

[APPLAUSE]

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

[THEME MUSIC PLAYING]

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, yes. You've tuned in to *After Hours*, queer radio with attitude, right here on KPFT Houston 90.1 FM. The crew of *After Hours* is ready to bring you news, interviews, dialogue, and music geared for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered people and their friends. Here at *After Hours*, we may be diverse, but we have one thing in common, we are all out of the closet and urge everyone to come out of their closets.

That means standing up for yourself, taking responsibility for your own life, and being proud of who you are. Realistically, we not everyone can do that because of age, job, or frame of mind. That's OK. We're here for you, too. So sit back, relax, and enjoy this week's edition of *After Hours*.

[THEME MUSIC PLAYING]

Hello, Houston and College Station and Sarasota, Florida and the world and welcome to *After Hours*, queer radio with attitude. I'm Jimmy Carper. And

VANESSA Cohostess?

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah. Who is the cohostess? Oh.

VANESSA Revolving cohostess this week, Vanessa Edwards Foster.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

MAN: Yes. Yes. Yes, indeed you are.

VANESSA Hello, Jimmy. And we've got a couple of folks just kind of sitting in with us in the studio.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: OK. Before we get to them, though, before I forget because I'm always forgetting, I wanted to talk about the music that I played at the very beginning of the show. That last one, that wonderful warm song called, of course, "Built for Comfort" by the one and only Suede, who was the headliner here at the Pride Festival back in June. And that's the first time I heard her do that song ever.

And I was just blown away. I bought the CD just on that one song, and the rest of it is wonderful.

VANESSA I love that voice.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: Yes. Yes.

VANESSA And that's a bluesy [INAUDIBLE]

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: Yes. Yeah. She came out on stage, and she just owned it. Absolutely.

VANESSA Oh, I missed that one.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: No, don't do that again. Yes. And the first song you heard was a new entertainer, singer to *After Hours* by the name of Kevin Hannan, H-A-N-N-A-N. He's got a new CD out called *Bridge to Atlantis*. And that was called "Cringe."

He's got some very different kind of songs here. It's got different kind of messages, and I really kind of like that.

VANESSA We like that message music.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah we do. We'll be hearing more from him. And let's see a couple of things before we get into it. I want to say hello to Junior because I know Junior is listening.

VANESSA Hi, Junior.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: And the many, many Randys out there.

VANESSA Many Randys. [LAUGHS]

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: They have very many Randys. These are folks who are listening to us because they like the show and because they can't get out from where they are.

VANESSA Yes.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: And I want to say Hello to the team man, Terry, if he's listening. He's recently out and starting a new life on the outside, and we're real happy for him. And we want all the best for Terry. And I got to meet him. And whoa.

Whoo.

VANESSA It's a guy, huh?

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: Oh my God. One of the most handsome men I have ever met in my life.

VANESSA Whoa.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: I couldn't believe it. Whoo.

VANESSA Wow.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: Ha. Now--

VANESSA He turned you onto him, right?

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah. Another thing, I want to talk about Whispering Hope, which is the resale shop on Richmond.

VANESSA I'm not familiar with that one.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: Used to be community resale shop. It's a resale shop, but they have a group of PWAs who are able to come in and get free stuff.

VANESSA Oh, cool.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: Right.

VANESSA Cool.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: It's a special program.

VANESSA And this benefits them? I guess--

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: Well, actually, it's--

VANESSA --the proceeds go to them.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: It's a program that started-- oh, gosh. 15, 20 years ago. Just very early into the epidemic. And they thought they'd be around for about five years. And now, it's really time to close up shop. So they're looking-- yeah, they are.

They're looking to close up. They're still open, though. They're still open, Fridays and Saturdays, 11:00 till 5:00. That's Richmond at Jack Street. And I was there Friday, and it looks like there may be someone taking it over.

And they are going to do basically the same thing, only the proceeds from the resale shop will go to street kids.

VANESSA Ooh, I like that.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: Focusing on HIV, HIV prevention for street kids.

VANESSA Excellent.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: So we're very, very happy about that. I also ran into Jim Nixon, who happens to be the roommate of Creath Robinson, who does the leather line, because I had to read in the paper that Jim Nixon is now with the Voice in the sales department. Yes.

