

[MUSIC PLAYING]

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**JIMMY CARPER:** Romanovsky and Phillips-- "Living With AIDS." Before that, Laurie Anderson-- "Love Among the Sailors" from her brand new album *Bright Red*. And started it off with the Williams Brothers-- "Don't Look Now."

**EVELYN** Oh, all three of those were very, very beautiful.

**CARROLL:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah.

**EVELYN** Beautiful, beautiful.

**CARROLL:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** And I ended it up with Romanovsky and Phyllis because I wanted to talk about their concert Tuesday night. It was so much fun.

**EVELYN** Tell us about it.

**CARROLL:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Well, I will in a second, but I have to change CD players here because we've got one on the fritz. OK.

**EVELYN** I'm really sorry I missed that concert.

**CARROLL:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** It was fun. It's sort of like if you go out and buy *Brave Boys*, They did the album.

**EVELYN** They did the whole album?

**CARROLL:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Well, you see--

**EVELYN** Oh, I love it when-- I love it when people do that at concerts-- do the whole album.

**CARROLL:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Just about. There's a couple that they missed, but not many. *Brave Boys* has some new material, some remakes of old material, and some old material.

**EVELYN** Oh.

**CARROLL:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** It's kind of a mixed bag here.

**EVELYN** Oh, how wonderful. It's like-- it's like a greatest hits plus.

**CARROLL:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Exactly. Exactly.

**EVELYN** Oh, neat.

**CARROLL:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** And it was really fun. And I wanted to-- I had a good time. But I wanted to play stuff tonight that they didn't play at their concert because they have so much good stuff. I mean, they'd have to play for two days if they played all the favorites.

**EVELYN** Just two? No.

**CARROLL:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah. And "Living With AIDS" was one of them they did not sing

**EVELYN** I can't believe they didn't sing--

**CARROLL:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Well, they have a new one called *Brave Boys*, which I have to get used to I guess because "Living With AIDS" is a classic to me.

**EVELYN** "Living with AIDS" always brings tears to my eyes.

**CARROLL:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah, yeah, yeah.

**EVELYN** You know, the first time I ever heard that song was not Romanovsky and Phillips. I heard that song being

**CARROLL:** performed by a man by the name of Bill at the Bearing Care Center.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh, yeah?

**EVELYN** He was playing the piano and singing it. And I bawled like a baby.

**CARROLL:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh.

**EVELYN** Bawled like a baby. It was beautiful.

**CARROLL:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** A lot of people have done that song because it's so good.

**EVELYN** Mm-hmm.

**CARROLL:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Ron did one of his own. And I was a little disappointed because, you know, it was a good song, but it wasn't my favorite from his solo album. And I want to play that one right now because it's a fun, up-tempo, just feel-good, good song.

**EVELYN** Jamming down good time.

**CARROLL:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Jamming down good time, you know, of meeting somebody and having a good time with them. It's called "Baby Take Advantage of Me."

**EVELYN** Oh, Bubba Sue, this song's for you.

**CARROLL:**

[MUSIC PLAYING]

[AUDIO OUT]

[MUSIC PLAYING]

**JIMMY CARPER:** Whoa. Romanovsky and Phillips-- "Straightening Up the House." We've got so many. I haven't even-- I haven't even touched *Be Political, Not Polite*-- that whole album of great stuff. And I want to play something from-- I do want to play something from the new one. But--

**EVELYN** We have Rick from Q-Patrol online.

**CARROLL:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** We do, huh?

**EVELYN** Yeah.

**CARROLL:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Well, hold on and we'll get him on the air.

**EVELYN** Yeah, let's get him on the air. Q-Patrol calls in pretty regularly and lets us know what's going on out in the

**CARROLL:** streets. And I volunteer for Q-Patrol, and I wish more of you would volunteer. You can call the radio station up here, and I will give you the telephone number. The radio number is 526-KPFT. JAM-KPFT.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Are you there, Rick?

**RICK:** Hi, Jimmy. How are you doing tonight?

**JIMMY CARPER:** Great. What's up?

**RICK:** Oh, it's pretty quiet night. We had our excitement earlier. Q-Patrol has a program called Fashion Citation.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oo.

