

CAROLINE WAGNER: [INAUDIBLE] some of these photographs you see of these Native American women with a strong jaw, the closed lips and their arms folded-- that's how she looks.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: Very much so.

CAROLINE WAGNER: That's how she looked during that visit, but he then went on to talk about he wasn't going to have another circus in his courtroom because there was a woman that was a victim of a rape, and she came to the trial with 30 bozos from the crisis center, rape crisis.

And I said to him-- I said, 30! Now, my, aren't we thinking in small numbers?

JIMMY CARPER: Hey, as a quick question, I just thought of something. Ben Nighthorse Campbell, who is the Senator for Colorado, he's the only Native American in Congress. Has anyone gotten his opinion?

CAROLINE WAGNER: Well, he-- we have tried to make contact with his office. Now, what I did learn was that he is not Native American.

JIMMY CARPER: OK. That's interesting.

CAROLINE WAGNER: That he acquired this name after he moved next to the reservation.

JIMMY CARPER: Interesting.

CAROLINE WAGNER: And now, this is what I was told by the folks there that live in his district, and it was actually some Ute women.

JIMMY CARPER: That's interesting because he's been-- he's actually been sitting up there playing up the fact that he is the only Native American in Congress.

CAROLINE WAGNER: Well, now, I'm one quarter Cherokee, and it may be that that's-- I don't know. I don't think of myself-- I think of myself as a calico person. I've probably got everything in the kitchen sink.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: I didn't realize you were Cherokee also.

CAROLINE WAGNER: Well, it's a joke around-- you know, like your card-carrying ACLU member around here we're card-carrying green-eyed blue-eyed card-carrying Cherokee.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: Well, I'm half, so yeah.

CAROLINE WAGNER: Well, we're just real blended up here around Oklahoma and Arkansas.

**VANESSA
EDWARDS
FOSTER:**

Yeah, well that's where my dad's people are from as well. A little bit further south-- Fort Smith and Mena but same area.

**CAROLINE
WAGNER:**

Oh, yeah. Fort Smith, where I was born and raised.

**VANESSA
EDWARDS
FOSTER:**

Oh, really?

**CAROLINE
WAGNER:**

Mh-mh. But it's very different. I had never spent that much time, and it's really gotten-- and I had to do a lot of education on the two spirit. I did know that the Cherokee had a similar tradition, and every tribe has a different name. And two spirit was a term developed many years ago by first some men who were gay that were from different tribes around the New Mexico, Arizona area and up into the Dakotas so as to identify each other across tribal lines. And that's where the term came about.

Two spirit in Navajo actually means someone who can walk in both the world of the living and the dead. Two spirit has a different meaning in each--

[LAUGHTER]

It explained why Paula looked at me the first time I brought that term up. I wanted to share something with y'all real quick. It's very touching. I was sitting with Paula in her living room, and she had written her statement out. And she's doing an incredible-- she's on an incredible fast track of educating herself on terms that are English. Navajo is her first language.

She was-- she had been working with me to pronounce the word "nakhleh" correctly because it's not pronounced as it's spelled. And the word that she was very committed to pronouncing right was "PFLAG" and "transgender." Those were the two she had problems with. And it was very-- her daughter-in-law was sitting there and was just cracking up over the way she and I were coming up with these terms.

And Vanessa, you were there. And I want you to know that touched the hearts of Judy Shepard and Gabby Clayton and myself to know that you drove all the way from Houston to be there. That meant a great deal to all of us. But Paula did do a good job at the vigil with those terms. But what she was saying at her house when we were practicing was "PFLAG" and "transhender," "transhender."

She did a beautiful job, and she did a welcome and spoke some first in Navajo. And for us in PFLAG, it was our first Native American ceremony. And we're all learning a great deal. I'm learning much from Paula. She doesn't always open her mouth right away. When she's asked the question, she gives thought before she engages her mouth.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: That's very common. I guess, a lot of natives tend to be a little more, I guess, reticent, I guess, in nature. They don't necessarily speak a lot. They don't show their feelings very openly a lot, and Paula was very typical to that. I was actually surprised that she held her feelings as well as she did.

CAROLINE WAGNER: Right, she began to-- she began to lose it there toward the end of--

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: Well, at the end. But well, I was losing it there at the end. It was just-- if I can, can I get Paula's-- how she was after the vigil. What-- I guess, I don't know exactly what her feelings were afterwards, how drained this, I guess, made her afterwards.

CAROLINE WAGNER: She had a hard time sleeping that night, but she didn't want to miss the first light. The reason was that Essy loved roses and eagles. And ever since she could remember him from speaking, it was roses and eagles. And he was all the time-- his room was just full of-- and they wanted to take all the roses and at first light, but those were to try and take away some of the ugliness of where Fred--

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: The vigil sign.

