

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

[MUSIC PLAYING]

(SINGING) After hours, after hours.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh yes, you've tuned in to *After Hours* queer radio with attitude. Right here on KPFT Houston 90.1 FM. The crew of *After Hours* is ready to bring you news, interviews, dialogue, and music, geared for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered people, and their friends.

Here at *After Hours*, we may be diverse, but we have one thing in common. We are all out of the closet and urge everyone to come out of their closets. That means, standing up for yourself, taking responsibility for your own life, and being proud of who you are.

Realistically, we 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*.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

Hello Houston, and college station, and the world. And welcome to the December 22 edition of *After Hours*. I'm Jimmy Carper. I'll be your producer tonight, and I may be your host for the entire night. This is normal-- this is the fourth--

**SPEAKER 1:** Fourth?

**JIMMY CARPER:** Saturday.

**SPEAKER 1:** Was it?

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes.

**SPEAKER 1:** It's hard to keep track.

**JIMMY CARPER:** I know. And I'm expecting HATCH. And I hope they don't think that they're waiting for the last Saturday of the month.

**SPEAKER 1:** Yeah, well.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Because they're going to be very disappointed.

**SPEAKER 1:** Yeah, probably.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Bobby's here.

**SPEAKER 1:** Hey.

**BOBBY:** Hey.

**SPEAKER 1:** How are you?

**BOBBY:** Merry Christmas.

**SPEAKER 1:** Merry--

**BOBBY:** Merry ho, ho.

**SPEAKER 1:** Yeah. It's been a bad week.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Well--

**SPEAKER 1:** We'll get into that.

**JIMMY CARPER:** OK. OK, we'll get into that. The music. People are going to be asking. The last one you heard was of course Venus Envy with "I'll Be a Homo For Christmas" that's--

**SPEAKER 1:** Of course.

**JIMMY CARPER:** --bread and butter of a queer Christmas music.

**SPEAKER 1:** Of course.

**JIMMY CARPER:** And the first two little ditties there are off of a brand new CD, Bob Rivers. And it's called *Chipmunks Roasting On an Open Fire*. He also does that. But this was called "The Angel" and "Who Put the Stump?" in my rump-ba-rump-ba-rump.

**SPEAKER 1:** I heard that from the other room, and I was trying to stand up while-- that was funny.

**JIMMY CARPER:** The guys in here were really going wild. And that's funny, funny, funny. It's not particularly queer. Bob Rivers is not particularly queer. Although, on one of his other Christmas comedy CDs he does the "Walking 'Round in Women's Underwear," which, of course, we will be playing later on.

**SPEAKER 1:** I wonder if they know the phone's ringing. Anyhow--

**JIMMY CARPER:** They probably don't. Oh, there they go. They got it, no, no.

**SPEAKER 1:** Now everybody's-- We're busy tonight.

**JIMMY CARPER:** It's hard to tell. They don't know. It's-- The phone's ringing. OK. Maybe that'll help. First of all, let's see, a couple of things I want to do. And-- oh good, I didn't leave my pad at home. I want to say hello.

**SPEAKER 1:** Is that time of the month?

**JIMMY CARPER:** To a whole--

**SPEAKER 1:** New pad.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Hey, hey, hey, hey.

**SPEAKER 1:** Anyhow, go on.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Not that pad.

**SPEAKER 1:** OK.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Let's see, I want to say hello to a whole bunch of folks. Randy and Randy, and Paul, and Daniel, and mike, and now William, from Williams from the Ramseys two unit sent a letter this week. And thank you so much.

I read it and, you know, I really enjoy all the letters and the cards. Gosh, I've received some-- actually, the show has received cards from let's see-- Paul sent a beautiful, beautiful card. You know, hand done

**SPEAKER 1:** I can't even--

**JIMMY CARPER:** Randy.

**SPEAKER 1:** --incredibly few gifts this year.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah, this was-- there was not a lot of money. You know, and--

**SPEAKER 1:** There wasn't so much that. I just-- there were very specific people I wanted to give stuff to so--

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah.

**SPEAKER 1:** It was--

**JIMMY CARPER:** I've been noticing that. And I think, it has something to do with 9/11 because there's just not the outside Christmas lights that people normally would have.

**SPEAKER 1:** I think what--

**JIMMY CARPER:** Decorations that I'm used to seeing every year or another.

**SPEAKER 1:** What I'm fascinated by is that I'm noticing the ones that are out there more.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Mm-hmm.

**SPEAKER 1:** Because I think with the one I'm thinking that a lot of the people who have them are kind of wanting to do all the celebrating that they can.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes.