VANESSA Wow. What happened there?

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: Well, he didn't want-- it was too-- the news was too early to give out over the air when their show was on. So he's at the Voice now. That's wonderful. He's joining a new editor, Penny, who's going to try to get on the show.

VANESSA How cool. Bring him on.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah. You bet. So let's see. Oh, one more thing, one more thing. Maybe two more things.

Sweet Mama Cotton is playing every Wednesday night, 9:30 to 11:30, at the Briar Patch at 2294 West Holcombe. It's still there. She's still there every Wednesday. And every Friday and Saturday, you can find her at the Hollywood Hotel. And that's at 5:00 to 7:00 in the Brothers Petronella at 8:00 to 11:00.

That's in Galveston. And--

VANESSA Is that the judge?

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: [LAUGHS] Sweet Mama Cotton is also known as Marcy Rae, who does piano there. And she did a whole album down at the Hollywood Hotel with all of her good friends from the Briar Patch. And they went down there and did some wild queer songs.

VANESSA Oh, cool. I love Hollywood Hotel.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: And she is just a marvelous entertainer. And one more thing. A free arts and crafts fair which features live music, barbecue, vendors, artisans, jewelry art, handcrafts, tool, cool threads, and more is benefiting the CATS, 52nd Street, transgender homeless shelter and the Houston LGBT Community Center. That's October the 6th.

We'll be talking about this every week to remind you at 803 Hawthorne, starting at 10:00 AM. That was very sweet of them. That's for the Montrose people. Instead of starting at 7:00 like all these other things, they start at 10 o'clock. OK.

VANESSA [LAUGHS] They got wise. After the first couple started at 7:00 AM. And you had to sit there for the first three

EDWARDS Hours doing nothing, kind of more or less made a little bit better sense to kind of improve the impact here. What

FOSTER: have we got?

JIMMY CARPER: Well, CATS is-- this is the only shelter in Texas. Someone's told me that there is a TG shelter in New York.

VANESSA Ah, there is a TG home that kind of a-- more or less is kind of an unofficial shelter. It is somewhat kind of a-- I

EDWARDS don't know if you'd want to call it a shelter per se but a home where a lot of the girls can escape the streets and get their lives back together, a transi house.

JIMMY CARPER: So this is really the very first one.

VANESSA Mm-hmm. And actually, there are others around the nation that are just kind of a more or less very low-key.

EDWARDS They're grassroots, just kind of more or less kind of started from a couple of people who just kind of pooled the resources and got things started. Actually, the first one started way back in 1970 with Sylvia Rivera.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

VANESSA With the STAR House.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: Yes. Yes. Well, if you can't make that-- you know what you can do-- you can write a check for 5 or 10 bucks every month. Hello, every month. Yeah, 5 or 10 bucks.

That's no biggie. And make it out to the CATS, 52nd Street, house fund, and send it not there. But you send it to Capital Bank, 3007 South Shepherd, Houston, and they take care of it. I mean, it's an easy way, and you're going to be doing a lot of good for some people who really deserve some help.

VANESSA And just to kind of let you know why, I guess, this is so important. Oftentimes, homeless transgenders don't find any shelter at all in any of the traditional homeless shelters. Unfortunately, many of them are just a single sex, and they want to basically place you in one or the other.

And they won't place you in the female. And we found out here in Houston they don't even place you in the male either. So--

JIMMY CARPER: We found out the hard way here in the Houston area that if you're transgendered, you are SOL when it comes to emergency housing because we found out with some teenagers that you are forced into clothing that matches your genitals.

VANESSA Exactly. Kind of reversing the tradition.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: Rather than clothing that matches your brain, you were forced into clothing that matches your genitals, which I don't understand. But hey, I get-- maybe I've been queer too long.

VANESSA It's that binary gender world type thing, and I still haven't figured that one out. But obviously--

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: We have guests.

VANESSA Yes, we do have guests. We have one on hold. In fact, I don't know if she's actually on the line with us right now.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, she is.

VANESSA She is?

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: She's hearing all of this.

