

DEAN: I have a law, which is not doing what it is therefore.

JIMMY CARPER: Right.

DEAN: And Lord knows, indeed. I agree with the man. I wanted to--

JIMMY CARPER: Reminds me of the sodomy laws.

DEAN: Yeah.

[LAUGHTER]

Houston normal-- the drug policy forum of Texas and Americans for safe access are holding a cease and desist event at the DEA headquarters. This is at 1433 South Loop West.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, yeah.

DEAN: And no, I got that backwards.

JIMMY CARPER: It's just down the street from the Dallas Galleria, isn't it?

DEAN: West Loop South.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, West Loop South. I'm sorry.

DEAN: Well, I got across the already.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, just right down the street from the Galleria.

DEAN: Exactly right. And it will be at noon. And we will have medical marijuana patients on hand, who are going to deliver an actual wheelbarrow full of modern information about medical marijuana--

JIMMY CARPER: Wow.

DEAN: --about the drug war--

JIMMY CARPER: Nice.

DEAN: --to these special agents. And we want them to ponder it if they will. We'll have lots of great signs to rally the crowds passing by, lots of information to hand out. And we would really appreciate anybody who wanted to just come down hang out for half an hour next Thursday. I think it's important. Progress is being made all over the world. We have the opportunity here. And we need to go ahead and step up.

JIMMY CARPER: Mm-hmm.

DEAN: And I'm hoping that folks will contact me. They can reach me at dean@culturalbaggage. It's quote "C-U-L-T-U-R-E-L hyphen B-A-G-G-A-G-E dot com." Well, they can call KPFT Monday morning, 7137843196. And please catch our half hour show next Friday at noon here on here on KPFT. And that's about it.

JIMMY CARPER: You're getting to be a regular around here.

DEAN: Well, I hope to be.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

DEAN: I keep working at it.

JIMMY CARPER: Now, when is that? That's next Friday?

DEAN: Next Friday at noon. It's only going to be a half hour.

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

DEAN: But we'll be discussing the event of Thursday, the visit to the DEA office.

JIMMY CARPER: Mm-hmm.

DEAN: And I'll update you on how that went.

JIMMY CARPER: That's Thursday at noon, 1433 West Loop South.

DEAN: Exactly right.

JIMMY CARPER: Be there.

DEAN: You betcha.

JIMMY CARPER: Thank you, Dean for calling in.

DEAN: Jimmy, thank you so much.

JIMMY CARPER: We'll talk to you next week.

DEAN: All right.

JIMMY CARPER: OK. Bye.

DEAN: Bye-bye.

JIMMY CARPER: OK. There we go. Got Chris in the newsroom or talk studio, whatever you want to call it. What is it? The newsroom? Talk studio?

CHRIS: I don't know. And like, unusual. It's the dark room.

JIMMY CARPER: OK about-- OK, the squeaky room. He's in the squeaky room, and he's going to be-

[BED SQUEAKING]

[LAUGHS]

CHRIS: That was the opening theme.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah. I lost it too. So maybe we can make a new one. You're going to be talking--

CHRIS: Hey, if we're going to be redoing the theme there, I don't think we're going to be using a microphone to make the squeaky bed sound.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh. OK.

[LAUGHS]

Can I do a commercial first?

CHRIS: I'm sorry. We're commercial-free listener sponsor. Haven't you been listening to our promos?

JIMMY CARPER: Oh. Oh, well, how about a promo then?

CHRIS: I thought usually just like to plug things.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah. Don't even go there. At my age, I don't get much of a chance anymore.

[LAUGHS]

Ta-da.

[LAUGHS]

DAVID: But at my age, I don't get much of a chance too.

JIMMY CARPER: The acid jazz guys who were on before us from every Saturday night, 9:00 to midnight. DJ Sun, DJ Chicken George, DJ Melodic, and others will be doing some stuff tomorrow, June the second at 8:00 PM to 2:00 PM at Dean's Credit Clothing. It's a little club downtown 316 Main Street. And they're going to be spending a bunch of stuff. And DJ Melodic did the last hour tonight, and it was just dreamy. He does that really dreamy stuff. It's really nice.

And of course, DJ Sun and my favorite DJ Chicken George, really nice guys. And they're going to be there. It's a record release Gemini party celebrating Ziggy's birthday at June the second at Sunday, Sunday, Sunday, 8:00 to 2:00 AM, 316 Main Street. And you'll be able to see the guys you listen to every week. And you're going to-- now Chris, you're going to be talking about something with the Film Festival.

CHRIS: Yes. The kind of pictures that you can take the family to.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, my-- no. Not all of them.

CHRIS: Not all of them.

JIMMY CARPER: Not all of them. No. And you've got some hot guy waiting in the wings there.

CHRIS: Yes. If there's anything left of him after the lobby group gets out.

JIMMY CARPER: Hey, hey, hey.

[LAUGHS]

CHRIS: Actually, he's sick you're in this room.

[LAUGHTER]

JIMMY CARPER: He'll probably agree with you on that.

[LAUGHTER]

Go ahead. Go ahead. Talk. Don't let me interrupt you.

