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gay, site, houston, christian coalition, community, internet, vote, folks, talk, call, censorship, jack, great, computer, advertisers, buy, put, service, find, emails

SPEAKERS

Kirk Keevert, Jimmy Carper, Gigi, Roy McCarthy, Speaker 1

G Gigi 00:01
Some sites are more user friendly than others.

S Speaker 1 00:04
Oh, absolutely.

G Gigi 00:06
This is a frontier.

S Speaker 1 00:07
Yeah, it sure is a frontier. And the great part about it is, I mean, we are literally as a community taking control of the frontier. And because we can, we can do what we want. And there's there's really no crap to deal with. There's nobody focusing on bashing you or or or or focusing on Well, listen, you're not wearing the clothes that we think you should wear. You have that rainbow sticker on the back of your car, you know, kind of thing. So yeah, it's a great, it's a great frontier,

G Gigi 00:34
And the dating service. Tell me a little bit more about that. I mean-.

J Jimmy Carper 00:39
That's the number one question at the switchboard

That's the number one question at the switchboard.

G Gigi 00:42

Oh, I know it. Yeah, buddy. Date, men, women.

J Jimmy Carper 00:47

Whether Yeah, whether it's gay, straight, bisexual, transgender, how do I meet someone?

S Speaker 1 00:53

Well, we brought the dating service online, especially for folks who don't like to deal with the bar scene.

J Jimmy Carper 00:59

Or for folks that are just looking at a bar we were just talking about earlier.

S Speaker 1 01:02

Exactly. You can't the music is throbbing and you're not exactly sure you're looking directly at someone and saying, What is this person say? You know what I mean, and what are they really all about? But I think that the main reason we jumped into the dating service, or we call them the introduction service, because it's kind of, you know, like, I've, I've been, my fiance and I were getting married in 77, 7 years, we've been together. But we moved to Houston a year ago, and we haven't had time to meet people. So literally, he and I can go out there and put something up saying, Hey, we're looking for friends. And it's a lot more personal than something you will put in the newspaper. You know what I mean? And you kind of got to wonder, well, he was looking through the newspaper, personal ads?

J Jimmy Carper 01:42

Well, I think we've all had experience with personals and just a sex only thing.

S Speaker 1 01:48

Sure, sure. And with email, it's easier because you're kind of getting a response and you get a chance to talk to this person and get to know who they are before you see them before even talk to them on the phone. We have gotten so many responses saying I fell in love with this guy, or this girl due to your service. It's incredible. It's a lot of fun. But then we've gotten

responses too hey, I found a really good friends for your service. And it's free. I mean, everything we do is absolutely free to the community. They just go in, they can do whatever they want.

J Jimmy Carper 02:14

Yeah. And that's, that's the second thing is that gay people say, I'm lonely. I don't have friends. Sure. How do I make friends?

S Speaker 1 02:24

And we've always focused around going to the bar to meet them. Yeah, I mean, because we know if we're going to a bar that those people are gay, you can't. I mean, I guess now it's a little different. You can kind of walk into a mall. And you can do everybody's got gaydar.

J Jimmy Carper 02:38

And there are groups, I mean, you go bowling and all of that. But it's just I mean, our family of choice are our friends.

S Speaker 1 02:46

Exactly. So yeah.

G Gigi 02:49

And we're growing stronger. And every day. It's so wonderful. On this dating service, does that included people into leather and to kink to-?

S Speaker 1 03:05

Your name it, but we don't, we won't publish foul words, per se. However, you can say whatever you want, whatever you're into, we basically have a template, which is a form that you would normally fill out in paper, but we put it on the internet to make it easier so that people understand all I have to do is fill out this form. And it just goes right there. And basically you talk about your likes or dislikes or hobbies, what you look like if you're looking for bisexual person and female and male right down the line, and pretty much bottoms. Exactly right down the line you can put out there and say, This is what I'm looking for. Don't respond, unless unless you're that kind of person, you know, and our age ranges are incredible. We have people from 18 years old to 78 years old. It's absolutely unbelievable. Yeah. It's a lot of fun, and it's very diverse, you know.

S Speaker 1 03:55



Gigi 03:55

And also, we touch just briefly on the delicate subject here. Censorship, that nasty word.



Jimmy Carper 04:06

We have, we like to call it censorship here. But you know, it's just-



Gigi 04:10

Well, what I'm aiming towards the censorship, this big wave of trying to censor the Internet that get all the fun stuff off. Have you had any experiences usagaynet.com?



