it is there for. This is their Supreme Court judge making his observation of the report that was issued by the legislature or the parliament. He described, the English criminal justice system is already one of the most punitive in the world. He continued, it's the perception of crime, not the reality.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

DEAN BECKER And when he was asked about the differing thoughts of his peers, Lord Bingham replied, I don't give a F-word.
(OVER PHONE):

JIMMY CARPER: [LAUGHS]

Wow. All right.

DEAN BECKER So I think we have more changes in store over there.
(OVER PHONE):

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

DEAN BECKER OK, now, it gets even better, at least for the United States. Today, in *The New York Times*, they published an
(OVER PHONE): editorial by their full staff. And this blows me away. I'll quote from it.

"The court is to rule on a challenge by doctors to a federal policy prohibiting them from recommending medical marijuana." They go on to say, "The federal campaign is designed to block a California State referendum on the issue. It is mean-spirited and unconstitutional."

Now, this is coming out of *The New York Times*. I just love it. "The appeals court should not delay in calling an end to it." So they have come out strongly for medical marijuana.

"Medical marijuana can be," they go on to say, "can be a legitimate treatment for cancer patients who are nauseated by chemotherapy, AIDS patients who lose their appetites, and other seriously ill people. In cases where a patient is considering stopping treatment because of the agony or cannot keep food down, medical marijuana can be life-saving. The federal government's attempt to block its use in the face of mainstream medical opinion-- that's not a very good sentence. One Harvard Study of 2,000 oncologists found that 44% had recommended marijuana to patients undergoing chemotherapy."

Again, *The New York Times*. This is going to look real good on our signs we carry to the DEA offices on June 6. And their wrap up is, "The California appeals court judges have an opportunity to strike an important blow for free speech and honesty in medicine by striking down the medical marijuana gag rule."

JIMMY CARPER: Absolutely.

DEAN BECKER And, I mean, that's-- they say the American press follows *The New York Times*. Well, let's pray to god they do this
(OVER PHONE): time.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, no kidding, no kidding. And perhaps maybe that the legislature will bow under public pressure.

DEAN BECKER Well, it's becoming truly mainstream when *The New York Times* publishes--
(OVER PHONE):

JIMMY CARPER: No kidding.

DEAN BECKER --something like this.
(OVER PHONE):

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

DEAN BECKER I referred to June 6, if I may wrap it with this thought.
(OVER PHONE):

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

DEAN BECKER The Drug Policy Forum of Texas, Houston Normal, and Americans for Safe Access will protest the-- an order will
(OVER PHONE): present-- I'm sorry. An order for the DEA to cease and desist arresting medical marijuana patients on June 6.
We'll do this at noon in front of the DEA building there on the West Loop.

JIMMY CARPER: Wow.

DEAN BECKER Now, we need people who still think America is the land of the free and the home of the brave and willing to act
(OVER PHONE): the part. If there was ever a time when we should stand and present our case to show the abuse that they've
heaped on all our heads for the last 65 years or whatever, the truth is here, folks. Let's use it. I implore you to
please join in this effort.

To learn more about this, you can call the Drug Policy Forum on Monday at 713-784-3196. Or you can visit
www.safeaccessnow.org, and they have a link to our site and they'll tell you all about what we're up to. We sure
could appreciate any help.

JIMMY CARPER: OK, and what if somebody wants to maybe join Normal?

DEAN BECKER Well, OK, they could actually call me or go to my website.
(OVER PHONE):

JIMMY CARPER: OK, that would be better.

DEAN BECKER They can learn more about what we're up to here in Houston.
(OVER PHONE):

JIMMY CARPER: And you are the president.

DEAN BECKER Well, I will be the president.
(OVER PHONE):

JIMMY CARPER: OK, you will be the pre-- you have been elected.

DEAN BECKER Yeah, I just haven't been installed yet.

(OVER PHONE):

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, OK.

DEAN BECKER But they can reach me at my site at www.cultural-baggage.com and--

(OVER PHONE):

JIMMY CARPER: That's easy enough.

DEAN BECKER Yeah, it ties with the show.

(OVER PHONE):

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

DEAN BECKER Actually, it was a band name to start with.

(OVER PHONE):

JIMMY CARPER: No kidding.

DEAN BECKER Yeah.

(OVER PHONE):

JIMMY CARPER: Wow.

DEAN BECKER But--

(OVER PHONE):

JIMMY CARPER: Well, it works.

DEAN BECKER --the name has grown.

(OVER PHONE):

JIMMY CARPER: OK. Dean, thanks for calling in.

DEAN BECKER Jimmy, thank you for the support.

(OVER PHONE):

JIMMY CARPER: You bet.

DEAN BECKER And I enjoy your show.

(OVER PHONE):

JIMMY CARPER: Thank you very much.

DEAN BECKER All right.

(OVER PHONE):

JIMMY CARPER: OK. Thank you, Dean. And we've got Charlie [? Pacheio ?] coming up with a song from his new CD, "You're in Love with the Wrong Man." I've got the title cut coming up.