VANESSA Oh, very good. Excellent. We have with us Carolyn Wagner, the vice president of the national board of PFLAG,

EDWARDS Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays. Carolyn, want to say hello?

FOSTER:

CAROLYN [INAUDIBLE]

WAGNER:

VANESSA Sorry?

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

CAROLYN Hello, everyone.

WAGNER:

VANESSA Oh, maybe not yet. Hang on just a second. I think we're on, aren't we?

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

MAN 2: Yeah.

CAROLYN Hello, everyone.

WAGNER:

VANESSA Hello?

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

CAROLYN Can you hear me?

WAGNER:

VANESSA I can hear you, sort of remotely. I just can't--

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah. Yeah. Can you hear us?

VANESSA --hear you in the studio.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

CAROLYN Yes, I can hear you all very well.

WAGNER:

VANESSA Yeah, I think I hear you outside. I just can't hear you in here.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

BETH RICHARD: You need headphones.

VANESSA Oh, I do need headphones.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: Yes. [LAUGHS]

VANESSA Yes. Well--

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: Sorry. You must have headphones for this.

VANESSA Well, I'm sorry about this. I didn't-- oh, everything's just kind of--

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: OK. Hey.

VANESSA --flying by the seat of its pants at the moment. Oh, sorry, Roy.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: [LAUGHS] See, normally, when I push the button, the color changes a different color. And it didn't do that. So I was confused about whether she was on the air or not. OK. But we have a couple of other folks here n the studios also.

VANESSA Yes, we do. Monica Roberts, apparently our erstwhile revolving hostess. She had mentioned she might be

EDWARDS actually leaving her environs and moving to Points North. And also with us, Beth Richard, who--

FOSTER:

BETH RICHARD: Yep. Once again.

VANESSA --who knows, may be taking over that slot. Hint, hint.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

BETH RICHARD: Oh. Oh, hint, hint. OK.

VANESSA Hint, hint. Twist to the arm. Ouch.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

MAN 2: Yeah. It'd be in good hands at least.

VANESSA Wait. Are we starting the segment now, or--

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: We've been in it, honey.

VANESSA OK. Well, I wasn't sure if we were--

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: Run with it, girl. Run.

VANESSA --starting off with music or--

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: No, no, no. We're just going to go right into it.

VANESSA Yes. Carolyn, by the way Hello and thank you by the way for coming on the air with us, especially at this late

EDWARDS hour. I realize this isn't exactly traditional waking hours--

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: Ooh, she must be East Coast.

VANESSA No, no. She's Fayetteville.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: Oh.

VANESSA Sorry?

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

BETH RICHARD: Fayetteville, Texas?

CAROLYN The accent didn't give me away? [LAUGHS]

WAGNER:

JIMMY CARPER: Just now. Just did.

BETH RICHARD: Would that be Fayette--

CAROLYN It's an honor to be on with y'all.

WAGNER:

JIMMY CARPER: Thank you.

BETH RICHARD: Would that be Fayetteville, Texas?

JIMMY CARPER: Thank you so much for being here.

VANESSA Fayetteville, Arkansas

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

BETH RICHARD: Fayetteville, Arkansas. OK.

JIMMY CARPER: Right, right.

VANESSA [INAUDIBLE] Texas this weekend.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

BETH RICHARD: I've heard it's bat country up there.

VANESSA Oh, yes. Actually, by the way, I do need to let all the listening audience know that, while we do have her on the

EDWARDS line, there are thunderstorms currently up there. And they've had some power outages and the phone lines

FOSTER: cutting out. So just in case the phones do go out, please bear with us. We'll go ahead and try and get it back on the line--

JIMMY CARPER: OK. Talk fast, girl.

VANESSA Oh, yes.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

CAROLYN [LAUGHS]

WAGNER:

JIMMY CARPER: [LAUGHS]

VANESSA How much coffee have you had tonight?

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

CAROLYN Oh, about six cups.

WAGNER:

BETH RICHARD: Ah, yes. Well, that'll do it.

VANESSA Well, caffeine and sugar, it's the greatest stuff in the world.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

BETH RICHARD: Oh, yes. Of course.

CAROLYN Absolutely. Without a doubt, I understand.