Speaker 1 04:29

And we kind of have in the start. I mean, we obviously believe that censorship is a plague that government is trying to push into the internet. I mean, the internet is the greatest part about it is that we've been able to do it we want it in there really no legalities per se. But initially, we started out we didn't put pornography within our site and we built it around a very conservative type page and then we found that because we had the word gay within our name, I mean it's our incorporated name as well as our website name USAgaynet because we had the word gay. We were going to be blocked by net nanny and cyber school, which are folks that are out there that that block out children from going to certain sites-



Jimmy Carper 05:08

Just because it says gay?



Speaker 1 05:09

Just because it said gay we we beg them, please go into our site see the information we provide. We were attempting to provide information for parents of gay children as well right down the line to kind of help people.



Gigi 05:21

I know a lot of teenagers have no way to get information.



Jimmy Carper 05:24

Censorship.



S

Speaker 1 05:26

I believe that it truly is. And the worst part about it is there's not a whole lot you can do about it. I mean, there's really not a whole lot we as a community can do about except fight as we've always done. Yeah. But yeah, that was a tough situation for us, I believe now that that they're not considering us an adult complex any longer. Which is thrilling.

J

Jimmy Carper 05:46

Because there are areas that are adult and you might want to keep it that way.

S

Speaker 1 05:49

Sure, if that's what you're looking for go and find it. If not, you know what I mean? There are so many there's so there's so much information out there. It's incredible, whether it be an AIDS related topic, or what's everybody wearing? It doesn't matter, you can find it.

J

Jimmy Carper 06:01

When we were talking about friends, you mentioned meeting friends. I've known a lot of young gays and lesbians who would like to find out about older gays and lesbians and maybe not know any, this sounds like a perfect opportunity to talk. Hey, what was it like in the 50s? What's it like in the 60s.

S

Speaker 1 06:23

And it's so important for a younger generation to know what what the older folks have actually done to get us to where we're at today. And to figure out the steps to push us where we need to go. The internet has just brought in our community, something that that we can do, I mean, something that we can actually speak out about, which is another service that we offer, we literally are taking a straw poll right now. And obviously Clinton's in the lead. But he's got it, he's got a 98% vote. But I mean, we can literally take the emails that have been sent to us during this straw poll, we've done questions on gay marriages, as well as families, we're doing something on next week, that we want folks to tell us about their out stories, just so that we can publish them. So people can say this is not an easy thing. And if you think it's a choice, you're obviously out of your mind, you know, and if it wasn't choice, I probably would have chosen anyway. Yeah, but but the fact of the matter is that we fire these emails off to the White House. So it gives somebody a spot to go instead of trying to figure out how do I get this to the person who needs to read it? We do it for them.

J

Jimmy Carper 07:24

Oh, that's pretty cool.

S


Speaker 1 07:25

 Speaker 1 07:25

Yeah, it is. It is cool. Basically, we built the site around, hey, listen, you don't need to go anywhere else on the internet for folks like Jimmy again, I don't know what I'm doing when I get there. So what we say is type in www.usagaynet.com. And we provide all the information right down the line.

 Gigi 07:42

The election coming up, you can get political?

 Speaker 1 07:46

Oh, absolutely. We've tried to kind of stay although we're very politically correct page, we've we've tried to stay out of that realm, simply because we've only been in business for six months. And there are rules on the internet, ie for things called flaming and such like that. And we have an internet server.

 Gigi 08:04

What is flaming?

 Speaker 1 08:05

Flaming is is when the Christian coalition gets pissed off at what you have on your site and fires off a whole lot of emails being real mad about it. And if you get too many emails, the internet service provider, their mail server gets bogged down, and then they kind of get upset with you. I'm sure anybody who's been on-

 Jimmy Carper 08:24

With you because you get too much e mail?

 Speaker 1 08:26

Yeah, well, well, that's what flaming is all about, someone can take a message and copy it 150 times and all of a sudden it shuts down their mail server.

 Jimmy Carper 08:29

That's like your posts, and then getting pissed off because you get a lot of mail.





Gigi 08:41

But on the internet. It's like, multiply that letter by several 100,000. And all of a sudden you're burning up circuits.



Speaker 1 08:52

That's what that's what happens in these guys invest hundreds of 1000s of dollars into their equipment. And so many folks have bitten into websites as a form of advertising. And that's where we've pushed ours we have something that we call the guide that's got about 4000 entries of places, nightclubs, restaurants and such like that focused on the gay lesbian and bisexual community. Here's where you can go when you're in this city for travelers, hotels and such like that Houston is a really great city for us, probably because we're our corporate offices here. But we have most of the bars in Houston online with us they do advertising and we've made it very, very, super cheap for them.



Gigi 09:26

What about vacations?



