

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]

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 transgender 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 know not everyone can do that because of age, job, or frame of mind. That's OK. We're here for you, too.

So sit back, relax, and enjoy this week's edition of *After Hours*.

[THEME MUSIC]

Hello, Houston and College Station and the world and welcome to a very wet [LAUGHS] *After Hours* right here on KPFT Houston, KEOS College Station. This is the July 9th-- June.

**VANESSA
EDWARDS
FOSTER:** Hello? Pride month.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah. See what happens when I don't have my notes in front of me? June 9th edition. I'm Jimmy Carper. And sitting next to me is Vanessa Foster Edwards.

**VANESSA
EDWARDS
FOSTER:** Hello. Vanessa Edwards Foster.

JIMMY CARPER: Edwards Foster. Oh, I knew I was going to do that. Oh, ouch.

**VANESSA
EDWARDS
FOSTER:** It's one of those kind of days. It's the rain.

JIMMY CARPER: It's like the E, F like the alphabet. A, B, C, D, E, F, Edwards Foster.

**VANESSA
EDWARDS
FOSTER:** Exactly.

JIMMY CARPER: OK. Gotcha.

VANESSA Well, hey, I answered just about anything.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: [LAUGHS]

VANESSA [LAUGHS] What is it? Just don't call me late for dinner--

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: There you go. There you go. Things are really crazy all over town. I know everyone's got their water story.

VANESSA Yes, we're all waterlogged.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, we are.

VANESSA I fared quite well. I just don't know if there's any audience out there listening to us tonight.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: Oh. [INAUDIBLE]

VANESSA I don't even know if anyone's there.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: There's plenty of audience, plenty of audience. What else can they do? Everything's closed.

VANESSA Well, true. But if they don't have electricity, who's listening?

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: [LAUGHS] That's true. But there's minimal people without electricity, I think.

VANESSA True. We'll just use megaphones.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: Just use megaphones. And besides they can't call us. Our phones are down.

VANESSA Ooh.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: We have a basement full of water. Full of water.

VANESSA Well, that's a good thing. It's not the sweeps month.
EDWARDS
FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: I know it. I know it. I missed getting flooded out by about 3 inches.

VANESSA Ooh, ooh, ooh.
EDWARDS
FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, I was--

VANESSA [INAUDIBLE]
EDWARDS
FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah. At 4 o'clock, I'm watching it come closer and closer and getting really nervous.

VANESSA Wow. You worked on the second floor [INAUDIBLE]
EDWARDS
FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: [LAUGHS]

VANESSA [LAUGHS] I actually had a friend of mine-- she lives over there in the Heights, right off a White Oak Bayou,
EDWARDS Jessica. And she called me at 2 o'clock in the morning basically saying, my God. My house, it's a lake. There is no
FOSTER: street anymore. The street is gone.

The places downstairs have water in the downstairs apartment. She was fortunate she lived upstairs.

JIMMY CARPER: Boy, no kidding.

VANESSA But all the places down along the White Oak Bayou apparently--
EDWARDS
FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: Amazing.

VANESSA [? --have ?] [? flood ?] in the apartment.
EDWARDS
FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: And they call it the Heights. Why?

VANESSA Yes, the Heights.
EDWARDS
FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: [LAUGHS]

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: [LAUGHS] It's one of those crazy things about living in Houston. That's as high as you get down here, folks.

JIMMY CARPER: Whoo.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: If it flood's the Heights, you know you're in deep--

JIMMY CARPER: Yes. I have lived here many, many, many, many, many, many, many years. And it has never flooded like this, never.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: Ever?

JIMMY CARPER: Ever. There was only one other time that there was some flooding, and it was along Main Street and the usual suspects. But not like this.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: [INAUDIBLE]

JIMMY CARPER: Not like this.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: I guess I kind of feel guilty. We fared pretty well out on the West Side where I was. I had kind of the usual amount of rainwater in the Bayou out back. But there was no flooding whatsoever. So I guess it was one of those quirky little things, certain parts of town just got deluged. And I mean, I really feel horribly because a lot of folks were washed out of house and home, lost cars, especially after looking at things on television and seeing the destruction out there, seeing the cars and the big rigs that were stranded out on the Katy Freeway.