**SPEAKER 1:** The ones that are out there are kind of extreme. I mean, they've decorated everything.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah, especially my--

**SPEAKER 1:** Every lamp post on their property, and goddess knows what else.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes, yes. I'm still on the hellos.

**SPEAKER 1:** Oh well. I'm sorry.

**JIMMY CARPER:** J.R. From Baytown sent a nice card to us. And I agree with his philosophy and I adhere to it also. It's a wonderful philosophy for gay men. It's real men, do men.

**SPEAKER 1:** That works for me.

**JIMMY CARPER:** It works for me, you bet. And he said he heard the show from Out Magazine And I'm impressed, but I'm thinking that he really meant OutSmart. Because--

**SPEAKER 1:** Yeah.

**JIMMY CARPER:** They do-- every month, they have a little blurb there about the station and this show, which I really appreciate.

**SPEAKER 1:** That's always cool.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah, so--

**SPEAKER 1:** A little publicity is a wonderful thing

**JIMMY CARPER:** You bet, you bet.

**SPEAKER 1:** Happy Holidays.

**JIMMY CARPER:** And I want to send out get well wishes to Kevin Davidson. He's in-- I don't know if he's-- I think he's still in the hospital because he had a bout of pneumonia. Yeah, no. Not good.

**SPEAKER 1:** That's not a fun thing.

**JIMMY CARPER:** And he's got some you know other health problems. So that doesn't help things out. So David-- Kevin, hello. Kevin, get well, we need you.

Kevin Davidson has been so active in the community. Either with the community center, or the chamber, or HATCH. I believe he's still the president of the board of HATCH, and numerous, numerous other organizations.

**SPEAKER 1:** He's up to his neck in all kinds of good stuff.

**JIMMY CARPER:** That's right. So you've got to get over that. Yes, I mentioned this before. We had a caller who wanted to know the name and artist of the song about the Christmas tree. Yes, that was the angel on the Christmas tree that was from Bob Rivers' brand new Christmas comedy CD called *Chipmunks Roasting On an Open Fire*. You can get that-- well, I got it at Soundwaves. And there's a cute little ditty about chipmunks roasting on an open fire to take off on the original chipmunk song.

**SPEAKER 1:** The chipmunk song, yeah.

**SPEAKER 2:** Oh gee, I love that one.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Well now, you won't like this. I won't play that then.

**SPEAKER 2:** No, is it equally cute?

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes.

**SPEAKER 2:** OK, then that's fine. I don't care that it's the chipmunks.

**JIMMY CARPER:** But they do get roasted on an open fire.

**SPEAKER 2:** Oh, gee.

**SPEAKER 1:** Oops.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Anyway-- yeah, that's funny. Not particularly queer, but extremely funny. And actually--

**SPEAKER 1:** Everything on the show is a little queer.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah it is. That song in particular was pointed out to me by Roark, who does the Monday through Friday afternoon, *Crossroads*.

**SPEAKER 1:** Oh.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah, yeah.

**SPEAKER 1:** Cool.

**JIMMY CARPER:** You bet. And Jennifer said to remember to play the promo about Christmas morning show. Well honey, I was looking for it last night and couldn't find it. But I have a little thing about it here, that she's going to be putting Christ back in Christmas on her show. Jennifer does *Reach Out in the Darkness*, 1:00 to 4:00 AM, and that is Christmas Eve day. Yes, that's late Monday night into early Christmas Day.

**SPEAKER 1:** That would technically be Christmas Day. It's after midnight.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah, well it isn't if you haven't been to bed yet. It's still Christmas Eve.

**SPEAKER 1:** Yeah.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah OK. 1:00 to 4:00 AM. And she's putting Christ back into Christmas because she is going to play "Jesus Christ Superstar" uncensored, uncut, complete, and in its entirety, and on vinyl. She does a '60s vinyl.

**SPEAKER 1:** Yes.

**JIMMY CARPER:** So if I can find that card I will play it. And other than that, let's see, let's see, let's see. I expected--

**SPEAKER 1:** A room full of people.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Well, that too. And Ray Hill to be here. He said he was going to drop by.

**SPEAKER 1:** I haven't seen her in weeks.

**JIMMY CARPER:** I don't know what's going on here.

**SPEAKER 1:** I haven't seen Ray in weeks.

**JIMMY CARPER:** I expected to have a full show and here we are just chatting.

**SPEAKER 1:** It's just us. It's Christmas.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Hello.

**SPEAKER 1:** We're doing our happy little Christmas thing. And trust me, after the week I've just had, I could use a little Christmas.