**EVELYN** Oh, this is a great night for it.

**CARROLL:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** And we've heard of it.

**RICK:** We've got their hands full. We were issuing them left and right. They were real popular tonight.

**JIMMY CARPER:** And I'm sure they were needed.

**RICK:** Oh, definitely. There were quite a few. Luckily, as far as the outsiders to the community, they were behaving themselves and staying away like they should and letting us enjoy our holiday here.

**EVELYN** Oh, Yeah. This is a favorite queer holiday too.

**CARROLL:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah, this is the National Gay holiday. Yes, yes, yes.

**RICK:** Oh, yeah. We had our eye strain with some of the sights that we saw tonight. The--

**JIMMY CARPER:** Big hair and lots of flesh?

**RICK:** Well, the-- I think the most notable was Wonder Woman, and we spent a lot of time wondering.

**EVELYN** Get 'em Bubba Sue. Now, Rick, you know that my favorite thing to do on Q-Patrol besides chase bad guys is give out fashion citations.

**RICK:** Oh, definitely. We enjoy ourselves on the patrol. Occasionally, we have to, unfortunately, add a serious note to our activities. We do occasionally interrupt the, oh, the unwelcome visitors. We've broken up a few gay bashings, and we've discouraged unfriendly activity in the neighborhood I guess would be the best way to put it down in the kingdom--

**JIMMY CARPER:** He's so diplomatic.

**EVELYN** Isn't he just? Well, as the mother of teenagers, my favorite thing to do on Q-Patrol other than give fashion citations is to scare teenagers out of Montrose.

**RICK:** Oh, yeah. Well, it's always fun for mom to get the pink postcards too. For those that wanted more information. They can call our Q-Patrol number. And I don't happen to have it handy right this moment.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh, wait a moment.

**RICK:** Call and inquire as to the volunteer status and such. We're always looking for more people and--

**EVELYN** They can always call the station and get the number.

**CARROLL:**

**RICK:** Oh, definitely. We have quite a few people drop in and visit for a weekend every once in a while. We have some that are active quite often-- so whatever your time will allow. The only thing we haven't done is snuck Jimmy out there one night. I think-- I think if we did on a Friday night, he probably would be so excited he'd want to ride around and keep his eyes open all night.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Well, now, I-- I was over in front of Charlie's earlier this evening. And guess what was going on there.

**RICK:** I'm sorry. I had talking it on the radio there. I missed part of that.

**JIMMY CARPER:** OK, I was in front of Charlie's earlier this evening. And do you know what was going on over there?

**RICK:** I wasn't aware of it.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh. Well, there was a nice woman with a jar taking donations for Q-Patrol for the new radios.

**RICK:** We've got-- we've got several different people helping us out. Our newest project has been to get off the CB radios that are unreliable and get into our private radio service. And we now have a state-of-the-art system that is very expensive to keep up. But it does allow us to do the job we need to do.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Mm-hmm. And let's see. We're kind of looking for a phone number here too and can't find it so-- because we want folks to be able to either call in or send in some donations for Q-Patrol.

**RICK:** Certainly. If we have someone that feels like they're feeling a little more comfortable walking down the street without the carload of teenagers chasing them, they can feel free to drop us a contribution, help fund the radios, and keep us on the street.

**JIMMY CARPER:** That's right.

**RICK:** Expand the program.

**JIMMY CARPER:** The more radios, the more people we can have on the street, and we can cover a broader area.

**RICK:** Definitely. Our next project is to be able to cover some of our more outlying areas. We do occasional basis patrolling outside of our central district I guess you'd say-- our central business district. But there's locations frequented by our community more or less all over the area. There's quite a few outlying bars that we would like to provide a service to, but we just need the manpower.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Right. Right, I know.

**RICK:** Well, you know, you need strong radios too. So in-kind donations are always accepted. And get your pencils ready, folks. The number for Q-Patrol is--

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes?

**EVELYN** 871-8519.

**CARROLL:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** 871-8519.

**EVELYN** Now, this is an invaluable service to the community.

**CARROLL:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** And hey, the Montrose community, not just the gay and lesbian community because we've got all kinds of folks living here in the Montrose.