CAROLINE WAGNER: --was found. And so they took the roses, and then she slept really good-- she said that morning-- and then came out to China and Alan's house that afternoon and spent the rest of the afternoon or spent a lot of time with her children and her grandchildren. But she-- I will say that it had been a long time since I had seen an eagle. And when she-- in the-- she's very active with the Native American church, which is a blending of traditional and Christian.

They had a meeting in order-- they had a blessing ceremony. And when she came out of that, they had-- they put-- they erect this tepee, and it's an all-night ceremony. And when she was coming out of the tepee that morning-- this was a few weeks before the vigil-- there was this large eagle sitting on a post there looking right at her. And then the eagle took off and just continued to soar above her.

And that same day was when I got back to Cortez, and John and Alan had not seen an eagle around their place in a very long time. And then this eagle-- Vanessa, you know that one side off of their dining room. That was where I would go outside. That was where we were relaxing. I could be out there and work, and this eagle would sit on this mushroom shaped rock over there and then take off and soar just above the deck and then come back and just land there.

And I have seen an eagle twice now since I've been back home, and it's just very-- it just gives me-- it's a good feeling, but--

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: Gives you the chills.

CAROLINE WAGNER: Yeah, just gives me pause to-- because I'm not usually-- I don't usually give in to--

**VANESSA
EDWARDS
FOSTER:**

To the emotions?

[LAUGHTER]

But she firmly believes that FC spirit is staying with her until she can seek justice. And then she's been hitting the streets of Cortez. Hunting for children, like FC, that she knows have been targeted. And she's already found a couple of them. One she gave one of FC's old bicycles too because he walks to and from a restaurant there every day and gets harassed by some goobers. And she gave him one of FC's bikes just so he'd have to stand a better chance of getting away from them.

**VANESSA
EDWARDS
FOSTER:**

Just a little description of Cortez itself-- it's almost-- it's a very clean-- a neat little town when you drive in. It's almost deceptive, in a way. It just seems so almost Rock Orwellian.

[LAUGHTER]

It just seems like the all-American town. It's got a beautiful little main street, but I guess one of the things that you don't really notice at first glance is the goobers, as you said. There is that element there, and they're definitely all around the town, and it's just-- it's sad to see the way that they treat the people there.

[INTERPOSING VOICES] --in the forum.

**VANESSA
EDWARDS
FOSTER:**

Yes, I did. I was at--

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

**CAROLINE
WAGNER:**

--that pickup trucks.

**VANESSA
EDWARDS
FOSTER:**

Yes, exactly. What the-- what was God hates fags or--

**CAROLINE
WAGNER:**

Or gays. Well, Cathy Renna was like-- she came in, and she ask me, have you seen the sign in the back of that pickup truck? And I thought, no.

**VANESSA
EDWARDS
FOSTER:**

I saw when they drove up.

**CAROLINE
WAGNER:**

And so I went out there. She said, well, I want you to know that I'm appalled that the term lesbians is a fourth of the size of the term--

[LAUGHTER]

--gay. And I go, oh, Cathy. She goes, no, I'm serious. Look, if we're going to be bigots, let's be fair about it.

[LAUGHTER]

Went out there. Sure enough, huge words. No gays or--

**VANESSA
EDWARDS
FOSTER:**

Oh, that's it.

**CAROLINE
WAGNER:**

--lesbians wanted here.

**VANESSA
EDWARDS
FOSTER:**

OK, I guess, the transgendered are friendly though.

**CAROLINE
WAGNER:**

You know they don't get--

**VANESSA
EDWARDS
FOSTER:**

They don't even know what that is.

**CAROLINE
WAGNER:**

No, they don't get. That was my frustration with our Hate Crime Bill here. We had a few the last minute-- take gender identity out.

**VANESSA
EDWARDS
FOSTER:**

It's that way everywhere.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, everywhere.

**CAROLINE
WAGNER:**

It wasn't even on the radar screen.

**VANESSA
EDWARDS
FOSTER:**

Yeah. That's actually what we found here-- also with the polling here in Houston for the referendum and also for the ordinance. One of the things that they did was to poll the people out there to see exactly in that to gauge their support for non-discrimination based on gay, lesbian, and gender identity.

And they found that there was 59% when they didn't actually define it and tell them specifically what it was. And even though that was a 59% support, it was-- part of that was a little bit deceptive because people didn't really realize what gender identity meant. And when they actually spelled it out for people, they found out that there was a little distinction. It dropped about six percentage points, but it was still about 52% approval rating.

