

STEVEN: At this time of morning.

SALLY: And legal issues, I think they did in the last hour, were saying that there's some resources at the Switchboard for people who need a legal referral.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

STEVEN: One of the great things is the Switchboard is now working in cooperation with other organizations here in the city. We work with the Stonewall Legal Lawyers Association where we use their database of legal references. We work with some of the medical associations that use their medical. So it's not just our information, but we're using everybody's information that we can get hold of. As long as there's a GLBT friendly, hey, we want them on there.

JEWEL GRAY: Yeah, we had a lot of people just wanting a therapist who was gay friendly.

STEVEN: Oh, yeah.

JEWEL GRAY: And we had people call looking for a therapist because if you pick up the telephone book, it doesn't say gay friendly.

STEVEN: Right.

JEWEL GRAY: And your friends pass on this name and you don't know whether they're gay friendly or not unless your friend is gay.

STEVEN: I think a few weeks ago, we even received a call from a gay friendly Saturn dealer here in the city.

JEWEL GRAY: Yeah.

STEVEN: So we get all those type of calls.

JIMMY CARPER: Why not. That's right.

SALLY: Yeah, a gay friendly photographer.

STEVEN: Right.

SALLY: Yeah.

JACKIE THORNE: Well, you have a networking type situation here where people are-- first of all, they're looking for someone who will listen to them.

STEVEN: Correct.

JACKIE THORNE: And, I mean, I can't tell you how many times someone has called on the GCTC number and all they wanted to do was just talk. They just wanted someone else who was in the same situation as they were that they can talk to.

STEVEN: Right.

JIMMY CARPER: Going through the switchboard training will change your life.

JEWEL GRAY: And didn't I tell you that when you started?

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, yes, and it does.

JEWEL GRAY: I still tell people.

JIMMY CARPER: Especially in your interactions with your friends because it tells-- what it teaches you is to shut up.

JEWEL GRAY: Yeah.

STEVEN: Oh, yeah.

JEWEL GRAY: And listen.

JIMMY CARPER: And listen.

JEWEL GRAY: You know who I tell it to? I tell that to people who I see-- and I take this upon myself. And this sounds pretty egomaniac, ego--

JACKIE Egotistical.

THORNE:

JEWEL GRAY: Yeah, egotistical.

STEVEN: That too.

JEWEL GRAY: Yeah, that too. But I see people in my life who are lonely, who are new in the world of being gay, not necessarily virgins, but relatively new, and people who tend not to fit in as comfortably with other people or a little more uncomfortable being gay. Those are the people I say, go down to the Switchboard.

JIMMY CARPER: You bet.

JEWEL GRAY: Join the Switchboard.

JIMMY CARPER: You bet.

JEWEL GRAY: I mean, I know that the training is well enough that you can train practically a horse to do the job. I mean, so I know that when I send somebody down there-- I don't know how many have gone, but I've suggested to lots of people-- that it can change your life. And it changed Diana's life.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

JEWEL GRAY: You remember Diana?

JIMMY CARPER: I remember Diana.

JEWEL GRAY: She was like that. She'd been in one relationship and it was very abusive. And when I met her, she was just really new in the world, and she didn't know many people. And she didn't know much about-- I mean, she was later in her years in her late 40's and she'd just come out. She'd come from a world where she was married and she'd spent 10 years married and she just decided in late in her life that she was gay.

And the first relationship she got into, she was abusive and ugly and she needed to learn some things and be with people that she could trust, which was one of the big things about being at Switchboard because I could trust every single person there. And I sent her down there. And it wasn't long before she became an entirely different person.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

JEWEL GRAY: She's very demonstrative and very involved and very-- she got very involved with, as a matter of fact, training. She did a training manual and all kinds of stuff.

JIMMY CARPER: You could watch her self-confidence balloon.

JEWEL GRAY: You sure could.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

JEWEL GRAY: And I was really proud of her, yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: And you did it. I remember you doing that with her.

STEVEN: And I think that's one of the great things about the Switchboard because you not only learn stuff about your own self, but you learn stuff about not only our own community, but other communities. And you learn so much. I know, just from working with the Hispanic community, how much I have learned, how much they're different, and at the same time very similar in their ways of thinking of what they determine is what they look as gay and gay issues. So it really brings about a learning process.

JIMMY CARPER: And I've got to say this-- I've just got to say this because if Steve and Jerome had been with the old Switchboard, we might not have gone with the Montrose Counseling Center because he is the best go-getter on getting volunteers. It's been incredible. I don't know how he does it. But he's just enthusiastic. And he gets people and they go through the training. It's--

STEVEN: Promise some chocolate.

[LAUGHTER]

JACKIE THORNE: Even though we have a lot in common, we each, depending on where we come from, we have our own little separate community, if you will.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, sure.

JACKIE THORNE: And the Hispanic and the Black and whatever group you happen to come from, and I think that the Switchboard you learn. You may not totally learn about the different communities, but you at least learn that there is a difference. I think this is the educational point that's really important is that you realize that just because where you're coming from isn't the same as someone else's is where they're coming from, you can relate to them that there is a difference and therefore, you have to allow for that difference.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, now, Steven, since you've been listening to Jackie Thorne, I want to--

SALLY: Thank you for introducing this person.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, I'm sorry. Well, Jackie is always here. Jackie's here almost every week.