**RICK:** Well, it's been quite interesting, Jimmy. We are sponsored through the police department kind of indirectly that we do discuss with the officers problems. And we do have a group meeting with all of the citizen watch groups which we are affiliated with. And it's quite interesting for them to find out that we work a late evening shift where most of them are retired folks that work the afternoon.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah.

**RICK:** And they-- they've been quite surprised by the involvement that we have. Most of them weren't aware that we did this-- the projects that we do.

**EVELYN** Q-Patrol is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization. And they are a registered COPs-- Citizens On Patrol-- unit.  
**CARROLL:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah. Well, Rick, thanks for calling in with that report. And this is the fun weekend, isn't it?

**RICK:** Oh, definitely so. Just remind everybody-- walk in a group, stay together, and stay safe out there.

**JIMMY CARPER:** You bet. You bet.

**RICK:** Thanks.

**EVELYN** Thanks for calling.

**CARROLL:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Thanks for calling in.

**RICK:** Bye bye.

**EVELYN** Bye.

**CARROLL:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Bye. Ah, Q-Patrol, I always love when they call in and give the state of the Montrose address here.

**EVELYN** Oh, yes. And you know what?

**CARROLL:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** And it's nice to hear that everything is going smoothly.

**EVELYN** Yeah, it is. I was out on one patrol that got kind of scary. I've had things thrown at me on patrol. And it's just

**CARROLL:** gotten better and better since then. There's less and less going on. And it's because these people are out there.

They're not just out there walking the streets. They're out in mobile units. There's a lot of people out in force. You don't have to be out to be a member of Q-Patrol. You just have to be willing to volunteer some time.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah, yeah.

**EVELYN** So call them up, guys. They need help.

**CARROLL:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah, and I was out earlier. Jim and I were kind of walking. And it was pretty scary. I mean, we saw some pretty strange things.

There were lots of unauthorized people with unauthorized use of sequins and really, I mean, unbelievably bad hair.

**EVELYN** Oh, God help us.

**CARROLL:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah, yeah.

**EVELYN** You know, I love passing out citations because any weekend in Montrose-- any weekend, girl. You know, I have-- I  
**CARROLL:** have old aunts that have no eyesight that put on makeup better than this, OK?

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh, I saw that. I saw that. Oh, it was scary. Yeah.

**EVELYN** Oh, God.

**CARROLL:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** It's fun. But there's nothing like-- there's nothing like Halloween in Montrose.

**EVELYN** Oh, divine.

**CARROLL:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes. Now, back to the hit of the R&P new album *Brave Boys*. And I'm calling this the hit of the album. This is the song of the album. It was great, and it's the one that got them in trouble.

**EVELYN** Oh, is it? Tell me about that.

**CARROLL:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** This song plus the cover.

**EVELYN** Oh, the cover is great.

**CARROLL:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Well, they're naked, but one has--

**EVELYN** They have rollerblades on. They're not naked.

**CARROLL:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Well, Ron is wearing a-- Ron is wearing a guitar and Paul is wearing an accordion.

**EVELYN** That's really a cute pose with that accordion.

**CARROLL:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Isn't it?

**EVELYN** Yeah, it is. Yes.

**CARROLL:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** I'll bet he doesn't need all of that.

**EVELYN** Bubba, do you have an accordion?

**CARROLL:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Anyway, they got into trouble with a particular song. People who were working on getting this CD out kind of balked after taking the job because of this song coming up. And I think it is really funny.

**EVELYN** And you heard it here on--

**CARROLL:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** And you heard it here. In fact, you heard it first on Lesbian and Gay Voices because Mary Helen played it about three weeks ago.

**EVELYN** Oh, really. Did she?

**CARROLL:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** And then I got it and played it. And I've been playing it every week. And I love this song because-- listen to the words. It's really true. The name of the song is "If There's a God, He's a Queen."

**SPEAKER 1:** I've been traveling around a bit. And you get to have quite a perspective on things because we get to go to so many places. And while I generally feel like the gay '90s are here and things are starting to change, the antihomosexual movement is sure going full force too. And the propaganda that these groups put out is, like, so out of my reality. I mean, they're always talking about the homosexual agenda.

