

BETH Yeah--
RICHARDS:

JACKIE It appears that they have done that also.
THORNE:

BETH Yeah, I wanted to get to that in just a couple of minutes--
RICHARDS:

JILL: And also Empower.

BETH --after we tied up the banquet.
RICHARDS:

JACKIE And Empower in October.
THORNE:

BETH This year was something that was also another first for the Unity Banquet. I didn't go. Why didn't I go? Because I
RICHARDS: couldn't get a ticket because they were sold out.

JILL: We were sold out--

BETH Can you believe it?
RICHARDS:

JILL: --in February.

BETH Sold out in February?
RICHARDS:

[CHUCKLES]

I mean, in years past, it's been like, oh, jeez, it's end of March, I better hurry up and get my Unity Banquet tick--

[CHUCKLES]

--uh, what do you mean you're sold out in February?

JIMMY CARPER: And I am so embarrassed because I had a ticket, but I got sick that night.

BETH Oh, Jimmy.
RICHARDS:

JIMMY CARPER: And thankfully--

JACKIE Well, I came by and picked it up from you--
THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: That's right, and Jackie--

JACKIE --and took it to the table.

THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: Jackie Thorne came by to pick it up so they could resell it.

BETH Well, they had a waiting list.

RICHARDS:

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, yeah.

JILL: There was a waiting list, absolutely, yes.

JACKIE Yeah, we did wind up with, I think, two or three or maybe four tickets at the door that we were able to sell.

THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: Good.

JACKIE Yeah.

THORNE:

BETH Yeah.

RICHARDS:

JILL: It turned out that the actual headcount at the banquet was like 187--

BETH Wow.

RICHARDS:

JILL: --but the actual ticket sales was 206.

JACKIE Wow.

THORNE:

BETH Mm-hmm, mm-hmm.

RICHARDS:

JACKIE Wow.

THORNE:

JILL: And the indicators for a sell out started last December.

BETH Wow.

RICHARDS:

JIMMY CARPER: Really?

JILL: And we started watching it, what was happening, and--

JACKIE Yeah, the end of December, we had over 100 tickets sold.

THORNE:

BETH So what's next?

RICHARDS:

JILL: Oh, yeah, we had a third of the tickets sold by January.

BETH So what's next? We've got to go to the George R. Brown?

RICHARDS:

JILL: Yeah, really.

JACKIE Really.

THORNE:

[LAUGHTER]

Well, no, the--

BETH It's tough to be forced into that, you know?

RICHARDS:

JACKIE No, what we'll do--

THORNE:

JILL: No, we're going to rename Enron Fields and--

[LAUGHTER]

JACKIE The Hilton has a larger ballroom that will accommodate more than 200 people.

THORNE:

JILL: Yes.

JACKIE But unfortunately, the ROTC group was in there this year at the same weekend--

THORNE:

BETH Oh, that could have been fun.

RICHARDS:

JACKIE Yeah.

THORNE:

BETH Yes, hello, boys.

RICHARDS:

JACKIE We had all those men in uniform.

THORNE:

WENDY: Yeah, they actually treated us very nicely. We didn't have any problems with them whatsoever, which was always good to see.

BETH RICHARDS: Yes.

WENDY: It goes ahead and shows that the whole Houston community, in general, is starting to really understand a little bit more about our position in life. And I was very glad to see it.

BETH RICHARDS: So I want to go around the table here. Let's start with Jamie, since she's the farthest away from the table.

[LAUGHTER]

JAMIE: Several thousand miles, yeah.

BETH RICHARDS: Yeah, so what of this year's banquet was your favorite part? What did you like the best?

JAMIE: When it was over.

BETH RICHARDS: Oh, when it was over.

[LAUGHTER]

JAMIE: And I got to sit down and eat.

[LAUGHTER]

BETH RICHARDS: I guess the job of MC keeps one busy.

JACKIE THORNE: Yeah.

JAMIE: Yes.

JACKIE THORNE: Let me describe Jamie that evening. She had her hair pulled up and back and--

BETH RICHARDS: An up do.

JACKIE THORNE: --fixed into a little bit of an-- yeah, an up do. And she had the most gorgeous Chinese red silk--

JILL: Imported. She had it made overseas.

JACKIE THORNE: --yeah, Mandarin dress on--

BETH RICHARDS: Wow.

WENDY: Made for her.

**JACKIE
THORNE:** --with an antique brooch that hung down into the keyhole opening of the dress.

**BETH
RICHARDS:** Well, get her.

**JACKIE
THORNE:** And absolutely gorgeous.

[GIGGLING]

JAMIE: I want you to know I got more comments on the necklace than the dress and my MCing abilities combined.
[LAUGHTER]

JILL: Oh.

**BETH
RICHARDS:** Well, you go, girl, [INAUDIBLE].

**JACKIE
THORNE:** Well, I could say that the brooch was worth more, but I won't.

[LAUGHTER]

**BETH
RICHARDS:** Oh.

JAMIE: You get what you pay for.

**BETH
RICHARDS:** Sharp.

[GIGGLING]

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, I can see where she'd be a good MC, yes.

**BETH
RICHARDS:** That's a smack down there. How about you, Jill?

JILL: Well, one thing that really stands out with me that impressed me the most was the fact that IBM sent their executives from New York down to our banquet.

**JACKIE
THORNE:** Mm-hmm.

JILL: --and they came for a purpose.

JACKIE Mm-hmm.
THORNE:

JILL: They came for a twofold purpose. One was so they could recruit GLBT business into IBM.

BETH Absolutely.
RICHARDS:

WENDY: Wow.

JILL: Two, so they could recruit GLBT people to come to work for IBM.

JACKIE Mm-hmm.
THORNE:

JILL: And they don't want people that are in the closet. They want people out of the closet.