It's amazing that none of those people really ended--

[INAUDIBLE]

[LAUGHS] well, if you're hearing the sound of this broadcast-- [LAUGHS]

JIMMY CARPER: [LAUGHS] OK. I think they can hear us now. I don't think they can hear us when that's going on.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: Oh.

JIMMY CARPER: It's a test thing that gets done.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: Testing, are you still out there?

JIMMY CARPER: I'm sure people are sick of hearing about--

VANESSA Oh. Well, true. They've been hearing this once an hour--
EDWARDS
FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: I know.

VANESSA --for the past week
EDWARDS
FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: Or more. But things have happened. The Gulf Coast Archives and Museum is due to open their new location on Wednesday at 1609 West Main number four.

VANESSA Hmm. Apartment four?
EDWARDS
FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah. It's an eightplex, and it's owned by my landlord who is giving it to us for very reduced rent.

VANESSA Wow.
EDWARDS
FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: Isn't that nice?

VANESSA Congratulations.
EDWARDS
FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: And he put in a brand-new hardwood floor, the wood tiles that you put in.

VANESSA Oh, cool. Was this you're doing? [INAUDIBLE]
EDWARDS
FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: Wait a minute. There was just enough water in there to buckle and ruin the entire floor. So the Gulf Coast Archives and Museum will be opening on Wednesday with the cement floor.

VANESSA Well--
EDWARDS
FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: Hey.

VANESSA Hey, it's something.
EDWARDS
FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: None of the exhibits were ruined or--

VANESSA Wow, that's good.
EDWARDS
FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: --even-- none of these exhibits even got wet. They're all in place right now. Nothing was harmed--

VANESSA Oh. Oh, you're very fortunate there.
EDWARDS
FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: --but the floor.

VANESSA But the floor.
EDWARDS
FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: [LAUGHS]

VANESSA The brand-new floor.
EDWARDS
FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: The brand-new floor.

VANESSA The brand-new with tiles. With tile floor. Now you got me [? doing it. ?]
EDWARDS
FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: Oops.

VANESSA Oops.
EDWARDS
FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: Oops. Oops. This is transgender night, isn't it?

VANESSA Yes, it is. And-- [CHUCKLES]
EDWARDS
FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: Boy, you say that with a certain lack of enthusiasm. I do want to mention before we get into your enthusiasm, of course, the opening song, I had to play it.

VANESSA Yes.
EDWARDS
FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: I had to play it. In fact, Chris from the show called me.

VANESSA Hmm, special request?

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: *After Hours* news and views with Big Roy and Chris. Yeah.

VANESSA Of course, you had to have something like that. We have to have something to break the drought.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, you said you've got to open with that song. And I thought, of course. Of course. Big Roy is not here. Chris is not here. So we're not sure if we've got to--

VANESSA Did they get flooded out or--

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: Well, Chris was stuck down in Clear Lake when he called. And I haven't-- then Big Roy may have been flooded out. I don't know. We'll see.

VANESSA I hope not.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: We'll see. We'll see. The show goes on.

VANESSA True. We're here.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: I got lots of queer music.

VANESSA Yes.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: We can gab.

VANESSA Yes, we can definitely gab. We know how to do that.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: [LAUGHS]

VANESSA And after all, that's why you'll tune in, isn't it?

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: I think so.

VANESSA Yes.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: I think so. Yes.

VANESSA It works for me.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: A couple of little things I want to put out there. The Community Center has sustained some damage. And some of their events won't be happening. So we'll give you more information on that after I read the email.

VANESSA [LAUGHS]

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: JD Doyle, who does the music for *Lesbian & Gay Voices*, was going to stop by tonight and drop off a CD of the festival artists that's happening here for the [? Gaywhatapollava. ?]

VANESSA Gay-- huh?

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: [? Lollapalooza? ?]