CHRIS: OK. Oh, I missed which word comes first this year. The Houston Gay and Lesbian Film Festival has started off.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, slap her.

CHRIS: Hey, I got to get to shrink the words in the right order. And I missed the premiere, but Jimmy seemed to enjoy meeting--

JIMMY CARPER: Oh! That was incredible. The opening night was last Thursday, and it was at the Rice Media Center. It was *Elvira's Haunted Hills*. Oh my god! What a campy movie. It's so funny. So funny.

CHRIS: When doesn't she do camp?

JIMMY CARPER: Well, of course, she's surrounded by queens in her life, and so it just rubs off. She was there as her own person Cassandra Peterson.

CHRIS: I think she refers to it as her evil twin.

JIMMY CARPER: Their evil twin. Yes. And she's a redhead, actually, in real life.

CHRIS: Oh.

JIMMY CARPER: And she was answering questions talking about some of the non-Elvira things she's done in her life and giving a little dirt on some of the stuff that has happened to her with other actors and actresses along the way. Just the starters. Her next-door neighbors. You know the woman who plays the mother on *Malcolm in the Middle*?

CHRIS: James Kasmerik.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes. Lives next door, has for 25 years. And the other side Brad Pitt.

CHRIS: Oh.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, my--

DAVID: I want her house.

JIMMY CARPER: Really? And she is such a guest. She's just a whole lot of fun. She answered all the questions anybody had. She stayed there. She signed anything people brought. I mean they were bringing t-shirts and some of her old CDs of her TV'S shows, and movies, and stuff. It's just great. Anyway, this movie is going direct to DVD and video. Unfortunately, it won't be in the theater because I'd love to see it on the big screen. But the DVD is going to have lots of outtakes. So it ought to be just a camp fest.

CHRIS: And considering what they put into the film.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

CHRIS: Interesting to see what they're going to take out.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes. Anyway, enough about that because it's already played. So what's coming up us next week for the Film Festival?

CHRIS: Well, over at the Landmark Theatres Greenway, *Second Skin, Segunda Piel*, which I probably butchered the pronunciation, it's a Spanish film with English subtitles.

JIMMY CARPER: Stop whispering in there. I can hear you.

CHRIS: Well, you have all their mics on too.

DAVID: OK.

JIMMY CARPER: I can't shut them off without shutting you off.

CHRIS: Oh.

[LAUGHS]

DAVID: See?

JIMMY CARPER: See?

CHRIS: Shut up, David. You're not getting a ride home.

[LAUGHTER]

This is starring Academy Award Nominee Javier Bardem, who was back on American screens since *Before Night Falls*. And this film features a gay "tria--" actually, I think, I guess a bisexual love triangle of a married man who falls in love for a good-looking surgeon, who is played by--

DAVID: Javier.

CHRIS: All of a sudden, I could hear myself.

DAVID: Oh, sorry.

CHRIS: You had my microphone turned off, didn't you?

DAVID: What?

[LAUGHS]

CHRIS: It wasn't the first time that you've had me doing the show without the microphone on.

DAVID: What?

CHRIS: What a welcome back that was. OK. So should I start? Completely over. Just--

JIMMY CARPER: Maybe where you just fell down there.

[LAUGHS]

CHRIS: It's a good thing I don't pledge anymore to the station.

[LAUGHTER]

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, don't let me interrupt you dear.

CHRIS: What time do I have to call this week to complain?

[LAUGHS]

OK. So *Second Skin* is at the Landmark Theatres Greenway Plaza, and that is from May 31st to June 2nd at various times. So you want to check the box office for that at 7136260402.

DiverseWorks films are going to be this week. And that's going to be on Thursday, June 6th. And this is actually a movie that I have seen. It's called *Southern Comfort*, and it's one of a kind documentary. It's about a transgendered couple, one who is female to male, and one that is male to female. And the interesting is the female to male Robert Eads is dying of ovarian cancer. So it's a-- you don't acknowledge the female part, but that's what's killing you.

JIMMY CARPER: Right.

CHRIS: Sort of story. And going through his life and going through the conference called *Southern Comfort* and taking his girlfriend to the prom that never was of going as a transgendered person in that persona. And it's a very interesting story. HBO has been showing it as part of their gay and lesbian programming that they've started up on their HBO 2 network.

JIMMY CARPER: Great.

CHRIS: And that's on Thursday, June 6th at 8:00 PM. On Friday, June 7th *Lesbian Porn 101*. You don't have to look at pornography to explore your sexuality. But what would you look like if you did? It's a one-woman performance artist show, a half performance and half movie clips, attempts to explore and deconstruct images of lesbians for lesbians and bilesbians in pornographic film and video. It runs from softcore to XXX in documentary.

A beginner course in porn has no prerequisites. This film has no one under 17 will be admitted. And that's followed up at 11:00 PM by *Sugar High Glitter City*. In the future, sugar is outlawed. Caine-addicted dykes stop at nothing to get it, even selling their own bodies. OK.

JIMMY CARPER: Goodbye.