WAGNER:

VANESSA I guess. [LAUGHS] That's pretty fast for Arkansas.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

CAROLYN I've been practicing.

WAGNER:

VANESSA Yes. And you've also still got that cold or that cough at least.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

CAROLYN Yes.

WAGNER:

VANESSA Which was gotten, I guess, in Colorado during the Martinez vigil. By the way, just to give you all a little background as to why we have Carolyn on the line with us tonight and for the interview, last month, I was not in town. I was actually in Cortez, Colorado for the vigil for FC Martinez, also known as Fred, Frederica.

FC, of course, was the Navajo two-spirit teenager that was beaten to death and ended up dying as a result of his injuries and exposure in Cortez, Colorado.

JIMMY CARPER: I have been reading wonderful things throughout the gay press coverage of this.

VANESSA This is really--

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: And recognition--

VANESSA Exactly.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: --of the two-spirit.

VANESSA And this is about time that we did have a little recognition of this.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: Yes. You bet.

VANESSA Now, this has been around with us for centuries. Obviously, this is a tradition that goes way deep in a Native

EDWARDS American culture. And it's very widely misunderstood. But what we do know is that Fred, of course, as a two-

FOSTER: spirit, did tend to dress outside of the norm.

I had problems in school with folks, I guess, harassing, which is, I guess, typical for anyone of, I guess, what you would consider exotic dress or--

BETH RICHARD: Atypical presentation.

VANESSA --anyone who kind of stands out. Yes, exactly. And Fred actually had pretty much kind of made his way in school,

EDWARDS had a lot of friends, and a lot of girlfriends there in the small town that he lived in or she, I should say. And this

FOSTER: particular night, FC was at-- I believe it was their Rodeo, the Rodeo Days.

Carolyn, could you fill us in on some of the details of the case, the Martinez murder?

CAROLYN Well, FC had been to-- had gone to a party after he had attended a carnival and had encountered on his way

WAGNER: home some young man who had been at the party. And they gave him a ride. They had according to some, had been doing some insulting and what have you at the party. But FC, as I learned through the months-- I was there in Cortez-- was very friendly and tended to ignore or overlook insults and the name-calling.

VANESSA This was pretty much his normal.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

CAROLYN Right. Everything after that gets very, very cloudy. We only have the statements of those who were witnessed by

WAGNER: police trying to destroy evidence and of the one currently charged. So what ended up, though, he did not come home as he had told his mother he would later that night, early in the morning.

Her last words to him was I love you and be careful. She began looking for him the next afternoon when she got home from work and continued to look for him for a week. Family saw in the paper where they had found an unidentified body of a man. And her heart was retching, thinking, could this possibly be Fred?

But in the article, they refer to the body as a man. So she allowed that to reassure her. And then on Monday at work, she's still looking for him, calling, constantly going and visiting where friends are. I even having some friends saying, well, I talked to him on the phone on this day.

And he said he was over at this person's house. And Pauline would go, and then no sign of him. And it was not too far from his home where he was found. They did come to her job.

And I asked where his dental records could be located and what he was wearing and then just left her.

VANESSA With no description whatsoever?

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

CAROLYN Well, no. No. But she knew then that this was her son. And it's just been a real roller coaster ever since then. The preliminary hearing was on Friday and--

VANESSA Was she aware that they had identified the body by then?

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

CAROLYN On Monday, they were pretty sure who they had.

WAGNER:

VANESSA But they didn't.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

CAROLYN But they didn't. But she didn't need. It's a mother's thing. FC was always good about staying in touch with his mother. She knew.

Deep in her heart, she knew then.

VANESSA And FC's mother, just for the listening audience, was very accepting of FC and FC's gender expression. She had absolutely no problems with it whatsoever, a very loving mother, in fact.

FOSTER:

CAROLYN Right. The term two-spirit was new to her. What she thought of her son was the Navajo term nádleehí, which is in English terms is one who can walk in both the world of a man and a woman. And her-- I need to clarify for your audience that the term Frederica was a nickname one of his friends had for him. It was not a term that FC actually used to describe himself.

And he used the male gender when describing himself, but remember, he was just 16 years old. And the beauty of it was that his mother was allowing him the space to explore all of who he was without any pressure or to go in any direction.