**JIMMY CARPER:** You could use a little Christmas, huh?

**SPEAKER 1:** Yeah. I don't like having to do what I did this week.

**JIMMY CARPER:** What did you have to do this week? Let's get into it. You've been saying-- you've been hinting at it. It must be--

**SPEAKER 1:** I had to go to a memorial this week and--

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh.

**SPEAKER 1:** And no, it was not for someone who died of AIDS.

**JIMMY CARPER:** OK.

**SPEAKER 1:** It was a guy, who for all intents and purposes, was my gay grandfather.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh.

**SPEAKER 1:** His name was Tom Lehman. And he was killed in a house fire a week ago, yesterday.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh, no.

**SPEAKER 1:** He and his greyhounds. You could always see him around the net. He used to volunteer for NAMES Project among other things. And he took me to-- he used to take me to the museums.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah.

**SPEAKER 1:** And he would take me to see-- he took me to see Star Wars twice. Star Wars exhibit, twice. Then a bunch of other stuff. And so it's just all-- I didn't grow up with grandparents.

And I certainly did not have the world's most understanding family. So it was kind of nice to have somebody who was like a grandfather. He was 71 and--

**JIMMY CARPER:** That's still young.

**SPEAKER 1:** Yeah.

**JIMMY CARPER:** You know, I know it sounds old, but people are living--

**SPEAKER 1:** It's still old enough to be my grandfather.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah, well into the 90s, you know?

**SPEAKER 1:** I'm well aware of that, but he was still old enough to be my grandfather. And he was cool. He could go on very long tirades about stuff that seemed relatively innocuous and stuff, but I loved him. And it's just kind of been hard this week.

**JIMMY CARPER:** OK.

**SPEAKER 1:** So--

**JIMMY CARPER:** Sometimes that happens. And Christmas is kind of a mixed thing, you know, because we have great anticipation and great joy but yet--

**SPEAKER 1:** Stuff that sucks happens.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah, and you also remember all the bad stuff. You know, people that are not with us anymore. Especially at this time of year.

**SPEAKER 1:** He took me to Lights in the Heights just two weeks ago.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh, yeah.

**SPEAKER 1:** And I went to his memorial last night.

**JIMMY CARPER:** OK.

**SPEAKER 1:** So anyhow, that was the bad news of the week. The good news of the week is I went to see "Lord of the Rings." And oh, there is such gayness in that movie.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Let's hold on for that because a lot of people have lost folks. And it's kind of bittersweet in a lot of ways. But this time of year and I have a song by the Seattle Gay Men's Chorus. And it will become instantly recognizable. It's just done by a queer group. For a queer show, for a queer audience and--

**SPEAKER 1:** All that and the queer stuff.

**JIMMY CARPER:** And their queer straight friends.

**SPEAKER 1:** Yeah.

**JIMMY CARPER:** The Seattle Gay Men's Chorus. Actually, the Seattle Men's Chorus. They don't have gay in it, but they certainly are. And that was "White Christmas." Before that, Melissa Etheridge with her version of "Happy Xmas."

**SPEAKER 1:** --her version. That's pretty.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes, isn't that nice?

**SPEAKER 1:** It's cool.

**JIMMY CARPER:** And started that out with the Seattle Men's Chorus and "Hard Candy Christmas."

**SPEAKER 1:** Yeah.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah.

**SPEAKER 1:** I love that song.

**JIMMY CARPER:** That's pretty and that's kind of like--

**SPEAKER 1:** It's sad and melancholy and all of that, but it's such a pretty song.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah, OK. We got all the melancholy stuff out of the way now, OK. Music, music, music, music. There's our favorite artists. They're doing things. And I have them somewhere. Here it is.

**SPEAKER 1:** Always so organized.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes, well, it's all that I have to have all these damn files. OK, Christopher Wilson band. We play him often and we missed the performance Friday. But Saturday, December the 29th, he's going to be at the Last Concert Cafe at 1403 Nance street.

Now, listeners to this station know the Last Concert Cafe because they do a lot of stuff for the station. In fact, they have the watermelon festival every year. Pat and Rosie puts that on. Pat and Rosie from *Pat & Rosie's Night Sounds*, heard every Sunday night at midnight till 5:00 AM.

**SPEAKER 1:** Sunday.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Sunday.

**SPEAKER 1:** Sunday.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Sunday, that's right. And they bring you live music. Live, yes. Last Sunday night, I was here because they had Christy Claxton doing some live stuff. And she drove in--

**SPEAKER 1:** Hello.

**JIMMY CARPER:** --from Austin. Hello is right. Just to do the show. I thought that was really, really terrific of her. So the last--

**SPEAKER 1:** That was a long weekend for you.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah.

**SPEAKER 1:** You were up a lot that weekend.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes, I was. Yes.

**SPEAKER 1:** You slept through Monday, didn't you?

**JIMMY CARPER:** Monday?

**SPEAKER 1:** Tuesday.

**JIMMY CARPER:** OK. Last Concert Cafe next Saturday night, December the 29th, for the Christopher Wilson band. And of course, *After Hours'* favorite, favorite Marcy Rae.