PARTICIPANT 1: Well.

CHRIS: Looking for imperial. OK.

[LAUGHS]

Sugar High is a 100% dyke-produced from the makers of *Hard Love* and *How to "FF" in High Heels*.

[LAUGHTER]

PARTICIPANT 2: What a lovely title.

CHRIS: Well, it's something-- it starts with "ff" and ends with "ook." Oh, yeah, we're going downhill.

[LAUGHS]

DAVID: That.

CHRIS: Surprisingly enough, this film is also no one under 17 will be admitted. And those are taking place at DiverseWorks Art Space, which is located at 1117 East Freeway. For information on that, call 7132236346. The Aurora Picture Show-- once I turn to that page-- I thought I had it marked. I was wrong. It's showing this week, *In Gender and Shades of Gay*.

PARTICIPANT 2: Interesting.

CHRIS: OK. Actually, *In Gender* was today, so scratch that. *Shades of Gay* is at 3:00 PM on Sunday, Sunday, Sunday, Sunday, at 3:00 PM. This program of works articulate through filmmakers own voices and often under-represented experiences of ethnically diverse queers of color.

There's one part that's called *Greeting From Africa*. Another short film called *A Seeker* and then *Black Sheep*. And that's taking place at the Aurora Picture Show at 800 Aurora. And for that, you call 7138682101. The Angelica Theater is featured-- Let's see. They have two movies that are going out. *Girls Can't Swim*. And that's from June 7th to 13th.

JIMMY CARPER: They got-- they can't if they've got big enough boobs.

PARTICIPANT 2: And it float along.

PARTICIPANT 1: I don't think that's what that means.

PARTICIPANT 2: Oh.

JIMMY CARPER: And Jimmy's home address is--

[LAUGHTER]

PARTICIPANT 1: Never mind.

[LAUGHTER]

JIMMY CARPER: For all those listeners--

CHRIS: Address all comments to station manager.

JIMMY CARPER: No!

[LAUGHS]

We don't have a station manager. What?

CHRIS: *Girls Can't Swim.* Oh, great. Let's see. I butchered Spanish earlier, so I guess I should butcher French.

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

CHRIS: [SPEAKING FRENCH].

JIMMY CARPER: [SPEAKING FRENCH].

CHRIS: [SPEAKING FRENCH]. Oh, OK.

JIMMY CARPER: It's good.

CHRIS: I learned that from another movie. That's the only French I know. I love--

JIMMY CARPER: It's like it have something to do with rug munching.

[LAUGHTER]

DAVID: Oh!

JIMMY CARPER: I went there.

DAVID: That was not cute.

CHRIS: OK. It's a French film if you can't guess that by the title that I butchered.

DAVID: It's 2:00 in the morning. Give me a break. I'm old.

[LAUGHS]

CHRIS: And we're lucky he's still awake.

[LAUGHTER]

It's French with English subtitles, from June 7th to 13th. A wonderful debut feature captures the elusive relationship between two teenage girls. That's great. You can make all these wonderful queer movies of teenage love as long as it's two females.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

PARTICIPANT 1: Mm-hmm.

DAVID: Yeah.

PARTICIPANT 1: Heaven forbid two males. Uh-oh.

CHRIS: Yeah. I'm going to guess. It's probably R-rated because there's no special warning. And there's other one that the picture looks very intriguing. *Burnt money, Plata Quemada.*

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, yes. That is the story of the two gay guys who go on a crime spree in a South American country.

CHRIS: Argentina and Uruguay.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

CHRIS: In '65. And it is the gay Bonnie and Clyde story, basically.

JIMMY CARPER: Ooh. I've been told there's some hot scenes in that one.

CHRIS: Well, just the picture they chose here is-- And hey, it had to be sponsored by a doctor.

JIMMY CARPER: Well.

CHRIS: Three out of four doctors recommend it.

JIMMY CARPER: There you go.

[LAUGHS]

Mm-hmm.

CHRIS: And the Angelika Film Center is at 500 Texas Avenue.

JIMMY CARPER: Mm-hmm.

CHRIS: For information, call 713, call AFC. And that is all for what's coming up this week at the Film Festival. For more information, you can check out the Film Festival website, which is www.htlff.org. I'm pretty sure of it. I don't see their web address here, but I think that's-- sound close enough to you, Jimmy?

JIMMY CARPER: Yup.

CHRIS: Just put it in your search engine. It'll come up somewhere.

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

CHRIS: See, I told you Troy. Queer Voices may be like line. We're-- I think we're making Letterman look good now.

DAVID: Ouch.

JIMMY CARPER: I'll give you a quickie, quickie now intro into your next segment.

CHRIS: OK.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

JIMMY CARPER: Now, let's just do that in the background. There, that's Bob Hartman with "I'm coming out." And I think that's a really good intro to your next-- to your segment.

CHRIS: Yes. It's the *After Hours* news of his magazine segment, and it's his Pride Month.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

CHRIS: So of course, it's time to start talking about all the Pride events that we have coming down.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah. And there's so many.

