

[MUSIC PLAYING]

JIMMY CARPER: Ah, yes. It is time for the *News and Views with Big Roy and Chris*.

CHRIS: We should be insulted that you went from *God is White* to *Big Roy and Chris*.

[LAUGHTER]

JIMMY CARPER: Good point

ROY: You know that is--

JIMMY CARPER: These are substantial men, folks.

[LAUGHS]

ROY: Some are more substantial than others.

CHRIS: Oh.

ROY: At any rate though--

CHRIS: I may have the girth, but you sure as hell don't have the mirth.

ROY: Oh.

[LAUGHS]

Anyhow, that is a great-- who did *God is White* again?

JIMMY CARPER: Dave Hall off of his brand new CD called *True*.

ROY: That isn't it.

JIMMY CARPER: Isn't it? I really like that. And that's another wonderful CD from Giuseppe Joe Records. And if you want to find out more, it's www.giuseppejoe.com. Now, Giuseppe, right? OK, I'll spell it for you. G-I-U-S-E-P-P-E J-O-E, Giuseppe Joe.

ROY: OK, so get yourself a copy of that.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, that's nice music.

ROY: OK, want to start out this week edition of *After Hours News and Views* with something that I'm not sure if Sarah touched on or not, but it is appropriate to start off the news with this. This past Wednesday-- on Wednesday, the state legislatures relaunched some of the state legislatures. Up in Austin, relaunched their campaign to strengthen Texas's Hate Crimes Law pledging support for enhanced penalties and protection for gays and lesbian people. According to the *Houston Voice*, so far 64 house members have vowed support of the measure and more are expected to be by Monday.

Another one more is expected to be on there by Monday as far as for support, and Monday is Martin Luther King's day. And State Representative Deborah Denenberg told the *Houston Voice* that she thinks that the Hate Crimes Bill has a good chance of passage within the first few weeks of session. While newspapers and wire services reported Tuesday that Perry said he would oppose passage of Hate Crimes legislation. A spokeswoman for Perry said Wednesday that the governor wouldn't necessarily veto a bill that offered specific protection to homosexuals.

She said that he is not going to speak on the specific language, because it's up to the legislature to reach some kind of compromise on that bill. Governor Perry will give careful consideration to any Hate Crimes Bill that the legislature might send him, even if it includes specific protection for homosexuals. And this past Tuesday, the *Houston Chronicle* asked Perry in a published interview if he believed that gays should be offered specific protection against hate crimes.

And he told the *Houston Chronicle* that he would rather see focus on legislation that clearly enhances punishment not getting tied up with creation of classes causing more division between citizens and the state. He said that he would rather see us passing a legislation that helps bring Texas together rather than creating more divisions. And why is Hate Crimes legislation and passage of such things very important? Well, this past week on MTV there was a special called about--

CHRIS: *Anatomy of a Hate Crime*, the Matthew Shepard story.

ROY: Right.

CHRIS: And we promoted that show. And I'll be honest with you. I'm very disappointed with the movie.

ROY: You're disappointed?

CHRIS: I am. It bothered me the fact that Matthew Shepard in this movie was portrayed as a suicidal, pill-popping, horndog tease that was manic depressant and HIV positive. And if you watch the whole movie, you see some of this coming through. I mean, I never heard of this, the fact that Matthew Shepard supposedly was HIV positive. I saw it in the movie in two different parts where there were his HIV status is being inferred. I don't recall hearing any accounts of it in that sense. According to an article published by the *LA Times* in their review of the movie, apparently it is possible that he was HIV positive. But that's not important in that case.

Another part is this, the movie was promoted as an MTV original. And I'm going off of pure speculation here. I don't think it was based on the fact that there was a lot of dialogue that was cut out apparently by MTV. And a lot of it was the language. There was a lot of words that you cannot say on the air. But if you were watching the Wednesday broadcast, the original broadcast, that language was typed in on the captioning. That's the closed caption for the hearing impaired. When it was rebroadcast today on MTV--

ROY: Right.