**SPEAKER 1:** Hey, sweet mama cotton.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Sweet mama cotton. Every Wednesday night, she's still doing it. She's doing it at the Briar Patch every Wednesday night, which is really sweet. And if you happen to be in Galveston on Christmas day, she will be playing at the Albatross which is located at 815 21st street at 4:00 PM.

**SPEAKER 1:** I've got a friend who lives in Galveston.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Let them know. Let them know.

**SPEAKER 1:** Yeah.



**JIMMY CARPER:** Bob Barnett, the owner of the Albatross, and some loyal patrons will be cooking and serving a great meal. Hey. It's a little beer and wine place tucked away off the beaten path. So that would be a fun place to do. And they're going to cook meals and Marcy Rae is going to be playing the piano. Man, what a fun afternoon that's going to be. Yes.

**SPEAKER 1:** She can belt out a song like nobody--

**JIMMY CARPER:** She can, she really can.

**SPEAKER 1:** She's got some funny ones.

**JIMMY CARPER:** And then, of course, every Saturday, she plays at the Hollywood Hotel down in Galveston from 5:00 to 7:00. And every Friday and Saturday, from 8:00 till 11:00, she plays at the Brothers Petronella on the strand.

**SPEAKER 1:** The Brothers Petronella, they sound like a good Italian family.

**JIMMY CARPER:** This woman is working, you know it? She works.

**SPEAKER 1:** She keeps busy.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah, yeah. Well she's good, you know? She's just good.

**SPEAKER 1:** Yeah.

**JIMMY CARPER:** I know.

**SPEAKER 1:** That's the understatement of the decade right there.

**JIMMY CARPER:** And we want to welcome-- welcome welcome, welcome. Here's a little email I got this week. Just wanted to let you know that after eight years of dedicated GOBT broadcasting, a permanent 24/7 license has been granted to Joy Melbourne, [www.joy.org.au](http://www.joy.org.au). That's W-W-W dot J-O-Y dot O-R-G dot A-U. And that will be returning full-time from mid January 2002.

This is from Anita Gibbons. Her program, *Women on Waves*, will be airing again on Thursday evenings, Melbourne time. You should be able to tune in through your websites. So welcome. I know that Australia and New Zealand listen to *After Hours*, and so we can certainly tune in to Melbourne. You bet. You bet. OK.

**SPEAKER 1:** We're all over the world.

**JIMMY CARPER:** So what's going on?

**SPEAKER 1:** So it's the holidays.

**JIMMY CARPER:** So it's the holidays, yeah.

**SPEAKER 1:** We got this whole, you know, the insanity that ensues during the holidays.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Mm-hmm.

**SPEAKER 2:** Yeah, try driving around in traffic. That's a really interesting one.

**SPEAKER 1:** Don't go anywhere near the Galleria.

**SPEAKER 2:** No, no, no.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Ooh, sign of the cross. No, no, no, no.

**SPEAKER 1:** No, that's a bad thing. That's a very bad thing.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes, yes, don't do it. Don't do it.

**SPEAKER 1:** I got accosted in the Galleria by the security folks.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh, that's not fun.

**SPEAKER 1:** They've apparently never seen a man wearing a top hat and carrying a staff with a blue poinsettia on it.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Gee.

**SPEAKER 1:** Gee. And, you know, sort of freak those happy little campers out.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Well, you know, blue poinsettias are kind of rare.

**SPEAKER 1:** Yeah this is true. But everybody's doing the family thing and or family of choice thing. And I am definitely doing the family of choice thing, since I am nowhere in the vicinity of anybody I'm actually related to.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh.

**SPEAKER 1:** Which at times is a good thing. But yeah, I'm spending Christmas with the same people I've spent thanksgiving with.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh, neat.

**SPEAKER 1:** Which is very cool

**JIMMY CARPER:** Neat.

**SPEAKER 1:** They invited me back for Christmas and apparently made a good impression.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Evidently.

**SPEAKER 1:** What are you doing for Christmas?

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh, gosh well-- oh, me, me, me?

**SPEAKER 2:** Yeah, you finally get that tree decorated?

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes I did. Yes I did, and people have started coming back to visit me. I mean, it was two days of putting up the tree and the lights.