CHRIS: And so of course, we're bringing someone from the Pride committee. And Troy Christensen, the PR and marketing with the Pride committee, decided to eat his wheatus and stay up late with us.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

[LAUGHS]

Thank you so much, Troy, for sending up this list.

TROY Sure.

CHRISTENSEN:

CHRIS: So it's-- once again, the Pride Month celebration.

TROY Mm-hmm.

CHRISTENSEN:

CHRIS: And I think we're probably one of the few cities that takes a full month doing all the stuff, between the Film Festival and all the different events.

TROY Right. And actually, there have been some changes this year. We've had the Pride Month in the past couple of years. But this year actually, there's been a change in that. We have a more concentrated Pride, focused more around the end of June.

The Pride Month has been really great, and that there are a lot of events throughout the entire month. But it was scattershot and hard to manage. It was hard to tell when an event was. Why it was there? Things like that.

So we've actually gone back to what was done in the early and mid '80s. And while we're not calling it Pride Week like it was in the past, it really is more of a Pride Week.

CHRIS: Hmm. OK.

TROY And what they did back then was they had each day focusing on a different theme. And so that's the way that **CHRISTENSEN:** Pride events have been scheduled this year.

CHRIS: OK. Sure. And while you were saying that, I actually turned to the correct page in the Pride guide here.

TROY Right. Yeah that just came out. We started distributing that over Memorial Day weekend.

CHRISTENSEN:

CHRIS: And unlike last year, it's going to stay dry this year.

TROY Yes. No funny. Yeah, we got a new warehouse, actually, for those.

CHRISTENSEN:

CHRIS: So if you pick this up, it's almost a short month en vogue size.

TROY Yeah.

CHRISTENSEN:

JIMMY CARPER: And it looks like the Sears catalog. Incredible.

TROY With prettier people.

CHRISTENSEN:

JIMMY CARPER: Much.

CHRIS: Yeah. But there's only one underwear ad guy in here, so that's--

TROY Oh, only one? I think you haven't looked hard enough.

CHRISTENSEN:

[LAUGHS]

CHRIS: Well, I don't know. I got to use coffee. So not all the pages are there.

[LAUGHS]

Jimmy lent it to me so.

TROY Or stuck together.

CHRISTENSEN:

[LAUGHTER]

CHRIS: I think it's a good idea-- good thing that the mics weren't on in there. OK. So the Pride celebration kicks off then on Friday, June 21st.

TROY Right. Right. Of course, like you said, the Film Festival is going on right now, and that's very much a Pride thing.

CHRISTENSEN: It's just not part of the nine-day celebration that we're having this year. It's a much more focused thing. And so yeah, we'll start on June 21st with the Pride kickoff party at Sonoma. And then each day between that Friday and Saturday, June 29th, the night of the Pride parade, there will be a week of community-sponsored events with each day on a particular theme.

CHRIS: OK. So on Friday is just the start off with Sonoma. How do you get into that event?

TROY OK. It's open to the public. In fact, we're really trying to make it an all ages event, so people will be comfortable

CHRISTENSEN: bringing their kids, and families, and stuff. Lots of entertainment will be there. We'll have no want for beverages. We have several beverage sponsors of Sierra, who want a lot of interpersonal interaction with our community. So we'll have samples from everything, from Gallo wines, to Red Bull energy drinks, to sparkling water, to Vanilla Coke.

CHRIS: Oh.

TROY That's a brand new product we'll have there.

CHRISTENSEN:

DAVID: I know what coke is so good.

CHRIS: Jimmy, just look in there. I thought the microphone was on. The person was talking about the Vanilla Coke.

JIMMY CARPER: It's really good.

PARTICIPANT 3: I just got back from Las Vegas me and my sister, and it's real big out there.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, really? Really? It doesn't hurt your nose or anything?

[LAUGHTER]

DAVID: It's the regular Coca-Cola!

CHRIS: The Coke in a glass, not on a glass, Jimmy.

[LAUGHTER]

DAVID: Yes, it is.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah. Well, I'm old enough to remember the fountain ones. Yeah.

PARTICIPANT 3: It's a regular Coca-Cola label. However, the lettering is a light brown.

CHRIS: Oh! OK.

PARTICIPANT 3: It's say Coca-Cola, and then it's like, vanilla crossed it.

CHRIS: Cool. Cool. Boy, I can't wait to try that.

DAVID: Are you kidding me? You're old enough to remember some of those signs were.

[LAUGHTER]

Before, they were worth money.

[LAUGHS]

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah. I know it's in the stores now, but I'm waiting for the kickoff party.

DAVID: Yeah, exactly. Make it special.

JIMMY CARPER: Right.

[LAUGHS]

CHRIS: Oh, we started downhill and just brought out the shovels, didn't we?

[LAUGHTER]

TROY Of course, Budweiser is a big sponsor of ours. They've been a sponsor for a number of years, so they'll be there

CHRISTENSEN: with their variety of products. So it should be a lot of fun. It goes from 8:00 PM till 2:00 AM, so not the whole time is an all ages event. Early in the evening, we'll have-- I don't know the specifics on the entertainment during the early part, but it is very much a family event. Later, we'll bring in a DJ, and it'll become-- it'll be a dance.

