

SYLVIA RIVERA: Christine-- Christine Quinn and [INAUDIBLE] the other support. And we have Margarita Lopez. We have quite a few politicians [INAUDIBLE] the Amanda Milan memorial-- I mean-- vigil next week. And [INAUDIBLE] probably be [INAUDIBLE] conference on Monday morning at 10 o'clock. So it seems that they're just as upset as us. But that's nothing. I myself [INAUDIBLE] trust politicians too far.

VANESSA Well.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: I'm with you, honey.

VANESSA Oh, yeah. Well, the thing is, we do have a lot of the plastic politicians. But there also are a good number of real-life human beings that happened to make it in there.

FOSTER:

SYLVIA RIVERA: I think the ones that we have in our corner are real-life human beings.

VANESSA 2 Yes.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

SYLVIA RIVERA: [INAUDIBLE].

VANESSA Margarita Lopez.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

SYLVIA RIVERA: Margarita Lopez is one of the main sponsors for the transgender civil rights bill here in New York.

VANESSA Yes, exactly. She is awesome.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

SYLVIA RIVERA: Councilwoman.

VANESSA Mm-hmm.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

SYLVIA RIVERA: So there is a-- there seems to be an awakening in the political field and also in the community. It's taken a long time, but they're waking up and they're realizing how much the transgender community has given to the movement, and it's time for them to give us the support, that it's just the [INAUDIBLE] can help us obtain our rights.

VANESSA Exactly. And what better month to do that then, of course, Pride Month and right before Pride Week. I mean, it's basically-- it's all kind of coming together at the right times, it seems.

FOSTER:

SYLVIA RIVERA: Yes. Not only because it was Pride-- that it's Pride Month here in New York, but also that the trial date, June 18, is two days prior to Amanda's first-year anniversary of death.

VANESSA Exactly.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

SYLVIA RIVERA: So it came at a good time, after waiting almost this whole year.

VANESSA Yeah, it really is. It's something that I guess ties it all together, because the date itself carries so much more

EDWARDS importance by virtue of the fact that it is the one-year anniversary, and, of course, with Pride coming up, and

FOSTER: also with the upcoming consideration for the city human rights there in New York that, as you mentioned earlier, Council member Lopez is one of the sponsors on.

SYLVIA RIVERA: Right. And Jamie can give you a better history on that because she worked very hard with these politicians from NYAGRA and Pauline Park. [INAUDIBLE] and that way she can give you the full rundown, OK?

VANESSA OK.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

SYLVIA RIVERA: OK.

VANESSA All righty.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JAMIE HUNTER: Hi, Vanessa.

VANESSA Hey. You're back again. Hi, Jamie. I was recounting with Sylvia, number one, the fact that this is all occurring

EDWARDS during Pride Month and almost on the one-year anniversary of Amanda Milan's death and that it's also

FOSTER: happening-- is the City of New York is considering a rather historic bill, which is, of course, the addition of transgenders into the human rights ordinances there in the city.

JAMIE HUNTER: Correct. We have a bill right now before the General Welfare committee of City Council which would amend the city human rights code to include gender identity and expression in its definition of coverage for basic civil rights protections, such as no job discrimination, housing discrimination, public accommodation discrimination. We have a huge problem in New York. I mean, people would think that it's a big city, and it's liberal, and we have a lot of transgendered youth who come here from all the different states.

VANESSA Exactly.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JAMIE HUNTER: You know, thinking it's not safe in a small town, I can't come out, I'll go to New York. And we have a crisis situation here with homeless youth on the streets and the police crackdowns on their moral sweep for sex work on a population that is one of the most discriminated against and persecuted here. So this bill hopefully-- I think writing this into law [INAUDIBLE] transgender inclusive legislation that would ever be written into New York law, city or state.

Currently, we have a bill-- there's a bill for [INAUDIBLE] assembly [INAUDIBLE] SONDA, which is the equivalent of our human rights bill. But it's a statewide bill that would protect for employment discrimination [INAUDIBLE]--

**VANESSA
EDWARDS
FOSTER:**

Really?