JACKIE Mm-hmm.
THORNE:

BETH Phyllis Frye sent out to at least the Trans Unity mailing list, and I think also [? Handnet ?] and a couple of others,
RICHARDS: some contact information for the IBM people.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

JILL: I have some business cards with me.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

BETH So go hit the archives at [? Handnet ?] if you're looking for that sort of thing.
RICHARDS:

JIMMY CARPER: You bet. You bet.

JILL: All right, IBM said if you'll go to www.ibm.com/careers, and if you find a job that you're qualified for, to--

JACKIE Apply.
THORNE:

JILL: --contact Sarah Siegel. And I'm going to leave her card here at the station in case somebody wants to call them.

JIMMY CARPER: You bet. You bet. Thank you.

BETH Excellent, yeah.
RICHARDS:

JACKIE Mm-hmm, and she was there that night.
THORNE:

JILL: Yes, Sarah came in from New York.

JACKIE Mm-hmm.
THORNE:

JILL: A fantastic person.

JACKIE Yeah.
THORNE:

BETH OK, Wendy, what about you?
RICHARDS:

WENDY: Me? I enjoyed the socializing the most, myself.

[GIGGLING]

JIMMY CARPER: Her eyes just lit up when she said that.

BETH She did, she just sparkled. Her teeth went--
RICHARDS:

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, yeah.

BETH You know, her cheeks dimpled up and she got that smile from ear to ear.
RICHARDS:

WENDY: I was working the registration table out in front, and I got to meet everybody as they came in.

JIMMY CARPER: Ah.

WENDY: And it was really, really nice to go ahead and meet all these people. And I had a wonderful time, even though I did miss a little bit of the banquet early on. I think I had probably the best time of anybody there.

[GIGGLING]

BETH How about you, Jackie?
RICHARDS:

JACKIE Well, I think that the thing that I enjoyed most about it was, one, that the vast majority of the people who there
THORNE: were members of the transgender community.

BETH Mm-hmm.
RICHARDS:

JACKIE I mean, in the past sometimes it's been a lot of-- and I don't begrudge or anything like that, and I appreciate the
THORNE: support of the L and G and B portion of our community here in Houston-- but the thing that really, I think, more impressed me was the fact that the vast majority of the almost 200 people that were there, about 2/3 of them, were from the transgender community.

BETH Yes.
RICHARDS:

JACKIE THORNE: And I got to meet and visit with people that I had not seen in literally years.

JILL: It was really fantastic. This past year, we established records, not only with the banquet, but the last Pride Parade. The transgender turnout for the transgender float was the largest ever.

WENDY: Wow.

BETH RICHARDS: Real quick, before we get to the Pride Parade, I wanted to mention that IBM was mentioned as having been there. They were one of the platinum sponsors.

JILL: Yes, yes.

BETH RICHARDS: And can you tell us what it takes to be a platinum sponsor?

JILL: \$500.

WENDY: Wow.

BETH RICHARDS: So they didn't put out like, oh, a couple of tickets here and there.

JACKIE THORNE: No, no.

BETH RICHARDS: They really put out. They were not the only ones. We had-- what were there? Nine?

JACKIE THORNE: There was a total of nine sponsors.

BETH RICHARDS: Nine platinum sponsors. HTGA, which is the group that Brenda Thomas--

JILL: It's Helping Transgenders Anonymous.

BETH RICHARDS: Right, and some people think that's like to get away from transgendered. No, it's to--

JIMMY CARPER: No, no, no.

BETH RICHARDS: It's to help with the guilt and the--

JILL: Oh, please cure me, please cure me.

BETH RICHARDS: Yeah.

[LAUGHTER]

Yeah, I mean, the name's a little--

JIMMY CARPER: Here's a dress, honey.

BETH The name's a little scary, but the organization is great.

RICHARDS:

JILL: Yes.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, yeah.

JACKIE Well, the intention is to help people understand--

THORNE:

BETH Absolutely.

RICHARDS:

JACKIE --and deal with this aspect of their personality. The thing that I have noticed in talking with people in the
THORNE: transgender community, particularly those who have or have had alcohol and/or substance abuse problems, is that when they ultimately come to deal with this aspect of their personality, these alcohol and substance abuse problems go away. And, essentially, what they're doing is the alcohol and the substance abuse are kind of a denial--

BETH A reaction, yeah.

RICHARDS:

JACKIE --or a crutch to avoid dealing with their transgendered personality. But once they're able to deal with that
THORNE: personality and incorporate it into their life, they move on.

WENDY: I'll drink to that.

[LAUGHTER]

JILL: You would, Wendy.

WENDY: You're twisted.

BETH The other sponsors were Power Vac America.

RICHARDS:

JILL: That was an interesting one.

BETH Another corporation had come in and helped out here.

RICHARDS:

JILL: Susan got that table. She's the one that has Power Vac America. And she got that table because she wanted to bring some of her close friends in to let them meet Susan for the first time.

BETH The Kellett Foundation.

RICHARDS:

WENDY: Very important there. That's an educational foundation supported or funded, I believe, by Peter Kellett. And he wanted to go ahead and bring in psychologists and other mental health--

BETH RICHARDS: Professionals.

WENDY: --professionals to start to give them a better understanding about the community and what we're all about because there is so much education which has to be done. And that's the whole idea about this foundation.

JACKIE THORNE: And so much misinformation out there.

BETH RICHARDS: Oh, yeah.

WENDY: Oh, definitely.

BETH RICHARDS: IBM we've already mentioned. Equilon was another one of the platinum sponsors.

JILL: That's one of the-- not really a division of Shell, but they're intermingled with Shell.

BETH RICHARDS: Yeah.