And then we've got Doug Decker with the *Leather Line*. And he's got someone who's becoming a semi-regular here. BK Silva--

[LAUGHS]

--is his guest, and we'll be doing that right after this.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

Charlie [? Pacheio ?] with his new CD, "You're in Love with the Wrong Man." That is the title cut, and that's an old Mundo Earwood song from way back when, as he told me. He's very active these days with the court. And his boyfriend's 38th birthday was tonight, and they celebrated at the Michael's Outpost. In the other room now, it is time for, OK, *After Hours*.

[LAUGHTER]

DOUG DECKER: What is the name of the segment?

JIMMY CARPER: Welcome. *Leather Line*.

DOUG DECKER: Leather line, OK.

JIMMY CARPER: But it's Memorial Day, so we're going to talk about veterans stuff.

DOUG DECKER: That's a good idea.

JIMMY CARPER: And especially with next week coming up.

DOUG DECKER: Yes--

JIMMY CARPER: [LAUGHS]

DOUG DECKER: --yes, yes, yes. You want to talk about that, too?

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, we can mention it.

DOUG DECKER: Sure.

JIMMY CARPER: We can mention it. It'll be fun. It'll be a lot of fun. It'll be different.

DOUG DECKER: You have it all set up? OK, let's start from the beginning.

JIMMY CARPER: We're having a wedding.

DOUG DECKER: Ah. And who's we?

JIMMY CARPER: Nate.

DOUG DECKER: Certainly, it isn't you and [? BJ. ?]

JIMMY CARPER: Well, you met Nate. I brought Nate down that one time.

DOUG DECKER: Yes.

JIMMY CARPER: Nate and I. And [? Well ?] Flasher's going to officiate. It is a full Episcopalian mass with a military wedding ceremony.

DOUG DECKER: Wow.

JIMMY CARPER: And over at MCC.

DOUG DECKER: Good place, good place.

JIMMY CARPER: And it'll be a lot of fun.

DOUG DECKER: They're hosting the Lesbian Health Initiative Fair.

BK SILVA: June 8.

DOUG DECKER: There you go. I talked about it earlier on the show.

JIMMY CARPER: Is MCC doing there? Are they doing that through Cornerstone?

DOUG DECKER: They're doing it at the RMCC--

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, at the--

DOUG DECKER: --gym.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

DOUG DECKER: Yes.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes. They haven't moved back into the sanctuary yet?

DOUG DECKER: I don't think so.

JIMMY CARPER: And we had been putting off the ceremony for months and months and months. They kept saying, oh, we'll be back in there by June, and then it finally-- they couldn't get the permits from the city.

DOUG DECKER: Oh, brother.

JIMMY CARPER: And they finally got all their permits approved and they're just now, almost a year later, being allowed to start the reconstruction of the church.

DOUG DECKER: And because this is a building from the '50s.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

DOUG DECKER: Obvious '50s architecture and it probably had asbestos in it.

BK SILVA: Yes.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

DOUG DECKER: I bet that was one of the problems.

JIMMY CARPER: I just think it's amazing because it's in my neighborhood.

DOUG DECKER: Ah.

[LAUGHTER]

And it's huge.

JIMMY CARPER: It used to be a Catholic Church.

BK SILVA: Room to grow.

DOUG DECKER: Yeah, no kidding.

JIMMY CARPER: Big church, big law. They could do a--

DOUG DECKER: Yeah, they could do--

JIMMY CARPER: Their huge fair-type thing--

DOUG DECKER: They could.

JIMMY CARPER: --or something.

DOUG DECKER: It's just amazing. When I went out there-- I went out there for a Gay Men's Chorus concert before the flood, and I was just--

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

BK SILVA: --must be wonderful.

JIMMY CARPER: I had some--

DOUG DECKER: Yes, they are.

JIMMY CARPER: I had some friends who got married in that church, a straight couple, when it was the Catholic Church.

DOUG DECKER: Oh, OK.

JIMMY CARPER: So when I was on the phone, I'm like, I'm getting married in the same church.

BK SILVA: Tradition.

[LAUGHTER]

MAN: That was one of the [INAUDIBLE].

DOUG DECKER: Now that we own it, we need to do something about it because it really is stark.

[LAUGHTER]

I mean, it's plain.

JIMMY CARPER: Well, the moving the temporary-- we're having the ceremony in the temporary sanctuary in the back there in the gymnasium. And we're a little disappointed about that, but we had to remember why we were doing this. And it's not that we're doing it because we want this big-- it would be nice to have the church, but that's not the reason why. So--

DOUG DECKER: The reason why is?

JIMMY CARPER: The reason why is because we love each other and we're announcing our commitment.

DOUG DECKER: Yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: And--

BK SILVA: So let's say you can renew your vows then in five, ten years, then--

DOUG DECKER: There you go.

BK SILVA: --you can do the whole hog, rekindle that honeymoon spirit, and--

DOUG DECKER: That's right.

JIMMY CARPER: There are actually seven churches. I'm not sure what they all are. I have some friends that are gay wedding consultants. It's a straight couple.

BK SILVA: Oh, wow.

JIMMY CARPER: And there are seven churches in the Houston area and there's a book available, *Guide to Gay and Lesbian Weddings*. Don't ask me who it's by. It's sitting on my desk and I keep going through there going, who can I call for?