JAMIE HUNTER: --for gays and lesbians across the State of New York. But it does not currently include transgender folk. If SONDA passes, the way it's currently written, transgender folk across the state still will not have basic employment discrimination protection, or housing, or public accommodations. And we believe strongly that this does tie into the rates of violence--

**VANESSA
EDWARDS
FOSTER:**

Yes, it really does.

JAMIE HUNTER: And the bias and hate crimes we see here. [INAUDIBLE] right now. Andrea Sears, who's co-chair of the Metropolitan Gender Network, and she could probably [INAUDIBLE] Christian side too. And I also just wanted to mention that Pauline Park of NYAGRA has been working for almost two years to get this bill where it is, along with council members Lopez and Perkins. And we had a wonderful public hearing on May 1 which [INAUDIBLE]

The only arguments against the bill came from the government, came from Giuliani, the mayor's administration and the commission of human rights [INAUDIBLE]. And we're hoping that they're not going to delay or do anything to hold up this bill because this legislation is important. And with that, I'm going to give you Andrea Sears.

**VANESSA
EDWARDS
FOSTER:**

All righty.

**ANDREA
SEARS:**

Hello, Vanessa.

**VANESSA
EDWARDS
FOSTER:**

Hello, Andrea.

**ANDREA
SEARS:**

How are you?

**VANESSA
EDWARDS
FOSTER:**

Pretty good. Nice to meet you on the phone for the first time.

**ANDREA
SEARS:**

Yeah, nice to talk to you.

**VANESSA
EDWARDS
FOSTER:**

Well, I've heard a lot about y'all and about your work up there. You've done wonderful, wonderful work up in New York. I've got to applaud y'all for what y'all have been able to accomplish so far. Could you give me a breakdown as to how you're perceiving what's going on right now with the state bill regarding nondiscrimination and on whether or not what's happening in New York with the human rights ordinance might affect that in some fashion?

**ANDREA
SEARS:**

Well, on the state level, SONDA has been in the state legislature for 30 years. It has been passed by the state assembly several times over and has never come up for a vote in the state senate, which is controlled by Republicans. The speaker of the senate has refused to allow the bill to come up for a vote. It's passed out of committee again. This year, we have, I believe, our first openly gay, openly HIV-positive state senator in Albany now--

**VANESSA
EDWARDS
FOSTER:**

Wow.

**ANDREA
SEARS:**

--who will push the bill through to Senator Tom Duane. I can't say that I'm terribly optimistic at this point. The hopeful sign on the horizon is that last year on the 11th or 12th attempt, the state finally passed hate crimes legislation. Again, that had been passed every year by the assembly and blocked by the leadership of the state senate. The state senate was afraid it was going to lose some seats last year, so they voted in some liberal legislation, including the hate crimes ordinance.

So we're hoping there might be some repeat of that, and that SONDA will be passed. But then again SONDA is not transgender-inclusive. And we're getting the same kind of arguments from many of the mainstream gay and lesbian organizations that have cropped up in the past, that if they included transgender protections, then the bill would not get through. It's better to get the nose of the camel in the tent and then worry about getting the rest of the camel in later, that kind of thing.

Well, the fact of the matter is that the hate crimes legislation was blocked by the Senate year after year because it included sexual orientation. And the Democrats and the assembly refused to drop sexual orientation. So we could have had hate crimes legislation in New York State a decade ago if they had followed that same reasoning and let the nose of the camel into the tent.

**VANESSA
EDWARDS
FOSTER:**

Exactly. And we could have had that in Texas last year.

**ANDREA
SEARS:**

Excuse me?

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: We could have had that in Texas last year. We had the same type of situation. In fact, it's when our now-illustrious president was still the governor here. At that particular point in time, they really didn't have a problem with the hate crimes as long as they took out sexual orientation and gender identity. Well, they refused to do so, and, of course, it died a miserable death in the Senate Committee, so.

ANDREA SEARS: So the same thing could happen with the SONDA bill. Well, SONDA actually is-- SONDA for Sexual Orientation Non-Discrimination Act. So there's no way they're going to drop sexual orientation from that bill.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: True.