VANESSA Oh.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: There's a gay version that's going to be here in August.

VANESSA [? Gayweatherpollava? ?]

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

VANESSA Hmm.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: I don't know.

VANESSA [INAUDIBLE]

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: But all kinds of queer artists and more than about 80% of them you've heard right here on this show. They're going to be here in person.

VANESSA Hey.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: At Cynthia--

VANESSA Get your autographs

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, Cynthia Mitchell Woods, whatever that is up there.

VANESSA The place that got flooded.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah. But he said he sent me an email, said, obviously, I won't be dropping off that CD or going anywhere. Water got up to the hood of the car. And he will have to have it towed Monday. Had an inch of water in the music computer room, where he does all his mixing, where all his equipment is.

VANESSA That's not good.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: No. And it seeped halfway into the condo. No phone at present, but the cable works. Great.

VANESSA Hey. Well, if you can't do anything else, then we're going to watch TV.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: I know. He said, it doesn't look like we lost any possessions, but the carpet will be shot. Somehow he found a wet vac to rent. So that's what he was doing all day today. Anyway, yeah, like I said, everybody's got their story about wetness.

VANESSA That seems to be the common theme.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: Ah, yes. Let's see. Oops. That's for the end of the show. [LAUGHS]

VANESSA Well, do you mind if I talk about the Pride parade now.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: No, please do. Please do. Because there's a festival going on now.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: Yes. We've got-- all this month is going to be Pride Month obviously. And we do have a number of different festivities that are going on in concert with that. But one thing that we are working on on Pride Day itself, on the day before the-- not the day before the parade, but then the day of the parade, immediately before the parade, what we are going to have is an equal rights rally.

And this will take place immediately before the parade as we said at the judging stages, at the corner of Westheimer and Lincoln to be exact. Or if you can't-- I'll figure that out, Westheimer in Montrose. If you get to Westheimer in Montrose, you'll see us. Trust me. And it starts--

JIMMY CARPER: Lincoln is that side street by the Burger King.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: Yes, exactly.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: Just go right there where the judging stand are. Usually, right there kind of across the street from the Burger King. And that's where we are. We will be there at 6:30 PM starting off then. We're going to have either a DJ or a couple of acts to start off with a little bit of music.

And then we're going to have speakers that are various leaders within the community and also various political leaders not only here in the city but perhaps some of the others from state and federal government hopefully. We're keeping our fingers crossed on that. But we don't have the slate finalized yet. The fact is that we are trying to galvanize support among the progressive bloc of voters here in the city of Houston. And the reason that we want to do this is we realize we have elections upcoming in November.

And it's not going to be a very easy election. This is not going to be a cakewalk for anyone. And what we're trying to do is rally support early on from not only the gay and lesbian community and the bisexual and transgendered community but from everyone who is supportive, everyone who is progressive, everyone who wants to see Houston live up to the expectation that everyone knows is in Houston's capability.

We are a city that is growing. We are a city that is vibrant. And we need to live up to what all of the other major cities in the United States are. They have all basically gotten to the point of passing equal rights amendments and are very progressive in their outlook towards all of the communities in their city. And Houston can follow along with that same idea.

We basically want to make sure, though, that first, we keep our friends in government. And we are going to have a number of the individuals that are seeking the gay and lesbian and bisexual and transgendered vote out to speak to the rally crowd. And as I mentioned, we are going to have a lot of the leaders within the community also speaking to address these issues. But we want to make sure we have a good core of support for the elections that come up in November and even well before then.

We can make Houston a vibrant and a city that is attractive to not only the residents but to people outside of the city.

JIMMY CARPER: OK, I keep hearing we, we, we, we, we.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: We, we, we, we, we, we.

JIMMY CARPER: Who's this we?

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: We is progressive voters in action.

JIMMY CARPER: Ah.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: People for a fair Houston. We've got a number of different sponsors actually. The Human Rights Campaign has signed on to this. The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force has signed on to sponsor this.

The Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus, the National Transgender Advocacy Coalition, the Texas Gender Advocacy and Information Network. Basically, we have gotten support from virtually all of the GLBT political organizations here in the city and in the county. We've also got the Harris County Democrat signed on to this. The Stonewall Democrats signed on to this. The Log Cabin Republicans signed on to this.

This is a bipartisan issue. The Harris County Democratic Party. We've got a number of other organizations that are continuing to sign on. And as those become-- as those are made public, we will let you know on an ongoing basis.

But I just want to sum it up to say that we have a large base of support that is already backing this. And we want to have everyone on board with us.

JIMMY CARPER: And you certainly will have a captive audience.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: Yes, absolutely.

JIMMY CARPER: [LAUGHS]

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: And what we're going to do after--

JIMMY CARPER: Well, I've been hearing about this. But a lot of the people who were in the parade will be busy doing the floats and won't be able to attend this.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: Well, actually, that's one of the reasons why we're starting it early. We know that the people that are going to be working on the floats are going to be busy with the floats themselves. However, there's going to be a lot of folks that are going to be getting there early just to kind of line up. And--

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, yes.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: --what we're going to do is march backwards through the parade route from the judging stand all the way back to about Lanier Middle School.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, really?

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: Yes. Before the actual parade. And what this is kind of like a kickoff to the parade. It kind of clears people out of the streets. But it also--

JIMMY CARPER: That's a good point.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: --is a way to get the folks out there and let them see who is signed on to this. Also have a lot of the participants involved in this. Mayor Brown will be marching in this. City Council Member Annise Parker will be marching in this and certainly others as well. But we want to basically have a good show of support not only from the politicians to the community but also for the community to see who is involved in this.

And we want the community to then come out and support as well.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: Because this is something that works both ways. We have a very, very fortunate situation in Houston comparative to other cities. And we want to make Houston a better city for us all. And we can do this. But we need everyone's help.

And we can do this by all working together. And this is one of the ways that we can do it. Is by trying to gain the support of the entire community, not just GLBT but everyone who has signed on to being a good progressive Houstonian who works for issues that are fair for all Houstonians.

JIMMY CARPER: OK. I like the idea of it because the first parade, Pride parades, were political. I mean, we were making a statement just by not-- we didn't even have to talk. Just by marching down the street, we were making a political statement.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: Right. That was a political statement back then.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes. And it has evolved, I think, into more of a celebration. And sometimes we forget that there's politics involved that there's a reason that we march. It's because we don't have equal rights.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: Exactly. Exactly. And if we're not careful, we can actually have the rights taken away if we didn't really--

JIMMY CARPER: You bet, that's right

VANESSA --stay vigilant.
EDWARDS
FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: That's right. And we're not just talking gays and lesbians. We're talking bis and trans, too.

VANESSA Exactly. And we want to make sure that we know who the people that support us are, and we also want them to
EDWARDS know who supports them. And so this is a perfect way of doing so, as well as getting everyone out to the parade a
FOSTER: little bit early, so you can get a good parking spot.

JIMMY CARPER: There you go.

VANESSA Hey.
EDWARDS
FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: There you go. No, I like the idea of bringing some political action into it. And the coalition that's being built, I think, is it would make Harvey Milk proud.

VANESSA Yes.
EDWARDS
FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: It really would.

VANESSA That's exactly what we want to do. Is to make the Harvey Milks and the Sylvia Riveras and all of the folks who
EDWARDS have gone before us, who have struggled so hard and so long, in some cases, have given their lives--
FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

VANESSA --for the struggle. We need to make sure that we continue this and that we don't just give up because we think
EDWARDS we've gotten there at least to a point where we're comfortable right now. Yes, we are comfortable right now, but
FOSTER: we need to make sure that we're ever vigilant, that we don't have these things taken back from us. And if you think for half a second that there aren't folks that wouldn't want to take that away from us, well--

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, honey.

VANESSA You might be interested in knowing we've got folks right now that are out trying to get signatures for a petition
EDWARDS that would keep us basically from getting rights permanently. But I don't think [INAUDIBLE].
FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: From getting equal rights.