[LAUGHTER]

And there are seven--

DOUG DECKER: Most of us are not used to this type of thing.

JIMMY CARPER: Well, there are seven churches in the Houston area that will allow gays and lesbians to marry in the church. And it's usually a nominal fee because you usually have to pay for the soundman to come in because it's his day off. It's not a Sunday or a Saturday night.

And some of them, there's-- a Lutheran Church is one. It's really nice. It's really beautiful, but-- Ralph has been a friend of mine for a long time. I really wanted him to officiate and we didn't want to be moving all over town. Ralph, come to this church. Ralph, come to that church.

So Reverend Lasher is really wonderful. If anyone's up in the morning, go and show support at MCC. They are-- I'm not usually up at that time of the day when--

DOUG DECKER: I know. And that--

JIMMY CARPER: --they're at service.

DOUG DECKER: It's a problem getting any of the groups of faith on the show because of that reason. They're in bed right now.

JIMMY CARPER: They're in bed or they're off it. Actually, there's a group next week, the Presbyterian Gay Ministries. Is that what it's-- I don't remember what it's called.

DOUG DECKER: OK.

JIMMY CARPER: A friend of mine that works over at Montrose Counseling Center, they're doing a get-together-type brainstorming.

DOUG DECKER: Yeah.

BK SILVA: There you go.

JIMMY CARPER: I can't think of the word. I wanted to say brainwashing seminar. No, brainstorming seminar--

DOUG DECKER: No, that's what those other churches do.

JIMMY CARPER: --in Galveston next week. Unfortunately, he's conducting it and he's not going to make the wedding. So I was really disappointed.

BK SILVA: No. Ouch.

JIMMY CARPER: And he was, too-- when we figured out all this stuff that was going on June 1. And we had tried to get married in April so we could avoid June because it's Gay Pride and everything-- starting on June 1, everything happens. So then you get the Pride guide back there and--

DOUG DECKER: Yes, it's brand new. It just came out. It's at the Community Center now, the brand new one. And--

MAN: It's very--

DOUG DECKER: --it's got--

MAN: Pretty guy on the cover.

DOUG DECKER: Yeah, it's got a nice healthy section on Houston. This is the national guide.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

BK SILVA: Right.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, And. it has a Houston section.

DOUG DECKER: Correct.

BK SILVA: Correct.

JIMMY CARPER: And then I believe there's-- last year, didn't they do a supplement as well? There's a supplement, supplement one and--

DOUG DECKER: I think there will be with the Triangle. Yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, I'm excited because Nate and I are going to go to a lot of the Film Festival stuff.

DOUG DECKER: Which starts--

BK SILVA: Oh, excellent.

DOUG DECKER: Which starts May 31.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

DOUG DECKER: Yes.

JIMMY CARPER: Because we don't have a lot of time. We don't go to the bar so much anymore. So we try to find other things to do. Health hasn't been the best sometimes and he had a motorcycle accident. So bars is just kind of like, you know? We don't really care for all the smoke and the noise so much anymore, and--

BK SILVA: You're ready to nest.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

[LAUGHTER]

I think we've nested for a few--

[LAUGHTER]

DOUG DECKER: They're in wonderful locations all around town, from the Rice Media Center to their Aurora Picture Show.

BK SILVA: All the way out.

DOUG DECKER: Have you been to Aurora?

BK SILVA: Oh.

DOUG DECKER: What fun it is.

BK SILVA: You have to take a group.

DOUG DECKER: Yeah.

BK SILVA: You have to take a nice group.

JIMMY CARPER: Which one's Aurora?

DOUG DECKER: It's the one in the Heights.

BK SILVA: That's it.

JIMMY CARPER: Is that the one in the house? Is that the one in the house?

DOUG DECKER: Yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, I went there. I didn't know it was called Aurora.

DOUG DECKER: Yeah--

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

DOUG DECKER: --and it's kind of got a church atmosphere--

JIMMY CARPER: I saw--

DOUG DECKER: --right across there.

JIMMY CARPER: --of all things I saw there, I saw quills.

DOUG DECKER: Really?

BK SILVA: Oh, awesome.

[LAUGHTER]

JIMMY CARPER: Which I just bought at Costco for 12 bucks--

DOUG DECKER: Wow.

JIMMY CARPER: --on DVD.

DOUG DECKER: Wow.

BK SILVA: I'm looking forward to see some of us on the big screen. I've always seen it on little screen. I want to see Russell Crowe up there.

[LAUGHTER]

JIMMY CARPER: Yes. We were going to go-- we've spent all our money on this wedding, though.

DOUG DECKER: I'll bet you have.

JIMMY CARPER: So we're waiting--

DOUG DECKER: Weddings things are not cheap.

JIMMY CARPER: We used my military benefits and thank you, US government.

DOUG DECKER: Yes.

BK SILVA: Absolutely.

JIMMY CARPER: The wedding rings were 120 at the base. Out in town, they were \$450 apiece.

BK SILVA: Wow.

JIMMY CARPER: The champagne, at three bucks a bottle. Out in town, it was 1,050 a bottle.

[LAUGHTER]

DOUG DECKER: Whoa. Yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: The only thing we couldn't get saved on was the cake and-- actually, I think we got a really decent price and we went and saw Sandy at Acadian.