JIMMY CARPER: That is so rare.

CAROLYN Well, it is especially as if he was expressing himself. I went through-- my husband and I went through the same with our own son, had the same problems with the school. Our son would paint his nails, fix his hair, do some eyeliner, unusual things with eyeliner, wear a skirt. Now he's almost conservative look, and it's a little scary.

But at the time-- he's 20 now. But at the time, when our son was 15 and 16, it was the same thing at school. Just as what Vanessa was talking about with these shelters. It's incredible that we can't get over this narrow role we have for male and female, that we can't even-- everything has to be black or white. Everything has to be in this little neat box.

You have to fit. It's like trying to put the square peg in the round hole.

VANESSA Well, I've been listening for the last 10 minutes about him and he. Well, what are the pronoun that we've got?

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, that's true.

CAROLYN Blue and pink.

WAGNER:

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, exactly.

MAN 2: Yeah, that's true.

CAROLYN For babies, the last few years in my previous life-- I practice nursing for many years, and I now do young parenting class with some other nurses on parenting issues. And the topic I take on is gender, sexual orientation. And what I find interesting is when I speak about taking the medium stat of 10%, 1 out of 10-- the class is usually anywhere between 35 and 45 parents, and they bring their young children with them. They're 12 months or younger.

And I say 1 out of 10-- I say, well, four or five of the babies in here will grow up to be gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender. And what's interesting is the parents start looking at all the other babies.

JIMMY CARPER: [LAUGHS]

MAN 2: Not my child.

CAROLYN They don't look at the one they're holding.

WAGNER:

JIMMY CARPER: Not in my backyard. There you go.

CAROLYN Right. Yeah. But at least they're not gasping anymore.

WAGNER:

JIMMY CARPER: There we go.

CAROLYN And I remember when I had my children, the first thing I asked, is it a boy or a girl? I mean, we're all-- our son, well, he told us he was gay at the age of 13. It certainly embarked us on a totally new world of educating mom and dad.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, I'll bet.

CAROLYN And making us aware how heterosexual our world really is and gender--

WAGNER:

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, absolutely.

CAROLYN [INAUDIBLE]

WAGNER:

JIMMY CARPER: Absolutely with the gender because I was sitting here thinking as you were talking about what he was experimenting with as a teenager. And I'm thinking, OK. Other boys were running around the countryside, shooting up mailboxes. But that's OK. That's being a boy.

But if somebody wants to put on nail polish or maybe try on a skirt, then that's unacceptable.

CAROLYN Right. And they probably-- I don't know if y'all have seen photographs. The beauty of his mother-- was a very beautiful young man. Either he was going the path of identifying in a different gender than them with birth that was given to him by birth or whatever. But here he was going to be-- he was beautiful.

And his mother was adamant that this be the photograph-- this photograph was on his casket. I mean, because she firmly believes that this is why he was targeted to be killed.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes. And she's probably not too far off target.

CAROLYN No, I think she's right on target. And it's just a very sad state of affairs. It's just very-- and I have no-- our son became a target of a vicious assault at the age of 16 as well. And I am firm in all the hate crimes we work with now in young people that are being targeted in schools, whether it's just-- whether it's they're being perceived to be lesbian or gay or-- it doesn't tend to get into gender identity.

But the core of this is that they're not sticking to the gender role. That's what's the crux of it. It's--

JIMMY CARPER: They don't care whether you're gay or lesbian or bisexual or transgendered. You're different.

VANESSA Can you give us a little, I guess, detail on your involvement in PFLAG, which, of course, kind of came as a result of--

EDWARDS

JIMMY CARPER: Well, Yeah. Because I was going to ask-- I mean, she mentioned that she went through this with her son. And I'd like to know what she did. What did you do to stop it? Or were you able to stop it?

CAROLYN Well, we were not able to stop it. Not only were we not able to stop it toward our son, his friends became targets--

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, no.

CAROLYN --as school progressed on. Now he was adamant that he wasn't going to allow their ignorance and stupidity to run him off. But when they began to target his friends, that's when he could no longer take it. So he continued with school once he recovered from his injuries until--

JIMMY CARPER: What did they do to him?