CHRIS: --those words were deleted in the captioning. The captioning also was turned off mysteriously about 3/4 of the way through the movie. On Wednesday, it stopped abruptly. No more captioning came through on the movie. Whereas when it was shown today, the captioning was throughout. There was edits to the captioning there was also a--

ROY: What company did was in charge of that?

CHRIS: Well, I'm not sure on the original show. Because that's put at the end of the broadcast, that they say "captioning provided by--

ROY: Right.

CHRIS: And it was disappeared on the one on Wednesday. The one that was shown on today's version was by VITAC.

ROY: OK, I know this, that when it comes to closed captioning-- when it comes to closed captioning, and I didn't know this, I did not realize how difficult a time deaf people have until I decided to watch the closed captioning on the evening news. In other words, I hit my mute button.

CHRIS: Yeah.

ROY: Right. I mean, half the stuff that the newsmen are saying does not get on.

CHRIS: Yeah. When it's live, it's very hard to capture it like that. When it's a prerecorded movie like this--

ROY: They ought to be able to get the script in there.

CHRIS: It is. And that's one of the parts that if you-- on here, there's a scene in the beginning there. When they're in the first part where Matthew Shepard's in the bar with his two murderers, when they go over to play pool, one of the guys they're trying to hustle at playing pool calls Aaron. He asks him, are you a badass or a wuss? Well, the closed captioning then recorded there was two more lines of dialogue that weren't heard. And the way the captioning was written, it was Matthew's, the character of Matthew Shepard, over saying this after this, are you a badass or what. A bad ass or wuss? What were they trying to prove to each other? That dialogue did not make it into the version that was broadcast.

ROY: OK. Well, basically though-- basically, the main part of the movie was the hate crime itself. And one of the things that was brought out was this whole deal about the gay panic defense. OK? And in the trial how they did try to portray Matt Shepard as making the sexual advances. And what was pointed out in the news stories by Matt friends and as was pointed out in the movie itself that Matt was not a "slut puppy." He wasn't me. He was a--

[COUGHS]

He was a decent person. But no, he would not. That is not something that he would've done.

CHRIS: But actually, I saw that portrayed in the movie, his one gay friend in there, Carter, that he kind of had a connection with at the beginning and then kind of cooled down as part of the precursors to the fact that he may have had HIV. He's constantly staring back at them. Well, the fact is that he kept looking at them not just because he thought they may have been cute or they were good looking guys, but the fact they were making so much damn noise and they were being rowdy, which is a normal precursor.

I'll admit this freely. OK? Well, the first time I saw the two of them on television, Russ and Aaron, the two men who actually committed the murder, when I first saw them on television-- just the picture, I didn't hear the story behind what it was-- I thought they were very attractive men. And then when I find out what they did, I was like, oh, my God.

ROY: Right.

CHRIS: But he wasn't staring at that, because in the movie, it's because they're making a whole lot of noise. Another part of it is the fact this is the precursor to their anti violence and discrimination program that they're going to be starting for the next year. MTV edited out the n-word. One of the characters in there uses the term, and I'm going to say it because it was in the movie here. He uses the term "nigger." MTV edited out the word. And here we are talking about discrimination. And yes, "faggot," and "gay," and "queer," and all that was important throughout the whole movie, but here is another part to show it as another part of discrimination--

ROY: Right.

CHRIS: --of the fact that one character was looking at the character Aaron who was listening to the hip hop music. He was dressing in that "gangster style" and was referred to by this derogatory term which would just show more of a discrimination policy in it. And they had blanked it out because of that. And I mean, I felt so positive about this, because this is the station that made Eminem what he is. OK? This is the guy-- this is the station that put him and put a lot of the violent talk rapping on the market, that gave it a home even though they edit it out. It intrigues people enough--

ROY: Well--

CHRIS: --to go out and get the records to find out more about it, and give it the platform to go from. And I thought they were going to be doing something positive for it.