Speaker 1 09:28

You plan your entire vacation through our site. I mean, you just simply just go in there you can make your reservations for a hotel. We're allowing the ability for plane reservations right down the line.



Gigi 09:40

And you can find out who's gay friendly where to go if you want to be a nudist and camp out and on that trail, ranch around like Gigi does all the time.



Speaker 1 09:52

Breakdowns whether you're getting a private bathroom or not.



Jimmy Carper 09:54

Ah, that's very important for a lot of queer men. Exactly.



Speaker 1 10:00

Exactly.

K Kirk Keevert 10:02
Bathroom are damnit am I going to have to share?

J Jimmy Carper 10:05
No, no, no, no, no, no, I need I need my time all alone with my hairdryer

S Speaker 1 10:10
And multiple plugs.

K Kirk Keevert 10:17
That cloth doesn't come without hours of work.

G Gigi 10:22
Just for people that, you know, don't have a computer and never heard, you know gotten on internet, what do you have to do to get on?

S Speaker 1 10:33
Well, that depends. It depends on how you're going everybody who buys a new computer, you get probably about 550 software packages saying try our service free and right down the line.

J Jimmy Carper 10:44
I get them. Get them in the mail. It's incredible. But did I get on those lists.

S Speaker 1 10:49
I don't know, they buy their list from someone somewhere. But it's a marketing campaign. I mean, I heard that AOL was was putting their computer disks in McDonald's bags for a while. So well, but it's out there. And most folks start with something like that most folks will start with AOL or something like that. And then as they grow, and they get smarter, and they get more savvy per se, then they go into a provider that's cheaper and has has larger backbone and such like that to get to where they need to go.

G Gigi 11:19
And basically just because I know that there's a lot of people that don't even fathom any of

And basically, just because I know that there's a lot of people that don't even ration, any of this, basically, kind of describe a little bit about what the web is what the what equipment you need to get on the web. At home, and then where you go from there. You know, for people that have never gotten into this.

J Jimmy Carper 11:47

Before you get into that, I need to say that you're listening to After Hours queer radio with attitude on KPFT Houston, and KEOS college station. Thank you.

K Kirk Keevert 11:59

Yeah, because thank you for throwing that out. But because I don't I don't have a computer at home. And I want some sort of, I'm looking I'm looking to do that. I'm looking to get into the whole email, networking internet thing. And what do I need? What are some of the basics? What's my what's my basic stuff that I'm going to need?

S Speaker 1 12:25

Well, first you need to buy a computer. Then from there, you have to pick a mode, okay.

G Gigi 12:31

On the computer, what what would you say would be minimum that you need on it? Well, that as far memory as far as hard drive.

S Speaker 1 12:40

As far as memory, if you're going to get something that's a good browser, ie Netscape is very good, then I would definitely recommend you're going to need at least 16 bit. But then again, that's that's kind of up to the consumer and the person that's buying them you can get relatively very good computers now at at a at a good price, depending upon where you shop, and definitely shop around and I would recommend buying a computer for the future. Even if you invest a little more money today. It's going to come back to you in two fold tomorrow.

K Kirk Keevert 13:11

Because I mean, that's the thing that you keep hearing over and over and over is that what what is is hot today is obsolete.

S Speaker 1 13:18

Absolutely. And the great part about is the cable companies are hopping into the internet as well. And I'm told I mean, this is rumor only. But I'm told that eventually you're just going to be

well. And I'm told I mean, this is rumor only. But I'm told that eventually you're just going to be able to buy a remote control and run your computer right through your TV when it comes to the internet, which would be incredible. It'll offer a lot more speed, quicker downloads, and it'll give everyone the ability to literally watch movies over the internet. A lot of changes, definitely-.

G Gigi 13:42

A lot of changes a lot of technology on the way.

S Speaker 1 13:45

Yeah, nobody's new. I mean, there are kits that you can buy that they call them internet starter kits, which pretty much is self explanatory. It's an internet starter kit that goes along with your computer, put it online takes you right to where you need to go. But it's it's a lot easier than it sounds and you-.

G Gigi 14:01

You had mentioned a modem.

S Speaker 1 14:03

A modem, right?

G Gigi 14:04

What would you recommend?

S Speaker 1 14:06

For a modem or a type of modem?

G Gigi 14:08

Just speed, minimum speed.

S Speaker 1 14:11

Minimum speed I you can get a 288 modem or a 334 modem which is the highest speed you can buy today for \$150.

G Gigi 14:19
Really?

S Speaker 1 14:20
Yeah, yeah. I mean, they-.

G Gigi 14:22
These prices have come down a lot. I mean, when I first bought my first mme baby, it hurt.