WENDY: Well, I think it's all owned by Shell now. I think it was a joint operation, I believe, with Texaco and Shell. And I believe Shell has bought up that portion due to the Chevron merger.

BETH RICHARDS: And speaking of Shell, Shell was another platinum sponsor.

JILL: Yes, the second year.

BETH RICHARDS: Yes, yes. HRC, HRC, Human Rights Campaign.

JACKIE THORNE: Believe it or not.

JILL: National, HRC National paid for that sponsorship.

BETH RICHARDS: Very good. Well, I was there with the meeting that we had with Elizabeth Birch and other HRC top level people back in March. And I think they're coming around. I really do. It's going to be a long time coming. And I'm not out there saying, give it up, it's over, we should be friends with them yet. They've got a lot of work to do. But they are starting to show where they're coming from.

JACKIE THORNE: Well, the thing with HRC is that I think Elizabeth Birch finally is beginning to see the light and understand where we're coming from. She's had enough interaction with people like Sarah DePalma and myself and Phyllis Frye and yourself--

BETH RICHARDS: Myself and Vanessa Foster.

JACKIE THORNE: --and a couple of others that have beat her around the head and the shoulders on the transgender issues. And of course, at the grassroots level, and particularly here in Houston, the individual members of HRC understand where we're coming from, but I think where the resistance is coming from is the old line, hardbound members of the board of directors of HRC. And I think slowly but surely they're getting the light too.

BETH RICHARDS: I'll tell you, I don't think, five years ago, that Elizabeth Birch had the light. But five years ago, we were the transgendered community. Today, we're Sarah, we're Jackie, we're me, we're people we've met, we're individuals. And now we can say we've become known to them. And that's only happened through education.

WENDY: Yes.

BETH RICHARDS: And that kind of face to face, one on one, getting to know somebody as a person education's got to happen with these other people too before that organization's really got to change.

JACKIE THORNE: Absolutely.

BETH RICHARDS: And they're getting there. And it's a long time coming. And it's going to be a long time before they're done, but they're on their way.

JACKIE THORNE: Yeah.

BETH RICHARDS: The next sponsor was Dr. Ousterhout.

JILL: Oh, that was so interesting. He sent in the \$500 for the sponsorship. And he says, but I'm not going to come.

BETH RICHARDS: Oh, he's in California.

JILL: He's in California.

BETH RICHARDS: That's right.

JILL: And he's a plastic surgeon that does work--

BETH RICHARDS: Facial reconstruction.

JILL: --facial feminization. And he's one of the best there is.

BETH RICHARDS: Amazing stuff, amazing stuff.

JILL: A great guy.

BETH RICHARDS: I don't know his website right off the top of my head, but I know that you can find a link there from Lynn Conway's website, which is www.lynnconway.com, real easy to remember. So if you're interested in what Dr. Ousterhout can do, skip over-- Lynn was one of his patients there-- skip over to her site and go on from there. The last one on the list here is Williams Company.

JILL: That was a last minute shoe in. And that's another one of the sponsors that could not attend, but they sent their money anyways. And they're based out of Tulsa, Oklahoma, a huge, huge, major corporation.

BETH RICHARDS: Very interesting. Well, you know what I got to say right now? You're listening to KPFT Houston and KEOS College Station.

JILL: I was wanting to say Cincinnati Live.

[LAUGHTER]

BETH RICHARDS: No, I think the only way to get to there from here is through the world wide web ports.

JILL: There you go.

BETH RICHARDS: OK, so earlier, we had mentioned that the banquet is not the only activity that's done by the Unity Committee.

JILL: No.

BETH RICHARDS: The next really big event is coming up here on June 29, is that the--

JILL: Yes.

JACKIE THORNE: The Pride Parade.

BETH RICHARDS: Is that the Pride Parade here, this year?

JILL: Yes.

BETH RICHARDS: I'm going to have to be thinking of you guys from my hospital bed in Wisconsin, so I'm not going to join you this year.

JILL: Anything to get out from marching, huh.

JACKIE THORNE: And we are looking for people to help us put the float together.

JILL: Yes.

BETH RICHARDS: Last I heard, there was a call out for helping come up with the design. Has that quite yet been accomplished?

JACKIE THORNE: Well, that should be over by now.

BETH RICHARDS: That should be over? OK.

JILL: The deadline was May 1.

BETH RICHARDS: The design contest, what? Was May 1?

JILL: The deadline was May 1.

JACKIE THORNE: Yeah, the deadline was May 1. And then the Unity Committee will meet and decide on the design. And then we need volunteers to come out and help put the design together.

BETH RICHARDS: Yep, I've done floats both for my Compaq Plus organization and the Unity Organization, and it's a lot of work. And, again, the more hands, the less work for each one.

WENDY: Absolutely, it is a lot of work. The last years, we got caught, also, by a downpour at the very last minute, and--

BETH RICHARDS: Oh, it's the Pride Parade. It always does.

WENDY: Oh, I know. But we had to almost reconstruct the entire float that afternoon before the Pride Parade. And so it was really, really difficult. Somebody mentioned that they liked our float because it was the only militant one in the parade.

[LAUGHTER]

BETH RICHARDS: And was it ever?

WENDY: With a big rainbow-colored tank rolling down.

JILL: That was Julie's idea.

WENDY: Ah-huh.

[GIGGLING]

JILL: Our sweet Julie. As a matter of fact, Julie's in charge of the float again this year. And so whatever the contest winner comes up with, that's what Julie's agreed to go with. And so last year, like I said earlier, we had the largest turnout ever with the transgender community.

JACKIE THORNE: What was it? 36 or 39 or something?

JILL: It's 36. There were 36.

BETH When did you make that count?

RICHARDS:

JILL: Huh? We made that count right before the-- we started in the parade.

BETH Well, I can tell you then there were 37.

RICHARDS:

JILL: All right.