BETH:

Yeah, and what if you mixed the waters even further with the [NON-ENGLISH], two spirit there? Well, this is true.

CAROLINE WAGNER: And that's-- I want to be sure your listeners know that PFLAG, we had to stop because our name was getting real long, but it does include bisexual and transgender officially, and now, we're going to look at the official inclusion of the term "two spirit," and we're also exploring "intersex" as well.

JIMMY CARPER: All right.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: One of the things you might want to look into is there's a book by a guy named Walter Carlos Williams, and I'm really blanking on the title of it right now. But it was about almost 20 years ago he wrote it, and he went by basically this anthropological study across all the different Native American tribes and correlated all the different "two" spirit or [NON-ENGLISH] or [NON-ENGLISH] or whatever their different tribal version of that is and cataloged them all.

CAROLINE WAGNER: Oh, yeah. Can you send that to me by email, Vanessa?

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: Oh, I'd love to. Actually, I need to get that from you, Beth.

BETH: Oh, I can remember it. The author's name is Walter Carlos Williams, and the word "spirit" was in the title.

CAROLINE WAGNER: Oh that's wonderful. Oh, I--

JIMMY CARPER: I need to jump in here and remind folks that they're listening to *After Hours*-- Queer Radio with attitude on KPFT Houston and KEOS College Station. I'm Jimmy Carper.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: I'm Vanessa Edwards Foster.

JIMMY CARPER: That's right. Let's--

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: The attitudinally challenged queer.

[LAUGHTER]

Being politically correct.

JIMMY CARPER: Let's reintroduce everyone here for our car radio listeners who may have just tuned in.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: Yes. Oh, do I need to introduce myself one more time? Vanessa Edwards Foster-- co-hostess of queer radio with attitude. I guess, let me just bring you up to speed--

JIMMY CARPER: And?

**VANESSA
EDWARDS
FOSTER:**

--with what we were talking about. We've got Caroline Wagner-- the vice president of PFLAG National, and we're discussing the FC Martinez murder and also the subsequent vigil that was held in August up in Cortez Colorado as well as a town Hall open forum with the city populace as well as a number of the leaders of the gay and lesbian community locally and nationally there. In fact, touching on that, Caroline, could you give me a little bit of an impression as to how difficult it was coordinating a vigil there in Cortez Colorado?

**CAROLINE
WAGNER:**

Wow, well, I have--

**VANESSA
EDWARDS
FOSTER:**

I don't know what the people were like or how cooperative they were--

**CAROLINE
WAGNER:**

I have to tell you I found incredibly nice, cordial, helpful folks there, and I also encountered what I encountered here as well. But because I didn't know people there, that's why I was so grateful for those that-- I would get one lead about who may have a failed system. And that person didn't, but they would know someone else.

And the second time I went out there, I took my car. I drove. And I knew this was going to happen. But it just came together beautifully, but it was complicated. I have put together vigils here in Arkansas, but I think the complication was who to know to get what you need.

I was panicking about chairs. It looked like we weren't going to have any chairs, but that even came together there the last minute. The librarian was a wonderful, wonderful woman. It was complicated. The forum was-- and I want to be sure folks know that with MP5, we have formed a group called Families United Against Hate, which is parents, families, and survivors of bias-motivated violence.

And what we do, we act like a rapid response team because we all went through this alone, and we had to navigate the justice system, media, the hate mongers. And hearing of organizations we've never heard of in terms that was not-- we were not accustomed to. And so that's what we do. And we were there at Paula's request to help her. And the vigil was her wish, and I want to be sure folks know that she was actually going against Navajo tradition by continuing to talk about her son having the virtual participating in the town Hall meeting.

**VANESSA
EDWARDS
FOSTER:**

How so?

**CAROLINE
WAGNER:**

In Navajo tradition, it is customary to not speak of the dead or look upon their belongings or image for days after they've been returned to mother Earth, but she believes there are extenuating circumstances. And when when this-- and this is one of those circumstances. And she is supported by many, and she's also criticized by many in the Navajo Nation for the actions she's now taking.

So she hasn't-- she's still struggling. She's actually been ostracized by some of her own family as we all have as parents, when you become very vocal and supportive for your children. She's encountered that from siblings and a parent. So she's-- she's having a hard time of it, but she's a very strong woman.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: And yet if she can continue and to actually create some environment for change there, it's very, very badly needed in Cortez. And not only what their treatment among gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgenders, but also for the treatment of the Native Americans-- a little bit of sensitivity to their culture.