**SPEAKER 2:** Yeah, I think everybody knows by now that they leave you alone while you're doing that.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes. 2,000 lights and I am just the last bitch until I get that on.

**SPEAKER 1:** And the tree is bending sideways at the ceiling, is it?

**SPEAKER 2:** And you keep a fire extinguisher on hand.

**JIMMY CARPER:** It's an artificial tree.

**SPEAKER 2:** Oh, good.

**JIMMY CARPER:** I wouldn't put that many lights on a real one.

**SPEAKER 1:** That would probably be a bad idea.

**SPEAKER 2:** It's not melting, is it?

**JIMMY CARPER:** No. No, no, no, no, no, no, no, no.

**BOBBY:** I bet that would be cute.

**JIMMY CARPER:** It's, you know, it's just--

**SPEAKER 1:** You got to do it up for the holiday.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah, you got to do it the way--

**SPEAKER 2:** It must be absolutely fabulous, you know?

**SPEAKER 1:** People think I'm crazy.

**SPEAKER 2:** Twinkling.

**SPEAKER 1:** People can think I'm all kinds of crazy for decorating my hat and the--

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh, absolutely not.

**SPEAKER 1:** Let them think it because you know I don't decorate my apartment. Not nearly as many people will see my apartment as we'll see me. You know, so I might as well decorate me.

**JIMMY CARPER:** For many years now, I've had two things that I do regularly. On Christmas Eve, I have a family of choice. Actually, a family who kind of adopted me. It's the family of my best friend who died back in 1994. But I'm still part of the family. All family decisions, I'm part of.

**SPEAKER 1:** You are consulted.

**JIMMY CARPER:** That's right. That's right. That's right. And so Christmas Eve, you know, you have to be there. And then Christmas day night, I have another family that we've had this tradition now for 13, 14 years. And we do Christmas on Christmas night. So--

**SPEAKER 1:** Very cool.

**JIMMY CARPER:** --yeah.

**SPEAKER 1:** Growing up in my house, Christmas was a massive event.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh, yes.

**SPEAKER 1:** There was people we were related to, then there was the extended, you know, whatevers. And a small-- a normal Christmas involved somewhere in the neighborhood of 30 people around that table. Christmases have changed quite a bit since both of my parents have since passed.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes, I imagine.

**SPEAKER 1:** They have gotten much smaller, and we do not get together for the holidays. So we do our own little things. And so it's now very much a local thing. Wherever we're at is what we do, you know.

**JIMMY CARPER:** You know, it took me a while to realize that you create your own traditions. Because for years and years and years and years, from the time I was 20 until 1985 then-- let's not go into how many years that was.

You know, there was a certain tradition, but some people died. And traditions had to change. And so now I'm doing different traditions. And even if your tradition only lasts one year, it's still a tradition.

**SPEAKER 1:** That's the one thing all of us in this community particularly, I guess. But one of the things you have to get used to is that people go away, and they don't come back anymore.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah.

**SPEAKER 1:** And you just have to-- and you adjust the way things are done by who's there this year.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Jackie--

**SPEAKER 1:** Who's still part of--

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes.

**SPEAKER 1:** --who's still in there.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Jackie Thorn is going to be in a little later in the evening. And she's going to have some news about the court. Some good news and some bad news. So we're going to be doing that again. But you know--

**SPEAKER 1:** And there I go starting the show off with my bad news.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Well, you know, this show is three hours of queer life and most of it's fun, but some of it isn't.

**SPEAKER 1:** Queer life includes, queer death.

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

**SPEAKER 2:** Well, for all of you people out there who are stressing over your families because for gay people, getting together with your family is especially stressful. Especially if you're not out to them.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh, yeah.

**SPEAKER 2:** Or even if you are, and they don't like it. Hang in there, it goes away. It really does.

**JIMMY CARPER:** It does. It does. It may take a while, but it does go away. Let's go to some more music. It's-- let's see, 13 minutes of one and you're listening to *After Hours* queer radio with attitude right here on KPFT Houston and KEOS college station. Monday night. Monday, Monday-- no, no, no, no, no.

**SPEAKER 2:** It doesn't work.

**SPEAKER 1:** It's not the same.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Lesbian and gay voices, of course, is on every Monday night. But this will be the fourth Monday of the month.

**SPEAKER 1:** And Christmas Eve.

**JIMMY CARPER:** That means that JD Doyle's music show is going to be on. And he's got a whole hour of queer Christmas music. And a lot of it is very different. I think most of it is very different from what you hear on this show.

**SPEAKER 1:** I need to be home that night.

**JIMMY CARPER:** You need to be home. You know, set your recorders because this is stuff that you don't hear anywhere because--