BETH Because I went down with Compaq, and when they were done, I turned around and ran back and went down.

RICHARDS:

JILL: There's 30. I want to see 50 people this year.

JACKIE Yeah.

THORNE:

BETH We could do it.

RICHARDS:

JILL: We can do this.

BETH We can do that.

RICHARDS:

JACKIE We can do it, absolutely.

THORNE:

BETH We can do that.

RICHARDS:

JACKIE No sweat.

THORNE:

WENDY: And we had Ray Hill march with us last year.

BETH Ray Hill marched with us pretty much every year.

RICHARDS:

JACKIE Yeah, Ray Hill rode in on the back of my convertible, and I got to drive. I got to ride in the parade this year

THORNE: because I was driving my car.

BETH Now, Jackie just said that this was no sweat. I remember my first Pride Parade coming down that street with the--

RICHARDS:

JACKIE Oh, I walked that parade route several times.

THORNE:

BETH --the transgendered community back when it was a daytime parade. And boy, was it a sweat back then.

RICHARDS:

JACKIE Oh, yes.

THORNE:

BETH It is so much nicer to be out there at night.

RICHARDS:

JACKIE Oh, definitely.

THORNE:

BETH It is just a world of difference. So for those of you who are worried about that, come on out.

RICHARDS:

JACKIE Yeah, I think Jack Polanski had the best idea in the world of moving that thing to the nighttime.

THORNE:

BETH It's night and day, literally.

RICHARDS:

JACKIE Mm-hmm.

THORNE:

BETH It was just almost unbearable in the June heat in the afternoon.

RICHARDS:

JACKIE And particularly somebody like myself who is literally a drag queen, your--

THORNE:

[GIGGLING]

BETH Melting. I'm melting.

RICHARDS:

JACKIE --foundation is melting off and dripping onto your clothes, along with your eyeliner and everything else. You look

THORNE: like something-- you're maybe Alice Cooper when you get to the end of the parade round.

[LAUGHTER]

BETH Yeah, you know, I'm one of those country dyke-y types, you know, comfy shoes, and makeup, what's that?

RICHARDS:

[GIGGLING]

JILL: Well, we have a lot of things going this coming year.

BETH I was just going to ask. You know, where is the Unity Committee going?

RICHARDS:

JILL: I could see that on your face. You were fixing to do that.

BETH You are right there with me, Jill.

RICHARDS:

[LAUGHTER]

Where is Unity Committee going here?

JILL: In September, we have the Empower Conference. And we've already paid for our booth.

BETH Excellent.

RICHARDS:

JILL: I hope everyone else will hurry up and pay for their booth too. This is put on by the Chamber.

BETH Now this is the second year or the third year?

RICHARDS:

JACKIE September or October?

THORNE:

JILL: I think this is going to be the third one, isn't it?

JACKIE Yeah, it's the third one. But I'm asking is it September or is it October?

THORNE:

JILL: No, it's September. They moved it back to September.

JACKIE They moved it back, OK.

THORNE:

JILL: Yeah. And we're going to be there. And it's about education. And that's what we're there for.

JACKIE Well, it's education and networking also.

THORNE:

JILL: Absolutely.

JACKIE Yeah, absolutely incredible opportunity to network and make contacts.

THORNE:

JILL: And also, in November, we're looking at having another information booth at the National Council on Family Relations Conference--

BETH Wow.

RICHARDS:

JILL: --the NCFR.

BETH Wow. Is that going to be here in town?

RICHARDS:

JILL: Yes, it's going to be here in town.

BETH Oh my gosh, [INAUDIBLE].

RICHARDS:

JILL: And it's made up of sociologists from all over the country. And they happen to be one of the resources the White House uses for domestic advice.

BETH Wow, maybe I should show up to that and bring my family.

RICHARDS:

JILL: Yes, you should. Yes, you should.

BETH I got to brag on my daughter who got her gold award in Girl Scouts this last week.

RICHARDS:

JILL: She did, didn't she?

BETH Yeah.

RICHARDS:

JILL: Yeah.

BETH Bridged over to cadets now.

RICHARDS:

JIMMY CARPER: I had to run to the lobby and take care of some drama, but did you already talk about Empower?

JACKIE Well, that's what we're talking about right now.

THORNE:

JILL: We can talk about it.

BETH You were putting your headphones on while we were talking about it.

RICHARDS:

JIMMY CARPER: Can we talk about the price? Hello?

JILL: It was cheap.

JIMMY CARPER: Cheap? It's 325 this year.

JILL: Oh, well--

JIMMY CARPER: As compared to 200 last year--

BETH Oh, for the booth.

RICHARDS:

JILL: OK, OK, OK.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

JILL: OK, yeah. OK, in that sense, yeah.

BETH RICHARDS: Walking in the door for the public is what the cheap part is, but getting a booth is not cheap.

JIMMY CARPER: No, no, it isn't. What's going on with that?

JILL: They did have a price hike.

BETH RICHARDS: You've got to keep it going somehow.

JILL: Yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: Man.

BETH RICHARDS: I don't know.

WENDY: George R. Brown is expanding.

JIMMY CARPER: I guess.

WENDY: So you got to pay for it.

BETH RICHARDS: Maybe having a chat with the Empower people might be in order for some future show.

JACKIE THORNE: Are we maybe paying off Mayor Brown's--

JIMMY CARPER: I don't know.

JACKIE THORNE: --campaign debt?

[LAUGHTER]

JIMMY CARPER: But it's really, really tough for small organizations to be able to afford 325 because that's close to a month's rent for the Gulf Coast Archives and Museum.

BETH RICHARDS: Yeah.

JACKIE THORNE: Yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: Fortunately, we went ahead-- last year, they made the offer of, if you want a booth for next year, you can do it at the same price. And so we did that. So we got in on the \$200 a month, or \$200 for the booth. But, wow, that's a lot of money.