ANDREA SEARS: It's essentially an amendment to the state's human rights ordinances. But again, they're not making it transgender-inclusive. And this is the mainstream lesbian and gay organizations that are reluctant to make them trans-inclusive. So we have another act that is also pending called the Dignity for All Students Act. Now, that one is transgender-inclusive, and that would essentially be to offer protections for students from harassment in schools and guarantee equal access to education for everyone, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity or expression.

They haven't tried to drop it from that bill, so I'm not sure where the double standard comes in. It's like, once we got this down on paper, we're not going to change it.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: Yeah, some things are worthy to be inclusive of, and then others just aren't, I guess. They're just too big. I've heard the same excuses here about overloading bills, et cetera, et cetera.

ANDREA SEARS: Yeah. And the hate crimes legislation that we got last year, too, there was some question as to how transgender-inclusive that is. It does contain the phrase "actual or perceived gender or sexual orientation."

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: Well, that actually kind of sounds like it does include--

ANDREA SEARS: Well, the sense that we've gotten from the-- the politicians have told us that the district attorneys that they have spoken to have assured them that they will interpret it to be transgender-inclusive. But it is the contention of many of us, especially NYAGRA-- and Pauline Park has been sort of leading the fight on that one too-- that the language is not explicit enough and that there could be ways around it if some district attorney or some judge decided that it doesn't really apply because of the lack of specificity in the language of the bill.

Then we could lose cases on case law. And once the case law is established, we'd have another obstacle.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: Exactly.

ANDREA SEARS: So it's better to get it right the first time, or at least to make it right as soon as you possibly can. And that's what we're trying to do on the state level and on the city level with Int. 754, which would amend the city human rights commission code.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: Hang on one second. I need to cut in here very briefly for station identification.

JIMMY CARPER: You are listening to *After Hours*, Queer Radio with Attitude.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: Always with attitude.

JIMMY CARPER: On KPFT Houston and KEOS College Station.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: OK, we're back. And we are here with Andrea Sears of the Metropolitan Gender Network. And you are also involved with NYAGRA, are you not?

ANDREA SEARS: I'm a member of NYAGRA.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: Oh, member of NYAGRA. I'm sorry. And I actually-- one of the things that I did want to get into some detail about is the upcoming human rights ordinance in New York City and to get your feel of, number one, how far this is going and when we might be able to hear something on this. Is this something that's going to be decided here very soon?

ANDREA SEARS: It doesn't look like it's going to be very soon. We had hearings on May 4 in the General Welfare committee. We have a majority of the city council endorsing the bill right now. I think 27 of the 51 city council members have endorsed the bill. And the bottleneck at this point is that in order for the bill to come to a vote, even for it to come up for hearings in the committee, that had to be scheduled by the Speaker of the City Council Peter Vallone.

He is one of the four Democratic candidates for mayor in the City of New York this year. He is the only Democratic candidate for mayor who has not endorsed Int. 754. He can prevent the bill from coming to the floor of the city council for a vote.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: Conveniently political.

ANDREA SEARS: Yeah. Now, he has espoused essentially the same position that the Giuliani administration has, saying that there is no need for the bill, we are already covered under city human rights codes. And his position as we went into the hearings last month was that the whole purpose of the hearings was to convince the human rights commission that we are indeed covered. And if that was the purpose, then the human rights commission was not convinced.

Because they argued the same line as the mayor when they were challenged by Margarita Lopez, a city council member, on when they would begin informing the public, and especially city agencies, which are egregiously abusive of transgender people in general, that we are covered under city human rights laws. The response was, we'll do that when you pass this bill. So obviously, the city human rights commission is not convinced that we're already covered.

**VANESSA
EDWARDS
FOSTER:**

No.

**ANDREA
SEARS:**

Or they would be doing this already. And the abuses continue, the police abuses. And this week in *The Village Voice*, at least on the internet edition, there's a story about another member of the Metropolitan Gender Network, a 21-year-old homeless transgendered woman who was raped as she left a men's shelter because she had been assigned to a men's shelter regardless of her gender identity. And that is the plight of homeless youth here in the city.

When they end up in the shelter system, they get thrown into a general men's shelter. And they're in danger there, so they end up back out on the streets. So the streets are safer than the shelter system.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, god.

**ANDREA
SEARS:**

That's true for a lot of people, but it's especially true for transgender people.