VANESSA Yes.
EDWARDS
FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: We got to make that-- we got to stress that point because-- on the other side, keep saying, special rights. Special rights. And there's no special right to it.

VANESSA It's not special.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: It's equal.

VANESSA It is equal. And that's what we've always fought for. Is just our equal share, not anything better, not anything

EDWARDS more, not anything separate. We want only what is fair.

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: That's right. I want to say to all my straight audience members out there. And there's a lot of them.

VANESSA Yes.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: Straight audience members. When's the last time you heard of someone being fired because they were heterosexual?

VANESSA Good point.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: You haven't. But it happens to us all the time, all the time.

VANESSA Even in the 21st century.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: Yes. Yes.

VANESSA These are the kinds of things that eventually will pass, but they won't pass without any effort on our part. And we

EDWARDS have to do the background.

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: We do.

VANESSA We have to do those first incremental steps before we can actually get there. And this is just one of those areas.

EDWARDS And by infusing a little bit of the political action that we used to have in the Pride parades, we can actually

FOSTER: accomplish a little bit of that--

JIMMY CARPER: I think so too.

VANESSA --and hopefully get the community rallied around an issue and rallied around supporting the folks that support us.

EDWARDS And that's what it's all about.

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: You just are a go-getter, aren't you?

VANESSA Whenever I'm awake.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: [LAUGHS]

VANESSA I'm barely awake right now.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: [LAUGHS]

VANESSA [LAUGHS] Coffee. Where's my coffee?

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: [LAUGHS] Little Roy, please, coffee, coffee.

VANESSA Yes. Where is little Roy?

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: He got mine.

VANESSA Oh, he got yours.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: So you didn't put in your order. That's it.

VANESSA Oh, well, that's what I get.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: [LAUGHS]

VANESSA I came in late.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, here he comes.

VANESSA Oh my God, he showed up.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

ROY: I'm taking orders now.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: Yes. Can I have some coffee, please?

ROY: What would you like in it?

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: Cream and one sugar.

ROY: And one sugar. And which cream?

JIMMY CARPER: Is that just a regular cup?

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: Regular cup.

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: Regular cup is fine.

JIMMY CARPER: One sugar? Is that all?

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: One sugar. Yeah. Well, I like a little sweetness. We don't go overboard. I'm moderate.

JIMMY CARPER: Whoa. [LAUGHS]

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: A moderate. [? Not immoderate. ?] [LAUGHS] Thank you, Roy.

ROY: [INAUDIBLE]

JIMMY CARPER: Vanessa.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: Yes?

JIMMY CARPER: I have never seen-- I haven't seen you looked this good in a long time. You look rested and happy and--

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: And I feel the opposite. [INAUDIBLE] It's the brain.

JIMMY CARPER: And inside, it's just the opposite. Is that it?

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: Yes. Inside, it's just the opposite. I'm physically exhausted. But the thing is, I am happy. Things are actually progressing now. We just got through with our lobby days in fact--

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: And just, well, not quite a month ago. And it was the National Transgender Advocacy Coalition's first lobby days. And we were actually very, very pleased with what we were able to accomplish. We didn't have quite the numbers that we were expecting showing up, but we did have about three dozen people that made it up there.

JIMMY CARPER: And speaking of making it up her, here's Bobby Pagano.

ROBERT PAGANO: Hello.

JIMMY CARPER: Hi, baby.

ROBERT PAGANO: I'm here.

JIMMY CARPER: And he walked here.

ROBERT PAGANO: I walked here from my apartment in the rain, in the floods.

ROY: But it's wet.

ROBERT PAGANO: In the wet.

ROY: Wet.

ROBERT PAGANO: Yes.

JIMMY CARPER: It's glistening out there.

ROBERT PAGANO: Yes.

ROY: At the moment, it's just glistening.

JIMMY CARPER: [LAUGHS]

ROY: [INAUDIBLE] I'll be back.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: Oh.

ROY: [INAUDIBLE]

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

VANESSA Well, do we want to--

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: OK. How are we going to do this now? Because our phones are not working.