CHRIS: More of the Sonoma that everyone--

TROY Right. Knows and loves. Yeah.

CHRISTENSEN:

CHRIS: Yes. So there's no tickets for it?

TROY No. It's a \$10 requested donation at the door. Nobody's going to be turned away, but we're hoping to make some

CHRISTENSEN: money on it.

CHRIS: Yes.

TROY This stuff ain't cheap.

CHRISTENSEN:

CHRIS: Oh, sure. OK. So we've got that coming on Friday. Then on Saturday is--

TROY Yeah. Saturday starts the week of community events with the different themes. And Saturday, June 22nd is

CHRISTENSEN: health and recreation day. It's a building process. This is the first year that we've tried going back to this week of events, the week of themes. And so with everything starting at new, not everybody gets the message that this is being done. And so we hope that as we continue this, we'll get more events on each particular team.

CHRIS: Sure.

TROY So Saturday is health and recreation day. We've got the recreation part. We have a-- there's a Pride Day at

CHRISTENSEN: Astroworld, being sponsored by Q Texas South Beach and Gallery Furniture. We just didn't get the health part so.

[LAUGHS]

Next year.

CHRIS: Well, when someone hands out the sunscreen at the beginning, it's--

TROY Right. That's health. Yeah.

CHRISTENSEN:

CHRIS: --skin cancer prevention.

[LAUGHS]

JIMMY CARPER: Oh I'm glad to hear that because I was-- I didn't think that we were going to have an Astro Day.

TROY Right. Right. The Pride committee has sponsored a day at Astroworld for-- well, our first year was '98.

CHRISTENSEN:

CHRIS: Uh-huh.

TROY And it had grown over the years. So we had a-- we rented a picnic space. And you got a barbecue lunch with your

CHRISTENSEN: ticket. But quite frankly, it's a financial risk. Last year, our Pride Day was just a week before tropical storm Allison.

CHRIS: Yeah.

TROY If that had happened the same weekend, it would have been pretty financially ruinous. And it's a big volunteer effort. We just decided that we really needed to focus on the parade this year and scale things back a little bit.

CHRIS: Sure.

TROY But we put the call out to the community. If you want this, somebody else is free to take it up. And like I said, Q **CHRISTENSEN:** Texas South Beach and Gallery Furniture did just that.

JIMMY CARPER: Wonderful.

CHRIS: That's good to see that tradition continue.

JIMMY CARPER: I'm so glad too. I'm so glad to hear that.

TROY Yes.

CHRISTENSEN:

CHRIS: One thing just to let you know, you are listening to KPFT here in Houston, KAOS College Station. This is *After Hours*, queer radio with attitude. And we're talking with Troy Christensen from the Pride committee of Houston and going through some of the events that's coming up with the Pride celebration here at the end of June. And so we've-- we'll not worry about the health part. We'll splash people down with water.

TROY Right. Well, another thing is, I think by having these different themes, it gets people thinking about the issues **CHRISTENSEN:** facing our community, what we need to work on and also reasons why we should be proud. So I think just even if there isn't a specific event for it, just having it out there gets people thinking about it. It gets people doing things on their own to find out about it.

CHRIS: Oh, yeah.

TROY It's all education, which is a big part of our mission.

CHRISTENSEN:

CHRIS: Yeah. Plus on Saturday when you have the Gay Day at Astroworld, of course, you'll have those a half dozen people with those wonderful pictogram protest signs out front there.

TROY Right.

CHRISTENSEN:

[LAUGHS]

I was personally very pleased to see protesters at Astroworld last year because that told me that I was doing my job.

[LAUGHS]

CHRIS: So I think what we need to do as part of a beautification project for them because I mean this pictogram things are so tacky.

[LAUGHS]

And we need some *Kama Sutra* pictures.

[LAUGHS]

I mean nothing totally dirty but just something a little more than just the simple little stick figure pen--

TROY Well, they're just not very creative.

CHRISTENSEN:

CHRIS: I know.

TROY They're straight.

CHRISTENSEN:

CHRIS: Yeah. That's the sad part, I mean.

[LAUGHS]

I mean at least bring them laminated protect for the rain.

[LAUGHTER]

TROY I think they--

CHRISTENSEN:

JIMMY CARPER: We just killed Jimmy in front of rain, I think.

TROY I think they wear garbage bags when it starts raining. That's their fashion.

CHRISTENSEN:

JIMMY CARPER: How apropos.

CHRIS: White, probably.

TROY Right.

CHRISTENSEN:

[LAUGHS]

CHRIS: They don't want to clash with the robe.

TROY Yeah.

CHRISTENSEN:

CHRIS: They have underneath it. Hey, a white trash bag for white trash, I mean.

JIMMY CARPER: Blanca debris.

DAVID: Yeah.

CHRIS: Yeah. I stopped trying the foreign language stuff.

[LAUGHS]

So now we have a Family and Youth Day on Sunday.

TROY Yes. And that we have an event that actually pertains to the day.