JEWEL GRAY: Usually, he doesn't look like this though.

JIMMY CARPER: No, no.

JEWEL GRAY: I didn't know who it was at first until he started speaking.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, really.

JEWEL GRAY: Well, when he started speaking a while ago, I didn't know who it was until he started speaking when he sat down in here.

JIMMY CARPER: [INAUDIBLE]. Because he's the evil twin brother. Yeah. But Jackie Thorne has-- I remember way back when did an in-service on transgenders.

JEWEL GRAY: I remember that.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

JEWEL GRAY: Yes.

JIMMY CARPER: Over at Chris's apartment that's right

JACKIE This September will be 20 years.

THORNE:

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, yes.

SALLY: See, in addition to the 40 hours of training that the volunteers currently go through, they're also handed out this manual. You were talking about putting together training manuals. It is like a doorstop. It is a huge--

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, it is.

SALLY: --huge--

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, it is.

SALLY: --resource. And--

JIMMY CARPER: Much bigger than the older one.

SALLY: There's a section on cultural diversity in there. There's sections that are just touched upon briefly. If anybody were to get into the volunteer just going through that, it's a wealth of information.

JIMMY CARPER: Sure is.

JEWEL GRAY: The other benefit was the bonding.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

JEWEL GRAY: And bonding and classes.

JIMMY CARPER: Steven really enforces-- not enforces, but you nurture that because you have in-services and just get together so that you--

JEWEL GRAY: I can run into people that I knew back then and it's like we never-- it's like-- I ran-- did I tell you about running into Ron Morang a couple of years ago?

JIMMY CARPER: No.

JEWEL GRAY: I ran into Ron Morang and it was like we had not been apart. And I hadn't seen him in like eight years.

JIMMY CARPER: Because Ron Morang was the guy who was doing charge of the training when I went through it.

JEWEL GRAY: Right. And I hadn't seen him in eight years. I mean, we just travel in different circles, but it was-- there was like not a beat had missed.

JIMMY CARPER: You bet.

JEWEL GRAY: It was that way. You and I have been best of chums since then, I mean, just about since then, I think probably not very long after that anyway.

JIMMY CARPER: And there have been-- a couple of years, we haven't seen each other but it--

JEWEL GRAY: The bonding of the training class was really immense because when you go through something this intensive together with other people, you're connected with those people.

JIMMY CARPER: You are.

JEWEL GRAY: And you learn something, and then you become, like I said, like we said, the light goes off and you look around the room and the lights going off for everybody else and it really bonds you to them.

JIMMY CARPER: And Steven is really fostering that family atmosphere that we used to have.

JEWEL GRAY: I might have to get back involved.

STEVEN: And for all those people out there who are still awake this time of morning with that light bulb going off--

JIMMY CARPER: And there's lots of them.

STEVEN: --the number is 713-529 and straight across the top 3211.

JIMMY CARPER: That's right.

STEVEN: He's the number to remember.

JIMMY CARPER: Very well.

JEWEL GRAY: When I joined the Switchboard, it was over off of Montrose behind what is now-- it's an apartment complex now. They tore down the old place. Then we moved. It was behind where McDonald's is on Westheimer.

JIMMY CARPER: Wow, I've stayed there.

JEWEL GRAY: And it had just moved there.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh.

JEWEL GRAY: And then we moved to a place just before the bridge on Montrose--

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

JEWEL GRAY: --just where you get to Chelsea.

JIMMY CARPER: Above Cam's Restaurant.

JEWEL GRAY: Right, exactly. Oh, I loved it there. I loved it there.

STEVEN: Now, we've gone a little bigger now. We've moved up to gay heaven now.

JEWEL GRAY: Yeah, really.

STEVEN: And we come down and Gay Pride on that big disco ball and watch everybody.

JIMMY CARPER: And the really nice thing about being at the community center is that you're part of the community center too.

JEWEL GRAY: Right.

JIMMY CARPER: It's really a nice family atmosphere.

JEWEL GRAY: When I was with Switchboard, everybody was hysterical about confidentiality and no one should know that you're part of the Switchboard.

JIMMY CARPER: No, we got over that crap.

JEWEL GRAY: No one should be-- no one should know where we were at. Well, at that time they were still getting over KPFK being bombed by the Klan. And we were getting threats occasionally from people who were very ugly and they were kind of. But they were almost too much.

JIMMY CARPER: People were a lot more closeted.

SALLY: But also keep in mind-- and I it's really important that people know that if you are a volunteer for the Switchboard, you are anonymous.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, that's right.

SALLY: The person who's calling you doesn't know who you are.

JIMMY CARPER: Absolutely not.

SALLY: They'll not know who you are. We are not going to print out a list of all of our volunteers.

JIMMY CARPER: Thank you for mentioning that.

SALLY: And the same is true for the confidentiality of the caller. We don't have caller ID.

JIMMY CARPER: No.