ROY: Let's be honest. Way before Eminem, we had rappers on there talking in very disparaging and very disrespectful terms about one another, and especially about women, and about police officers, and police officers in general.

CHRIS: Yes.

ROY: OK, I mean, to a lot of these rappers, they were really nothing more than just highly paid hoods.

CHRIS: Yeah.

ROY: Thugs. A lot of these rappers were really nothing more than just highly paid thugs.

CHRIS: And so, I mean this is the network that has promoted this over the years. And I thought this was going to be something that was going to really make something interesting. And I was very disappointed with that. The 17 hours that they had dedicated to scrolling over stories about hate crimes, first of all, they really didn't lose. I mean, they said they lost advertising.

During that time, that's all that they're doing. They're not showing videos at all. They're really not showing music. It's all their other reruns of programs from last year, two years ago, five years ago. It's what they blanked out. They didn't blank out actual videos, when people are going to be watching them at that time. And

[COUGHS]

Excuse me. Surprisingly, they couldn't get enough stories that you could watch it for a long period of time and not see reruns. Yes, I know James Byrd is a very important figure in hate crimes information--

ROY: Especially in Texas.

CHRIS: In Texas. But I'll tell you this, I watched it, flipped it on and off there during for a couple of hours segment. I saw the James Byrd story on there about four times. I saw the same stories repeated over and over again. And it makes it basically look like we spent 17 hours, we're blanking it out. We're losing \$2 million to air hate crime specials. And guess what? We could only come up with 20. And I think MTV did us a great disservice with this. I hope they're going to do better. And I hope that some of the national critics and people who have some thoughts on that, oh, you go off on a wild tangent every week, and I can't. I hope that some of the real-- quote unquote-- real critics out there will hold them to the fire of what they did of this lip service. Because I mean, we hold the politicians to the lip service we get. We need to hold the people who say they're helping us. Oh, you shut up. You've gone off on so many damn--

ROY: We got a lot more to go.

CHRIS: Did I interrupt you on your Dr. Laura's?

JIMMY CARPER: And you only have minutes to do it.

ROY: We've really got a lot to go through.

CHRIS: OK.

ROY: So OK, so you didn't like Matt Shepard. OK.

CHRIS: No. I didn't like the movie that MTV the way they did it. A major merger has occurred. The Montrose Clinic and the Body Positive Wellness Center has merged into one organization. The combined organization will be called the Montrose Clinic. But the Wellness Center will be continuing to call the Body Positive Wellness Center and will remain at its old location. Basically, they're getting together, but they're staying apart. For information on the Montrose Clinic, you can call 713-830-3000. Check out their websites at montrose-clinic.org or bodypositivehouston.org.

ROY: OK. This next Saturday at the community center, they will be ushering in the new year with a 2001 Millennium Dance beginning at 8 PM ET. And local DJ Niña, who is well-known from Kansas, will spin tunes. Disco ball will catch glittering light over the crowd. And the parties can enjoy cake, and punch, and beer, and wine, and dressing up is encouraged. A \$10 donation for the community center at the door will benefit the programs throughout the year.

CHRIS: usbasegay.com is launching an Argentine site this year-- www.ar.gay.com. Look for later on sites to benefit Mexico and Venezuela. Most likely, that will be mx and vz .gay.com. Also don't forget the men's gathering. We'll be having a dialogue meeting on Sunday.

JIMMY CARPER: Sunday, Sunday, Sunday!

CHRIS: January 14 at Rice University's Ley Student Center in the Meyer Conference Room. They will be discussing everything you wanted to know about lesbians but was afraid to ask.

JIMMY CARPER: I am very afraid to ask.