**SPEAKER 2:** As if gay people could agree on anything for one minute, right?

**SPEAKER 1:** I love that though. When I hear that, I always picture millions of little memo boards on the refrigerators of homosexuals throughout America marked "queer things to do today, and another thing."

Well, they're always talking about special rights. I mean-- OK, there is a little bit of truth to it. I think we deserve some special rights. You know, like parking. Just some little pink triangles next to the handicapped spaces. It's all I'm asking for. My life's been a little difficult, and that would help.

**SPEAKER 2:** Yeah, but-- I'll tell you the thing that really pisses me off about these people is that they always talk as if they own God. So we'd like to add our two cents to this discussion.

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[MUSIC PLAYING]

Thank you.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

**JIMMY CARPER:** You're listening to After Hours-- the continuing tradition on KPFT, Houston. And with us tonight, we've got Terri Richardson, president of HGLPC-- Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus. Welcome, Terri.

**TERRI** Thank you. It's nice to be here.

**RICHARDSON:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes, I wish you could have been here about two weeks ago actually. We had a very special guest on Diane's show-- Ken Wilke, who talked about Log Cabin Republicans.

**TERRI** Well, I'm sorry I missed that.

**RICHARDSON:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Well, there seems to be kind of a running commentary between you and Mr. Wilke in the voice here lately.

**TERRI** Yeah.

**RICHARDSON:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Can we talk about this?

**TERRI** Sure. Ken Wilke, as president of the Log Cabin Republicans, has come out as a very strong supporter for Robert

**RICHARDSON:** Eckels for county judge. And the caucus, of course, endorsed Vince Ryan for county judge. And that's created quite a controversy in the community I think or at least a perceived controversy.

**JIMMY CARPER:** OK, can we talk about that a little bit? I don't want to get off the subject here, but I'm not adept at playing politics. And I know that it's-- that there is a lot of give and take. But the last we heard from Mr. Ryan, he kind of sold us down the river in this--

**TERRI** Yeah, you're talking about the redistricting?

**RICHARDSON:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes.

**TERRI** Yeah, when he was a council member for--

**RICHARDSON:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** That may be a little strong, but that's the way it was perceived. by me.

**TERRI** No, no. I don't think that's too strong. I think it was perceived that way by a lot of people. He has since come to

**RICHARDSON:** the community. I don't know that he said he was sorry that he did that, but he has tried to make amends in a lot of other ways.

**JIMMY CARPER:** OK.

**TERRI** He-- he did ask to be screened by the caucus and screened very well, answered all the questions well, has

**RICHARDSON:** pledged a lot of support to the AIDS infected and affected community, which he'll have a lot to do with as the person in charge of all the Ryan White monies and the Ryan White council. He'll be making all those appointments.

And we've had a lot of trouble there with John Lindsay. I mean, it's been one disaster after another.

**JIMMY CARPER:** That's famous. And the thing of it with Vince is, he has been a friend of the community for years and years and years and years. And then, it's like, all of a sudden he did this thing to us-- kind of split us apart.

**TERRI** Yeah. And I wasn't real active then, and I'm not-- I'm not a good person to really talk much about that. But I

**RICHARDSON:** certainly know about it.

**JIMMY CARPER:** But we're saying we're healing over that and?

**TERRI** Yeah. In fact, when Vince kicked off his campaign, Annise Parker, who ran against Vince right after that for city

**RICHARDSON:** council and Vince beat her, she hosted a reception for Vince to come and talk to the community-- talk to members of the community. And it was a healing evening is what it was supposed to be.

And I think it was. He answered our questions, I think, to everybody's satisfaction and pledged a great deal of support. And he's been an open supporter of issues like lifting the ban on gays in the military.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh, I know. Yeah.

**TERRI** He hasn't faltered on any of the important things, you know?

**RICHARDSON:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Well, I did-- I just wanted to ask you about that because I've always considered Vince a friend of the community.

But that one thing has really always stuck in my craw.

**TERRI** Right. Right.

**RICHARDSON:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** All right, OK, so back to-- where were we?

**TERRI** I think we were with Mr. Eckels.

**RICHARDSON:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes. Oh, Yes. Yes. Mr. Eckels, has Mr. Wilke talked about being neighbors or personal friends or something?