S Speaker 1 14:28
Well, I'm not a dinosaur, as you guys can see. But I'll tell you what, I've been in the industry for a really long time. And I've seen modem sell for \$2,400. And the price is the industry obviously the more call supply and demand. And it just boils down to that, but 90% of our advertisers that we have within our site, and obviously that's how we make our money because all of our services are free, right? 90% of our advertisers don't have a computer haven't turned on a computer but they're looking at it as a medium. That's the same as TV sure and unfortunate We don't always get the best representation as a community on TV. But-.

G Gigi 15:04
Very true.

S Speaker 1 15:05
Very true.

G Gigi 15:07
Every everything, everybody that comes on to the gay net, USA gay net, there's no charge, right?

S Speaker 1 15:14
Absolutely not a cent, not Not a cent, we're looking at incorporating chat groups into our site as well, which is something we haven't been into Internet Relay Chat has become really popular, it's kind of the same thing that you would get with AOL, giving you the ability to talk to a person that may be across the street or across the world. So-.



Gigi 15:34

What explain what happens in a chat group?



Speaker 1 15:40

What kind of chat group you're in, chat groups can be most of them are monitored today, they have someone that's literally watching everything that's happening within the chat group. So what happens in a chat group, you can find someone to talk to you can talk to someone in France, you can talk to someone in in Africa, if you want to just it's up to you, you can do whatever you want. It's like a conversation like 30 people-.



Gigi 16:03

Cultural learning experience, what it's like to be queer and other countries are. It's amazing where the hotspots are when you're going traveling.



Speaker 1 16:14

Well, they call them they call them netizens, instead of citizens people who are-. Well, people who are very functional on the net, I mean, I've met, I met a gentleman from Utah that we had a lot in common, and he's just a wonderful guy. And we trade emails daily. I mean, we just did these, like my bud he's my net bud. But you know, it's great.



Gigi 16:35

Cool. So how do you make money?



Speaker 1 16:39

We make money through our advertisers, we've come out with a cheap price for advertisers, people who are new to the net, and businesses that don't really understand the net, they've bitten into prices, via up to \$10,000 and such like that, and they've paid a lot of money for a website, and then they don't understand how to publish it. And they don't understand how to get business from it. So USA Gay Net is formulated like a TV. I mean, we have something different happening every day, we don't let our site get stale. We're working on it constantly. So we provide information to the community at no charge. And then by the time while they're in there.



Jimmy Carper 17:13

So you have advertisements.

S Speaker 1 17:14
Exactly.

G Gigi 17:15
And you mentioned that you can get news and everything through your site.

S Speaker 1 17:21
Right. the Houston the Houston Voice publishes their news within our site. Plus, we have a Philadelphia paper called pride weekly, that publishes their news within our site on a national level and a local level. So I don't know if any of you guys read the Voice.

J Jimmy Carper 17:37
Religiously.

S Speaker 1 17:39
That's the wrong question around here, everyone.

J Jimmy Carper 17:44
It's great. I remember what years ago when it was just a bar rag, and now it's a real newspaper.

S Speaker 1 17:50
Oh, it's incredible. And that's kind of why we chose the Houston Voice because it was a real newspaper, we needed someone to write news and the soap column and the rodent droppings and such like that are all found on our page. And there's a hyperlink that goes to the advertiser as well, which is really cool. We changed the advertiser specials on the bar scene every week, and we charge them a minimum price to do so you can literally dial in, go to Houston and find out what's going on in the bar scene in about 15 minutes in our site.

J Jimmy Carper 18:17
Wow.

G Gigi 18:19
It's information at the time. Yeah. unless you can meet a boyfriend. Even a bisexual boyfriend?

is information at the time. Yeah, unless you can meet a boyfriend. Even a bisexual boyfriend. Oh, isn't technology wonderful? See what you've been missing, Jimmy.

J Jimmy Carper 18:36
Maybe for Christmas.

G Gigi 18:37
We gotta get to deflowered here, girl.

J Jimmy Carper 18:42
Well, that that is really amazing. Yeah. I guess I never thought about it. Because I when I read articles in the in the Voice I've seen, you know, the gay net thing. And I never knew what that meant.

S Speaker 1 18:54
Well, yeah, yeah, definitely. Um, the Voice has been online with us for I guess about two months, and we went to them. And at first, we were just looking at it as fun but it's become a partnership and an opportunity. The Voice actually is a distributor for us as well, where they can offer the same product that USA Gay Net offers within their site. They offer advertising via the online or via the newspaper, which gives them a larger scope into a national arena as well as a local arena-.

G Gigi 19:21
International, which is starting to build even more on the internet.

S Speaker 1 19:25
Yeah, it's pretty incredible. We're pretty we're pretty stoked about it.

G Gigi 19:28
And just think of some of the things you can get all over the world for kinky. You know, where my first single-.

S Speaker 1 19:38
Single minded optimistically single minded.

G Gigi 19:41
Oh, it's because I do so well. You remember my party.

S Speaker 1 19:50
But if anyone has questions, I mean our if anyone is wondering, Well, how am I going to do this? We have folks from Nebraska calling us on our 800 number and saying hey, I'm where is the bar in Nebraska, like I said, we have this guide to 4000 places that is like an electronic, gay Yellow Pages. So I can shout out our number. Can I? We can be reached at 1-888-2Gaynet, or 1-888-242-2836, I think is what it rings out to. You might want to check the phone for that one. 802 No, no, it's 188828882. Correct? Okay, we'd be happy. Yeah, we tried to make it easy to remember. And you notice I didn't remember. But we tried to make it easy for folks. And we'll be happy to give anyone advice, whether they just want to go out and buy a modem or if they're looking for advertising.

G Gigi 20:46
And you've got some 800 numbers here.

S Speaker 1 20:49
Yep. Those are the numbers that we just talked about. We have an East Coast office and a West Coast office. And if you go into our site, you would find all that information for advertising. You could send us a mail. But check it out.

G Gigi 21:00
And what's your web address?

S Speaker 1 21:04
Our web address is [www dot usagaynet.com](http://www.usagaynet.com).

G Gigi 21:09
That's easy enough.

S Speaker 1 21:10
Yeah. 24/7. I mean, that's the great part about the internet is you can find the information

you're looking for. And it's there. 24 hours a day, seven days a week.



Gigi 21:18

Oh, Gigi is gonna be in heaven.



Speaker 1 21:24

Well, there are about 400,000 Gay websites out there right now across the world. And it's really interesting. I mean, you can go in and read things in French if you can read French and most most sites will have a conversion to the English language. But it's great to find out about different cultures of places that you've never been before. Yeah. And it's kind of funny to be talking to someone from France, per se. And you're sitting in Houston, Texas, behind a computer and you're having a conversation with this gentleman in France.



Jimmy Carper 21:54

Well, I know. Sarah DePalma Who does the transgendered portion of the of the show is very big on the net and she's talked about talking to people in France and Australia and Germany and all about transgender issues.



Speaker 1 22:10

It's terrific.



Gigi 22:11

And also you one thing we kind of jumped over you also have a dear Crabby line.



Speaker 1 22:18

Crabby is great. Dear crabby, we wanted to make an advice column that was humorous but serious and Dear Crabby is 96 year old drag queen that holds her shoulder pantyhose up with a with a rubber hose.



Gigi 22:33

But Jimmy, I thought you weren't on the internet.



Speaker 1 22:38

But literally, we have gotten we get tons of letters to Crabby every week asking advice on

anything from love to do I buy KY or should I go to a bookstore? But it just depends on what that person is looking for. But Crabby is always guaranteed to give them an answer that they're gonna like but they're not gonna like she's she's destroyed more relationships than I can even tell it doesn't take any guff, I guess. But we also do horoscopes and we have a coupon section for businesses to put coupons online. Mostly, it seems that hotels and travel agencies have jumped into that to give the community basically what we're saying is we see the new advertising realm and we see what the focus is, hey, listen, there's gay money out there to be made when we try to weed out the bad from the good and say, Alright, this is really a gay friendly business. This is not.

J Jimmy Carper 23:28

Yeah, and very important because absolutely, you see and gay publications. I mean, folks that you really wonder what their what their objective is.

S Speaker 1 23:38

Is there anything that makes you matter, then?

J Jimmy Carper 23:39

Oh, yeah, I just want my money, you know?

S Speaker 1 23:42

Exactly.

G Gigi 23:44

And we do want to support those gay friendly business.

S Speaker 1 23:46

Yeah, absolutely.

G Gigi 23:48

I mean, they are here for us.

S Speaker 1 23:51

But if someone has a coupon online, you know for sure that they are gay, gay friendly business.

They're not just trying to suck in the cash we have a full mall on our site where you can literally buy products within our mall. Yeah. Via via the email.

G Gigi 24:04
Shoppin and without leaving the house.

J Jimmy Carper 24:06
I gotta get it.

G Gigi 24:09
Can you get any kinky stuff?

J Jimmy Carper 24:15
You could see that one coming a mile away.

G Gigi 24:17
Oh, you know it.

S Speaker 1 24:18
Now again, remember, we're a very conservative so we're careful but pride vitamins is online with us and they sell all their vitamins. As well as pride productions. We have people that are selling beer mugs to flower pots to plants, you name it. It's all there. You can buy travel tickets. We call it the by gay for less mall, which is which is pretty cool. It's a lot of fun.


J Jimmy Carper 24:42
Yeah. Gosh.


G Gigi 24:45
Wow. Expanding the world.


S Speaker 1 24:46
Well, like I said, there's not much that you wouldn't find in our site. You could the toughest part


well, like I said, there's not much that you wouldn't find in our site. You could the toughest part is bouncing from site to site and trying to figure out what you're looking for and we tried to focus it on. Come here everything will be quicker and you'll find everything that you're looking for.


 **Gigi** 25:03
Sounds wonderful.

 **Speaker 1** 25:05
So drop by and do your Christmas show.


 **Jimmy Carper** 25:08
What's that number again?

 **Speaker 1** 25:09
That website address is www.usagaynet.com. And the telephone number is 1-888-2Gaynet.

 **Gigi** 25:19
Okay. Thanks for joining us.

 **Speaker 1** 25:22
Gentlemen. Thanks for your time and I appreciate all the questions. Thanks for coming by.

 **Jimmy Carper** 25:25
I've learned a lot tonight.

 **Speaker 1** 25:27
Well, I don't know if it was good for you, Jimmy. But it was good for me.

 **Gigi** 25:30
Jimmy loves it. We know that.

J

Jimmy Carper 25:34

Okay, we're gonna go to a piece of music now. Come back with Tom and all kinds of stuff. Here's that one I promised from Tori Amos, it's called. I'm On Fire and you're hearing it on After Hours queer radio with attitude on KPFT Houston, and KEOS College Station

R

Roy McCarthy 26:05

Hey, howdy, again. This is Tom. Sometimes referred to this loudmouth radical, the unseasonable SOB. Anyway. The upcoming election I want to talk about that. But I want to talk about first of all, before I get in depth as I want to preface my remarks so. So those who take offense at it know precisely where I'm coming from. I wrote I work today for block walking for Jack Abseil. And I wrote a letter, which was okayed by Jack to put in in with his material to pass out and I want to read that letter, because it tells pretty much of where I'm coming from. So if I can do that. And then secondly, I want to talk a little bit about the law, Republicans, and then then we'll get into why. On my remarks, and so forth, but I want to read to you this letter that I that I wrote. Dear voter, every election day, I have this fault of looking back to my heroes to the past, the heroes that I have known heroes that gave a deep devotion to try to look into the future, a future that helped the hope of a gold ring called freedom. Heroes like Martin Luther King, John Kennedy, Harvey Mill, Robert Kennedy, and who and who can possibly forget, the three young men murdered on her lonely Mississippi road two were white, one was Black. But they each shared the same dream, a dream that Black Americans should have the right to be free, that all Americans have the right to vote. Heroes like Randy fields and Brian Bradley, who stood against the forces of hate in Houston. So gay Americans could reach for that golden ring of freedom and hope. Each election day I look to my heroes. It is through them that I know I can reach for that golden ring. It is because of them that I encourage others to go with me. It is from them. That I have learned that I must be strong and loud. What can be louder? What can be stronger than the voting box. Since the early 60s, Black Americans have traveled far on that rocky road to Liberty since Stonewall in 1969 gay Americans to have traveled a long way. But we know that equality and full freedom still lie ahead. And I dream of that day when all Americans will have equal access to the gold ring of hope. That is why I and you must vote. I will not allow the words. What is man that thou are mindful of him or the son of man that you have visited him. You have made him a little lower than the angels but you have crowned him with glory and honor to be lost in Israel bellowing as a bigot. I vote because of my heroes of the past. I vote because of my heroes of the now. I vote because of my heroes of the future. I vote because what excuse do I have in not doing so? I encourage you to follow me to the polls on November the fifth 1996 What excuse could you give to the heroes to do any less? What reason could you offer to those who gave so much to not? That is letter that I included in the material that I passed out with Jack Abercia. Now, I am hearing a lot of negative remarks about Log Cabin Republicans and about particular people that I personally know within log cabin organization. I am not, I am not a Republican by any biatch a matter of fact, I'm going to vote a strike Democratic ticket this time. But, but they but people like Dale Carpenter, Gary Van Nottingham, Marin Coleman, and so forth, are members of our community. They are members that work hard, and. And seems like that, that this is all they do, but it's not, but they're constantly at work, to try to swing members in in the Republican Party, to see that gay people are like you, like me, like all of us need to be included in all that we do. And I think this negative rebound against a Log Cabin Republicans is stupid, and irresponsible by members of our community. And I and I think that we have to look at at each at these people, as members of our community who work hard for and with our community. And and we have to understand

that I don't agree with everything I say matter of fact, I disagree with much of what they say. But it doesn't mean that that I do not include them as being a part of an important part of, of our community and working toward the goals that all of us seek. Okay, now, I wanted to make that absolutely, absolutely clear that the Republican Party is not the enemy within our community. I'm sorry, the log Cabin Republicans are not the enemy, within our community, the enemy within our community are the bigots that stand without and claim, Oh, I'd love you, I'd do this. And I do that matter of fact, read the if you have a chance to get your hands on a Christian coalition voter guide, which is to be passed out tomorrow. You can pure, it's pretty clear who our enemies are. But everybody can believe the crystal coalition MRI. I mean, everybody can can always believe the Christian coalition. After all, they're good Christians, right? Hey, I want to tell you, dear ones, if you believe that I've got a Bridge in San Francisco, I'll sell you and throw an and I'll throw the another bridge in New York City and as a good measure. Anybody who would believe that such group as the Christian coalition is, is an honest group. That that has no reason Dale Carpenter and some others within from the law, Kevin Republican, went to a Christian coalition meeting here in Houston. Okay, and they begin to talk about code words, code words that would be used, but would mean something entirely different. One of them stood up and said, said Do you think that we're going to lose our salvation over this? And I thought that was a joke. They laughed. Hey, I I personally, I don't know what kind of salvation that you're talking about to begin with. Okay. Now there are members on the ballot that that over the past weeks I've talked about that I totally disagree with on on a lot of things. One is Sheila Jackson Lee. I personally do not like cowards, and I consider Sheila Jackson Lee a coward. But when I look but when I look at the at the options that I have, it has shifted to Sheila Jackson Lee that I have to cast my vote for and I'm going to vote there. There are others within our community that I totally absolutely disagree with. But we're gonna also talk about the upcoming election of Jew Don Boney here in a little bit, but there is one candidate, one candidate, and it seems like a minor race, when in reality it is not a minor race. And that is a Jack Abercia. I talked to Jack Abercua and I talked with him honestly, and, and, and straightforward. I held no punches back as I do. To any candidate with Jack Abercia I asked about the bigotry that is shown by law enforcement toward the gay community. Now, I dare you to stand up to to Sam Nucci or Tommy Thompson and ask him about bigotry of their officers toward gay community. Oh, they're gonna take in New York second. I do not endorse hate, or bigotry or prejudice. Yeah, no better with hey, look, look. Look at the rise. They never look you straight in the eye. Yeah, Jack Abercia when I asked him Jimmy. When I asked Jack, I will see you, Jack. I will see you never blink. Jack, I will see you Look me straight in the face. And he said I do not tolerate it. I will not tolerate it. Any officer in my department practices, bigotry toward I don't care whether it's black, whether they're gay, I don't care who they are. That often is gone. I will not tolerate.

J Jimmy Carper 36:00

Plus the gay the queer community has a track record with Jack Abercia.

R Roy McCarthy 36:04

Yes, absolutely.

J Jimmy Carper 36:06

He has been friends with this community for a very, very long time.

R

Roy McCarthy 36:10

But Jimmy, do you remember a few years ago about three years ago when I was stabbed? Okay. And now, I will stay up behind the stop and go by an idiot said I'm looking for some facts. Okay. And Randy Fields?

J

Jimmy Carper 36:25

Wasn't that one where you said you stood up and said I'm a fag?

R

Roy McCarthy 36:27

Yes. And and Randy Fields was with me. Okay. The police was called HPD came. Now listen to this, folks. HPD came, they were not interested in the individual that stabbed me. You understand? I have a white shirt on. You understand white and white shirt was red with blood. They made me put my hands on the front of the car. They insisted on seeing my identification.

J

Jimmy Carper 36:55

And you're the one that stabbed?

R

Roy McCarthy 36:57

Yeah, I'm the one to stab you understand? And they want to know what I'm doing who I am. And they could care less on who the other federal was. Okay.

J

Jimmy Carper 37:08

Ah, and they did some problems.

R

Roy McCarthy 37:09

Yeah. Yeah, this HPD you understand? And when they found that Randy and I didn't have any warrants on us within they decided let's go Randy had to do the same thing. And Randy was wanting to call them and say,

J

Jimmy Carper 37:23

Okay, now, before you go any further, I want to say this in defense of HPD. There are a lot of good officers in the Montrose area that patrol on Friday and Saturday nights because I work

good officers in the Montrose area that patrol on Friday and Saturday nights because I work with Q patrol and we work with them. They're really nice guys.