CHRISTENSEN:

[LAUGHS]

Very exciting. JPMorgan Chase Bank is going to host a Pride Family and Youth Fun Day. It's at Hermann Park, and it's the afternoon, 1:00 to 4:00 PM. And they're going to do a lot of different things, have a lot of children-oriented activities. But they're going to have speakers from Houston Energy, Houston's champion women's football team.

CHRIS: Oh!

TROY So that's really neat. And they're going to be in the parade also The Energy.

CHRISTENSEN:

JIMMY CARPER: All right!

CHRIS: Well, that's good to have them there because every year, some vehicle has to break down. So at least we got someone to help drag it out of the way.

TROY Right.

CHRISTENSEN:

JIMMY CARPER: I'll go slap her.

CHRIS: Hey, I saw their tryouts on television.

[LAUGHS]

TROY I went to the website, The Energy website. It's pretty nice. They have pictures of all the women in their football

CHRISTENSEN: get-ups, and it was pretty exciting.

[LAUGHS]

As excited as I can get, I guess, over women in uniforms.

[LAUGHS]

CHRIS: So you're like-- I see Jimmy-- when you first said that, Jimmy was like, had this look on his face like--

TROY Troy? It's not the Troy I know.

CHRISTENSEN:

[LAUGHTER]

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah. I thought I raised you up better bug.

[LAUGHS]

CHRIS: When you clarified it there, he was a little better on it.

TROY I'm laughing.

CHRISTENSEN:

JIMMY CARPER: I know.

CHRIS: This is a fun segment.

DAVID: I always knew Jimmy would die laughing.

[LAUGHTER]

CHRIS: Well, he has always wanted to leave a wet spot in that chair for the next show.

JIMMY CARPER: Hey, hey, hey.

DAVID: Oh.

CHRIS: But the governor stopped showing so. So Hermann Park from--

TROY Right. 1:00 to 4:00.

CHRISTENSEN:

CHRIS: 1:00 to 4:00.

TROY Yeah. And the zoo is right there. So everybody can go to the zoo after the picnic. Children get into the zoo for

CHRISTENSEN: free, but they'll have discount tickets for adults when you go to the picnic.

CHRIS: Well, we just need juice, talk to the city council and get it declared a holiday because the holiday is free.

TROY Yeah. Holidays are free for everybody, but--

CHRISTENSEN:

[LAUGHS]

CHRIS: Come on, Denise, Ada.

TROY We have a really good working relationship with the city. I mean the mayor has been in the parade for the past
CHRISTENSEN: couple of years. He'll be back for this year's parade. And last year, it was-- I'm not sure what we would have done without help from the mayor's office because if you remember, the mosquitoes after tropical storm Allison, were just horrendous. And the mayor's office got the parades area sprayed from mosquitoes the night before parade day.

CHRIS: That was absolutely wonderful last year.

TROY Yeah. And they did the Festival Air--

CHRISTENSEN:

CHRIS: Yes.

TROY --on Figan also.

CHRISTENSEN:

CHRIS: Yes. Not a single mosquito.

TROY Well, yeah it was--

CHRISTENSEN:

CHRIS: So you can get better sucked all night.

TROY It's pretty much-- with the spraying, we've got pretty much the mosquitoes that are in every Houston summer.

CHRISTENSEN: There's always going to be mosquitoes, but it wasn't the swarms of mosquitoes.

JIMMY CARPER: They carry away small children and then say goodbye.

TROY Right.

CHRISTENSEN:

CHRIS: Oh, please. Every summer in Houston, we always get treated to the word encephalitis.

TROY Right.

CHRISTENSEN:

CHRIS: They don't talk about Saint Louis that often in Saint Louis, I think. OK.

DAVID: Never a single mosquito on it.

[LAUGHS]

CHRIS: So then we start off the full week coming up then with Community Awareness Day.

TROY Yeah. And this-- our reason for this was to have people dialogue about the issues facing our community, what's **CHRISTENSEN:** going to write, what can be changed to make our community better, things like that. But also focus on the things that are really good. And an event that's happening that evening really pertains to that. It's the Grand Marshal Reception. And this is an annual event.

JIMMY CARPER: Ta-da!

TROY Yeah. Jimmy knows all about it.

CHRISTENSEN:

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah. I'm going to be there on kickoff party cities.

TROY Being a part of grand marshal. Yeah. And right. And you're part of an organization. That's the--

CHRISTENSEN:

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

TROY Honorary Grand Marshal organization is here, the switchboard.

CHRISTENSEN:

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah. I'm very excited about that because it's our 20th anniversary.

TROY Yes.

CHRISTENSEN:

JIMMY CARPER: I've been there for 14 of those 20 years.

TROY Yay!

CHRISTENSEN:

[LAUGHS]

CHRIS: It's about time for me to retire.

TROY But that event is always sponsored by the Royal Court.

CHRISTENSEN:

CHRIS: I am getting a dirty look, and I didn't say a thing.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah. Well--

DAVID: And it's with you we're thinking.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah. The Court. The Royal Sovereign and Imperial Court of the Single Star has been gracious every year by having a Grand Marshal's reception.