**VANESSA
EDWARDS
FOSTER:**

Yeah, it really is. And that's something that we deal with here in Houston. In fact, six months ago, we had a show on [AUDIO OUT].

**ANDREA
SEARS:**

Yeah.

**VANESSA
EDWARDS
FOSTER:**

Wow. Well, we lost our electricity just briefly.

JIMMY CARPER: Just for a second there.

**ANDREA
SEARS:**

Still on the air?

**VANESSA
EDWARDS
FOSTER:**

Yeah, we're still on the air. At least I know I've got you because you're on my cell phone. We don't have phones, so.

JIMMY CARPER: We had 8 and 1/2 inches of rain yesterday in an older neighborhood, and it just kind of wiped us out. So we're just recovering.

**VANESSA
EDWARDS
FOSTER:**

Yes. We're still kind of digging out from the floods around here. Anyway. Oh, and great. Here goes the emergency-- is that the emergency tone going off, or the buzzers? Oh, well. Well, anyway. We're still here on the air. I'm sorry. Momentary lapse. Go ahead. Let's see. We were basically speaking about the individuals and why they're not-- well, here we go again-- why they're not covering transgenders and what is happening, especially to the homeless transgenders in the shelters.

**ANDREA
SEARS:**

So one of the issues is that New York is always portrayed as this progressive, liberal state. But there are three jurisdictions that have already passed transgender-inclusive human rights ordinances.

**VANESSA
EDWARDS
FOSTER:**

Exactly.

**ANDREA
SEARS:**

The State of Minnesota, 29 other cities and towns, and two or three county ordinances have been passed across the country beginning in 1975. So New York is actually behind on this kind of legislation, and woefully behind. We should-- considering the reputation for this state, which I think is entirely undeserved in many respects, New York should be taking much more of a leadership role, especially considering the size of the transgender population in this city.

San Francisco has an estimated population of, I believe, 18,000 transgender people. New York City is a much larger place. We have a huge transgender community here. We are estimating at least as large as San Francisco, perhaps 30,000 people here in New York.

**VANESSA
EDWARDS
FOSTER:**

Wow.

**ANDREA
SEARS:**

And we have to scramble for this kind of legislation. We have to battle with the police every day.

**VANESSA
EDWARDS
FOSTER:**

It amazes me, when you come across these people that have the arguments, similar to Vallone and Giuliani, that state that, well, we don't really need to pass this legislation because we feel you're already in the legislation. Well, has anyone actually approached them and asked them, well then, fine, if we're already in it, then why can we not spell this out in explicit terms?

**ANDREA
SEARS:**

Well, that is the question, I guess. I'm not sure the answer to that, why they feel that if we're already covered it's not--

**VANESSA
EDWARDS
FOSTER:**

Why don't they spell it out?

**ANDREA
SEARS:**

--don't need to pass a law that makes it explicit. They have to depend on the interpretation of existing law, and the interpretation is too often bound to fail. There are too many instances where it doesn't work. And the fact of the matter is, if we were covered, then people would be able to go to the human rights commission, file a complaint and have it taken seriously, and be able to complain to a police officer without a police officer telling them that they have no rights and they cannot file a complaint and there's no use even trying.

That happens all too often. And until that changes, until our rights are codified, then people are going to feel free to interpret them any way they please. And it also sends a strong message to the public when a piece of legislation is passed that we are covered, that the city has acknowledged that we have these protections. And as long as they refuse to pass it, that sends an equally-strong message that we are not covered.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: Exactly. Well, Andrea, sorry, I'm going to have to wrap this up. My cell phone battery is actually running low and is probably about ready to cut off at any minute. So I do want to thank you very, very much, as well as Jamie Hunter, and most especially, the one who started this all, Sylvia Rivera. Please, please express my gratitude to those two, and thank you very much for coming on here at KPFT here in Houston.

I realize this isn't a New York audience, but this is something that we will be dealing with in the future. And we obviously can be learning from your examples.

ANDREA SEARS: Thank you very much.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: Thank you. Well, we are here with a dead cell phone, and the battery just expired.

JIMMY CARPER: And that just went--

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: Hey, how's that for timing?

JIMMY CARPER: Wow, that's great timing. And of course, you know me, I have music for everything.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: Yes.