**TERRI** Yeah. The troubling thing to me about this is that there are things being said about Mr. Eckels in an effort to get

**RICHARDSON:** support in the lesbian and gay community for him on election day that I think are not exactly true.

I think some of his "friend of our community status" has been embellished quite a bit. Mr. Wilke said in a newspaper interview that he had really helped Glen Maxey with the hate crimes legislation.

**JIMMY CARPER:** He said that on this show.

**TERRI** OK.

**RICHARDSON:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** But he had not-- but he said that, also, he had not been able to get a hold of Glen for a comment on that.

**TERRI** Well, I did do that. I talked to Glen's office. And I also talked to Representative Scott Hochberg, who is a

**RICHARDSON:** representative from Houston who carried the hate crimes legislation in the last session. And I called him and asked him how much help Mr. Eckels was.

And he said, well, I'm not sure what you're asking me. And I said, well, there's been a lot of talk that he was a big supporter of the Hate Crimes Act. And he said he didn't even vote for the Hate Crimes Act. He said, he wasn't involved in any committee, in any-- he was not a cosponsor. That just was not true.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh.

**TERRI** So I went to Austin. The Lesbian and Gay Rights Lobby hosted a meeting-- a daylong meeting of all of the leaders

**RICHARDSON:** of the different alliances and caucuses around the state. It was a great thing, and it's something that you all have to talk about. They're planning a March on Austin for next spring-- lobbying day.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Good. Good. Good.

**TERRI** It's going to be great. But one of the things that I did while I was up there was check out the voting record

**RICHARDSON:** because they keep records on all of the candidates. And I found some real troubling things.

Troubling only to the extent that there are people in our community who are urging other people in our community to vote for someone based on what they're saying. Because of the fact that he's a Republican, because of the strong radical right wing in Harris County, he is not able to stand up and openly be our friend. But he works for us behind the scenes.

**JIMMY CARPER:** That's the impression I got from Ken.

**TERRI** Well, that's what we're being told. And that just isn't true-- or at least in my estimation, it isn't true. Maybe

**RICHARDSON:** people should just decide this for themselves.

But one of the pieces of legislation that Mr. Eckels cosponsored in the last session was a proposed law to have abstinence only sex education in the schools. Now, the people in our community, the activists-- and in a lot of other communities-- are absolutely opposed to that sort of thing.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Absolutely. Absolutely. It's idiocy.

**TERRI** Another thing that he voted in favor of was a bill to criminalize the knowing-- and I put that in quotes--

**RICHARDSON:** transmission of HIV. That is just another attempt at discrimination. It's another homophobic piece of legislation that he voted in favor of.

The two votes that came up that were very important to our community, which were the vote on the sodomy statute to repeal 2106. And then there was a vote that Warren Chisholm tried to get an Amendment passed which would have stripped the Hate Crimes Act from the New Penal Code-- both very important votes to us. Mr. Eckels walked on both of those votes.

**JIMMY CARPER:** OK, what does that mean?

**TERRI** Well, that means he left the room when the vote was taken.

**RICHARDSON:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh.

**TERRI** So now, whether he left the room because he was being pressured by the right wing to vote for them and he

**RICHARDSON:** didn't want to do that and so he left, that may be the reason. But the fact is, I don't think we can call it an act of friendship or courage to our community that he did not vote.

2106-- there's nothing more critical. There's nothing that are lobbyists and the Texas Human Rights Foundation have worked any harder on than the repeal of 2106.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Well, this is my opinion, and it's certainly not the opinion of the station. But anyone in my estimation that is pro 2106 is not a friend of my community.

**TERRI** Well, no.

**RICHARDSON:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** I mean, period. Period. I mean, that-- you have to draw the line somewhere.

**TERRI** Yeah.

**RICHARDSON:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Now, tell me about Warren Chisholm.

**TERRI** Warren Chisholm is a state legislator-- long time legislator from Tampa I believe-- who is a right wing fanatic. He

**RICHARDSON:** is violently antigay. He's always coming up with something in the legislature. He's way, way out there. And he fights very hard for any homophobic piece of legislation that he can get through.

**JIMMY CARPER:** OK.

**TERRI** He's got a lot of clout. I mean, he's been there for a long time so.

**RICHARDSON:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** That happens.

**TERRI** Yeah.

**RICHARDSON:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** That happens.

**TERRI** Yeah.

**RICHARDSON:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** We're going to have enemies, and it's nice to know who they are.