DOUG DECKER: Oh, yeah, that's--

JIMMY CARPER: And--

DOUG DECKER: They are wonderful--

JIMMY CARPER: I think Nate's--

DOUG DECKER: --over there.

JIMMY CARPER: --half of the cake is-- Nate's-- there's actually two cakes, but they're kind of put together. Mine's the strawberry cream because I had to have the fruit and the--

DOUG DECKER: Yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: And Nate got this chocolate brownie mousse something or other.

DOUG DECKER: Sounds like--

BK SILVA: Death by chocolate.

DOUG DECKER: Death by chocolate.

[LAUGHTER]

It's the two of these with each other.

BK SILVA: Oh.

JIMMY CARPER: The two of these next to each other.

DOUG DECKER: Wow.

JIMMY CARPER: And then all the champagne.

DOUG DECKER: Ooh. That'll be nice.

BK SILVA: Someone's going to drop into a sugar coma after.

DOUG DECKER: No kidding.

JIMMY CARPER: Me.

[LAUGHTER]

DOUG DECKER: Gee, when I had a [INAUDIBLE] the only thing we didn't spend money on was the cake because my niece, my-- made it with--

JIMMY CARPER: Really?

DOUG DECKER: --all kinds of-- yeah, she made--

JIMMY CARPER: We tried, you know?

DOUG DECKER: --flowers, yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: But there's good advice in the wedding book. Unless you have friends that you know you can absolutely rely on and they're going to come through and there's going to be absolutely no problems and no hitches, don't use them because you don't want to jeopardize your friendship--

DOUG DECKER: That's right.

JIMMY CARPER: --or your wedding.

DOUG DECKER: That's exactly right.

JIMMY CARPER: So we we're hiring a photographer the whole night. I mean, and-- but the honor guard was really tough to get together.

DOUG DECKER: I'll bet.

JIMMY CARPER: The--

BK SILVA: It's hard to get vets who fit in their uniform.

JIMMY CARPER: It's hard to get vets that fit in their uniform.

MAN: Ow.

JIMMY CARPER: Hey, no, I'm serious.

BK SILVA: I can say that. I resemble that remark.

JIMMY CARPER: We've all had to-- actually, Nate and I both had to have our uniforms tailored. We had to have them altered.

DOUG DECKER: Wow.

JIMMY CARPER: And-- but tracking down all the stuff, like the ribbons and the medals and trying to get them at decent prices-- because if you go to the Army Navy places here in town-- a medal on base, that would be \$2.50. Out here in town, it's 10 bucks.

DOUG DECKER: Yeah.

BK SILVA: Yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: It's just phenomenal, the markup on these things.

DOUG DECKER: Speaking of fitting into uniforms, my lover, who is a whole genera--

JIMMY CARPER: How's he doing?

DOUG DECKER: Whole generation older than me. He is 75 years old and--

BK SILVA: Congratulations.

DOUG DECKER: --he still fits into his Navy uniform.

JIMMY CARPER: Was he World War--

BK SILVA: Go Navy.

JIMMY CARPER: --II or was he--

DOUG DECKER: World War II.

JIMMY CARPER: --Korea?

DOUG DECKER: World War II.

JIMMY CARPER: World War II?

DOUG DECKER: Yes.

JIMMY CARPER: I'd like to talk--

DOUG DECKER: In the Pacific.

BK SILVA: Awesome.

JIMMY CARPER: Wow.

BK SILVA: We're going to have to get him to join our veterans history program.

DOUG DECKER: Yes, yes.

JIMMY CARPER: Actually, I've been--

BK SILVA: See, that oral history going.

JIMMY CARPER: I have actually been tracking down veterans and doing interviews from the World War II vets. Did he settle in San Francisco afterwards after he got out?

DOUG DECKER: No, no. He's originally from New York, from Brooklyn, and he went back to Brooklyn and finished his college.

JIMMY CARPER: Well, that's a great lead into what we're here for tonight.

DOUG DECKER: Yes.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes. Speaking of World War II--

[LAUGHTER]

I was doing a-- I've been working on this book on a--

[LAUGHTER]

--former lover, OK? And he had passed away and he left-- I was cleaning out the attic and I found all these documents from his court martial, and they're supposed to be sealed records and they were supposed to be destroyed, but lo and behold, they're in my attic.

DOUG DECKER: You're kidding.

JIMMY CARPER: No.

DOUG DECKER: How did that happen?

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, how did that happen?

DOUG DECKER: Hmm.

JIMMY CARPER: Hmm.

[LAUGHTER]

So I started doing some research, and then I started researching policy on the military because I wanted to lead up to why he had been put out and the deals that were made for the government to cover up certain things. They make deals.

DOUG DECKER: Oh, yes.

JIMMY CARPER: And the deals are all in there, and they're supposed to be sealed and not made known to the public by him, but he's passed away. And normally, these records are very-- they do destroy them or they package them up and ship them off to-- oh.

BK SILVA: National Archives.

JIMMY CARPER: National Archives I think is in Cleveland now. It's in Cleveland or Cincinnati or-- it's in Ohio. And who wants to go to Ohio?