CHRIS: Starting at 3:00 PM and going till 6:00. The dialogue will give an opportunity to move through stereotypes and bias and to value these women for who they are. Many times, the worst prejudice that exists in the GLBT community comes from within the community. Join us for a very important dialogue. This is the men's gathering. If you want more information, you can contact them at 713-528-4461.

ROY: And a group that we very rarely get a chance to talk about is Asian and friends. And they're going to be celebrating Houston's Ted and Chinese New Year potluck next Saturday at 7:30 PM. If you'd like more information on the location, you can reach them on the world wide web at asianandfriendshouston.com. Or for quicker service if you have AOL, just go ahead and give them a call on a telephone at 713-626-6300. As we all know, it takes AOL forever to get you logged on.

[LAUGHS]

CHRIS: And that wasn't it. OK, for those of you who want to get your lower body moving--

[SCOFFS]

--two events that are coming up, the 5k/1k walk-run which will be funding from the Houston Museum-- the Holocaust Museum Houston. Come join the Human Race. It will be occurring on February 4. Proceeds from this run will be benefiting AIDS Foundation Houston, Fifth Ward Enrichment Program, communities and school, child advocates, Houston's Lesbian and Gay Community Center, Kipp Academy. Search Asia Society Texas Crisis Intervention of Houston.

The Human Race will be starting at the park shops downtown at 1,200 McKinney on February 4, 2:30. And for more information, you can contact 713-942-8000, extension 124. Or you can also find information on their website at www.hmh.org. Also, don't forget the kickoff party for the Hill Country Ride for AIDS at Club Sonoma, 1415 California, on January 18 from 6:30 to 8:30.

The Hill Country Ride for AIDS is a two-day 125 mile bike ride in the Texas Hill Country to raise money for people living with HIV and AIDS and for 10 central Texas AIDS service organizations. The ride will be occurring April 28 and 29. So far, it looks like they are gin-free, so we can help unplugging them. For more information, you can check out their website at hillcountryrides.org.

ROY: OK. Well, that's all the time we have this week for *After Hours News and Views*. I want to thank everyone for listening in. And who knows what's going to happen next week? So until next week.

CHRIS: If you want to send us news, information, stories, love, mail hate--

ROY: --dirty pictures.

CHRIS: You can email us at afterhourskpft@hotmail.com.

JIMMY CARPER: And thank you Ken for those pictures.

ROY: And that's a wrap, folks.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

JIMMY CARPER: Davon with Dov'e L'amore and I'm sure I fractured that.

[LAUGHS]

FRANCISCO Happy birthday, by the way.

SANCHEZ:

JIMMY CARPER: Thank you. Thank you. And what does Dov'e L'amore mean?

FRANCISCO That's actually Italian.

SANCHEZ:

JIMMY CARPER: Oh. Do you know what it means? Does anyone know what it means?

[LAUGHS]

OK.

FRANCISCO Something about love.

SANCHEZ:

JIMMY CARPER: We get the idea though, yes. Francisco Sanchez is here with the unnamed segment.

FRANCISCO Right.

SANCHEZ:

[LAUGHS]

JIMMY CARPER: I call it the Latino Hour, but there'll be a name forthcoming.

[LAUGHTER]

And unfortunately, Sandy is not forthcoming.

FRANCISCO No, he is feeling under the weather, so he's not here.

SANCHEZ:

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, I'm so sorry.

FRANCISCO Roy is staying over, because he's partially Latino, right?

SANCHEZ:

ROY: Yeah, yeah. I'm halfway there. I'm halfway there. Yeah, half way there.

JIMMY CARPER: We got Bobby over here too.

FRANCISCO Which half?

SANCHEZ:

ROY: Half Cuban, half Irish. And I always say what that means is half of me wants to get drunk and the other half doesn't want to pay for it.

[LAUGHS]

JIMMY CARPER: I'm not going there. I don't need all the hate mail. Thank you.

FRANCISCO No, no, no, no, no, no, no, no.