VANESSA Ooh, that's right. OK. Well, that can be a trick. Actually, I don't know how we will do that without a cellphone. I

EDWARDS guess I could stick the cell phone up to you.

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: Yes. That's how--

VANESSA If I can get out.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: If you can get--

VANESSA If I can make it out.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: If you can make it out. Well, this is by satellite. You should be able to make it out, huh?

VANESSA Well, I hope so.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: What's it sound like on your end? You get a [INAUDIBLE].

VANESSA It says roaming call. And--

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: Well, I'll tell you what. Let's play something.

VANESSA OK.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: This is June. It's Pride Month.

VANESSA Hello. Hey. Believe it or not, I actually got through on the cell phone.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: Wow.

VANESSA How are you, sweetie? Oh. Well, believe it or not, you're on the air, but you're on a cell phone on the air. I don't
EDWARDS know how I'm going to do this to where--
FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: You have to get really close to the--

VANESSA Can they actually-- can you say hello?
EDWARDS
FOSTER:

SYLVIA RIVERA: Hello.

VANESSA Oh, is that coming through on the radio?
EDWARDS
FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah. I get it through my headphones.

VANESSA Oh, very good. Well, sweetie. How are you doing? Could you do, I guess, a quick introduction so everyone knows
EDWARDS who we're speaking with here?
FOSTER:

SYLVIA RIVERA: My name is Sylvia Rivera, Stonewall veteran and founding member of Street Transgender Action Revolutionaries.

JIMMY CARPER: Well, I'll tell you. I know that Sylvia has been on this show before because Sarah DePalma interviewed her one time. And last week, in the second half of the show, I played a half hour tape from Pacifica called *Remembering Stonewall* that featured Sylvia Rivera in it. Do you remember making that?

SYLVIA RIVERA: Yes, I do.

JIMMY CARPER: I play it every year, and I play it for the teenagers who may not know what Stonewall was. I think it's an excellent, excellent tape.

SYLVIA RIVERA: Well, it's a good piece of history to play every year.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

SYLVIA RIVERA: It's an important part for the transgender community--

JIMMY CARPER: It certainly is.

SYLVIA RIVERA: --to recognize that it's part of the four front-runners of the Stonewall riots.

VANESSA And, in fact, actually, it's good for us all to hear. It's something that, I think, a lot of folks probably don't pay a lot
EDWARDS of attention to is our history. And if we don't remember our history, if we don't learn from our history, it's very
FOSTER: difficult for us to progress because we tend to make the same mistakes over and over again.

SYLVIA RIVERA: Well, when I did *Remembering Stonewall*, that was for the 20th anniversary of Pride. And for many years, the trans community was-- actually, for 16 years of the movement, after the fourth anniversary, March, the trans community was pushed to the back of the bus and made very invisible. So when I was asked to do that documentary, *Remembering Stonewall* by David Isay, I was very happy to because it was time for our community to come back to life here in New York.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: Now, speaking of what's going on in New York--

SYLVIA RIVERA: Hello?

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: Oh, hello. Are you there?

SYLVIA RIVERA: Yeah. OK.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: OK. I'm sorry. I'm kind of having-- were maneuvering around a little bit. The phones at the radio station are working, so I'm kind of trying to talk around the cell phone into the microphone.

But what is going on in New York currently? We have a situation up there that we are going to be having a vigil on next week. Would you provide a little bit of detail on that for the Houstonians who really don't know what's going on?

SYLVIA RIVERA: OK. [INAUDIBLE] the fact

JIMMY CARPER: [INAUDIBLE]

SYLVIA RIVERA: [? --to ?] Amanda Milan, who was murdered five days prior to Pride last year.

JIMMY CARPER: [INAUDIBLE]

SYLVIA RIVERA: She was murdered in front of Port Authority, and her throat was slashed by a transphobic ignorant person. And as she laid there bleeding in the streets, according to what some of the eyewitnesses told us was that the cab drivers were applauding. I mean, that's really a horrible way to go. You're taking in your last breath this time [INAUDIBLE] applause.