WENDY: Yeah, it's a lot of money.

JACKIE Yeah.

THORNE:

WENDY: Yeah.

JILL: It takes a lot of money to put one of those on too.

JIMMY CARPER: I know it does. I understand that. I really do.

BETH So that's the September thing. And November is this family--
RICHARDS:

JILL: In November, the NCFR will be here.

BETH Right.
RICHARDS:

JILL: That is really big stuff, folks. That's real big stuff. I have personally been to their conference about six times already. And they are just absolutely fantastic people. They're extremely supportive of the transgender community. They have contacted us and asked us to meet them off season in Arlington so we could help coordinate with them their yearly plan, plus go speak to senators and congressmen. And so they're very great people.

BETH And I'd expect by the time November is over, the real planning for the Unity Banquet's in full swing by then.
RICHARDS:

JACKIE Oh, definitely.
THORNE:

JILL: It will be in full swing the day after the Pride Parade.

BETH There you go. So it'll be well in full swing.
RICHARDS:

JACKIE Can I put in a commercial plug here?
THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: Have I ever stopped you before?

JACKIE No.
THORNE:

[LAUGHTER]

JIMMY CARPER: Could I ever stop you before?

JACKIE No.

THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

BETH I see Jimmy knows Jackie pretty well.

RICHARDS:

JACKIE The planning committee for the fantasy adventure weekend, we had tried to get it together this past spring and it just didn't happen. But we have a date set. It's March 21, 22, 23. It'll be a Friday, Saturday, and Sunday in March of 2003. And the fantasy adventure weekend, there were three of them held here in Houston.

THORNE:

And the reason that it was discontinued was because the Texas Tea Party over in San Antonio was so successful. But we are looking for input from the organizations and individuals here in the Houston transgender community, things that they would like to see us do and incorporate into this thing.

And of course, the other thing that we're trying to do is to provide this as a resource for people who are out in the boondocks, outside of Houston, in the small towns and so forth that may be within the range of our radio station here, who do not have a transgender support group in their town or anywhere close to them, and would like to come in to town and spend an entire weekend, three days, interacting with other transgendered individuals.

Their opportunity to ask questions and get answers and the rest of that. So we're going to have a tag sale. We're going to have vendors there with transgender specific products and services, plus we're going to have a number of seminars that are transgender related, as well as a great deal of time to just socialize.

BETH And who's putting that event together?

RICHARDS:

JACKIE That will be March 21, 22, 23.

THORNE:

BETH Right, and who's putting the event together?

RICHARDS:

JACKIE Well, right now, it's the board of directors of GCTC.

THORNE:

BETH OK.

RICHARDS:

JACKIE But we are asking for the other groups to participate.

THORNE:

BETH Right.

RICHARDS:

JACKIE If they don't, then they ain't got no right to bitch--

THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: [LAUGHING]

JACKIE --because we're asking for their help and we're going to put it on.

THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: Since when did that matter?

[GIGGLING]

JACKIE We are going to put it on. It's going to come to pass.

THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

BETH Yeah.

RICHARDS:

JACKIE And we're looking for support from the group in New Orleans. In the past, they have been very supportive of the
THORNE: fantasy adventure weekend when we had it back in '89, '90, and '91. And we look for that to be the case again.

The other thing that we're hoping for is that perhaps the fantasy adventure weekend will become sort of like the be all up in the Midwest in that it will rotate among the various cities. So if we have it here in Houston this year, perhaps it could be held in New Orleans next year, or maybe Fort Worth, Dallas area, the third year, and so forth.

BETH Very cool, yeah.

RICHARDS:

JACKIE And rotate around within the areas to showcase the resources that each one of these areas has.

THORNE:

JILL: One of the things that we did this year is we asked the TG fund, the Transgender Fund, to come in and collaborate with us. And as a result of this, they were a tremendous amount of help to us as far as the community. They really helped this community out a lot. But the Unity Committee is now going to look into the procedures to get its own 501(c)(3) status so that we can take advantage of the benefits. And that's going to happen this year too.

BETH Well, I have to say, my bad, I didn't do my homework. So maybe you guys can help me out here. The
RICHARDS: organizations involved are GCTC, TRIAS, TATS, CATS, HTGA?

JACKIE Mm-hmm, and STAG.

THORNE:

BETH And STAG, that's right.

RICHARDS:

JILL: STAG is very important.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, it is.

JILL: That stands for "Some Transgenders Are Guys."

BETH No, I think it's the newest of those organizations--

RICHARDS:

JACKIE Yes, it is.

THORNE:

BETH --which is why it's got to take a while before I get it drilled into my head.

RICHARDS:

JIMMY CARPER: And because it is the guys, we really need to nurture them.

BETH Absolutely.

RICHARDS:

JACKIE You betcha. You betcha.

THORNE:

BETH So maybe you guys can help me out. Do we have contact information for all of these groups here or--

RICHARDS:

JACKIE Oh, boy.

THORNE:

BETH Yeah. Like I said, my bad, I should have done my homework.

RICHARDS:

JILL: [LAUGHS]

If people want to contact me, they can contact me, futuretherapist@juno.com, and I will make sure that anyone that wants information can get that information.

JIMMY CARPER: Can you give that address again?

JILL: Futuretherapist@juno.com.

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

BETH And futuretherapist doesn't have any spaces, punctuation or anything?

RICHARDS:

JILL: No.

BETH It's all just straight.

RICHARDS:

JACKIE It's all one word.
THORNE:

JILL: It's not case sensitive. Just go for it.

JACKIE Yeah, now, GCTC does have a website. I don't know-- Rose was working on getting the links up and running. But
THORNE: it is not GCTC.org. It is GCTCTX.org. And the reason for this is because GCTC.org stands for the Greater Canadian Theater Company.