CAROLYN It was during lunch, he had heard rumors of some death threats. He had even heard of one rumor of a kid that put a \$500 bounty on him. And the school here is on a corner campus of the university. This is not a big town and open campus. And they all lead in these little eateries around the high school and the college.

And they were walking to one. And there were a total of 17 kids walking along this stretch of about a block and a half of where you could have visual when a pickup pulled up and eight other young men jumped out. Five formed a circle around him and three just began to pummel him. And yelling the usual. And one was doing Bible quotes.

JIMMY CARPER: And it's always-- all of these people are such cowards. They can't even think of doing a one-on-one. They've got to do it in a crowd.

CAROLYN And they were all smaller. I found this interesting in the one that has currently charged with first-degree murder in the death of FC. It's a smaller statute. FC was 6 foot 1. My son at that time was 6 foot 1. And those involved in the assault on him were all in smaller stature.

MAN 2: Insecurity issues.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah. Yeah, you bet. That's exactly it.

VANESSA Well, it's kind of a tendency for folks who, I guess, feel themselves privately disenfranchised to find some way of enfranchising themselves by putting someone else down or targeting or victimizing someone else. And that's kind of pretty much a common thread with a lot of hate crimes, unfortunately. Getting back to the Martinez vigil, I wanted to touch back on the investigation itself and the way that it was handled.

Could you provide some of the details on that? I kind of found what I'd heard a little bit appalling.

CAROLYN Well, not to kick Arkansas, but I'm going to go ahead and do it since it's my home state.

WAGNER:

VANESSA Hey, that's OK. We kick Texas all the time.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

CAROLYN I felt like-- and I got married in Dallas, so I can do some of that.

WAGNER:

VANESSA Then you got Bush bashing.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

CAROLYN When I got out there and went to where Fred had been found, I was appalled at the scene. I felt like I was right back in Arkansas at a crime scene enough that I'm an expert on crime scene. I'm certainly getting there. But there was rubbish around. There was like old tires.

You could tell those tires had been there for months or years. I mean, stuff was growing. You know what I'm saying?

VANESSA Mm-hmm. And these items were anywhere from 2 to 8 feet from where Fred's body was found. They did not comb that crime scene. In fact, by the time they got to the site where his body was, it was getting dark. All they did was just put this type stuff up, go back home, and came back when it got light the next morning.

JIMMY CARPER: So whatever evidence was hanging around there could have probably been either moved--

CAROLYN Well, sure. And it was a week from the last time he was seen until his body was found.

WAGNER:

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, that was more than enough time for them to play with it.

CAROLYN Right. And it was-- and he was found-- he did have a backpack on. And he was found laying on his back with his hands across his abdomen, faceup. It is not an isolated spot. And down this road where they go to their-- they had this-- the city trucks all the time going down there. It's where their sewer treatment facility is.

VANESSA It's on the road to them.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

CAROLYN Right. And this is where kids play all the time. It's--

WAGNER:

VANESSA Obviously. [INAUDIBLE]

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

CAROLYN But it was very heartbreak when I got there to-- we had been communicating, myself and another mom. Had been communicating with Paula, doing support by phone until it became so apparent that this wasn't cutting it. One of us was going to have to get out there and be there in person. She had been trying to find the place where Fred had been found by a photograph in the newspaper and could not find the site.

VANESSA They never told her.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

CAROLYN Right. And I had found the site the day before. She asked me, and I told her yes. And so I took her to the site. And Paula-- I mean, that was-- she noticed that as well.

But then it was just-- that had to been one of the hardest things I've ever done. It just was so ugly.

VANESSA And it was merely a block from her home.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

CAROLYN Yeah. And all she could think about was if I-- and there was just like this rock ledge above where you could have clearly seen his body. And all she could think was if I had-- and she started screaming, if I'd just been standing there, I could have stopped this. I could have saved my baby. It was very hard.

But she certainly had a hard life, a single mom raising six boys. This was her youngest.

VANESSA Yeah. I mean, yeah.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

CAROLYN And she had worked as a housekeeper at one motel for many years because the school kept calling her at work to come take Fred home because he had nail polish on her. He curled his hair. He took a purse to school or-- and this wasn't every day, but it was whatever mood he was then. And he had his mother's support.