TROY Jimmy, by the way, how many times do you have to say that to get it flawlessly right, like you just did?

CHRISTENSEN:

JIMMY CARPER: Years. Trust me.

[LAUGHTER]

TROY I'm not there yet.

CHRISTENSEN:

JIMMY CARPER: I know. But this is great. But this year, they're doing something special because--

TROY You say my thunder, Jimmy.

CHRISTENSEN:

JIMMY CARPER: Oh! Oh! Oh! Sorry.

[LAUGHTER]

That's right. You're the guest.

[LAUGHTER]

CHRIS: Just because you're there in two capacities--

JIMMY CARPER: I know.

CHRIS: --doesn't mean you're running the damn show.

[LAUGHTER]

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, I know. I'm only running this one.

[LAUGHTER]

CHRIS: Oh, that's what you call it.

JIMMY CARPER: Hey! Hey!

[LAUGHTER]

CHRIS: What are you going to do? Kill my mic again?

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah. It's never worked in the past.

[LAUGHTER]

So what are they doing special, Troy?

TROY Well, every year, we honor our present year's grand marshal, same because they're just really great people.

CHRISTENSEN: These are the heroes of the community. But this year, every past grand marshal is also being invited and introduced to everybody attending.

JIMMY CARPER: "Na-na, na-na-na."

[LAUGHTER]

TROY So this will be--

CHRISTENSEN:

CHRIS: Jimmy, if that's really the case, it's all past grand marshals.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

CHRIS: Right. "Nye-nye, nye-nye-nye-nye." Cute patrol is a former honorary.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh!

[LAUGHS]

CHRIS: So I can show up then too.

JIMMY CARPER: OK, you do.

TROY Well of course, it's a public event. Anybody can be there.

CHRISTENSEN:

CHRIS: That's right.

PARTICIPANT 1: So--

[LAUGHTER]

Sorry, I can't do it right by telling you right.

[LAUGHS]

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, it's going to be a great--

CHRIS: Yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: That's going to be a great night.

[LAUGHTER]

CHRIS: I turned in the "na-na, na-na-na-na."

[LAUGHTER]

So who are-- I guess since we're talking about the grand marshal's reception, how about talking about who the grand marshals are again?

TROY Oh, sure. Sure.

CHRISTENSEN:

CHRIS: Because this is something that we talked about when the election right after the voting occurred.

TROY Right. Yes. Yeah, it's been a while.

CHRISTENSEN:

CHRIS: Some people might have forgotten.

TROY Sure. Yeah. Our male grand marshal is Rusty Mueller aka Crystal Rae Lee Love, major benefactor, entertainer,

CHRISTENSEN: involved with several philanthropic organizations.

JIMMY CARPER: Including the Royal Sovereign and Imperial Court into Single Star.

TROY I believe they call her the empress who will not step down even when we push her.

CHRISTENSEN:

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

[LAUGHTER]

TROY I hope she's not listening.

CHRISTENSEN:

[LAUGHTER]

CHRIS: Well, the lines are blinking.

[LAUGHTER]

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, yeah.

CHRIS: You'll probably hear about it at the reception, he's back.

[LAUGHTER]

TROY Well, it was an original joke.

CHRISTENSEN:

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah. Well--

CHRIS: Yeah. Jimmy told it to him.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

[LAUGHTER]

Hey! Yeah. Rusty takes everything in very good humor.

CHRIS: Yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: But he's one of the workers in the court.

CHRIS: Yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: He's there year after year after year keeping it together and keeping it alive and keeping all those functions going. He's an incredible.

TROY Well, it's an incredible group too.

CHRISTENSEN:

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

TROY They've raised so much money for really needed causes.

CHRISTENSEN:

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

TROY And the International Court System is just-- it's very interesting. I'd never really, I guess, done that much

CHRISTENSEN: research on them or anything. In promoting this event, I went to the website of our Houston court and then also the granddaddy of all the courts, the International Court set up in San Francisco. And it's pretty interesting history.

CHRIS: Well, my big thing with the court was the second time I ever went into a gay bar, I was visiting Waco, which is scary enough going to a gay bar in Waco.

TROY Oh, sure. Yeah.

CHRISTENSEN:

CHRIS: But the second time ever in a bar, there was a court event.

TROY Uh-huh.

CHRISTENSEN:

CHRIS: And I had no clue what was going on. I walked into the back area where they had the dance floor, and I'm seeing drag queens and drag kings.

TROY MTR, all of them.

CHRISTENSEN:

CHRIS: Horribly lip syncing to music.

[LAUGHTER]

And being handed dollar bills, and I'm going, huh?

[LAUGHTER]

The bartenders that were there the night before are now wearing tuxedo shirts and coats. It's like, OK. And fortunately, I had such a confused look on my face. Someone came up and explained to me what the court system was a little bit. And so it's one of those things that-- if someone who hasn't seen this kind of setup before, it's an interesting fundraiser setup with the courts. And it's something to behold, something you really need to experience to fully understand it.