[LAUGHTER]

JIMMY CARPER: Not in Texas.

JACKIE Not in Texas, no. So GCTCTX.org should get you into the website for GCTC.
THORNE:

BETH Now, TATS has a website that's being updated--
RICHARDS:

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

BETH Well, right now it's kind of a cobweb site, but at least it'll get you to the right place and that would be
RICHARDS: www.genderweb.org/~ that's that little squiggly one up there in the corner.

JILL: Yeah I love that one.

BETH --tilde TATS, T-A-T-S. Also, CATS has a website that's relatively easy to remember if I can get it right,
RICHARDS: www.tghelp.org or is it com? Is it org?

WENDY: I believe it's org.

BETH I believe it's org.
RICHARDS:

JACKIE I believe it's org.
THORNE:

BETH Yeah.
RICHARDS:

WENDY: Now, that one is being rebuilt. Their web host or hosting company that they have accidentally deleted it.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh yeah, right, I've heard that song and dance before. Yeah, [INAUDIBLE].

WENDY: But it is coming up. And they're adding the links onto it as fast as they can.

JACKIE Yeah, and ultimately, I think all of these sites will have links to one another, so that if you can get into one of
THORNE: them, you should be able to find the others as well.

BETH And like I said about Kristen earlier, having that energy, that website is being radically overhauled. And it's going
RICHARDS: to have quite a bit of new features to it. I understand there's going to be a chat area.

JACKIE Yeah.

THORNE:

BETH And there will be some free time. There'll also be some scheduled chats. I'll let Kristen fill us in on that when we
RICHARDS: know more about it, though.

JIMMY CARPER: I just wish I had 1/10 of her energy.

[LAUGHS]

BETH Where does she get it?

RICHARDS:

JILL: Don't we all.

JIMMY CARPER: Wow, what an incredible woman.

BETH Yeah, no, she's [INAUDIBLE].

RICHARDS:

JACKIE Well, like Beth said, if we could bottle it and sell it, we wouldn't have to worry about paying for SRS.

THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: That's right.

BETH Yeah.

RICHARDS:

JIMMY CARPER: That's right.

BETH She's not at the [INAUDIBLE] orbit. She's got them boosters still going full.

RICHARDS:

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, she sure does.

JILL: That's also one of the functions the Unity Committee needs to take care of. We need to establish a website for the Houston transgender unity community.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

JILL: So that everyone can go to one place and they can find out all the different groups. And the groups in Houston are kind of like a bicycle wheel. We've got a lot of spokes. And all those spokes together make one wheel, but each individual spoke is very, very important. And so that's what Houston is.

BETH Well, I guess it's getting kind of close to our time.

RICHARDS:

JIMMY CARPER: It is.

BETH So Jamie, anything to say to wrap up there?

RICHARDS:

JAMIE: No.

BETH No?

RICHARDS:

[LAUGHTER]

JAMIE: On what, you know?

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, come on.

BETH She's the MC.

RICHARDS:

JAMIE: The folks that know me know that's a big surprise.

BETH She's the MC. She keeps her mouth open, for what? 2 and 1/2 hours. And here it comes to, you got anything to
RICHARDS: say, and the answer is--

JAMIE: No.

BETH --no.

RICHARDS:

[LAUGHTER]

JAMIE: No, I could have just said uh-uh and let it go with that.

BETH Well, I want to say thanks for calling in and thanks for being on.

RICHARDS:

JIMMY CARPER: Thanks very much.

[LAUGHS]

JAMIE: Thank you.

BETH We really appreciate that. And Jill, how about you?

RICHARDS:

JACKIE When are you going to be back in town, Jamie?

THORNE:

JAMIE: I wish I knew. I was supposed to come home tomorrow, but that's not going to happen.

JACKIE Wow.

THORNE:

JAMIE: I'm doing a bunch of work for East Bay Municipal Utility District, which is the water company for basically the East side of San Francisco Bay. And we've encountered some problems.

JACKIE Yeah, well, think of all the overtime.

THORNE:

JAMIE: When they get fixed up, I'll be home. I've already been informed that I'm going to be owing big time because I'm missing Mother's Day.

JACKIE Think of all the overtime you're getting.

THORNE:

JAMIE: Yeah, well, I get paid by the hour anyway, so that's OK.

JACKIE There you go.

THORNE:

JILL: I'd like to tell everyone that the Unity Committee meets once a month, the third Monday of every month, at Bering Methodist Church at 7:00 PM. And please, come on out and participate. We want 50 people with a transgender float in June.

JIMMY CARPER: Ah, that would be wonderful.

JAMIE: Jill, let me interject. Is it going to be at 7:00 or is it going to be at 6:00?

JILL: For right now, I'm going to say 7:00.

JAMIE: OK.

JILL: OK, and if you come in late, you'll find out it's 6:00.

[LAUGHTER]

But see, they will be there at 7 o'clock.

JACKIE It better not be 6 o'clock. There is no way in hell I can get home from the office and get back down there by 6 o'clock.

THORNE:

JILL: It's more than likely 7 o'clock. But just go ahead and show up at 7 o'clock. And I want to encourage everybody to participate.

JACKIE Yeah, and one other item, also, while we're talking about meetings and stuff, the GCTC Board of Directors Meeting is at 7:30 on the-- well, it's 10 days after the second Saturday. We just had our Saturday meeting tonight.

THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: Give me a break.

JACKIE Yeah, well, no--

THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: 10 days a week after the second Saturday?

JACKIE THORNE: It's a week and a half after. It's on a Tuesday. And it's at the Brazos River Bottom at their office upstairs on the second floor. We would like to have anyone that wants to input ideas and so forth on the thing. Please come. You are more than welcome.