**TERRI** Yes, it is.

**RICHARDSON:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Like Mr. Chisholm.

**TERRI** The LGRL-- the Lesbian/Gay Rights Lobby has got a new program that they've started this year, which is kind of

**RICHARDSON:** interesting. It's a legislative matching program. And they have matched activists.

And I don't think activist is a dirty word. I noticed that Mr. Wilke in his latest letter in *The Voice* said we are proactive, not activist.

**JIMMY CARPER:** As if there's something wrong with that.

**TERRI** Yeah, I'd sure like to know what that means. I mean, I don't know how we would have gotten-- made any of the

**RICHARDSON:** steps that we've made if it weren't for activists. I mean, I think people who go on the radio and have prolesbian and gay shows are activists. I think--

**JIMMY CARPER:** I guess we are. Yeah, yes.

**TERRI** If we do anything for our community, we're activists.

**RICHARDSON:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Just being out of the closet is being an activist.

**TERRI** It is. It's a very much of an activist thing to do. And so I'm a little troubled at the connotation that they're trying to put on that word. I'd really-- if he's listening, I'd love for him to call in and explain that to us.

**JIMMY CARPER:** To his credit, I've got to say that anyone who is going to be a member of the Republican Party and be openly gay has got a lot of guts.

**TERRI** Oh, and let me tell you, I have-- when I first became president of the caucus, the very first meeting that I attended in any official capacity was a meeting of the Log Cabin Republicans. That was back when Patrick Ball was president.

The meeting was held at Gary Van Ooteghem home. And I have-- I have-- and Chris Bacon before me-- have been very strong supporters of the Log Cabin Republicans. We have encouraged our friends who are Republican or conservative or more moderate to get involved in organizations like the Log Cabin Republicans.

And I was very fortunate when I was in Austin two weeks ago to meet with Paul van [? Lebersfeld ?] who is the president of the State Log Cabin Republicans. He is very much an activist. In fact, he told a story at this meeting that they were trying to get rid-- I wish I had the details. But they were trying to get rid of someone who was an incumbent. They really hated this guy. He had the religious right backing-- or the radical right. I'd rather use that term.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh, yeah.

**TERRI** And so they couldn't think of what to do. So they decided to endorse him. That's really clever, isn't it? Isn't it?

**RICHARDSON:** They endorsed this guy. And like two weeks before the election, he dropped out because he didn't know what to do with that endorsement. And I just thought that was a fabulous story.

**JIMMY CARPER:** That is one way of working on the inside.

**TERRI** That's right. And he is a self-identified Barracuda he said. When it comes to working within the Republican Party,

**RICHARDSON:** he is relentless. And that, I think, is a unique task that the Log Cabin Republicans or gay and lesbian Republicans can fill that the rest of us can't. We aren't inside the party.

**JIMMY CARPER:** No, that's true. That's true.

**TERRI** And they are--

**RICHARDSON:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** And for change to come about, someone has to do it from inside the party.

**TERRI** That's exactly right. They are-- and they are courageous to be there. But what I'm imploring people to do is stop

**RICHARDSON:** turning our energies on other activists or political organizations within our own community. And let's put it where it goes.

The HGLPC endorsed-- we only screened three Republicans this year. We invite every single candidate to screen with us-- every candidate who runs back in the primary is invited. And then, they're invited again for the general election.

And we can't make them screen, and we can't endorse them if they don't screen. But three Republican candidates screened with us. All three were endorsed. One asked subsequently to be unendorsed, and we did that.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes, yes.

**TERRI** But we still have two Republicans on the ticket or on the endorsement card. There's a large article in the caucus **RICHARDSON:** newsletter that was just mailed out last weekend, and it's in all the businesses in Montrose and the bars and bookstores and all.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Or you can get the endorsement cards at Charlie's.

**TERRI** Yeah, you can pick them up anywhere.

**RICHARDSON:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Almost anywhere.

**TERRI** The newsletter-- we have a huge article. And the title of the article is, Don't Vote the Straight Democratic Ticket.