DOUG DECKER: Not me.

[LAUGHTER]

JIMMY CARPER: And so I was doing research. And in World War II, starting 1946 to 1952, the US government-- there were only two services, really, in existence. There's two branches back then. Because the Marine Corps falls under the Navy and Coast Guard falls under Navy and--

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

And it was an Army Air Corps. So there was only the--

BK SILVA: My father joined the Army Air Corps.

JIMMY CARPER: So there was the Army and there was the Navy. And there was a base, which I can't remember. It's outside San Francisco.

And it was originally the base used for the military for the Japanese internment camp, for the civilian Japanese that retired. And after the World War II, the military used it to discharge what they called Article 93, their Blue Paper Boys. And Blue Pa--

DOUG DECKER: I don't know what that means.

JIMMY CARPER: Blue Papers back then are gay.

DOUG DECKER: Oh.

JIMMY CARPER: And in Article 93-- but a lot of things fell into Article 93, but a majority of them were gay and-- but they classified it back then as robbery, assault, sodomy.

BK SILVA: They were your--

JIMMY CARPER: --rape.

BK SILVA: --undesirables.

JIMMY CARPER: It was just the undesirable was an article 93, but a lot of them were-- majority of them were homosexual discharges. And from that six years, 100,000 veterans were dumped on the city of San Francisco. And if you keep in mind the time frame and how difficult it was to travel back then--

DOUG DECKER: Yes, in the '40s.

JIMMY CARPER: --and the cars--

DOUG DECKER: Yeah, sure.

JIMMY CARPER: --and the fact that these people had no jobs, you can see why San Francisco became a gay Mecca after--

DOUG DECKER: No kidding, yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: --World War II.

DOUG DECKER: No kidding. Because to get out of-- I don't think airplanes-- well, they were--

JIMMY CARPER: Not really.

DOUG DECKER: --too prohibitive.

BK SILVA: No, you were--

DOUG DECKER: Christ, it was either a bus or a train.

BK SILVA: Putting your thumb up on the highway.

DOUG DECKER: Yeah, yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: And plus, with the shame of it. A lot of them came from small towns. So they did not go back and they just stayed there.

DOUG DECKER: They didn't want to go back, yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: They just stayed there with, quote unquote, "their own kind."

DOUG DECKER: Wow.

JIMMY CARPER: And the first gay bar, which I don't remember the name of, I saw it opened in 19-- official gay bar opened in 1950 in San Francisco.

DOUG DECKER: The Black Cat?

JIMMY CARPER: I'm not quite sure.

DOUG DECKER: Hmm.

JIMMY CARPER: I seem to recall that from some TV show.

DOUG DECKER: Well, Jose Soria, who was the first openly gay person who ever ran for city council in San Francisco, ran The Black Cat in the 50s. So it may not be that one, but that was one of the more famous ones.

JIMMY CARPER: So that was the first policy the military used was-- but during wartime, they don't kick them out until after they find out that they're not going to get shot.

DOUG DECKER: What?

BK SILVA: Or until they've--

JIMMY CARPER: Because during wartime--

BK SILVA: --outlived their usefulness.

DOUG DECKER: What a lovely way to--

JIMMY CARPER: During war, discharges are put on hold because you're good enough to take a bullet--

DOUG DECKER: Oh, yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: --but you're not good enough to be a veteran once the war is over,

DOUG DECKER: I've heard that argument about the Gulf War.

BK SILVA: And that continues today.

DOUG DECKER: And today, too, yes. If we're going-- if we're sending troops over there, they don't care who's gay or not, only until after they bring them back.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes. 1950, the US government formally adopted what's called the UCMJ, Uniform Code of Military Justice, and it didn't go fully into effect till about 1952, which is when the Blue Papers stopped, when they quit dumping them on San Francisco. And then it became-- instead of an Article 93, it became an Article 125, and that's where it's set. And that's a separate charge, but it's-- they tend to-- they'll put people out for sodomy, but they don't put them out for, say, theft or assault, you know?

MAN 2: Geez.

DOUG DECKER: I am 54 years old. And when I was a teenager--

JIMMY CARPER: Way back when.

DOUG DECKER: --guys who were my age or in their early 20s, if they got into trouble with the law, sometimes it was either go--

JIMMY CARPER: Go into service.

DOUG DECKER: --into the army or you go to jail.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

DOUG DECKER: One or the other.

BK SILVA: Correct.

JIMMY CARPER: That's how Tom ended up in the Coast Guard.

DOUG DECKER: Wow.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah. But they still do that in small towns--

DOUG DECKER: Do they?

JIMMY CARPER: --across America.

DOUG DECKER: I thought that they had stopped doing that.

JIMMY CARPER: But it has to-- it's usually a lesser crime, something that might have been a misdemeanor and the judge figures, oh, they'll straighten up their act. They're 17. They'll straighten up their act. Take them away from mommy and daddy and throw them into boot camp.

DOUG DECKER: Well, which is the same theory behind--

JIMMY CARPER: Juvenile boot camp.

DOUG DECKER: In a lot of ways, I think it may be a good-- maybe good, you know? I don't know, but--

BK SILVA: It definitely is a culture shock.