BETH RICHARDS: And Wendy?

JACKIE THORNE: And it starts at 7:30.

[LAUGHTER]

Not 7 o'clock, 7:30.

WENDY: OK.

BETH RICHARDS: Ah.

JACKIE THORNE: And, oh, and the other thing is BRB has \$1-- what? Is it \$1 and 1/4 or \$1.50 drinks on Tuesday night.

JIMMY CARPER: Ah, that's advertising.

JACKIE THORNE: Well.

JIMMY CARPER: Excuse me.

BETH RICHARDS: Uh-oh, yeah, this is KPFT. We don't do advertising.

JACKIE THORNE: No, I wasn't advertising. I was just letting people be aware of the fact that they have that.

JIMMY CARPER: Now I see, OK.

BETH RICHARDS: Information.

JACKIE THORNE: Yeah, additional incentive.

BETH RICHARDS: Wendy?

JIMMY CARPER: Gotcha.

BETH RICHARDS: Wendy?

WENDY: I'd just like to say that Houston's very fortunate to have such a unified community like this--

BETH It's a rarity.

RICHARDS:

WENDY: --which you don't find anywhere else in the entire world.

JACKIE Nowhere.

THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

JACKIE Well, it's not only the transgender community, but it's the entire GLBT community.

THORNE:

WENDY: I think so. And what is really amazing is that we're met with other people from outside the transgender community, and the lesbians, gays, and bisexuals. And they are amazed that we've been able to pull together like this. And it really adds a lot of encouragement that we can stand unified and fight for all of our rights together.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, yes.

BETH Now, one of the other members of the Unity Committee that's been pretty active is Brandi Williams.

RICHARDS:

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, yes. Good old Brandi.

BETH Brandi couldn't be here tonight. She's--

RICHARDS:

JILL: She's our prima donna.

JACKIE Yeah, well, she's had some things to do this weekend that kept her from making it tonight, but she did call in and
THORNE: wanted to mention that brendat.com-- and I'm going to assume there's Ws in front of that-- is also another great place to get trans info. And I'm pretty sure that you'd probably find some things about HTGA there too.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

WENDY: Oh, definitely, there's a link there.

JILL: Yeah, by the way, the sponsorships we had this year, Brandi was the officer in charge of that. And she did such an outstanding job on getting the sponsorships in to this banquet.

BETH Nine sponsorships, I'd say so.

RICHARDS:

JILL: And that's just the platinums.

JACKIE Well, those are just the platinums.

THORNE:

JILL: That's not counting the golds and silvers.

**BETH
RICHARDS:** Oh, that's right.

**JACKIE
THORNE:** We had a bunch of others as well.

JILL: Wow, wow, wow, that is incredible.

JIMMY CARPER: Jill Pauley, I have heard your name--

JILL: [LAUGHS]

JIMMY CARPER: --as long as Sarah DePalma has been doing a spot here. And that's been, gosh, eight years? Eight years.

**JACKIE
THORNE:** Well, she had an alias at one time. I don't know whether--

JILL: I used to be Judy Daniels.

**JACKIE
THORNE:** Judy Daniels, exactly, yeah. And that was when she was living back up in--

JILL: Springfield.

**JACKIE
THORNE:** --East Texas, you know, in Frog Strangle up there.

JILL: Yeah.

**JACKIE
THORNE:** And you know, and she had to hide who she was.

**BETH
RICHARDS:** And Wendy's one of our newer faces. And we're certainly glad to see her in.

**JACKIE
THORNE:** Yeah, good.

WENDY: Well, thank you very much.

JIMMY CARPER: Thanks for being on After Hours.

WENDY: Thank you.

**BETH
RICHARDS:** And I suppose Jamie probably fits somewhere in between, huh.

JAMIE: Who?

[LAUGHTER]

JACKIE Yeah, probably, yeah.

THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: Another one of those "no."

JACKIE Yeah.

THORNE:

BETH Cut her off. Bye, Jamie.

RICHARDS:

[LAUGHTER]

JACKIE You'll get yours.

THORNE:

JAMIE: Oh, please.

[LAUGHTER]

JACKIE No, I want to commend Beth because Beth put up with me at the last transgender lobby days up there. And she
THORNE: held my hand while we went around and visited with--

BETH Some pretty tough customers.

RICHARDS:

JACKIE She already visited with her representative, and she went around and visited with mine, as well as my state
THORNE: senator.

BETH Yeah, we saw some pretty tough customers that day. But, you know, I was a rookie. You were a rookie. We both
RICHARDS: made it through just fine.

JILL: And this next one coming up, I want 200 transgendered people there, knocking on state reps door--

JACKIE Every single door.

THORNE:

JILL: --state senators doors. I want 200 of us statewide to be there.

BETH Now, this is our off year in the Texas legislature. We've got till next year. We can do that.

RICHARDS:

JILL: Which is February, yeah.

BETH We can whip those 200 people together.

RICHARDS:

JILL: It should be in February. Think we can do it again?

BETH Sure, sure.

RICHARDS:

WENDY: I think we had over 100 this last year.

BETH We did.

RICHARDS:

JACKIE Yeah, we did.

THORNE:

BETH We were just a smidge over 100. What was it? It was like 105 or so.

RICHARDS:

JILL: I was there. That was my first time.

BETH Oh, like I said, I was there too. I was a rookie.

RICHARDS:

WENDY: Talk about empowering. That was my second time up there.

BETH Excellent.

RICHARDS:

WENDY: Yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, you were a veteran. You weren't a [INAUDIBLE].

JACKIE Oh, no, no.

THORNE:

[LAUGHTER]

You cannot believe what it is like, you're walking down those marble halls with your heels clicking, and it echoes.