How many more of our children and our transgender sisters and brothers must be murdered before we have complete and-- complete civil rights? And in Washington at the federal level and [INAUDIBLE] all state localities and towns, the gay movement have progressed very well on the backs and sweat of the transgender community-- time that they wake up and smell the coffee that if it wasn't for the forefront trans people of 1960 [INAUDIBLE]

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: Hello? Are you there? Oh, I'm sorry. I didn't hear you for a while. I thought we got cut off.

SYLVIA RIVERA: Oh, no, no. So next Sunday., the vigil is to put more pressure and visibility-- to put more pressure on the politicians and also to bring justice to Amanda's death.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: Now, are you part of the organizing group for this now, or is this--

SYLVIA RIVERA: Street Transgender Action Revolutionaries is one of many other groups that are part of the coalition for justice for Amanda Milan.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: And give a little background on Street Transgender Action Revolutionaries for the Houston audience, if you would.

SYLVIA RIVERA: OK. Street Transgender Action Revolutionaries was originally started in 1971 by myself and the late Marsha P. Johnson. And it was originally called Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries. And as far as we know, I believe that STAR was the first political transgender organization in this country and possibly the world.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: I believe you're right.

SYLVIA RIVERA: I hope so.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: [LAUGHS]

SYLVIA RIVERA: [INAUDIBLE]

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: At least that's the claim.

SYLVIA RIVERA: What we did was always be in the forefront for the gay community. And also, at that point in our lives, Marsha and I, both being street girls, saw the need for a transgender housing because there were so many of our children that were young like myself at that time and younger being thrown out in the street, which is still a problem today by our families.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: This is true. In fact, that's what Amanda Milan's situation was as well. Was it not?

SYLVIA RIVERA: Yes. Excuse me.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: And as far as STAR is concerned, what is it that we are looking for from the city or from the courts? Now we've got a court case tomorrow. Is this correct? And could you give us a little bit of background as to who is going to be up for trial tomorrow?

SYLVIA RIVERA: Could you repeat that again Vanessa? Hello?

VANESSA Hello?

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

SYLVIA RIVERA: Yes. Could you repeat the question?

VANESSA Oh, I'm sorry.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

SYLVIA RIVERA: I'm sorry.

VANESSA Yes. Am I a little bit too close? Hang on one second. Actually, what I was wanting to know was for the Houston audience, what is going to be occurring next week? There is someone that is going to be going to trial. This is going to be one of the murders of the-- is this going to be the murder or the accomplice in the Amanda Milan case?

SYLVIA RIVERA: Actually, all the three men involved in the case will be on trial together on Monday, next Monday,

VANESSA [INAUDIBLE]

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

SYLVIA RIVERA: --on the 18th. And one is the actual murderer. The other guy is [INAUDIBLE] who happened to be a gay male. And the third person was up on charges for harboring the actual murderer himself in the house. So they're all going to trial together.

And what we're hoping to do with the march from Sheridan Square by the Stonewall down to 100 Center Street and the vigil and the picket is to put pressure on the system to get the maximum time that is due them. We will not accept a slap on the wrist.

VANESSA Exactly. And this is something that has occurred previously in New York in other situations. I believe the *Fitzroy Greene* case about a year or so ago was basically played up very sensationalistic-- sensationally, I should say. And they, in essence, gave the murder of the individual who was transgendered a slap on the wrist.

And so there is a bit of a, I guess, a history in the New York courts-- is there not-- of just kind of downplaying any murders that happen to transgenders because the victim is considered to be transgendered. And therefore, I guess, whatever their stereotype may be.

SYLVIA RIVERA: Well, the system here does work that way. The majority of the times when a transgendered person is murdered, you don't even read about it in news or hear about it. Or if they do, happen to mention it in passing. Is more like with the case of Amanda Milan was, oh, a man dressed as a woman was murdered in front of the Port Authority.