SANCHEZ:

JIMMY CARPER: What has been going on? I see a little schedule here that you've got. And it's very small. But in words here, but whoa, the subject matter is huge.

FRANCISCO There is a lot to cover. We've got an inauguration coming up on the 20th in terms of new president-elect. The

SANCHEZ: Congress has already been sworn in and the new Texas legislature was sworn in last week. And that's always an interesting affair.

JIMMY CARPER: Tell me.

FRANCISCO One of those times I'm glad the legislature only meets every odd number of year. Texans can go to bed feeling a

SANCHEZ: little bit more comfortable that way.

[LAUGHTER]

JIMMY CARPER: And we do. The least amount of time they spend in session, the better we're off.

FRANCISCO Right, exactly.

SANCHEZ:

ROY: Phew. But you know, what the funny thing is that people complain about a legislation or a congress that doesn't do anything, and then when they get one that does something, they still complain.

JIMMY CARPER: I know. I know. I have to break in here and let everyone know that they are listening to *After Hours*, Queer Radio with Attitude on KPFT Houston and KEOS College Station. I'm Jimmy Carper. Bobby's here.

BOBBY: Hello.

JIMMY CARPER: Big Roy is here. And of course, this segment is headed up by Francisco Sanchez.

FRANCISCO When Sandy is not here.

SANCHEZ:

[LAUGHTER]

JIMMY CARPER: Sandy is a great co-host. You know? Yeah.

ROY: He's so natural on this.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

FRANCISCO He's great.

SANCHEZ:

JIMMY CARPER: And he just puts his life out there.

FRANCISCO Doesn't he though?

SANCHEZ:

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

FRANCISCO For everybody to hear.

SANCHEZ:

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

FRANCISCO Like there's times we walk out of the studio, did I say that? Yes. And that's a boy that claims to be shy. You stick a

SANCHEZ: microphone in his face and he just goes.

JIMMY CARPER: I know. But I mean that makes good radio.

FRANCISCO Right.

SANCHEZ:

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, yes. So I see here, you have the last eight years with Clinton and Gore. And then we've got George watch.

FRANCISCO Right, well we've had such a-- people just have no idea what to predict over the next four years at least just

SANCHEZ: because of everything that happened.

JIMMY CARPER: And I know it.

FRANCISCO We were talking about a little bit on our Christmas.

SANCHEZ:

JIMMY CARPER: I mean, it's almost like Dan Quayle became president.

FRANCISCO Exactly. But I don't think-- I don't think anything has changed from last month. From what I said, George Bush

SANCHEZ: needs a brain. Dick Cheney needs a new heart. And the Supreme Court needs some courage. It's like welcome to Oz instead of DC. So the next four years will definitely be interesting. But I think as there's no telling what's going to happen. But I think we can definitely look at the past eight years and sort of begin to look at the accomplishments that we've had in the gay and lesbian community.

JIMMY CARPER: And let's talk about that.

FRANCISCO Right.

SANCHEZ:

JIMMY CARPER: Because so many people say, oh, Clinton didn't do anything. And I'm saying, BS.

FRANCISCO All right, this was the most gay friendly administration ever. And I mean, just an extraordinary amount of work

SANCHEZ: that was done by Clinton and Gore.

JIMMY CARPER: That's right. I mean, if all you have to say is he is the first sitting president to say the word gay.

FRANCISCO Right.

SANCHEZ:

ROY: The first sitting president to sit down with gay and lesbian--

FRANCISCO Lesbian people.

SANCHEZ:

ROY: --in an official manner.

FRANCISCO And those are just the small things. I mean, those are where the minority is just consider sort of token offerings.

SANCHEZ: But I mean, he was the first president to sit down with gay and lesbian leaders and talk about issues that are important to our community. He was the first sitting president to address a National Gay and Lesbian Rights Group. But I mean, there's more substantial stuff than that. In terms of fighting for Hate Crimes legislation, he's been supporting that in the Congress.