I've found a lot of insensitivity, I mean, just blatant right there on Main Street. One of their, I guess, hot spots there in town-- a little brewpub. Cathy Renna was pointing it out, and they said, oh, yeah. This is the in place in Cortez now. And I looked up there, and they had a Kokopelli, which-- I don't know if y'all are familiar with it. This is one of the-- it's an image that's used quite frequently up there on those little hanging signs that they had off of the light poles. It's basically an image of an Indian with a headdress-- an Indian Piper. And he's got the pipe that he's playing, and he's dancing. And this is a minor God within the Navajo culture.

CAROLINE WAGNER: What's Aztec? Pueblo Indian.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: The Kokopelli?

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: Kokopelli is? I had heard that it was Navajo.

BETH: It's found on a Pueblo wall as a painting.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: OK. Well, actually, the Navajo do use it as well.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

CAROLINE WAGNER: Oh, yeah.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

BETH: Oh, these days? Everybody uses.

CAROLINE WAGNER: Yeah. And there are some-- there are some-- they're not really-- my understanding because I went to the Anasazi Heritage Center there and learned that there are some real blending of the Pueblo culture with the Navajo, the Ute. So you're right. You're right.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: Well, but one of the things that I guess shocked me is their usage of that image on the Main Street brewery, where instead of the traditional Indian playing the pipes, they've got basically the Piper with his pipe down to his side chugging a beer. And I just-- I saw that, and it made me sick.

CAROLINE And you go in there, and you don't see any Native American.

WAGNER:

VANESSA Of course, none. I mean, they're walking by the front, and it's almost as if they're, I guess, intentionally ignoring
EDWARDS it. But the fact is I'm sure they know about it, and I'm sure it's something that bothers them. But yet people just
FOSTER: don't even think about it.

JIMMY CARPER: I got a sense of how much you can bother them. Because it was like a couple of years ago when they were picketing a Japanese company for having the "old, say, negative images of the dark-skinned, grinning, happy Negroes," quote, unquote, for a toothpaste in Japan. And Jessie Jackson actually got on them about that. So I can understand the frustration they're going through-- say, the Native Americans are going through up there in terms of that.

VANESSA Anyway, there's a lot of progress that needs to be made there in Cortez and also a lot of progress in Colorado as
EDWARDS well, especially regarding the upcoming hate crimes legislation. Hopefully, they will get that passed through in
FOSTER: this upcoming session. The Senator from the Cortez area, Mark Larson, who was at the town Hall open forum spoke very passionately in favor of it. In fact, I believe he's the author of this.

CAROLINE Yes, he is. He introduced the bill, and he's a Republican.

WAGNER:

VANESSA Yes, exactly.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: Interesting.

VANESSA And PFLAG is working very feverishly with the Colorado groups to try and get this passed through. Can you give
EDWARDS me a little bit of an idea as to what PFLAG's involvement is going to be in Colorado in the next year or two?

FOSTER:

CAROLINE Well, Colorado is one of the states that actually has a PFLAG state coalition, and they have an office and a staff
WAGNER: person, who helps them a great deal in coordinating the lobbying. They're also working with the Colorado anti-violence project. They're very well organized and have their ducks in a row.

Of course, a lot just depends on how many are willing to vote, how many legislators are willing to do the right thing versus the popular thing. Colorado is a large state, and it's very divided politically. So I don't-- I still think they have to swim-- have an uphill battle.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, because that's focus on family.

CAROLINE I have worked so hard here in Arkansas and with folks in Oklahoma, Louisiana, and Texas, and I firmly believe
WAGNER: that Arkansas has no Hate Crime law. We didn't even have our own state civil rights law until 1992.

[LAUGHTER]

And that wasn't going to look good when you were running for president and you were coming from the last state that didn't have a civil right. But we still have a same sex sodomy law as some other states.

JIMMY CARPER: We do too. We do too.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: --our boy for president.

CAROLINE WAGNER: And I believe that until true equality can come to folks in the most remote areas-- and Cortez is pretty remote. We're going to-- we need federal legislation.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: We really do.

CAROLINE WAGNER: And especially because we have places where you can't even-- and I Rifle, Colorado is another place, where a 16-year-old child was found by the side of the highway beaten to a pulp and unconscious. And he has identified four attackers, and the police won't even arrest or do a full investigation on it, so we're getting involved in that case.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: This is just recent?

CAROLINE WAGNER: Yes. So here we have-- and interesting enough, the mother because she became very vocal, had to leave her job as a waitress because of all the snickers and snide remarks. So here, in small town Americana, we are going to have to have some kind of federal law that if the local law will not do their job, there is an option for justice out there.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: We're definitely going to have to go to battle.