There have been many, many cases up here of bodies being found of the transgender community, and it's completely all swept away. The media does not pay much attention to our community.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: And that's one of the things that's probably the most heinous aspect of this is the lack of humanity that they afford these individuals. They basically treat them as if, well, they're not really people. They're, in essence, kind of like stray dogs or animals or something to be kind of just swept aside and not really cared for. But they don't stop and think about what happens to these individuals, families, who care for them, or their friends, or the people that know these individuals and know them. Is wonderful, creative, and very happy human beings.

And that's the one thing that I find missing in a lot of this is they don't seem to take that into account. Is the family of Amanda Milan going to be up there at the trial?

SYLVIA RIVERA: Actually, you know what, Vanessa? I'm going to pass you over to Jamie Hunter to answer that question for you because she has dealt with the Milan family.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: All righty.

SYLVIA RIVERA: Here's Jamie Hunter.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: OK. I'll see you next week.

SYLVIA RIVERA: OK.

JAMIE HUNTER: Hi, this is Jamie Hunter. I'm the program administrator for NYAGRA. And that's the New York Association for Gender Rights Advocacy.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: Hi, Jamie.

JAMIE HUNTER: Hi.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: I guess I need to probably restate the question. One of the things that Sylvia alluded to was the fact that a lot of transgender murders in New York tend to be swept under the rug or not really given, I guess, the proper investigation or the

JAMIE HUNTER: --with Marsha P. Johnson's murder.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: Yes, exactly. An excellent example. And the one thing that I was wondering is whether or not Amanda's family was going to be there. It seems that the courts tend to dehumanize a lot of the folks. They presume that, oh, well there are just so much flotsam and jetsam.

We don't really need to investigate this. And, oh, well these folks are panicking or whatever crazy defenses are coming up with. [INAUDIBLE]

JAMIE HUNTER: [INAUDIBLE] that were involved with the planning of the memorial for her last year shortly after her murder.

However, with the trial, I've tried to reach out to them. And so [INAUDIBLE] the Metropolitan Community Church. And they have refused to respond in any way. We have to let them know what's going on and what to expect and what we were planning so that there wouldn't be any surprises [? if ?] you know, we don't want to do anything in any way to jeopardize anything.

And the New York gay and lesbian Anti-violence Project will be supervising corp monitors inside the courtroom to just observe and be legal observers and witnesses to this history, [? of ?] [? course. ?] We hope to honor who were victims as well with the reading of the names in the vigil Sunday night.

VANESSA EDWARDS Now, the reading of the names, is this going to be similar to what happened with the day of remembrance, where all the names of the victims passed have been read or--

FOSTER:

JAMIE HUNTER: Yeah. It's actually a-- the information that we have is probably what was read last year after the [INAUDIBLE] Milan Memorial, which just listed the name, the area, and the dates, and how they were killed. And then [INAUDIBLE]

VANESSA EDWARDS Has there been any response from the city fathers on The Amanda Milan case that's coming up? Has there been any support for this from--

FOSTER:

JAMIE HUNTER: There's been outstanding support. [? She's ?] going to hand you back to Sylvia Rivera to talk about that. That's her area.

VANESSA All righty.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JAMIE HUNTER: I would like to speak [INAUDIBLE] Civil Rights Bill, which is [INAUDIBLE] city council if you have time.

VANESSA OK. [INAUDIBLE]

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JAMIE HUNTER: [INAUDIBLE]

VANESSA All righty.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

SYLVIA RIVERA: Hello.

VANESSA Hello, Sylvia.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

SYLVIA RIVERA: Yes.

VANESSA Tag team again. You're it. [LAUGHS]

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

SYLVIA RIVERA: Yeah.

VANESSA I just wanted to ask a question as to whether or not any of the city fathers, any of the political leaders in New York

EDWARDS have come out publicly supporting the Amanda Milan case, the Amanda Milan vigil, and are going to be taking an

FOSTER: active role in the case by chance.

SYLVIA RIVERA: Well, we have [INAUDIBLE] the state senator, [INAUDIBLE] councilwoman Chris Quinn, and [INAUDIBLE] the other support. And we have Margarita Lopez. We have [AUDIO OUT]