JIMMY CARPER: But while we were sitting here talking to Sylvia about Amanda Milan, it occurred to me of a song that expressed at least my way of looking at things and my outlook. And I think it's a wonderful song, by Boy George. I've got a couple by Jimmy Somerville after that. And you're listening to all of this on *After Hours* on KPFT Houston and KEOS College.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: It's not raining outside again, is it?

JIMMY CARPER: I hope not. Oh, *Someday We'll Be Together*.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: And try.

JIMMY CARPER: (LAUGHING) Yeah. And before that, *Dare to Love*. That was original. And *Someday We'll Be Together*, of course, is a remake of the old Supremes hit. That's from the album called *Dare to Love* by Jimmy Somerville. He put that out in 1995, and it's one of the most underrated albums, second only to one called *The Unrecoupable One Man Bandit, Volume One*, which is Boy George's last one.

And he did *She Was Never He*.

VANESSA I love that song.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: A beautiful, beautiful song. Beautiful song.

VANESSA Awesome.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: And of course, that was dedicated to Amanda Milan from--

VANESSA From New York City.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: New York. And that incredible interview--

VANESSA I hope you could hear it over the static.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: We can come through. You know, the phones aren't working.

VANESSA Cell phones.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: Cell phone. And I mean, we did this interview. And about five seconds after we ended the interview, your battery went dead.

VANESSA Yes. Now, is this technically-advanced, or what?

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: I mean.

VANESSA We've got it down to an art form.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: I mean. You're listening to *After Hours*, Queer Radio with Attitude. I'm Jimmy Carper, and Vanessa Edwards Foster--

VANESSA Hey.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: --is here, yes.

VANESSA You sure that's the right name?

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, I-- A-B-C-D-E-F.

VANESSA [LAUGHS]

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: Yes. A couple of things--

VANESSA It's 1:20. That's OK.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: I know. Euphonea is coming up.

VANESSA Mm.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: E-U-P-H-O-N-E-A. And you will notice the "phone" in the middle. And that's because it's an the evening of acoustical music to benefit the Gay & Lesbian Switchboard of Houston.

VANESSA Yes, acoustical phones.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: [LAUGHS]. And it's going to be hosted by DJs Pat and Rosie of KPFT's *Nightsounds*. Pat and Rosie's *Nightsounds* is heard every Sunday night at midnight till 5:00 AM, Monday morning. And it seems as though that they are in Kerrville doing the Kerrville Folk Festival, and I'm going to sub for them tomorrow night. So there'll be much queer music between midnight and 5:00 AM.

VANESSA Much.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, much.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: And people are going to be going, what the heck happened here?

JIMMY CARPER: Exactly.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: I thought it was Sunday.

JIMMY CARPER: Well--

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: It's the wrong day.

JIMMY CARPER: You know, there's going to be some bluesy stuff, and some Joplin, and all kinds of good stuff like that. But you know. And some lesbian favorites like Carolyn Wonderland. I like that kind of stuff. Anyway. They're going to be-- Pat and Rosie are going to be hosting this event. It's featuring singer-songwriters [? Chelsea ?] [INAUDIBLE], Joel Stein, and Christie Ray. This is Friday, June the 15th.

That's next Friday at 8:30 at Bocados Restaurant and Bar, 1312 West Alabama. And there is a donation, but no one's going to be turned away.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: What's the donation? Is there a suggested donation?

JIMMY CARPER: Eh, whatever.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: Nothing? Just anything.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah. Whatever.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: [INAUDIBLE]

JIMMY CARPER: This is to raise awareness and raise a little money for the Gay & Lesbian Switchboard Houston because they are on a-- I mean, the Switchboard has really been turned around since they've been taken over by the Montrose Counseling Center and now are operating 24 hours a day.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: Yes. Very long hours.

JIMMY CARPER: If you have a crisis, call at 3:00 in the morning. Someone can talk to you.

VANESSA A real human being.
EDWARDS
FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: That's right. That's right. Prefer you called earlier, but, hey, sometimes the crises don't happen until 3:00 in the morning.

VANESSA Exactly. We can't choose our crises.
EDWARDS
FOSTER:

What can I say? Yeah. You know. Hey.