But the school just couldn't let it go.

VANESSA And see, that's something that I kind of find a little bit--

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

CAROLYN She lost her job.

WAGNER:

VANESSA She lost her job as a result of the--

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

CAROLYN Mm-hmm. Yeah, school kept calling. She'd only been on her new job three weeks when FC died.

WAGNER:

VANESSA I noticed from talking with Cathy Renna of GLAAD that the police didn't seem to be, I guess, very forthcoming with a lot of information to Paula after the murder and that she wasn't even aware of the arraignment apparently until after it had happened.

CAROLYN Right. She learned of the arraignment in the next day's newspaper. I went with her to the prosecutor's office.

WAGNER: Now this man is an older man. And he had the demeanor of talking down to her, something I noticed that seemed to be pretty-- it was not unusual.

There's a lot of Navajo Inuit in this area. The youth reservation is not that far. But he wears a gun on his belt.

VANESSA You're kidding.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

CAROLYN No, and that's the other thing that made me feel like I was back home. All of the things that made me feel at home there were not good things.

VANESSA

No.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

CAROLYN

And there were-- she was asking why about the arraignment. And he was not honest with her as we found out later. He said he didn't know. We found out later he did know. But it seems to be typical to treat the Native Americans with the assumption that it's just too much bother.

And they don't know what the rights are anyhow well. They are smart people, just as we are. And we were working very hard to ensure she did know what her rights were as the mother of the victim. And eventually, David Buckel, the Lambda Legal defense, is currently assisting her.

VANESSA

It's one of the things that I noticed when I was up there is that there-- and this was kind of odd. But to me-- but the natives up there are the target minority. And apparently, there is a lot of, I guess, kind of a silent but very noticeable division between the natives and the rest of the town's residents. And they just seem to treat them very, I guess, shabbily.

CAROLYN

Well, you know, the one thing-- and I had never actually spent a great deal of time in a community of that size that is so close to--

VANESSA

The reservation?

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

CAROLYN

--the reservation. But it took me back to Fort Smith, Arkansas in the '50s and '60s when I was growing up. And you had the signs white only or colored only. Well, there's no signs. But they don't need the signs.

It's like the natives know where they can go eat and where they can't.

VANESSA

Right.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

CAROLYN

And there are no Navajo or Ute or any other Native Americans. You go into that courthouse and it's like walking into a loaf of white sandwich bread. There are no Native Americans on the police force, the Sheriff's Department, the prosecutor's office, the courthouse. You know what? Again, I just felt like I was going back in time.

VANESSA

That's atrocious.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

CAROLYN

And it is, and it became very apparent. And not only did she read about the arraignment, I was with her when she asked the prosecutor to be informed when the autopsy, the forensic autopsy, came in. And she told him why. She didn't say she wanted to read the autopsy. She just wants-- she needed to know as a mother did her son die right away.

She couldn't hardly bear the thought of knowing that that baby lay there helpless and alive for any length of time. And he promised her that. And guess what?

VANESSA He didn't come through.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

CAROLYN She read that in the paper. She read it in the paper. And then not only that. When she became very-- he made the comment. He talked to her about why I was talking about me with-- to Paula without talking to him, asking me why I was there.

And he said, you have these fine women, pointed to two women sitting over to the side that are with the victim's advocate at work in his office. And he said they will be helping you through this process. But she has the right to choose. And she had already made the decision. She wanted other moms to be with her.

VANESSA And he's steering her towards people that basically have--

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

CAROLYN Worked for the prosecutor.

WAGNER:

VANESSA And haven't even helped at all.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

CAROLYN And had not a clue what it's like to have a child that is two-spirit or transgendered or transgendered and gay or-- totally. And then to be assaulted like that and be left like they're to be treated like that through school. And she said that this was her right and this was her choice, and that's how it was going to be. And she reminds me of some of these photographs you see of these Native American women with a strong jaw and the closed lips and their arms folded. That's how she was.

VANESSA Very much so.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

CAROLYN That's how she looked during that--

WAGNER: