

[MUSIC PLAYING]

WOMAN: (SINGING) After hours, after hours.

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 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 *After Hours*, queer radio with attitude. This is the July 2021 edition, and I'm your producer for the evening, Jimmy Carper. Got a lot of folks here in the studio, so I better get what I wanted to say in first because there's a lot of mouths and some of them are very famous for just going on, and on, and on. Anyway, yeah.

What everybody wants to hear about, the music that I played at the beginning. That was some rousing stuff. Actually, the first one was really nice, and slow, and sweet, and all of that, and that was by Anthony Rapp.

Most of you may know him as the lead-- the openly gay lead in the Broadway show *Rent*. This is his first album called *Look Around*. It's very openly gay. That was called, "Just Some Guy."

And then while you were just lulled into that kind of nice, little world, I just gave you whiplash with Gaye Adegbalola, who is one third of Saffire-- The Uppity Blues Women. And this is her single album. She has recently come out as a lesbian.

And it's her album, *Bitter Sweet Blues*. And yeah, big ovaries, baby. Yes. I mean, it's time the women had a song like that. I'm just over all of these folks who-- all these guys with the big balls. So it's time for big ovaries, OK?

WOMAN: Yes.

JIMMY CARPER: Now, let's see, a couple of things going on here in Houston that I want to talk about before we open the show up. He's finally 30, folks. And who would have thunk it? Yes, Sean Carter, Mr. Gay Pride Houston 2001. And he is also a member of the Royal Sovereign Imperial Court of the Single Star.

He has a birthday show called The Next 30 years happening at the Brazos River Bottom tomorrow night. Well, tonight-- OK, Sunday night. Sunday, Sunday, Sunday.

RANDY: Sunday, Sunday, Sunday.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, Randy, that was just for you. Sunday, Sunday, Sunday. At 7 o'clock at the Brazos River Bottom, and that's benefiting HATCH and the Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center.

And he's going to get some big money out of that one. He's already got big money ahead of time because he's got, oh, about two dozen sponsors there who have already kicked in bucks. So he always puts on the good show, and so be there.

The end of the month, we've got the GLAAD Media Training that's going on at the Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center located at 803 Hawthorne. This is dealing effectively with the media often poses a challenge for grassroots organizations.

Regan Rind, Educator and Training Services Manager with the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation will travel from New York to help Houston GLBT groups learn ways to secure media coverage for their activities. It is free-- free to you from 1:00 to 4:00 Saturday, July the 28th at the Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center. Please pre-register by calling the Center at 713-524-3818.

And one more thing-- at least one more thing. Live 2001-- a benefit and a birthday bash for Don Gil. Don Gil Productions and Bob Bouton present Live 2001. Now, this is right around the time of Don's 50th birthday.

And this show this is a big moneymaker. And it is benefiting the Gulf Coast Archive and Museum. This show will enable the museum to pay their rent for an entire year at their brand-new location at 1609 West Main number 4. They are two doors down from Café Artiste that's located at Mandel and West Main.

Now, this benefit show is Sunday, August the 26th. 5 o'clock at Rich's. We'll be talking more about that in future shows. And blah, blah, blah, blah blah blah. I'll save the rest for later. But I want to get all these people on.

Oh, and Randy, that zip code is 77006. Yes, you may write to *After Hours*. We are located at 419 Lovett Boulevard. That's L-O-V-E-T-T. Love T-T Boulevard, Houston, Texas. 77006. Not just a zip code, a life style.

RANDY: A life style.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes. Randy, I'm glad you like that show. And now, you're on, girls.

WOMAN: Oh, we're on.

JIMMY CARPER: And Jim.

WOMAN: Same thing.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah. That's right. He is an honorary lesbian.

JIM SONGRINI: Honorary-- yes.

JIMMY CARPER: This is normally Jewel and Jim's night. But Jewel is not here, so it's now Jim's night. And he gets to interview a whole bunch of transsexuals.

WOMAN: Yeah, so why don't you--

WOMAN: When he quits picking his eye, he'll get it started. Is that like a gaggle or a--

JIMMY CARPER: Hi, Jim.

JIM SONGRINI: Yes.

[LAUGHTER]

WOMAN: Yes, he is.

JIM SONGRINI: Yes, the--

JIMMY CARPER: So why did you call this meeting?

JIM SONGRINI: The male, bisexual, lesbian who has a boyfriend--

WOMAN: Does he, now?

JIMMY CARPER: And at least one girlfriend.

JIM SONGRINI: Well, I don't know. Maybe. Anyway.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, what's happened there?

MELANIE: Well, I was a bi-camp, so--

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, tell us all about it Melanie.

MELANIE: Oh, yeah. Well, that story is going to the highest bidder.

[LAUGHTER]

JIM SONGRINI: Yeah, she has all my dirt. Yeah.

MELANIE: Yeah, I keep it in a box. He spreads on his coffin every--

JIMMY CARPER: We have members from Cats here tonight, as well as--

WOMAN: Tats.

JIMMY CARPER: Tats.

WOMAN: And Compact Plus.

JIMMY CARPER: And Compact Plus.

WOMAN: As well as a free-ranging lesbian. I am not associated.

WOMAN: We found her just wandering the streets--

JIMMY CARPER: And brought her in.

WOMAN: --with a handful of dental dams, and we just brought her on in.

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

JIM SONGRINI: Oh my.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh my. You got to be careful about these women around you because you just don't know what their orientation is.

WOMAN: And you know trannies, they often get mistaken as drag queens early on. So if you drag them in from the corner of the street, and--

[GROANING]

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, that was-- even for you, that was bad.

MELANIE: I don't know. In this room, the closest thing to a queen is sitting there in the pink shirt.

JIMMY CARPER: Ta-da! Me and my big, faggy voice.

WOMAN: Go, Jimmy.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes. Bobby is here, also.

BOBBY: Hello. How are you?

MELANIE: Bobby, the person least likely to be mistaken for a woman, but yet--

BOBBY: But yet, you would think so.

JIM SONGRINI: He's the other fag.

BOBBY: However, I have been-- waiters and waitresses who come up from behind me in restaurants will invariably refer to me and my best friend as, what would you ladies-- oh, my god, I'm sorry. They see the hair, they assume I'm a girl.

WOMAN: The big, curly hair halfway down his back.

JIM SONGRINI: He does have lesbian haircut number 7.

BOBBY: Oh, yeah. I don't know, the shoulder hair, though, is kind of a giveaway.

JIMMY CARPER: Now, we do have--

WOMAN: I don't know, one of my exes had shoulder hair, so--

[LAUGHTER]

JIMMY CARPER: We do have one other person here.

RAINBO: It would be nice if these headphones worked.

JIMMY CARPER: We have to claim--

JIM SONGRINI: And Rainbo. Rainbo's back there.

JIMMY CARPER: Rainbo de Clown.

WOMAN: Yeah, he's back there.

JIMMY CARPER: He needs no mic. He's just lounging.

MELANIE: Yeah, well, we arranged it so he wouldn't have a mic.

JIM SONGRINI: It's about time you did something for a living.

RAINBO: Finally working.

JIMMY CARPER: Whoa.

RAINBO: Manual working.

MELANIE: Who's Manuel? I haven't met him.

JIMMY CARPER: It's the guy he works with.

MELANIE: Oh, he's working on him. OK.

RAINBO: And Sergio, and--

MELANIE: Yeah.

JIM SONGRINI: Well, the plan was, they were going to come here and talk about lesbianism.

JIMMY CARPER: Actually, I'd mention--

JIM SONGRINI: Our head lesbian is gone, which is a Jewel.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, so we've got Melanie. We've got Kristen.

WOMAN: And I'm the replacement lesbian. There you go. There we go.

JIM SONGRINI: Back up.

MELANIE: And Beth is out there somewhere.

WOMAN: Yeah. We've got so many people, we can't all fit in one studio for this.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, that's true.

WOMAN: I can't see them at all.

JIM SONGRINI: It's best.

MELANIE: Yeah, a--

JIMMY CARPER: I started-- I mentioned earlier before the show that I had just this week listened to Jewel's show last month. And she interviewed you, Melanie.

MELANIE: Yeah, I was here for a few minutes.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, it was short, but it was really good.

MELANIE: Yeah, well Jeanine Brunch is the [? Maryl ?] liaison to the GLBT beauty community was on first.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, it's hard to kick her off.

MELANIE: Yeah, it's just-- I mean, it's like that strange martial art that she was-- no.

JIM SONGRINI: Her kung fu was much better.

MELANIE: Yeah, her style was-- but yeah, it was just-- there was a lot of material to be covered. So it was like, I think, five minutes was my allotted time. So I got to be-- I think I got a lot of information. I sat down and said, hi, I'm Melanie. And oh, we're out of time.

JIMMY CARPER: No. No, it was good. It was good. It was a good 10-- 10, 15 minutes almost.

MELANIE: 10 or 15 minutes, yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: I haven't seen you, Melanie, since Thursday night at a drag party at the Lovett Inn. Yeah, I got to go there for dinner right before a 7 o'clock meeting at the Gulf Coast Archives and Museum. And she walked in, and she was with the woman on crutches.

MELANIE: Yeah. Yeah, she's a new person who's sort of in the closet right now with her work. So we won't mention--

JIMMY CARPER: OK, the woman on crutches.

[LAUGHTER]

MELANIE: But yeah, I think there's more than a couple in town.

JIM SONGRINI: There could be thousands of women on crutches. Yes, thousands, and thousands.

JIMMY CARPER: But girl, you were hot looking Thursday night.

MELANIE: Oh, well, thank you, Jimmy. Is your sexual orientation changing again? Or is it the--

WOMAN: No, it's just a general observation, Melanie.

MELANIE: OK, yeah, I'm hot.

JIMMY CARPER: No, she had on this-- I mean, she--

MELANIE: I had a shirt on.

JIMMY CARPER: You had your hair done, and you had makeup, and you had--

MELANIE: Oh, god, you outed me. I had makeup on.

JIMMY CARPER: And you had-- you were wearing this white blouse and then you had this kind of vest over it that's kind of brocade and just really hot looking. Black jeans--

MELANIE: Yeah, OK, I admit it. I looked pretty hot.

JIMMY CARPER: You did. You did.

MELANIE: Well, who was it-- you said you were listening to the show one time with a friend, and they were like, oh, boy, listen to Melanie.

JIM SONGRINI: Yeah, they were like, oh, she sounds so cute. And I said, yeah, she is. She's kind of built like a linebacker, but she's cute, nonetheless.

MELANIE: Well, yeah. Well, it was really interesting when I seen you at the watching the Pride parade and I ran over and gave you a hug and picked you up off the ground.

JIM SONGRINI: Yes.

MELANIE: Yeah, you had an interesting-- I think when Beth did it after I did is when you really had the astonished look in your face.

JIM SONGRINI: Seems to be the pastime is to lift Jim off the ground.

JIMMY CARPER: All these delicate little flowers around here.

MELANIE: Yeah, when you-- unfortunately, when you've got an overabundance of testosterone, it's hard to suppress it, sometimes.

JIMMY CARPER: So what were you going to talk about? There's so many subjects. I think the one most dear to me right now is the halfway house.

MELANIE: Oh, yeah. Just in the *Voice* last week and everything. So Chris is the chief of that.

JIMMY CARPER: Chris, can we talk about that?

MELANIE: OK. What do you want to talk about? What do you want to say? Well, things are kind of going along.

JIMMY CARPER: There is one.

MELANIE: Yes, yes, yes.

WOMAN: It exists.

JIMMY CARPER: It exists.

MELANIE: We have started, as far as we know, America's very first and only TG shelter, specifically for people who are gender variant. I had just heard that there was something called the Tiffany House somewhere up north, but it was sort of designated as a GLBT, questioning type of a place.

So as far as we know, we're the only one. And we've been trying to just learn as we go because there's no one else to ask, what did you do? How did you do it?

JIMMY CARPER: Somebody has to be first.

MELANIE: Yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: And you're kind of an innovator.

MELANIE: As opposed to an elevator.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

JIM SONGRINI: Or an outer-vator.

JIMMY CARPER: Or an outer-vator.

MELANIE: Darth Vader.

[BREATHING]

JIMMY CARPER: No, you are. And I wasn't surprised at all when I heard that you were behind it.

[LAUGHTER]

Did that come out wrong?

MELANIE: You have to realize, we just came directly from watching *Scary Movie 2*. So it's like, we have all these images in our heads. So it'll take very little to trigger those, and then we're going to just become a little bowl of oatmeal. Which, that's another image. Well, actually, we're doing pretty well. We're learning about things like conflict resolution and--

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, yes.

MELANIE: All these wonderful things. People not getting along together and then getting along together and learning all those things. And it's just-- I don't know. It's been one hell of a learning experience-- a growth experience. It's been very interesting.

JIM SONGRINI: So you're taking on the emotional and, actually, financial burden.

MELANIE: Yes.

JIMMY CARPER: But is there anything that the community can do to help?

MELANIE: Give us lots of money.

JIMMY CARPER: OK, and how do we do that? Send checks to where and--

MELANIE: Do you have the--

WOMAN: Hand me the--

JIMMY CARPER: Who do we make the checks out to?

MELANIE: Here we go. We are going to get-- actually, we have got--

JIM SONGRINI: The purse of doom.

MELANIE: Yeah, the purse of doom. Yeah, we have a fund set up for that. If you want to make a donation of any denomination-- of course, the larger the better-- you can send it to Capital Bank of the 52nd Street House Fund. You can make it out to--

JIMMY CARPER: Is that the name of it-- 52nd Second Street House Fund?

MELANIE: That's right. And Capital Bank is located at 3007 South Sheppard, that's Houston, Texas, 77098, if you want to send something in. Or you can call them at 713-529-0001.

JIMMY CARPER: How'd they get that number?

WOMAN: They were first.

MELANIE: They have an email here, but it's like excruciatingly long and complicated.

JIMMY CARPER: OK, never mind.

MELANIE: And if you want contact Cats, you can do it via T-G-H-E-L-P-- tghelp@tghelp.org.

JIMMY CARPER: OK, now there may be folks out there who don't have a lot of cash, but they-- oh, thank you. That was a lovely sound.

MELANIE: At least it wasn't directly into the mic.

JIMMY CARPER: This woman, just all of a sudden, raises up her t-shirt to sneeze into it, exposing her chest-al region.

JIM SONGRINI: Chest-al?

JIMMY CARPER: Chest-al regions.

MELANIE: Hey, you know, Jim over here has got me beat any day.

[LAUGHTER]

JIM SONGRINI: Oh, no. You have about three days to stop that.

JIMMY CARPER: So no, there's a lot of people, maybe, with things rather than money. So what kind of things do you need?

MELANIE: Well, actually, if you have-- well, the things that we're needing-- a kitchen table with chairs. Let's see-- well, yeah, that would about do it. Just a kitchen table with chairs is what we're really looking for. By the way--

JIMMY CARPER: What about food and stuff?

MELANIE: Yes, food is always good.

JIMMY CARPER: In fact, there's a box over at the--

MELANIE: Absolutely.

WOMAN: You noticed that. The Karma Box.

JIMMY CARPER: At the Lesbian and Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorne, you can just drop stuff off.

MELANIE: That's right. You sure can.

JIMMY CARPER: It's right there as you walk in.

MELANIE: Yep, yep. But we do recommend that you do not bring beets or creamed corn.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, because nobody likes that.

WOMAN: That's right.

MELANIE: Well, Deb Murphy will steal it.

JIMMY CARPER: Creamed corn is just disgusting.

RAINBO: Hey, I like creamed corn. Doesn't like me, but I like creamed corn.

MELANIE: There's a whole joke there.

JIMMY CARPER: There's a big reason that gay men should not eat creamed corn.

[GROANING]

I went there.

BOBBY: All I'm going to say is--

JIM SONGRINI: That sounds like a safe sex issue to me.

MELANIE: Toilet paper?

JIMMY CARPER: That was just wrong.

RAINBO: I eat creamed corn.

JIMMY CARPER: Ah.

JIM SONGRINI: And you're very lonely.

JIMMY CARPER: That explains a lot about you, Rainbo.

MELANIE: Oh, no.

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

RAINBO: That's the low point in the evening, folks. It can only go up from here.

MELANIE: The truth is--

BOBBY: You want to bet?

MELANIE: Also, if anyone out there has some old junk that they would like to get rid of, we're going to have-- Cats and the Lesbian and Gay Community Center, we're having a joint-- not a joint--

[LAUGHTER]

WOMAN: Just earlier today, we were hanging out with Tim [INAUDIBLE].

JIM SONGRINI: That really helps the conflict issues.

[PUFFING]

JIMMY CARPER: FCC will be so glad to hear about that.

WOMAN: So what do you think about that, man?

[COUGHING]

JIM SONGRINI: Say, past that fatty over here.

[LAUGHTER]

That's my conflict.

WOMAN: Is that-- I've heard that pick-up line 14 times.

[LAUGHTER]

I think it was at bi camp.

WOMAN: I think so, yes.

JIM SONGRINI: Most likely.

WOMAN: God.

JIM SONGRINI: No, I think--

JIMMY CARPER: And the only lesbian in the room was wondering why she did--

WOMAN: Why the hell am I here?

WOMAN: Let me out now.

JIM SONGRINI: I think one of the highlights of bi camp was watching that guy take the nosedive off the stump. Oh, god, that was funny.

WOMAN: Yeah. I just earned a free ticket to the AA meeting after.

JIM SONGRINI: Yeah, he lost credibility with everybody real fast.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, my. OK, so junk-- you're going to have a garage sale?

MELANIE: Oh, yeah. We're having a yard sell at the Lesbian and Gay Community Center. And let's see, it's going to be August 18, starting at 7:00 AM.

WOMAN: Are you kidding?

MELANIE: And I got to tell you--

JIM SONGRINI: That's when it starts.

MELANIE: Well, it'll still be going by the time you wake up.

JIM SONGRINI: That is in the Montrose. Hello.

MELANIE: Yeah, I know. I know. But I've got to tell you--

JIMMY CARPER: Some of these queens can't get out of bed before 2:00.

MELANIE: I know. Well, we're doing that to accommodate the straights that are moving in.

WOMAN: That's right.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, get the straight money first.

MELANIE: Yeah. They've got all the-- you know about the straight people. My god.

JIM SONGRINI: Really, 7:00 is good time.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, my god.

MELANIE: Yeah, and I got to tell you--

JIM SONGRINI: I can hit it as I'm going home, maybe.

MELANIE: One of the best yard sales this community has ever seen. I mean, we're going to have all kinds of stuff.

JIM SONGRINI: Neat-o.

MELANIE: Be sure--

JIM SONGRINI: Stop throwing it away, and give it to them.

MELANIE: Yeah, yeah.

WOMAN: I've never seen her fingers crossed that much.

JIMMY CARPER: Shut up.

[LAUGHTER]

JIM SONGRINI: Fine period pieces. Yes.

MELANIE: If you would--

WOMAN: Oh, no.

MELANIE: Yes. Yes. And if you have something that you would like to donate but you don't want to get up and bring it over to the Center, you can call this number that I'm about to give you, and we'll schedule a time to come by and pick it up.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, great.

MELANIE: So call 281-585-8089, and we'll schedule a time to come by and pick it up.

JIMMY CARPER: OK, before you leave, why don't you give that information to Big Roy so we can talk about it on the news segments between now and then?

MELANIE: OK.

JIMMY CARPER: OK, great. Great. OK, so what did you really come here to talk about?

MELANIE: Well, actually, a couple of months ago, I was over at Chance's and I ran into Jewel over there. And she says, you know-- and we got talking about different stuff. And she goes, the transgender community is really doing good with their political message. And she goes, a lot of people really get the political issues.

I mean, some people get them and just refuse to do anything. But she said, a lot of people really get what everybody is about, and what the issues are, and all that. But a lot of people-- the trans lesbians, especially, are really misunderstood. It's like, where are they coming from? How do they feel on things?

And one of the things she said is that the big belief that goes around is like, well, if you were born male because of the equipment that you had, even if you get rid of it, you're still a man.

WOMAN: Well, yeah. Yeah, but I don't know how familiar you are with the history of the trans and lesbian issues bumping into each other. But for about the last 12 or 14 years now, there's been a big row going on at the Women's Michigan Music Festival.

MELANIE: Yeah, I'm very familiar with that.

WOMAN: --where a transgender woman, post-op, post-transition, everything was read and thrown out. And since that time, the festival organizers there have made this policy of women born women, whatever that means to them.

WOMAN: That's right.

WOMAN: Yeah, OK. And so what that means to me is, OK, I don't know anybody who is born-- you know squirted out of a womb as a full-bred woman with all the experience and everything that comes with that. But I think that, personally, I fit that as well as anybody else in spite of the fact that I was born with a male anatomy.

So that wasn't anything that I had any choice over. And I was raised-- expected to be, growing up as a boy, hated every minute of it, saw what was happening to my sister--

WOMAN: Well, see, that's part of the argument that I hear all the time. If you've had any of these so-called--

WOMAN: Socialization.

WOMAN: --male privilege, then that's it. There's just no way you could ever be a women-- be women.

WOMAN: W-O-M-Y-N.

WOMAN: Yes. Yes. Yes, whatever that is.

WOMAN: Well, I can say with certainty that there is male privilege in the world. And I know that I don't have access to that, and I haven't for a long, long time. And people who claim that because I had a history of it makes me somehow different haven't lived my life. Because it's really not that different from the other women that I know.

WOMAN: Yeah, and I was talking to someone on that subject about male privilege. They said, well, you're taking advantage of male privilege and all that. If you're-- in this society, if you're perceived as male, you're given male privilege.

WOMAN: Like it or not.

WOMAN: It's forced on you.

WOMAN: Yeah.

WOMAN: I mean, you can take a man and a woman-- both equally qualified on something and-- say, technical expertise. And Beth, with your technical background, you can hold your own with a lot of people. But you could stand side-by-side with a man who may have less technical aptitude than you do--

WOMAN: Oh, yeah.

WOMAN: --and more than likely, especially men are going to look at him for, how do we solve this problem? What's the technical answer? And it's going to just be assumed that the male is the one with the greater ability?

WOMAN: I stood there-- I stood there at the counter of the computer store with my dad who's a lawyer and hasn't the first clue about computers and he wanted more RAM for his machine. The guy wouldn't talk to me. Talked to my dad-- wouldn't talk to me. I whipped out my business card, and he's like, oh, OK. But it took that.

WOMAN: But yeah, I mean-- so in spite of the fact that I was expected to be male and was given this upbringing that forced this on me, the whole time I was looking at it and seeing what was happening with my sister and knowing the inequities involved in that. And it was just killing me. And I was a member of NOW at like age 15. So the feminist fight and me have gone back a long way.

WOMAN: Hey, you mentioned NOW-- I always thought that it was kind of strange-- I remember back-- well, I don't remember, but I've heard that years and years ago, NOW wanted to exclude lesbians because they weren't real women.

WOMAN: That was a fight that went on in the late '60s and early '70s.

WOMAN: That's right. And out of that, didn't there come a group called the Lavender Menace?

WOMAN: Lavender Menace. Yep.

WOMAN: And isn't there the Transsexual Menace up there-- or Transgender Menace--

WOMAN: Transgender Menace, now.

WOMAN: --at the Michigan Women's Festival protesting.

WOMAN: Well, that's Camp Trans. Camp Trans does include a lot of members of the Transgender Menace, which was started by Riki Wilchins who is also the leader of the Camp Trans group. And they go up and try to do education. They actually set up in federal park lands across the street from the entry gate of the Michigan Women's Music Festival, which, by the way, is coming up in about three weeks.

And they offer their own festival, basically. They have workshops. They have music, and all that stuff. And they invite any of the fest-goers, as they call themselves, to come across the street and attend some of these workshops. And some of them are spiritual, some of them are just simply, what is a tranny? Kind of education. There's all kinds of stuff that goes on at Camp Trans.

Some of the things they do is they try to enter the land-- enter the Michigan Women Music Festival every year, and they get turned away. I don't know if I really would support that. But that's what part of their goal is.

WOMAN: Well, what's so difficult about all this is I know a woman whenever I meet a woman.

WOMAN: Absolutely.

WOMAN: And I know man whenever I meet a man. But I can't tell you exactly what it is about them--

WOMAN: Absolutely.

WOMAN: --that makes them a man or a woman in my eyes. It's such a nebulous thing. It's almost impossible to nail down. If you're basing it on chromosomes, there's always an exception. If you're basing it on birth sex and physical makeup, there's millions of exceptions.

WOMAN: Well, OK, you just basically quoted the first paragraph of Judge Harberger's ruling in the *Christie Littleton* case where he said that we don't know-- I'm trying to remember exactly what he said. But it's basically, we know a man when we see a man. We know a woman when we see a woman.

We know that from a young age. Even a kid could tell a man from a woman, especially without any clothes on. OK, so he's got it at that point. And then he turns on and goes on about this whole chromosome thing and completely blows it from there.

WOMAN: Right.

WOMAN: But you're right. I mean, what is a man, and what is a woman is-- first off, there's no objective, direct, guaranteed criteria. And second off, there's such an overlap in terms of physical and emotional things-- feature.

BOBBY: If it's such an easy thing to define-- what is a man or a woman?

WOMAN: At an emotional level.

BOBBY: If it's such an easy thing to define for the people who want to define, OK, this is, and this is not and all of that. How come I-- as a man with a beard and mustache, the works, and everything-- if I'm on the phone, I more often than not get called ma'am.

WOMAN: OK, well that's just voice and inflection. When they get to know you as a person, can they tell?

BOBBY: When they-- and in restaurants, if somebody's standing behind me, the first thing they'll see is my hair. They automatically assume, because I'm a very long-haired person, that when they turn around, they're going to see a woman.

WOMAN: Which is exactly what I was talking about when I said there was overlap in characteristics.

BOBBY: It's like, I do not fit everybody's picture of man.

WOMAN: Right. Well, you do on the whole. But it doesn't-- any one given thing-- length of hair. Could be one, could be the other.

WOMAN: Fabio.

WOMAN: Yeah. Vocal characteristics on the phone-- could be one, could be the other. But Bobby, when I hug you and get in there close and actually know you, you're not a woman. Not as far as I know. You'd surprise me a lot if you were.

BOBBY: And you know--

WOMAN: Probably surprise you, too.

BOBBY: And I once told you when we got to know each other and everything that if I hadn't-- if I didn't know in advance--

WOMAN: What my background was.

BOBBY: --what your background was, I would never have guessed.

WOMAN: That's because I never really owned that background. It was something that other people put on me based on an anatomy. It wasn't based on who I am inside.

And that's part of the real conflict that's going on at places like Michigan Women's Music Festival and people like Janice Raymond with her *Transsexual Empire* book that they don't understand-- they don't get to know the person. They do it based on some objective criteria that they've put up in their head. And it's just like hair length. I mean, there's enough of an overlap that it's not a useful way to measure it.

BOBBY: Exactly.

WOMAN: Just looking at-- yeah.

BOBBY: Speaking of long hair--

WOMAN: Yeah, so who's-- of the people with long hair in here, let's see. We're about evenly split.

JIMMY CARPER: So they sit outside the gate and sing about not getting into the Women's Festival?

WOMAN: No, they just-- they sit outside the gate and have the workshops about, what is a transsexual? What is a trans-- what is a transvestite, cross-dresser?

WOMAN: TG 101.

WOMAN: TG 101 and stuff like that. Riki Wilchins does this kind of a neat workshop on what not to say to a transsexual. She's got this list of about 60 things.

WOMAN: Back when you were a man--

WOMAN: Yeah. And what's your name? No, no, no, your real name. All kinds of stuff like that.

WOMAN: Nebuchadnezzar Jones.

WOMAN: As much as I have some problems with her political ways of doing things, she's got a lot of comedy in her. She's just great to hang with.

WOMAN: But yeah, as Bobby was saying earlier, if he didn't know about your background and everything, well, when I first met you was a couple of years at the--

WOMAN: Two years ago with the float--

WOMAN: Yeah, the Krewe of Olympus was doing the float workshop for the Pride parade.

WOMAN: That's right.

WOMAN: And I got there a little bit late. I walked in, and you were talking with Kristen.

WOMAN: Who I had met like two weeks earlier at the Unity Banquet.

WOMAN: Yeah. And I remember seeing you at the Unity Banquet, but there was like so many people there.

WOMAN: Well, hey, the Unity Banquet is an LGBT community event. Of course, it's given by the TG people, but anybody's welcome.

WOMAN: Yeah. And so I was there. And I was saying, yeah, and I was like, OK, well, I've seen her before. And then I think you had a Compact shirt on or something, one of those--

WOMAN: Yeah, I was there for the Compact Plus and group.

WOMAN: But you were talking to Chris. And as I come over there, you're like, well, I'm going to go sit down. I'll see you later. And I'm sitting there with Kristen on one side of the room. And everybody else had congregated on the other side.

WOMAN: Yeah, like close to the door.

WOMAN: And I looked over, I said, are we sitting in the TG-only section or something? She's like, oh, no, there's a tranny over on the other side. And I was like, where? Well, the chick I was talking to. I'm like, no way.

WOMAN: See, that's the thing is, how do you know? I mean, there's an awful lot-- I was hanging out waiting for you guys down at Chance's-- he never showed up, so I just met you over here. I was hoping maybe you might have gone over there.

WOMAN: We went to the movie.

WOMAN: Yeah. And there's a couple of women in there, and that really set off my gend-dar. I don't know for sure--

WOMAN: Ding, ding, ding, ding.

JIM SONGRINI: Now, there's a word I hadn't heard.

WOMAN: I was about to say that. That's interesting.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

WOMAN: Yeah, it's like the TG version.

WOMAN: The gay-dar.

WOMAN: The gen-dar.

WOMAN: You're always coming up with this really cool thing.

WOMAN: Oh, that was an oldie, actually. I don't know know. It might be an East Coast thing because that's where I'm originally from. But anyway, yeah--

BOBBY: Gen-dar?

WOMAN: Yeah.

BOBBY: Sounds like some guy from another planet.

WOMAN: Gen-dar--

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

WOMAN: Yes, Gen-dar the Barbarian.

JIM SONGRINI: Isn't that one of the characters in *Plan 9 From Outer Space*?

JIMMY CARPER: And speaking of gen-dar, into the room--

WOMAN: Walks Big Roy. But yeah, I mean, my calibration of my gender is not 100%. But I'm usually pretty good with that sort of thing. And another-- I don't know if people are familiar with Lynn Conway. She's got a--

WOMAN: Fantastic website. Amazing website.

WOMAN: Absolutely. But one of the things she talks about in her website-- so it's www.lynnconway.com if you ever want to go there. But one of the things she talks about is the numbers. OK, so if you look in the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association Standard of Care-- ain't that a long name-- they talk about 1 in 30,000 in the population. And that's just bullshit. I mean, there's just no way about it.

WOMAN: Hey, I've never seen Jimmy stiffen up that quick.

WOMAN: I'm sorry, this one this is one of those issues that gets me going. 1 in 30,000-- no way. I just know too many people for me to believe that, personally.

BOBBY: How they all end up in one place.

WOMAN: Yeah, in Alvin.

WOMAN: Yeah, they're all in Alvin. So she went around to all the surgeons in the United States that she could find. And she got these estimates for, how many have you done since 1969 when this thing really started getting happening in the United States? And between all the ones that she did know about and kind of estimating the ones that she didn't know about, she said anywhere between 30,000 and 40,000 of the women walking around in this country right now are post-op male-to-female transsexuals.

OK, so 30,000 to 40,000 out of a population of 160 million people between the ages of 18 and 65. That's one in 2,500. 1 in 2,500 of the women you see walking around today is post-op male-to-female transsexuals. So how about the pre-ops that are living full time?

WOMAN: And considering the cost of the operation, that's not something that you can just run down to Walmart and get your SRS kit there.

WOMAN: And thank you ever so much to the insurance companies for their universal policy of putting it into the exclusions.

WOMAN: Yeah. So it's only those that are fortunate enough to be able to save up or have financial ability to come up and pay for this out of their pocket.

WOMAN: So this isn't the usual Tranny Night, so I don't know if a lot of our listeners know. But we're talking about anywhere from about \$8,000 to \$20,000 depending on who you go see and how much they charge for the male to females.

WOMAN: There you go.

WOMAN: And double to triple that for the female to males.

WOMAN: Yeah, that's like several stages of surgery for the female to males. And yeah, we're talking about a lot of money either way.

WOMAN: Yeah, we're about some people--