VANESSA You know, I think I'm going to schedule a crises tomorrow for-- well, what's the best time? About 4:30 in the
EDWARDS afternoon? OK. Yeah, I'll see if I can work it in there. I got to check my schedule.
FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: I don't have your-- I don't have your-- your mics aren't on in there.

VANESSA Oh.
EDWARDS
FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: We do have the news and views coming up at the bottom of the hour with not Big Roy and Chris, but Little Roy and Bobby. So it's going to be interesting.

VANESSA Yes, especially with the microphones out in there.
EDWARDS
FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

[LAUGHTER]

VANESSA OK. Do the news really loud.
EDWARDS
FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: OK, Vanessa. Vanessa, it's time to update everybody. What are you up to these days? I mean, what groups are you involved in, and then--

VANESSA Oh, god. You don't want to know.
EDWARDS
FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: Ah.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: Well, basically, the Pride rally, of course.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: Which is coming up. And again, one more little plug, remember, the Pride rally going on right before the Pride parade. This will be 6:30 PM the night of the parade at the judge's stand. That's where we start it all off. We will have some music, bands, and, of course, a lot of speakers. And then we will march backwards on the parade route, going in the opposite direction, and that will start at about roughly about 8:15 PM.

And of course, it ends about 8:45. And then, of course, the parade kicks off at 9:00, and we all walk back in the other direction.

JIMMY CARPER: That's June the 23rd.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: Yes. So a lot of walking.

JIMMY CARPER: The fourth Saturday, not the last Saturday.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: Yes.

JIMMY CARPER: Do not come the last Saturday expecting to see a parade. You will be very disappointed. It's the 23rd.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: Exactly.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah. People are kind of used to that last weekend.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: Well, so am I. And that kind of threw me off. I found out it was the 23rd, and I thought, no, no, that doesn't sound right.

JIMMY CARPER: Well, you see, the actual Stonewall event was midnight on the 27th. And they try to distance the parade from the 4th of July. And you see that last Saturday is the 30th, and that's real close to the 4th of July. People couldn't go out of town and have other plans and--

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: Yeah, true. We want to keep you in town.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, yes.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: So stay in town. Come out to the Pride parade rally.

JIMMY CARPER: You bet.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: 6:30 PM.

JIMMY CARPER: And don't forget the festival the next day.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: Oh, absolutely.

JIMMY CARPER: Garden in the Heights.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: Absolutely. Also-- let's see. What else am I involved in? Well, People for a Fair Houston. That's going to be kicking off, oh, sometime during the summer. And of course, this is kind of revolving around a lot of the political campaigns that will be coming up in the end of fall. And on top of that, we just finished the National Transgender Advocacy Coalition's Lobby Days.

We're doing a little bit of follow-up on that right now. We actually had some very, very good results in some of the offices, and so we need to work with them. Maybe some big news on that, but we can't really get into any kind of detail. We've just got to continue working on it. And hopefully, we will be able to provide a scoop right here on *After Hours* one of these days, hopefully.

JIMMY CARPER: Good.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: I'm keeping my fingers crossed. You will hear it first here.

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: In Houston.

JIMMY CARPER: Are you still involved with [? TATS ?] or [? KATZ ?] or any of these--

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

[LAUGHTER]

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: Actually, well, sort of yes and no. Yes, I am, from an official sense. No, not in the sense of, have I been able to participate lately. Basically, because everything else has been pulling me off. The NTAC thing pretty much kind of really socked me. I was very, very deeply involved in that. Unfortunately, that was pretty much kind of using up all of my time. And when that wasn't using it up, then it was one of the other groups or committees.

And so, unfortunately, some of these things have taken a little bit more of a backseat, but--

JIMMY CARPER: Does Vanessa have a private life? I mean, does she date? Does she have a boyfriend? Or a girlfriend?

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: Don't know. I'd have to ask her, really. I really haven't-- I haven't had the time to chat with her, so soon as I get a chance to sit down with her and ask, maybe I'll hopefully have some good news.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, OK.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: All right. No, no, Vanessa doesn't have a personal life. It's pretty much kind of one of those fun things, I guess. You just do what you do. In fact, actually, next week, I will be in New York City at the Amanda Milan vigil. So I will be up there kind of covering that and also acting as a spokesperson for NTAC, and so we've at least got our official folks there to wave the flag and to give some support for something that really is very needed up there.