BETH Well, I think we're pretty much out of time. And I just wanted to end tonight--

RICHARDS:

JILL: Thank you--

BETH Much like Sarah ends hers with a quote. And again, thank you for all our guests. All four of you have really made a great contribution to our community. And thanks again. Unlike Sarah, I do a little different quote each time.

RICHARDS:

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, OK, sorry.

BETH And Jimmy's over here, prompting me with Sarah's quote, which is a good one. It is a very good one. This month, mine is a little bit about self esteem. "You have to learn to say I before you can say I love you." And that comes from, of all places, Ayn Rand.

RICHARDS:

JIMMY CARPER: Very good. Thank you all for being on After Hours.

JILL: Thank you.

BETH Thank you.

RICHARDS:

JIMMY CARPER: OK, now a little music from Faith Intuition.

[TIRES SCREECHING]

[MUSIC - FRIEND & LOVER, "REACH OUT OF THE DARKNESS"]

JENNIFER My name is Jennifer Wagner.

WAGNER:

HOWARD My name is Howard Hayden. I'm a vinyl avenger.

HAYDEN:

JENNIFER Howard and I do a show called *Reach Out In the Darkness*, late night Monday, early Tuesday morning 1:00 to 4:00 AM.

HOWARD

Jennifer and I play the sounds of the '60s, directly from the vinyl it was originally recorded on.

HAYDEN:

JENNIFER That's right, all vinyl, all night, 1:00 to 4:00 AM, late Monday, early Tuesday morning.

WAGNER:

HOWARD *Reach Out In the Darkness* on 90.1 FM, KPFT.

HAYDEN:

JENNIFER This is good network radio from Houston, Texas.

WAGNER:

BOTH: Sounds of the '60s.

SPEAKER: Brad, you're so rad. You're so rad. You're so rad.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

(SINGING) You're so rad. You're so rad. You're so rad.

BUDDY D: Hey, you're cruising home Thursday night slash Friday morning, what are you going to do? Tune your dials to 90.1 and check out the Rad Rich Rock and Roll Review.

RAD RICH: With your host, Rad Rich.

SAM: And Sam.

BUDDY D: And me, Buddy D, where you can hear the best of ska, punk rock, rockabilly, country Western and R&B, and that hot rock and roll sound.

RAD RICH: Only on 90.1, KPFT from 1:00 to 4:00 AM every Thursday slash Friday morning. Be there and be square.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, Rad Rich with the Rad Rich Review. He actually called in earlier this evening to say that-- listen to this.

Now, this is a straight guy, very straight, but not narrow at all. He said, I'll be doing a show, the Oklahomos, which is a band from Austin, on Saturday, May 18-- that's next Saturday-- at PJ's Sports Bar at 614 West Gray. The Oklahomos are truckers in drag.

[GIGGLE]

So that ought to be really-- I got to go to that show, you know. The Oklahomos, maybe they have something like on tape or something and-- yeah, we can can play it on the air. Wouldn't that be cool?

BOBBY: That would be very cool.

JIMMY CARPER: I should probably have stuff all set up here, but I don't. Hi. Hi, Bobby.

BOBBY: Since this is my first shot at saying hi--

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

BOBBY: --on the air tonight. Hey, how you doing?

JIMMY CARPER: Well, I've--

BOBBY: It's been a rough week for you guys, huh?

JIMMY CARPER: Boy, has it ever, with all of this stuff going on.

BOBBY: I don't like quarreling and I don't like hearing when people go bye bye.

JIMMY CARPER: No.

BOBBY: Although, it's better for some people to be on the other side, but you know.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, I realize this.

BOBBY: Yeah, but we see it happen all too often.

JIMMY CARPER: We do. We do. I have something that I want to play right now. And I'm glad you're here. Next week is your birthday, I hear.

BOBBY: Yes, it is. On the show, as a matter of fact.

JIMMY CARPER: On the show.

BOBBY: Because my birthday, the moment you start this show, it will officially be my birthday because my birthday is Sunday next--

JIMMY CARPER: Sunday, Sunday, Sunday.

BOBBY: Yes, May 19.

JIMMY CARPER: Gotcha.

BOBBY: I'm getting old.

[SIGH]

[LAUGHS]

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, like I'm getting younger, right?

BOBBY: Watch it. I heard that from--

JIMMY CARPER: This is something that I've been--

BOBBY: --the peanut gallery.

JIMMY CARPER: --that I've been wanting to play for quite a while, and I should have played it long ago. And it's just that there's a little bit of self-promotion there. And I'm just embarrassed kind of to play it on my own.

BOBBY: But sometimes--

JIMMY CARPER: I know.

BOBBY: You don't toot your own horn very often.

JIMMY CARPER: I try not to do it at all. And you know, but here we go. You ready?

BOBBY: I'm ready.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

PRESENTER: Now, because it's like-- I called it Magical Radio Man. And it says, "each time he enters the studio, the magic begins. It is set in motion by his very presence, a process repeated each week for 12 years, yet each week he is frantic. The music is set. The guests take their seats. The equipment might actually be working. The show begins.

The man lets listeners know he is there for them, the open, the hidden, the out, the closeted. His voice lets the younger ones know they are not alone. Others of their kind are out there for them. This program is a part of his own survival. For a few precious hours, personal health issues take a back seat to the needs of so many. He lives for this night. It keeps him alive. In turn, others will find the strength to survive.

The power of his voice belies the frail appearance of his body. He is honesty, strength, and joy. For all the ills of mankind this man has witnessed, the hate, the love, the great sorrows, the jaded eyes through which all of this has been viewed, can still be brought to tears at a kind word, an unsolicited hug. On this night, he has the power of true magic. Enchantment is inevitable. And we willingly submit to the glamor of our magical radio man.

[MUSIC PLAYING]