Additionally, in 1994, under the part of the Hate Crimes Act, he made sure there'd be stricter federal penalties for people that were convicted under the federal statute. So things like that. And there's a bill that he's been supporting in the White House has been lobbying on for nondiscrimination and employment which is pretty significant. An issue that I think particularly important is the promotion of tolerance in schools.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

FRANCISCO For the first time, we had a public-private partnership with the Department of Education. And the Department of Justice are now required by Executive Order when they're doing their annual school safety reports. They have to include any hate crimes that occurred on those campuses as well as listed universities whose policies may create an atmosphere that's not friendly towards gays and lesbians. And those are some of the substantive things. I mean, additionally, I think he's appointed over 150 gays and lesbians to real positions of power in Washington--those that have to be appointed by the Senate.

JIMMY CARPER: Mm-hmm.

FRANCISCO And we've seen some of those fights go on over. Ambassador Hormel, being one of those, and we'll be talking
SANCHEZ: about John Ashcroft later who was one of those people that was opposing the Hormel appointment. I mean, who's going to fight over the appointment of Ambassador to Luxembourg?

JIMMY CARPER: I know.

FRANCISCO Were these people, do they ship chocolates around the world? And people--
SANCHEZ:

JIMMY CARPER: And Ashcroft, this is the one. Let's face it, folks. This is the one who lost to the race to a dead man.

FRANCISCO Something is wrong when voters in your state would rather vote for a dead man than vote for you.
SANCHEZ:

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

BOBBY: Something is definitely wrong. That something is just--

FRANCISCO So I mean those are the kinds of issues that over the last eight years. I mean, he's fought discrimination against
SANCHEZ: people with AIDS increase funding by over 133% to the Department of Health and Human Services, 300-something percent increase in funding through the Ryan White legislation. And certainly, he's been very inclusive. I mean, you talk about the vice president and president that are very openly supportive of their gay and lesbian staff. I really don't think there's going to be-- call the White House on January 21 and ask for the Office of Gay and Lesbian Outreach, you'll be on hold for a while.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, no kidding.

ROY: Or at least for a year.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, that's for a year.

FRANCISCO Exactly. So folks like Richard [INAUDIBLE], and those kind of people that, I mean, there was actually a White House Office the people that dealt with gay and lesbian outreach and made sure that gay and lesbian issues were being addressed by the White House and by the Congress. And those kinds of efforts aren't going to be there anymore.

So in commemoration of that, or at least, in appreciation, Stonewall Democrats, the National group and National Gay and Lesbian Task Force are having an event on the 20th right before the day before the Bush inauguration called I think, Applauding Progress is the name of name of the event. So if anyone feels like going up to DC for a party before inaugural, they can do that. I think it's \$75 a ticket on up. So it's relatively affordable. I think if you want to pay for a flight to get up to DC and try to find a hotel room, that's probably going to be booked with Republicans.

JIMMY CARPER: For the next day, I'm going to be wearing black.

ROY: Don't forget to dress warm for those of you that are going to Washington.

FRANCISCO This is the first time in a while I haven't been invited to inaugural. I can't imagine why.

SANCHEZ:

[LAUGHS]

Let me tell you, it is cold in DC in January.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, yeah.

FRANCISCO And getting colder.

SANCHEZ:

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

ROY: I'll say this though too. Bill Clinton was the first president-- sitting president to issue a proclamation or a statement--

FRANCISCO On Gay Pride Week.

SANCHEZ:

ROY: On Gay Pride Week.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

ROY: On Gay Pride Week.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

ROY: And that is very significant in itself. I mean, that is highly significant.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

ROY: Much has been done. To give you an idea of-- I think Jimmy said it the best last week. And he said it on air last week how we have gone from gay people being looked down upon and people committing acts of hate on us or prejudice against us, it was OK, where now, people who do that are looked down upon by society.