And I know a lot of folks--

JIMMY CARPER: Needed everywhere.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: Yeah, true. A lot of folks were wondering why are we listening to these New York folks talk about their discrimination ordinances, et cetera. The thing is, this is something that we'll have to deal with eventually ourselves. And obviously, we need to learn through the pitfalls that others have gone through. And hopefully, we can avoid some of the things that they've had to go through, or perhaps we can learn from some of their successes as well. And that's something that we can always benefit from.

JIMMY CARPER: Good. Good.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: Anything else?

JIMMY CARPER: No.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: I don't know if there's--

JIMMY CARPER: You got anything else?

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: Well, I'm pretty much fine. I don't know. I'm kind of looking at the time. I'm thinking--

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, OK.

VANESSA --well, 1:30--
EDWARDS
FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, we got to get the boys on here, don't we?

VANESSA Well, I suppose. How loud can y'all holler?
EDWARDS
FOSTER:

[LAUGHTER]

Real loud. We still can't hear you in the other room.

JIMMY CARPER: No. And I'm sure the audience can't see that finger that you're giving me.

VANESSA Ew. Wow. That thing is crooked.
EDWARDS
FOSTER:

[LAUGHTER]

JIMMY CARPER: So is the finger. Oh.

[LAUGHTER]

VANESSA Oh, well.
EDWARDS
FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, well.

VANESSA This was a G show, but I think, somehow or another, we're back in the old ratings now.
EDWARDS
FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, well. Well, Vanessa--

VANESSA Moving towards X rapidly.
EDWARDS
FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: Thank you for being here.

VANESSA Thank you for having me.
EDWARDS
FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: And we'll see you in the next couple of months.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: Yeah, about two, three months when I'll be back--

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, no, September.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: I'm tired again. September? OK.

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: You want me back?

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, you bet.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: Hey. Well. Hopefully, the rain will stay away, but--

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

VANESSA EDWARDS FOSTER: Well, if not, I guess I'll forge my way through the floods just like last time.

JIMMY CARPER: OK. And now it's time--

[MUSIC PLAYING]

Oh, yes. It's time for the *After Hours* news and views with Little Roy and Bobby.

RADIO HOST 1: Hello.

RADIO HOST 2: Hello.

RADIO HOST 1: How are you?

JIMMY CARPER: Lovely. How are you doing?

RADIO HOST 1: I'm doing fine.

JIMMY CARPER: [LAUGHS]

RADIO HOST 2: Contemplating new things.

RADIO HOST 1: Contemplating so many festive things.

JIMMY CARPER: I say, yes. Anyhow.

RADIO HOST 1: So anyhow.

JIMMY CARPER: So where do we start? Where do we go? What are we doing?

RADIO HOST 1: Where would you like to start?

RADIO HOST 2: OK.

VANESSA You forgot the Walter Cronkite news music.

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, there we go.

VANESSA [HUMS]

EDWARDS

FOSTER:

RADIO HOST 1: [HUMS] Yeah. Was that Walter Cronkite, or was that--

JIMMY CARPER: I don't know. Edward R. Murrow.

RADIO HOST 1: The bald eagle from *The Muppet Show*. That would-- anyhow. Never mind.

JIMMY CARPER: What do we got?

RADIO HOST 2: OK.

RADIO HOST 1: Why don't you start off?

RADIO HOST 2: Oh, thank you. You're so kind. Since this is very nerve-wracking, let's start off with Roy McCarthy, one of our own little people here, who's not here at the moment.

RADIO HOST 1: Little people?

RADIO HOST 2: OK, so not so little. But you know, people don't know that, really.

RADIO HOST 1: We love Roy. Anyhow, go on.

RADIO HOST 2: Anyhow. So how do I say this? He will be a guest speaker over at the parade eve celebration on Friday, June 22, at 7:00 PM at the Houston lesbian and gay community center. He will discuss his experience regarding the historic event prior to the screening of the 1996 film *Stonewall*.