**RICHARDSON:** So I don't understand the caucuses being accused, once again, of being antirepublican or anticonservative. You know, it's just-- it's not true. And we've got to put that energy on our enemies.

**JIMMY CARPER:** I know. It's very difficult for me doing this radical radio program. And I have a lover of 16 years who's a Republican so.

**TERRI** And y'all have managed to get along.

**RICHARDSON:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** We just don't talk about it a lot.

**TERRI** See. See. Maybe that's best sometimes.

**RICHARDSON:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** I know. It is tough. It is tough.

I do have to tell you that you are listening to KPFT, Houston, After Hours with Jimmy Carper and Terri Richardson-- president of HGLPC. And we're talking about voting. That is the most important thing you can do is to vote.

**TERRI** Right. Talk about your activist things to do. That's 15 minutes out of, what? 500,000 minutes that we have in a

**RICHARDSON:** year. It takes about 15 minutes to vote. And it is the single most important thing--

**JIMMY CARPER:** Absolutely

**TERRI** --that anyone can do.

**RICHARDSON:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Absolutely. Ray Hill always talks about-- not only is it the most single most important thing, but the judges that the people in your neighborhood that you're voting for are probably-- I mean, that's even more important than voting for president because it's unlikely you're going to meet a president. It's more likely you're going to meet a judge.

**TERRI** Right. And the various judicial-- each of the court systems impacts our life incredibly. The criminal courts-- we  
**RICHARDSON:** don't want discrimination based on sexual orientation when we're before a criminal judge-- or the treatment that we get by the bailiffs in the back rooms. We have to be careful about that.

The family court judges, our transgender community has-- those judges can impact their lives a lot. Lesbian and gay parents are impacted by the family court judges.

**JIMMY CARPER:** You bet. You bet.

**TERRI** So there's-- all day on the line we're impacted by those races. And we've got to-- the down-ballot races are the  
**RICHARDSON:** ones that most people just sort of fall asleep on.

**JIMMY CARPER:** And then you don't know the name or you just, oh, this name sounds familiar and not even knowing anything about these folks.

**TERRI** The caucus spends as much time screening a candidate for county civil court at law judge as it does for governor.  
**RICHARDSON:** And we try to get lawyers from the caucus to serve on the screening panels for the judicial races so they can ask them intelligent questions and they know something about what's happening. And we spend a lot of time on those races. And we have endorsed I don't know how many judges. Probably 25 or 30 incredible-- more maybe.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Incredible amounts. I mean, the card is like double the size that it usually is.

**TERRI** Yeah. We've endorsed 54 or 56 candidates for this general election. And it's a help. You go in, and you've got  
**RICHARDSON:** that card.

And we're not just asking people to blindly vote the caucus block. What we're asking them to do is to trust that the caucus has done a really good job of screening these candidates and finding out where they stand on the issues that are important to our community. And in the way that we have any voice is to have a unified voice and a block vote for those candidates.

**JIMMY CARPER:** OK. There's something that I don't want to put you on the spot-- yes, I do. I do want to put you on the spot actually.

I am not a political person. Now, we've talked about-- I do-- I come here every week and do lesbian and gay writing--

**TERRI** I saw you at a fundraiser this week. Like, come on.

**RICHARDSON:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Actually, yes. He was a good friend of mine. But I'm not out there. And I don't-- I don't go to caucus meetings. And I like getting this card because I'm not going to spend the time finding out who are the friends of my community.

But I did get a letter in the mail saying, how would you like to renew your membership to HGLPC, and I want to ask you, why should I?

**TERRI** Well, well-- put me on the spot. The HGLPC is the oldest political organization for lesbian and gay issues in the  
**RICHARDSON:** state of Texas. Renewing your membership, number one, provides us with the operating funds that we need to keep the office open, to pay the phone bill.

That phone line is a real lifeline in this community. I don't know. A lot of people don't realize but when callers can't get through sometimes to the gay and lesbian switchboard, they will call the HGLPC phone number and ask for information about where they can go if they've been in trouble. They've had issues of discrimination that they're facing with their job or with housing. They often call the caucus line, even though that's not what we do, we can refer them to someone who can help them. So the phone is a lifeline.