FRANCISCO Mm-hmm. Right. And I mean, I'll just throw you a quick quote in terms so people understand the commitment that's there from this White House and this was from the State of the Union address in 1999, a quote from the president, it was in the State of the Union address, I think, the first time this has ever been mentioned in history as well in that sort of speech discrimination or violence because of race, or religion, ancestry, or gender, disability, or sexual orientation is wrong, and it ought to be illegal. Therefore I ask Congress to make the employment on Discrimination Act and the Hate Crimes Prevention Act, the law of the land.

I mean, so you've got a sitting president that's actually more than just lip service. I mean, he signed executive orders that have dealt with this issue. And the vice president was supportive as well. And the next four years are going to be interesting. And I bring these up as sort of a reminder because the only way we can really begin to gauge how different the next four years is going to be understanding what the past eight years have been like.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes. And it's my contention that we're going to have to fight like hell to not lose ground.

FRANCISCO Right. And I mean, and I am not old enough to really recall what was going on in the Reagan Bush years, but I mean, it sort of I would expect to see much of the same thing just looking at it in a historical context. So--

ROY: Yeah, how old are you--

JIMMY CARPER: It's going to become very conservative again.

FRANCISCO Right.

SANCHEZ:

ROY: And especially with the kind of advisors and cabinet that the shrub is putting around him. It's all leftovers from his daddy.

FRANCISCO And the Nixon years. And Nixon, oh, how special is that?

SANCHEZ:

ROY: I mean, that is kind of telling in itself.

FRANCISCO Now, this is-- it seems to me and already leave it to the commentators on the TV to be telling you what to think
SANCHEZ: already.

JIMMY CARPER: Always.

FRANCISCO Because if you listen to them at this point, the things have not officially really gotten underway and already civil war is ready to break out in Congress. Welcome to Civil War part two. Because with the Congress split down the middle, all heck's about to break loose. I'm saying, and it's going to be a fight of not losing ground. Because it's going to be good to see if they can get anything done over the next two years before another election comes around. I mean, you saw the dissent in Congress just two Saturdays ago. And this past Saturday when the Black caucus was opposing, some of the electors that were selected--

BOBBY: Walked smooth out of the building right there.

FRANCISCO Which is sort of very telling of some of the constituencies in Congress and some of the minority delegations are definitely going to have issues over the next couple of years. And it'll certainly be a test to the Bush administration as to how they'll be able to handle that. We'll see where that takes us. But in terms of being able to keep up with some of the things that are going on up there and the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, I think it's NGLTF.org has put up a George W. watch website that-- if you want to follow the nomination process and any sort of gay and lesbian issues that the president-elect is going to be undertaking, you'll be able to log on there.

And there's two things that are listed on there. One, any openly gay and lesbian appointments that counters at zero on that one and any pro gay or lesbian legislation that the White House is supporting or asking Congress to act on, and that currently is at zero. So hopefully if our friends at log cabin are confident in doing what they say they can do, those numbers will pop up a little bit. And if they do, then we'll be better off for it.

JIMMY CARPER: So that's right. If they do, I'll be the first in line to apologize. But until then, I just don't see it. I just don't get it.

FRANCISCO Right.

SANCHEZ:

ROY: Well, in order for us, whether at the gay community or the Hispanic community, to maintain our strength in our representation in Washington, we have to also remember that we're all up for congressional redistricting.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, yes.

ROY: And people like the shrub are licking his chops, licking their chops, trying to weaken the gay community and other minority communities. And they are going to do everything they possibly can as far as congressional redistricting, and state redistricting, and here in Houston, citywide.

FRANCISCO Right, Texas will be getting two congressional seats as a result of the new census numbers that came out. And **SANCHEZ:** the Texas legislature are going to be drawing those districts up sometime in March or the latter part of March when the census releases the official numbers. One of those seats is going to go to the Valley, the other one will probably go to Dallas.