CAROLINE WAGNER: And one thing that is available that does not seem to be utilized very well is Title IX. Title IX is well known to have made the sports programs and Athletic scholarships on equal level playing field for females, but Title IX-- the beauty of Title IX is that it does not say this is for heterosexual students only. It does not get into the business of defining gender identity or sexual orientation. It's about the treatment of students from kindergarten all the way up through colleges and universities-- any educational facility taking federal money has to abide by Title IX.

And Title IX is about not treating students differently based on gender. So sending FC home because you took a purse or he had on a bra or makeup or had his hair curled was in violation of his Title IX rights.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: Absolutely.

JIMMY CARPER: Absolutely.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: So one thing that just really amazes me-- that a lot of our educators refuse to educate themselves on the issues--

CAROLINE WAGNER: Right. In the Office for Civil Rights in March of 1997, actually, sent a memo to all school districts, colleges, and universities that take federal money informing them, putting them on notice that Title IX does address sexual harassment and discrimination regardless of the gender, identity, or sexual orientation of the student, and Supreme Court upheld that.

JIMMY CARPER: That's interesting considering the slant on this Supreme Court. Well, sometimes they don't realize what they got in front of them, thank heavens, until they make the right decision.

[LAUGHTER]

JIMMY CARPER: Too bad they didn't--

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: But it's true.

CAROLINE WAGNER: Well, see, and that's where-- these are the times that teach me when to keep my mouth shut, until after the fact.

[LAUGHTER]

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: Sometimes there's-- they say sometimes there is a time when you need to be stealthy about some things.

CAROLINE WAGNER: Yes, sneaky, very sneaky.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: Well, this is actually a very good segue into, I guess, my next question, which is PFLAG's National strategy. We do have a hate crimes bill pending in Congress right now. What is PFLAG National strategy as far as advocacy in Washington DC?

CAROLINE WAGNER: Well, first of all, you all need to know that for the first time ever we have a Hate Crime Bill that's going to be a standalone bill. This bill is not going to be attached to anything else.

JIMMY CARPER: Hallelujah.

CAROLINE WAGNER: And so it's going to make it much more difficult for the slick Nillies to use another portion of a bill as an excuse for why they voted the way they did. Of course, PFLAG is the largest grassroots organization within the LGBT movement. We will be-- we're in every state and every district now. That covers the House of Representatives and of course, the Senate.

And we will-- we're very organized, and we are going to be sending talking points and informing all our chapters and affiliates regarding who their representatives are, how to contact them. And then Families United Against Hate, which is a project funded by PFLAG, we will be taking our army of mothers, fathers, survivors, grandparents with graphic photographs and police affidavits and all the things to prove this issue that guess what? Light bulb turn on-- hate crimes do exist.

And we will be storming the halls of Congress.

**VANESSA
EDWARDS
FOSTER:**

In the battle.

**CAROLINE
WAGNER:**

And we've not done that before. In the past when this has come up, there have been families there, but they have been typically families more high profile crimes, where justice did come. This time, it's going to be those families, but it's also going to be families and survivors where justice did not come. There was two identified out of the eight that assaulted my son. There were trials, and the judge because he in his mind-- who he has now retired-- justified the actions of the perpetrators because of my son not following the rules of gender, gave them no time, even though they were found guilty. And my son had no recourse for justice.

**VANESSA
EDWARDS
FOSTER:**

Well, yeah. Guilty of what? Beating up a queer? Ain't that just what that judge wanted everybody to go out and do?

**CAROLINE
WAGNER:**

Right, and then it went on with statements about, well, homosexuals-- this becomes a life lesson on what homosexuals should expect. So these are things we're now going to be taken into Congress.

JIMMY CARPER: And right then and there is-- when people say, why do we need a Hate Crime Bill? We've got laws to protect people, and of course, we do. However--

**VANESSA
EDWARDS
FOSTER:**

They don't--

JIMMY CARPER: They give the judges that don't use the laws equally or--

**CAROLINE
WAGNER:**

Or the police.

JIMMY CARPER: Or the police.

**VANESSA
EDWARDS
FOSTER:**

Or the juries that say, oh, not guilty.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: In spite of overwhelming evidence. Exactly.

JIMMY CARPER: Because yeah, you can-- just say you can have all the laws on the books, but if you've got people that are disinclined to enforce them, that is the problem.

CAROLINE WAGNER: I mean, we went through the latter half of the '50s and the '60s with clear murders, lots and lots of evidence in the South, and the jury was not guilty or a hung jury over and over and over again.

JIMMY CARPER: Not guilty in a lot of ways.

CAROLINE WAGNER: If you can even get charges filed.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, that's right. Yeah. That's right.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: That's exactly true.