DOUG DECKER: Yeah, but it does kind of equate being in the service with being a criminal.

JIMMY CARPER: You've seen the Navy uniforms that we worked in.

BK SILVA: Right.

JIMMY CARPER: Dungarees. In 1957, the government commissioned a report to find out the efficiency of homosexuals in the service, and it became known as the Crittenden Report, named for the congressman who was head of the investigation team.

DOUG DECKER: OK. Jennifer called in and-- hi, Jennifer. --wanted to mention that the base that you were talking about is the Presidio.

BK SILVA: There you go.

DOUG DECKER: And--

JIMMY CARPER: I thought the Presidio--

BK SILVA: That is the post--

JIMMY CARPER: --was the one downtown.

BK SILVA: That's the one at the base of the bridge.

JIMMY CARPER: There's a base that used to be outside more towards the desert.

DOUG DECKER: Oh.

JIMMY CARPER: So we thought it was the Presidio, too.

DOUG DECKER: OK, what's the--

JIMMY CARPER: And I had the name of the place, but I forgot because it no longer exists.

BK SILVA: Exists.

DOUG DECKER: What's the Letterman Army Hospital.

JIMMY CARPER: Letterman Hospital.

DOUG DECKER: Because she says that the Letterman Army Hospital is at the Presidio.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, they would do psychiatric--

BK SILVA: That's the medical district. Right.

JIMMY CARPER: They would do psychiatric discharge for being gay instead because being gay back then was a--

BK SILVA: Mental defect.

JIMMY CARPER: --mental defect.

DOUG DECKER: Yes, yes. Officially.

JIMMY CARPER: But I do know there were a lot of doctors in the military. You can read this in *Out Under Fire*. Is that the name of the book? It was turned into a movie a few years ago. And in there--

BK SILVA: Very nice documentary

JIMMY CARPER: --it talks about the army doctors who refused to put people out for being gay under a medical discharge because that would stay with you for-- and they would put them out for assault or burglary instead because it all fell under Article 93.

DOUG DECKER: A book called the *Coming Out Under Fire*.

JIMMY CARPER: *Coming Out Under Fire.*

BK SILVA: *Coming Out Under Fire.*

DOUG DECKER: Yes.

JIMMY CARPER: That's what it is.

DOUG DECKER: Yes.

JIMMY CARPER: And they would talk about that frequently. Let's see.

BK SILVA: And that still goes on today. One of my mentees was actually placed in mental hospital rather than give him a homosexual charge because it was his commanding officer who made the-- who demanded quid pro quo. Let's put it that way.

They tried to get him a remote stationing. And when he refused, said, well, into the psych ward with you. Out he goes with a medical discharge.

JIMMY CARPER: Wow. I need to step in here and remind people that they are listening to *After Hours*, queer radio with attitude, on KPFT Houston and KEOS College Station. This is the *Leather Line* with Doug, and his guest tonight is BK Silva.

BK SILVA: Hi.

DOUG DECKER: And we're doing the Memorial Day Weekend Show.

JIMMY CARPER: And if you want to call it, 713-526 KPFT or 5738.

DOUG DECKER: That's it.

JIMMY CARPER: Thank you for putting these up.

[LAUGHTER]

At home, it's on the speed dial.

DOUG DECKER: Yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

[LAUGHTER]

Sweetly referred to as cheat sheets.

DOUG DECKER: Yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah. 1971, Congress again commissioned another report under--

BK SILVA: Weisberg.

JIMMY CARPER: --Weisberg. Got it. All these names are starting to round--

DOUG DECKER: Wow.

JIMMY CARPER: --together. And then they reissued the same company again in 1982 for the same report, but the findings all come back the same that gay service members are more fit for military life and military service and better able to handle the stress of the job and usually make better sailors and soldiers than straight people.

DOUG DECKER: What about the effect now on other countries that allow gays and lesbians into the military? I mean, like--

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, we're going to get up to that.

DOUG DECKER: OK, OK.

JIMMY CARPER: We're only up to '82.

DOUG DECKER: Oh, OK, OK.

[LAUGHTER]

JIMMY CARPER: '82. Who was president? Reagan. Reagan was '82?

DOUG DECKER: I don't know.

BK SILVA: Yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: Reagan was in '82, and the official executive policy was that they would ask intel and you would be put out. And then in 1992, Bill Clinton had that changed to Don't Ask, Don't Tell, which is even worse than the previous policy.

BK SILVA: Absolutely.

JIMMY CARPER: And that brings us up to now.

[LAUGHTER]

DOUG DECKER: Yes, because under Don't Ask, Don't Tell, more people--

JIMMY CARPER: More people have been put out, more people.

DOUG DECKER: Yes.

JIMMY CARPER: From 1982 to 1992, it was an average of 1,500 people a year. Enlisted personnel at an average cost of \$32,000, each to replace-- and that's only figured-- that's based upon the figures to train and send them to their initial schooling. That doesn't include salaries or if they'd been in for a number of years and replacing the experienced person. So you replace an experienced person with just someone out of boot camp.

BK SILVA: A recruit.

JIMMY CARPER: A recruit. Officers get replaced at an average of \$120,000. And so you figure, annually, it would come to a cost of \$5 million a year to discharge people.

BK SILVA: And then you get into the specialties where you have a pilot--

DOUG DECKER: Yes.

JIMMY CARPER: A pilot, a--

BK SILVA: --who you've invested in how many now?

JIMMY CARPER: But they don't add those costs in because the military doesn't keep cost accounting records.

DOUG DECKER: They don't have to.

JIMMY CARPER: They don't have to. So--

DOUG DECKER: They ask for \$48 billion and we just give it to them.

JIMMY CARPER: And quite a bit of it goes towards kicking people out on a yearly basis. And I added it up from 19-- the policies from 1982 until present, and it came to almost \$60 billion.

DOUG DECKER: Wow.

BK SILVA: And I would double that again with the cost of the investigations and the surveillance that goes into creating these reports.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, yeah. Yeah, it may even be more than double.

BK SILVA: Absolutely.

JIMMY CARPER: I mean, this is a phenomenal amount of money. This is more than we give Israel in a year.

BK SILVA: Let me put it this way. The military knows more about what its members are doing than it does about what our avowed enemies are doing. We've got terrorists running free--

DOUG DECKER: Boy, did we prove that one.

BK SILVA: --in this country.

[LAUGHTER]

DOUG DECKER: Yes.

JIMMY CARPER: We could be spending \$120 billion on looking for terrorists instead of kicking out our own service members.

DOUG DECKER: Exactly. Who want to be there.

BK SILVA: Yes.

DOUG DECKER: They want to be there. Now, along with that, and I know you both have some experience with this, what about no homophobia in the service? I mean, what about-- how many Allen Schindlers have there been, really?

JIMMY CARPER: Lots. I was going to-- I didn't bring that timeline, but there is a timeline of 20th century military, and all those assault cases and murders are on there, and it is--

BK SILVA: Well, only the ones that are reported and identified as actual assaults.

DOUG DECKER: Exactly.

JIMMY CARPER: But there are many--

BK SILVA: I would list it probably as much as 70% go unreported or they'll go report it under an alternative listing.

JIMMY CARPER: As far as outright homophobia, I guess that would depend on--

BK SILVA: It depends on your command structure.

JIMMY CARPER: It would depend on your command structure and the people you were-- it's just like working out in town here, except you live with those people, too. But I was on a submarine. There are no secrets. There's 80 people on board and you see them day in and day out, year after year after year. So I was on that boat for five years.

BK SILVA: The silent service.

JIMMY CARPER: You know, I was on that boat for five years. Almost same 80 people for five years. It doesn't change over much.

DOUG DECKER: They all know--

JIMMY CARPER: And they all know.

DOUG DECKER: You send your mail and they all know--

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, yeah. They read your mail before you get it because it got to go to a drop, and when you're on a submarine, they don't want you to know what's going on in actual news.

DOUG DECKER: Oh, my.

JIMMY CARPER: So you get your mail and you have these magic marker. Everything you--

BK SILVA: It's all been censored.

JIMMY CARPER: --heard about Eastern Bloc stuff--

DOUG DECKER: It's true.

JIMMY CARPER: --we do that to our own service members because you don't want them to be able-- when you're on a submarine, that's the-- especially Polaris submarines, you don't want the sailors to be able to question what's going on because they don't know what's going on in the news and they have to follow orders unquestionably. So you don't want them to say, push the button. Oh, well, I don't agree with what our government's doing in the news. So you're not allowed to get the news.

So when you come back, you're not part of the world. When you disappear, you're gone. But these people that you're with, they know everything about you. It doesn't get hidden. There's places you could go-- there are whole submarines that are pretty much all gay.

DOUG DECKER: Oh, really?

JIMMY CARPER: And everybody knows which are the gay boats at each fleet and you request. When you call your detailer-- and your detailer knows you're gay because you're asking to be on these boats for these job fields. Oh, well, you're-- no, we have no openings for you at this time. We'll put you on the list.

BK SILVA: Yes, I actually have a waiting list for certain bases that are friendly. I've had friends actually take the time out to go to DC to petition their detailer in person, to say, hey, don't break up our family. Assign us both in the same place.

DOUG DECKER: Wow.

JIMMY CARPER: And some people are--

DOUG DECKER: So they know.

JIMMY CARPER: --pretty sympathetic.

BK SILVA: Yes.

DOUG DECKER: They know.

BK SILVA: Yes.

DOUG DECKER: So all this is bullshit?

BK SILVA: Yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

BK SILVA: Well, when I served, we had a newspaper called *El Navegante*. We used to open it up every issue and it was what we would call the top 10% club. Well, it was our 10%. It's the people who were getting the awards and doing the best jobs in their commands. And basically, our command acknowledged that we were essential personnel and they would have hated to try to attempt to do the job without us.

DOUG DECKER: So what's with the Don't Ask, Don't Tell?

BK SILVA: It's what is expected. It is what they imagine. When they come out with these surveys, tell us what you think about having to serve with homosexuals, a lot of your personnel are going to act, well, what does the command structure want us to say--

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, well, they don't put down what they want.

BK SILVA: --not what is their honest position. Because they can say it's anonymous all they want to. I will tell you there's no such thing as an anonymous record or survey in the military.

JIMMY CARPER: I think the Don't Ask, Don't Tell, the way it's written, they basically want you to be like what the Catholic church is expecting from the priests. And I'm not joking. You are not allowed to voice that you want to go home with someone of the same sex. You're not allowed to-- you're not basically not even supposed to think it. You can be in the military, you can be gay, just don't think it, don't voice it, don't even acknowledge it.

BK SILVA: And, again, that varies from command to command, which really sets a trap for our folks because they'll be in one command that's very open and accepting and you can serve openly. Then you'll get a transfer and Lord knows who you're going to end up serving with and suddenly, your [? tee ?] that was out there is all over the place because they know who you are before you get there, and they're waiting for you.

DOUG DECKER: I had a friend come to me in recent months and tell me that they were going into some branch of the military. And this is somebody who, only recently in their own life, had come to accept that they were of a certain orientation.

[LAUGHS]

I fully think that people should be allowed to serve if they wish. In his case, at that point of his life, I was looking-- I felt like looking at him and saying, have you lost your mind?

BK SILVA: It depends on the individual. I mean, I'll tell you flat out.

JIMMY CARPER: Many people make it.

BK SILVA: I had a great time. It was a great experience for me. I suffered a lot of hardships. I suffered some intolerable circumstances, but at the same time, I wouldn't have traded the experience for anything.

I was one of the very few that was able to serve openly. I mean, they asked me on my little questionnaire, are you homosexual or bisexual? And I just looked at him and said, are you really asking me that in this day and age? And he's like, oh, never mind.

JIMMY CARPER: [LAUGHS]

BK SILVA: So, I mean, they're very capable of being intentionally obtuse, especially when it serves the needs. In our case, the needs of the Navy always comes first.

DOUG DECKER: Sure.

BK SILVA: You'll go to any base. You'll find patriots serving in silence. Their families follow them around at their own expense. They have to put them up in housing. They have to get them some sort of supplement income. They may be required to live on base while their families are out in the country.

JIMMY CARPER: That happened to me.

BK SILVA: Yeah. I mean, it's a tough road to hoe, but they do it because they literally are the best of the best.

JIMMY CARPER: And Tom and I were in separate services. So that made it worse.

BK SILVA: Yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: When I got shipped off to DC with 24 hours notice because you're, quote unquote, "single."

BK SILVA: Yes

JIMMY CARPER: I had a three-bedroom house and Tom and Tom's out at sea and he comes home and--

BK SILVA: You're gone.

JIMMY CARPER: --I'm on the other side of the country because we were in San Diego.

DOUG DECKER: Wow.

JIMMY CARPER: And I was out there for two years.

DOUG DECKER: Wow.

JIMMY CARPER: And that was just going to the neighbors, can you watch my dogs until--

DOUG DECKER: For the year.

JIMMY CARPER: --my significant other comes back? Well, he was coming and going because he was a, god, rescue team thingy. So they're gone for however long they're-- well, we get a time or something. But while he was gone.

So there's no contact. So he just comes home with a little post-it note, gone to DC. See you soon kind of thing. And what are you supposed to say?

And I had to live on base out there because you're single. They don't give you money out there. They give you money on the West Coast to live off base, but they don't do it in the DC area because it's so expensive.

BK SILVA: Well, they do now.

JIMMY CARPER: Do they?

BK SILVA: They do now.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah. But it was a great experience and many, many people make it through the service. They really do. I mean, you learn to live with the policies. It's no different than--

DOUG DECKER: You learn to live in a closet, yeah.

BK SILVA: Education, training. The friends I made in the service are still my dear friends now. We keep in contact wherever they are. Some are still in service, some are not, and they just keep me apprised of what's going on.

DOUG DECKER: Why did you get out?

BK SILVA: Actually, the Navy was unable to keep its commitment to me. I entered under special program. I was to be one of the first females to go on an aircraft carrier. We went into Desert Shield Desert Storm and the Senate said, we will not have females come back in body bags.

So my program got switched. My team got sent out to the Gulf. I got traded to an admiral in Puerto Rico, where I served overseas, had a great time did my damndest to do the best job I could. We were support services, but that's what we did.

And at the time, my XO called me in and he said, it's time for you to re-up. He says, I'll give you any assignment in the country you want. I'll write your letters. If you want to go to law school at night, we'll set you up working part-time teaching and you can go.

But at the same time, I'm like, well, needs of the Navy can change at a moment's notice. If I'm going to put my effort into a legal career, I need to concentrate on that. I can do a better job for the Navy outside than I can inside. And so I went ahead and took my-- what they called put me into inactive ready reserve.

DOUG DECKER: Oh.

BK SILVA: Did my time on the out and went ahead and paid for my law school through my GI Bill.

DOUG DECKER: Yeah, OK.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah. Wonderful benefit.

BK SILVA: Absolutely.

DOUG DECKER: Yeah.

BK SILVA: I encourage anyone who's in the service or considering it. Definitely put in that small investment--

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, yeah.

BK SILVA: --for the GI Bill.

JIMMY CARPER: Did you see-- and the amount of it has gone way up.

BK SILVA: And it's scheduled to go up to as much as \$1,100 a month within the next two years.