Also, you have a vote as a member of the caucus. You have a vote in the endorsement process. And it's an important process. And we need people in the community who aren't your easily recognizable activists because the caucus, since it does serve this important function, it's important that the caucus represent the whole community. And the only way we can do that is to look like the community.

We've got to get people who aren't standing out there with signs in front of the polls and who aren't the ones that are doing that work because that's not what our whole community looks like. That's why we're trying to increase African-American participation, Hispanic participation, women-- we don't have a lot of women in the caucus.

**JIMMY CARPER:** You don't?

**TERRI** No. No.

**RICHARDSON:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** See, that's surprising to me.

**TERRI** There are--

**RICHARDSON:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Because I think of women-- lesbians especially-- I guess the ones I come across are incredibly political.

**TERRI** They are. And we just don't have great participation among women in the caucus. And so it's an important

**RICHARDSON:** organization. And being a member gives you an important vote, but it also helps us keep going with some of the things that we're doing.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Well, actually, that's exactly right. And of course I'm going to renew if only to provide money so you can print up these push cards--

**TERRI** Yeah, printing is expensive.

**RICHARDSON:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** --and send out all of these. Because I know you send out to a lot more than just membership.

**TERRI** We send-- our mailing list is about 13,000. And we send to that list. And then we print an additional 6,000 or

**RICHARDSON:** 7,000. But we also do phone banking to that large list, and we call those people the week before the election and remind them to vote and see if they need a ride to the polls.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Right, I've received those phone calls. Yes.

**TERRI** You also, if you're a member, you get a regular monthly newsletter. You don't have to wait and get the election

**RICHARDSON:** newsletter. And that has all kinds of wonderfully entertaining articles and fun information in it. So it's worth it.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Well, I want to thank you for stopping by. Is there anything we-- do we want to bash anybody else here?

**TERRI** I don't want to bash anybody, Jimmy. I don't want you to mischaracterize--

**RICHARDSON:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** No. What I'm saying-- I guess, the bottom line here is.

**SPEAKER 3:** Call somebody. Tell them to come over here and read it.

**JIMMY CARPER:** The bottom line here is Vince Ryan has been a friend of this community for a very, very long time. I personally know of things that he did back in '87 and '88. I don't know who Eckels is as far as my community is concerned.

All of a sudden, he's being pushed as a friend of the community. And you know, who am I going to believe? Your ears or my eyes?

**TERRI** Yeah, I just-- I think we've got to elevate our principles, and the leaders of the political organizations have an

**RICHARDSON:** absolute responsibility to the community to be truthful about these candidates. And partisan politics, party label can never, ever, ever rise above our responsibility to the community to tell the truth.

I was in a lot of trouble about saying something about Ann Richards, you know, that I didn't think she had done enough. And the caucus endorsed her and for good reason. But we've got to tell the truth about these people.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah. Yeah, yeah. You are the president of HGLPC. I'll bet every time you open your mouth you piss somebody off.

**TERRI** I do. I'm always in trouble. I'm always in trouble. And I've got a real thin skin too. This is nuts. I don't--

**RICHARDSON:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Really?

**TERRI** I don't-- yeah. I get my feelings hurt really easily.

**RICHARDSON:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh.

**TERRI** But, you know?

**RICHARDSON:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** But you've been so-- just looking on it from the outside, you've been one of the most dynamic presidents that I can remember.

**TERRI** Well, thank you. I've had a real dynamic board behind me. A lot of people from other activist organizations who

**RICHARDSON:** have sort of gone on hiatus right now are getting real active with the caucus. And I haven't done it by myself by any means. It's just it's a real energetic group.

**JIMMY CARPER:** OK, if somebody out there wants a push card or want some information on HGLPC, where do they call?

**TERRI** They can call 521-1000. You'll probably get an answering machine, but you'll get a phone call returned. The

**RICHARDSON:** endorsement cards are all over Montrose right now. We're going to have actual live people with t-shirts so they'll be easily recognized at 17 different precincts this year. This is the most precincts we've ever covered on election day.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Cool.

**TERRI** So if you get there and for some reason you don't have an endorsement card, look around and someone will  
**RICHARDSON:** probably have one for you.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah. I know I guard mine.

**TERRI** Yeah.

**RICHARDSON:**