CAROLINE WAGNER: And we know that until there was federal legislation, the--

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: There was no incentive.

CAROLINE WAGNER: The powers that be continued business as usual.

JIMMY CARPER: That's right. You have to shine the bright spotlight on it.

CAROLINE WAGNER: Right. And the tide is really changing. We are-- and I love the title of your program "with an attitude" because that's exactly what we are now. We're a bunch of parents,

JIMMY CARPER: With attitude.

CAROLINE WAGNER: --family. We've got-- listen, we are so overloaded with attitudes.

[LAUGHTER]

JIMMY CARPER: Good.

CAROLINE WAGNER: Our homes glow at night. That's a big A all over it.

JIMMY CARPER: We need it.

CAROLINE Nobody messes with our children, sugar.

WAGNER:

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: And that's exactly what NTAC was wanting to push this year for our parents to get involved-- or spouses, or loved ones, or kids. To basically bring the families up there to show these people that it's not just the individuals that are the targets that are affected by this. That's one of the things everyone seems to neglect to understand. Is this affects a lot more than just the individual who's the target of the discrimination. It affects their direct family. It affects their friends. It affects everyone who knows them. It takes a little of their sense of security, a little piece of their humanity away from them.

CAROLINE WAGNER: Well, how dare them take away from our families the very definition of family? FC would love to go, and when he would acquire some money, he would either go down to the Ute casino or the grocery store, where they had these two, had these big machines full of stuffed animals. That child would spend all of his money, and he would wipe that thing out of stuffed animals. He would take the big black empty trash bags with him stuck in his pocket, and he would return home with those filled with these stuffed animals to give to his little nieces and nephew.

And those little nieces-- both of them are two years old-- and his six-year-old nephew, they're going to be in Congress with grandma. My four-year-old and my two-year-old granddaughters are going. And they talk-- they still don't understand where's FC. And they'll let Ben--

MONICA: Nighthorse Campbell.

CAROLINE WAGNER: Say to where FC is now. These are things-- and Paula is very vocal about the possibility of FC being transgender, and she says the word now very well. And you know she's very-- and we are all on the-- I'm sorry. We are all on the same page That whether our children identify-- and my son by the way uses the term 98% gay because he doesn't want to close any doors, and I love that about it.

But we are all on the same page whether our children identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender-- "two spirit" at the core of why our children are being targeted and discriminated against is gender. It has to do with the gender rules.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: Absolutely.

MONICA: Because they make no distinction when they-- say when it's time. When they want to beat us all up, they make no distinction on that.

JIMMY CARPER: No. No.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: When the time comes, we would love to partner with you when you do--

CAROLINE WAGNER: Oh, absolutely.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: We've been doing this for years, so if you want any help on how to get up there and what to say to them and basically some of the little tricks on how to actually get some of these appointments with some of the people--

CAROLINE WAGNER: Oh, no, we're good at that.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: Oh, good.

JIMMY CARPER: Good.

CAROLINE WAGNER: Not only do we hit them in DC, we hit them when they're at home.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

CAROLINE WAGNER: Right now, I want you all to know they've been in recess, and they've been hitting all the county fairs, and PFLAG's been at all of them.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: All right, mom.

BETH: That's all right. That's all right.

JIMMY CARPER: You got to do it.

CAROLINE WAGNER: You're going to face us wherever. You're going to face us in your pews. You're going to face us on Main Street. You're going to face us at the county fair. You're going to face us in your state offices, and you're going to face us in your congressional offices. You can get away from us no more.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: But that's where the people are. They're everywhere. And so you can't just say, we're only going to see you in your office at Congress because they're everywhere.

CAROLINE WAGNER: Y'all work with TNET?

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: Yes, we do actually.

CAROLINE WAGNER: OK. All right.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: And we are basically connected with the both Courtney and Mary Banky. We haven't really, I guess, kept constant contact, but yes I do keep contact with the both of them and so--

CAROLINE WAGNER: Something new that's coming into PFLAG is actually parents of children who may or may not be GLBT but are being mistreated for the perception. There's the parents that have now worked with PFLAG. They're in Alabama. Their eight-year-old son has been banned from school because he's wearing ear rings.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: No that doesn't make any sense.

CAROLINE WAGNER: Well, no. And that's-- and they're revoking Title IX, and of course, that's a clear violation of Title IX.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: Exactly.