R

Roy McCarthy 37:39

Right? It's it? Yeah. Perhaps I am casting a a wide net for all of us. And it's not really true. No.

S

Speaker 1 37:52

But he has said there are.

J

Jimmy Carper 37:54

Oh, yeah, yeah.

R

Roy McCarthy 37:55

They are the minority. But they are some. Yeah. But the, the constables precinct was great. They always work with you. And that never would have happened that never would have happened. If if we had got a hold of constant fear. You're right. I would never want to have you.

J

Jimmy Carper 38:18

Do you know, I'm really proud of my old Republican lover Stan, because he voted early. And of course, he voted for Dole and all the Republicans he could find except he did vote for Jack Abercia. And he did vote for Marquee.

R

Roy McCarthy 38:39

I also have been looking at and reading a lot of polls. I think it's important. This is important for us to go vote. Texas is a swing state, which is surprised to many, it has a chance to either go Clinton or it has a chance to go toe to toe. First of all, I did that. I should do a Clinton with the left and go with the right. But anyway, I did to do that. And you can't see me on the radio anyway. But anyway. It is a chance to go swing we have a chance to carry Texas. Yeah. Now by every polls that I'm reading by everything I'm seeing by everything I'm hearing. It is most likely that the that the US Senate will probably go Republican by only three seats.

J

Jimmy Carper 39:30

Yeah, it's looking that Congress to-.

R

Roy McCarthy 39:32

Roy McCarthy 39:32

The the the the House of Representatives will probably go Democrat between Well, I don't know three seats.

J Jimmy Carper 39:42

I don't know. I don't know that.

R Roy McCarthy 39:43

That is the that's the polls that that a lot of polls are making that claim.

J Jimmy Carper 39:48

But you know. I know this is a national election. And I know it's important for everybody to vote. But but do not just think that the top part of the ballot is the important part, the most important part is toward the bottom. Yes, that's where Jack Abercia is. Yes, that's where all the judges races are. And let me tell you, folks, you're going to run into a local judge a whole lot faster than you're ever going to run into a president.

R Roy McCarthy 40:18

Yeah.

J Jimmy Carper 40:19

These local judges are the folks that kind of, I mean, and kind of. For laws in your in your community. And, yeah.

R Roy McCarthy 40:32

One thing you know, you know, I've just gotten out of social work. And, you know, the damage I've seen, just in the mental health profession here in Houston, in in Texas, I think we're heading towards a mental health crisis. Has, well, here's what's happening. There's cutbacks. So mental health workers are getting overworked, where they cannot ethically do a good job by everybody. It's impossible.

J Jimmy Carper 41:03

Oh, okay. We were talking about this. So it ends up, they sit around, do paperwork, burnout, and do paperwork, sit around, do paperwork and just medicate people? Yeah, rather than helping.

G

Gigi 41:14

And I think that's leading us towards a mental health crisis. And that's, you know, medications alone don't do the job. Also, let me take this counseling, and it takes time spending with people, not with paper. And that's one of the big gripes I have is that, you know, we're seeing a lot of people that are so locked into seeing numbers all day long. And where can we cut this? Where can we cut that? And they don't see the human element. They don't see the the need that's out there. And what's happening, and I've seen a lot of good people in the mental health field leaving because they can't do the job anymore. Absolutely. This can be changed at the polls. Yes.

R

Roy McCarthy 42:04

As far as the remark about meeting, the President, I think the thing is pretty sure about Sheila Jackson Lee, you have a good chance to meeting her about swells, you haven't meeting God at the gallery or the Second Baptist Church. But anyway. Hey, Ed Young, I hope you heard that sweetheart. Anyway.

S

Speaker 1 42:28

Do you happen to know offhand any candidates who are? Who are pro-mental health? Who could? Whose vote you could affect?

G

Gigi 42:41

Unfortunately, I don't think a lot of the wave right now is so focused on the budget that people aren't really looking at what's behind these numbers. Yeah, and yeah, I think the thing is start the tide is starting to turn a little bit. There's some out there that are starting to say, okay, what are these numbers sang, actually. And that's where the critical issue is because you can get a revolving door going in mental health where you can produce all kinds of things that look good on paper, and you look a little deeper and all of a sudden you realize, hey, wait, these people are repeats, and they're not getting this vital services to get them back into the mental health to live a normal life.

S

Speaker 1 43:24

Yeah. And that that indeed is probably the greatest one probably the greatest crime of of us here in Texas.

G

Gigi 43:36

Thing that needs to be done partly is to write to Congressman and write to your representatives and say, hey, you know, we want to we want some things change because every-