TROY Yeah. But then our female grand marshal is Mela Contreras who owns Mela's Tejano nightclub. And she's done

CHRISTENSEN: really incredible things through the club and through-- and every aspect of her life has been involved in community fundraising, and voter registration drives, and outreach to the Hispanic QLBT community for over 20 years. And in fact, she was given a proclamation honoring her for her years of service to the community by Mayor Lee Brown.

CHRIS: Oh. I hate this. I sound like I've cute stories on all these. A couple of years ago, I was waiting for my group to show up for the Pride Parade, and the Mellows truck came by.

TROY Uh-huh.

CHRISTENSEN:

CHRIS: They were trying to find their space, and it took me a while. I never heard of Mela's before.

TROY Yeah.

CHRISTENSEN:

CHRIS: And so they had to yell it at me about five times before understanding Mela's.

[LAUGHS]

And then we start going through it on patrol there when we realized hey, there's a bar over there.

[LAUGHS]

Drive through the parking lot and always a large crowd over there.

TROY Yeah. Yeah. And very diverse. It's a Tejano bar, but it's a very ethnically diverse, very diverse in terms of age, **CHRISTENSEN:** men and women. Everybody is very comfortable there.

CHRIS: OK. And then there's two other ones the--

TROY Right. We have a couple for the honorary grand marshal. It's a straight couple Jane and Irv Smith. And the honor-

CHRISTENSEN: - I see this.

JIMMY CARPER: Confused like.

[LAUGHS]

TROY I think.

CHRISTENSEN:

DAVID: We honor the straight people. Yeah, that's right.

CHRIS: Remember David, without straight people, we wouldn't have been born.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

CHRIS: Well. They at least made the turkey base for us.

DAVID: Yeah, that's true.

TROY And these are straight people who don't wear garbage bags.

CHRISTENSEN:

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah. that's right. That's right.

TROY Or white robes and hoods.

CHRISTENSEN:

JIMMY CARPER: I was amazed because I did not know the name Irv and Jane. And when I saw them, it was immediate because I'd seen their faces for years in the community.

TROY Right. Right.

CHRISTENSEN:

JIMMY CARPER: Just years.

TROY Yeah. They're those types of people who are there working year in and year out and not really drawing attention

CHRISTENSEN: to themselves necessarily, but they're always there. They've been very active with PFLAG in a number of roles, from answering the help line to helping develop the really incredible billboard campaign that they had a couple of years ago, and doing the Healing the Hurt conferences for educators. But also, Jane is on the Board of Directors for the Gay Men's Chorus, and she's in charge of volunteer recruitment for that organization.

CHRIS: That's good to hear then. Let Jimmy jump in once he gets his headphones back on there because he's just beaming with pride because actually--

TROY I can let you take this one, Jimmy.

CHRISTENSEN:

JIMMY CARPER: No. I'm just going to--

TROY You can steal my thunder.

CHRISTENSEN:

JIMMY CARPER: No. I'm going to let you go, and then I'll correct you.

TROY Oh. Well, once upon a time, I was a part of this organization also.

CHRISTENSEN:

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, you were. Yes, you were. In fact, many people got their start in the community by first joining the Switchboard.

TROY Oh, yeah. Yeah. It wasn't my first organization.

CHRISTENSEN:

JIMMY CARPER: No. No, no. You are involved in college.

TROY Right. But the Switchboard were great. It was a great couple of years. Yes, the Honorary Grand Marshal

CHRISTENSEN: Organization is the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard Houston. And like Jimmy said earlier, they're celebrating their 20th anniversary this year. So it's really appropriate to have them as a grand marshal.

CHRIS: Oh, he was hedging his bets. He was with the other organization too.

TROY Right. Yeah.

CHRISTENSEN:

[LAUGHTER]

JIMMY CARPER: There were two organizations that were nominated, and I'm a member of both.

TROY Right.

CHRISTENSEN:

[LAUGHS]

JIMMY CARPER: So I was going to march in the front of the parade this year no matter what.

DAVID: No matter what, he's going to be there.

[LAUGHTER]

TROY I think there's a great picture of you holding on to both, like representatives of both organizations.

CHRISTENSEN:

JIMMY CARPER: That's right. Noah on one side and Bruce Reeves on the other.

TROY Right.

CHRISTENSEN:

[LAUGHS]

CHRIS: You do that, then they just crop to the left or the right, which one is beside one.

[LAUGHTER]

Take one picture.

[LAUGHTER]

JIMMY CARPER: No. When they were making the announcement, I was holding on to both of them.

TROY Right.

CHRISTENSEN:

CHRIS: You didn't care. You already had your gown right now.

[LAUGHTER]

You didn't care who was the--

JIMMY CARPER: No. We had a meeting today. I can't wear a gown. It's all t-shirts. Yeah.

[LAUGHTER]

CHRIS: : Or is it going to be the one that you have to light up your fiber optic one?

JIMMY CARPER: No, no no. Not that one either. No. No, no, no. We have special Switchboard t-shirts that we'll be wearing.

Actually it's a little confusing because--