CAROLINE WAGNER: But daddy wears earrings.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: Well, and earrings these days, especially, is nothing. I mean, this is--

CAROLINE WAGNER: It was nothing.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: That's even beyond the gender presentation as it stands. We do have to wrap things up a little bit. I'd love to, I guess, get into the details of this, but we're running short on time. Anyway, I do want to thank Caroline Wagner for coming on the air with us, especially considering the time, and we do want to keep in touch with you and perhaps have you back on the show again perhaps someday in the future.

CAROLINE WAGNER: Oh, you bet you. I'd love to.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: Excellent.

JIMMY CARPER: This was good. This was a good show.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: And do keep in touch with us. We do want to go up to Washington at about the same time or coordinate with you.

CAROLINE Oh, absolutely.

WAGNER:

VANESSA We'd love to have an immense army marching on Washington DC.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

CAROLINE Yeah, I'd love to see all these tents out on the mall.

WAGNER:

VANESSA Oh, yes, absolutely.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

CAROLINE Intact, PFLAG. You name it.

WAGNER:

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

VANESSA Yes. We will have us all out there.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

BETH: And I'll give that book title over to you via Vanessa.

VANESSA Yes.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

CAROLINE Oh, please do. I'm very eager to learn as much as I can.

WAGNER:

BETH: Yeah, I'll get that too.

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

VANESSA Jimmy?

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: Thank you for being with us and--

VANESSA Any last thoughts, I guess? We were talking about having a Nissan and talk a little bit about the ordinance that
EDWARDS passed just recently. Well, actually, a little over a month ago but--

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: Yes. Caroline's still here. Oh, Carolyn? No, no, no, no, no. I mean, Caroline's still here. Her Annise. I was wanting to get council member Annise Parker on to talk about ordinance that just recently passed, but in fact, actually, that's the first legislation in the state of Texas that identifies gender identity. And we did it here first in Houston thanks to Annise Parker and Mayerle Brown.

[APPLAUSE]

And they're both under attack.

**VANESSA
EDWARDS
FOSTER:** And also a big-- well.

BETH: True.

**VANESSA
EDWARDS
FOSTER:** Well, actually, so far Annise is running unopposed, at least, until September 15. I guess it's the filing date, but anyway just wrapping it up. I do want to thank everyone for coming in tonight. Monica, Beth Richard-- is Melanie still there?

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

BETH: Hanging around.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

**VANESSA
EDWARDS
FOSTER:** And most especially Caroline Wagner, thank you.

JIMMY CARPER: Thank you so much.

BETH: Thank you, Caroline.

JIMMY CARPER: Thank you, Caroline.

**CAROLINE
WAGNER:** And I want anybody feeling threatened or if you're young and you're scared, listen, you look up PFLAG. You call, and anybody wants to communicate with me, you can get my email address off the National website.

JIMMY CARPER: OK, excellent. Thanks. Thanks for being with us on *After Hours*.

**VANESSA
EDWARDS
FOSTER:** Thank you, Caroline.

**CAROLINE
WAGNER:** You bet.

JIMMY CARPER: Good night.

CAROLINE Good night.

WAGNER:

JIMMY CARPER: So I want a couple of-- we're not over yet.

VANESSA Sorry.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: No because Monica's here, and I wanted to talk a little bit about Monica's future and what's going to happen there. Is that up in the air yet? Do you know what's going to happen?

MONICA: Right now, listen, I'm going to be shoving off to Louisville, Kentucky for a couple of days to take a look at some job offers that I've been given up there. So if it pans out, folks, I may not be here too much longer to raise hell with the rest of the--

BETH: Well, you're still going to be in the United States, so bring it on--

[LAUGHTER]

VANESSA And you're always welcome back in Houston. We do have that ordinance, remember?

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

MONICA: Yeah because right now, when the folks at Kentucky Fairness heard I might be moving into the area, they've been jumping for joy at this point so--

JIMMY CARPER: See? See?

BETH: You're there shining up your brass knuckles right now.

[LAUGHTER]

MONICA: Especially Dawn Wilson.

VANESSA They're getting a good activist.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

MONICA: Yeah, so yeah, as much as it's-- it's been funny the last month. It's ironic that we finally get an ordinance passed that protects transgenders, and I may be forced to leave town because of Employment situation.

JIMMY CARPER: Are these job offers in the same field?

MONICA: No, they're not in the same field right now because the economy is going down. I can say because of the economy. Oh, OK. It's not a lot of stuff happening nationally.

VANESSA I wonder why. Houston's got such a vibrant, especially, an activist-oriented community here, one of the most active in the nation. And yet, we're constantly losing people. Everyone keeps moving-- Katrina-- Daniel.

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: And now Katrina's not even writing-- not writing her column.

VANESSA She's not?
EDWARDS
FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: No.