So Houston's going to be in an awkward situation, where we're going to have the legislators are going to have to be defending their seats. And there's a one district in Benson's will definitely be in play in terms of how that's redrawn. And that was a big racist this past year, I'm sure you all have been saying in the Sudan commercials. That's certainly a district that Republicans are going to be looking at drawing a little bit differently. Some of the local house races that affect what our state legislature does, there's a couple of seats there that are vulnerable. But--

JIMMY CARPER: Who gets to do the redistricting?

FRANCISCO 150 people in the House and the 31 people in the Senate. And so basically, it's people that have an interest in the **SANCHEZ:** process. They are drawing the line. So that's always fun to watch. I sit-in the gallery, and I looked down, and I don't even get [INAUDIBLE] it.

BOBBY: Isn't that the political equivalent of the Fox watching the hen house?

JIMMY CARPER: No. It's more like voting for yourself.

BOBBY: Yeah.

FRANCISCO So it's kind of interesting because at some point, someone has to lose something in the process.

SANCHEZ:

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

FRANCISCO It's always interesting how it works out. It's not always the last person elected. It's oftentimes the person that's

SANCHEZ: unfortunate to live in the wrong place. So I expect to see a couple of legislators packing up and moving in the next couple of months.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah. It's going to happen. I remember when they did it to Montrose.

FRANCISCO Right. And the city likes to be drawing those lines. And that--

SANCHEZ:

JIMMY CARPER: That's just horrible.

FRANCISCO So Montrose, they were going to see back where it used to be, or I think a good option for Montrose is to be

SANCHEZ: moved in with the heights I think.

ROY: Yes. I think that--

FRANCISCO Personally, I think that option is better for us. Montrose, in terms of if you look at it as a progressive voting block when either going in to [? Cyr ?] but I think if you put it in H along with the Heights, you've got a better chance of electing someone that's openly gay or lesbian to the position. So hopefully, we'll get some folks on city council to listen to that.

ROY: Rob Tod in favor.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, this is where the politics come in. It's that all that stuff I don't like.

FRANCISCO And the games begin. And the game begins.

SANCHEZ:

JIMMY CARPER: And I know you really do.

ROY: And if you do like that stuff, the Stonewall Democrats meet--

FRANCISCO The fourth Monday of every month at [INAUDIBLE] 7:00 [INAUDIBLE].

SANCHEZ:

JIMMY CARPER: That's the one on West Gray. Right?

FRANCISCO Right.

SANCHEZ:

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

BOBBY: Politics doesn't bother me. It's politicians that bother me.

JIMMY CARPER: Well--

ROY: Or if you're not sure whether you're a Democrat, or a Republican, or Independent, or whatever-- there's always the regular gay caucus which meets the first Wednesday of every month at the Lovett 501 Lovett Boulevard.

FRANCISCO And speaking of elections, there was an election held today and the next Saturday, right, it's not a public office,
SANCHEZ: but for the court?

JIMMY CARPER: Oh.

FRANCISCO World [INAUDIBLE]

SANCHEZ:

JIMMY CARPER: Yes. There was early voting today and regular voting next week as I've read.

FRANCISCO Right. Do you know the history of RCCCS?

SANCHEZ:

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

FRANCISCO OK. Can you talk about that? Because I think you know-- like you gave me a chance to vote. I'm going to go vote.

SANCHEZ:

JIMMY CARPER: I don't know the history of our court. I know the history of the court. It was started probably, I think, close to 30 years ago by a gentleman in San Francisco by the name of Jose Soria who managed, owned, worked at, or all of the above, The Black Cat Lounge which was a gay bar in San Francisco. And he was the first openly gay man to ever run for city council there.

He did not win, but after that, he decided-- I mean, he worked in drag. And he liked it. And so he thought up the court system, which is it's by city, each city has its own court. And the court is comprised of emperor, and empress, and all of the ladies in waiting, and the men in waiting, and all of that, and all these people rule so.