MONICA: Her last column was last week. So--

VANESSA Yeah, I was about to read that when I got home tonight.
EDWARDS
FOSTER:

MONICA: I considered talking to Nancy and picking that up. But like I said, until I can sort out my employment situation, that's up in the air. I've had-- because I decided not to run for my [? TATS ?] board position. So I've kind of disengaged from a lot of the local stuff here. And really, it's tearing me up right now. Because I know we've got a tough battle coming up.

VANESSA Yeah, we're going to miss you if you do go.
EDWARDS
FOSTER:

MONICA: And say-- and especially in terms of this battle, I felt like my presence was going to be critical. Because it is going to come down folks to the African-American vote on this one.

JIMMY CARPER: I think so.

MONICA: They're going to target that. They're going to-- I say, I can tell you what Dave Wilson's strategy is going to be right now. He's going to try to do what they did and that night in that 85 referendum he's going to try to get the African-American vote on their side. And the only way they're going to be able to do that is lie about it

JIMMY CARPER: Of course! You're going to get-- the tracks sent you in the mail about all the gays, who were going to be pulling your children off the playground and molesting them. And it just drives me crazy when I hear something like that.

MONICA: Yeah, oh, I was reading an article and very interesting article along those lines when they had a referendum in Royal Oak, Michigan. Royal Oak is probably most GLBT-friendly town. And it's a suburb of--

VANESSA Detroit.
EDWARDS
FOSTER:

MONICA: Detroit.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh.

VANESSA That's where my dad was born.
EDWARDS
FOSTER:

MONICA: And they had a referendum up there recently. And they pulled that tactic in order to defeat a gay-friendly referendum. They sent a circular around the opponents with a Black and a white gay men, holding to-- said, do you want Royal Oak to become like this?

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, you're get what's going to-- you can guarantee that's going to be here.

VANESSA Oh, yeah.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

MONICA: Oh, yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: I can guarantee it.

MONICA: I'll say I can guarantee it's going to happen if they were, I say, despicable enough to run around and, say, as gay nightclubs here and gather signatures under false pretenses.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

MONICA: Yeah, you can't put anything past, I said, these boys and girls.

JIMMY CARPER: You bet. We got a fight on your hands, folks.

MONICA: Yeah, a serious fight on your hands.

VANESSA And when you've got the guys in Colorado, who are claiming that Houston is the next battleground and
EDWARDS broadcasting this nationwide--

FOSTER:

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

Focus on the family-- that's where-- I had it a minute ago and it left my head that Dobson guy was to Yeah well we're going to get this we're going to get this from a lot of different fronts I mean it's not just going to be one guy over there and Katy. It's going to be--

MONICA: National.

VANESSA It's going to be national, putting focus on this.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

MONICA: Their fundraising right now

JIMMY CARPER: And Big Roy will be talking more about that news and views that are coming up right after this segment. And actually, this segment is pretty much over.

[LAUGHTER]

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: Funny thing about how time flies.

JIMMY CARPER: I know it. I know it. We never have enough time even though we have some of the longest and most detailed given interviews, probably, in the media.

MONICA: Because we can. We can.

JIMMY CARPER: So thanks for being here. And we'll see you all sometime in the future.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: Yeah, I guess I'll be here-- what-- three months? Beth, do you want to take over Monica's side?

JIMMY CARPER: Maybe--

MONICA: Mine was scheduled for November. So it depends.

BETH: That's something the producer is going to have to make an invite to.

[LAUGHTER]

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: Well, producer, producer.

JIMMY CARPER: Thank you for reminding her of that.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: Yeah. OK.

JIMMY CARPER: This is radio. This is not a democracy.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: That's right.

[LAUGHTER]

BETH: OK. I'll have to--

JIMMY CARPER: It's a question.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: Then I'm a lobbyist, and I know how to apply the--

JIMMY CARPER: It's my ass that gets called into the carpet.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

BETH: This sounds like the voice of experience.

JIMMY CARPER: Is it ever? That's why I don't have any ass. You know what I'm saying?

VANESSA Oh, yes. I notice that.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

MONICA: You can have some--

BETH: It's a fine tight little ass.

MONICA: You can have someone--

BETH: Oh, I wondered why they had you duct taped with the chair.

VANESSA It just slides out.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: Well, I've got a special piece of music as always. And it's my very, very best favorite piece of music from the American version of queer as folk. And I recently saw the video of it, as a matter of fact, and found that I could sing half the song without even realizing it. Because I've heard it so many times right here on this show.

It is Heather Small bringing you, "Proud," on "After Hours Queer Radio with Attitude" on KPFT Houston and KEOS College Station.

[MUSIC PLAYING]