JEWEL GRAY: You don't even have to use your name. I don't think--

STEVEN: In fact, one of the things I--

JEWEL GRAY: --volunteers use their names.

STEVEN: No. Volunteers do not use--

JEWEL GRAY: My name was JJ.

JIMMY CARPER: I know.

JACKIE THORNE: The other thing too also is that people say, well, my god, you have 40 hours. I've got to take training on this thing. You don't realize how many resources are available to the community. And they're not all gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender resources. There's a hell of a lot of straight resources that are available to our community as well. I know when I was working with the--

STEVEN: And we have to know this because we get straight calls also.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

JACKIE THORNE: Dispute Resolution Center. I mean, my god, they had a book there that was like two inches thick of all of the resources that were available just in Harris County.

STEVEN: Yes.

JIMMY CARPER: We've got that too.

STEVEN: And it's gotten thicker.

SALLY: And one of the things Montrose Counseling Center does is there are other crisis hotlines out there, in fact, one called crisis hotline. And we do help provide training for their programs. And we will send an educator out, and that person we'll talk about GLBT issues, maybe two hours.

JEWEL GRAY: Because when I was at the Switchboard, they would simply have someone mention the fact they were gay, they would give them our number and that was it. They couldn't get them off the line.

JIMMY CARPER: They still do.

SALLY: And they still do.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

SALLY: But we do provide a couple of hours of training for that. But what is so specific about the Gay Lesbian Switchboard Houston, of course, is that it specializes in issues that affect and are important to the community. I remember our first training session I sat through a lot of the courses. And I was surprised to learn that sometimes, of course, there are plenty of people who make prank phone calls and that sort of thing and some people are extremely hostile when they call.

And one of the things I thought was interesting that I learned in the training session was that in many cases, that's a person who's in the coming out process who maybe have some internalized homophobia and so they're are just--

JEWEL GRAY: We used to get that. Remember that kid who showed up here?

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

JEWEL GRAY: He called up for almost two years. Like, that was ugly to us. And then suddenly, the calls started to change. He would call regular periods. People got to know who he was. Less call started change. And then before we knew it, he was talking about he was coming out and he was having problems at home. But this was the same person two years before who was calling up telling faggots die and stuff like that.

SALLY: You never know.

JEWEL GRAY: And then he showed up here he started listening to *After Hours* and he showed up here.

JACKIE Denial is not a river in Egypt.

THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: That's right. And in fact, I know of two former Switchboard volunteers who had been prank callers.

JEWEL GRAY: Yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: They admitted it. And it was part of their coming out process.

JEWEL GRAY: Remember the woman who called?

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

JACKIE Yeah. The other thing also is the fact that I really think that the Houston community in the 20 years I've been out,
THORNE: I have seen a lot of changes in the attitude on the part of the Houston community. And I think there's a kind of a mellowing, if you will, evidence, if nothing else, by the fact that prop two lost by a very slim majority compared to the slamming that we got back in 1985 when young women were like 4 to 1 against us. But basically, people are realizing that the GLBT community is not the--

JEWEL GRAY: Cesspool of sex.

JACKIE They're not the devil and so forth like that. And so people are--

THORNE:

JEWEL GRAY; They don't realize how little we actually get.

[LAUGHTER]

JIMMY CARPER: Really.

JACKIE And so the other hotlines and Switchboards and so forth like that are more willing to work with us and try to
THORNE: understand where we're coming from.

JIMMY CARPER: We went through a crisis, the Switchboard itself. And we wondered with the openness now and the gay press and the access on computer of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender places, is the Switchboard necessary anymore? And the answer, of course, was yes. Because when you have a problem, I mean, you can talk to somebody on the computer, but there's something special about having a voice at the other end of that phone.

JEWEL GRAY: Hearing empathy. Not sympathy, empathy.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, yes. And that was the answer.

JACKIE THORNE: I think in a lot of ways the fact that a lot of people have come out to their friends, neighbors, coworkers, and so forth like that, has put a face on the GLBT community. I have always contended that education is a one-on-one type situation. And once you put a face on the GLBT community, then all of a sudden it's a lot harder to hate us.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

STEVEN: Oh, yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: We just-- I'm sorry, we just got a call from David, who is my neighbor. And he's my neighbor because he's living in the apartment that used to be the Switchboard.

[LAUGHTER]

JEWEL GRAY: Boy, if those walls could talk.

JIMMY CARPER: No kidding, no kidding. He's listening to us right now.

SALLY: That's fantastic.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

STEVEN: Good morning, David. Also, for those computer whiz out there, I want you to know you can also go to [www.gayswitchboardhouston-- all one word-- .org](http://www.gayswitchboardhouston.org) and you can find information about the Switchboard. You also can volunteer on our web page also. So you don't have to just use the telephone, but--

JEWEL GRAY: You know that was my idea.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

SALLY: The website?

STEVEN: The computer.

SALLY: That's fantastic.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, yeah.

JEWEL GRAY: I've done that for two years.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, years and years and years we just never had the equipment and--

JEWEL GRAY: A lot of people in the Switchboard when I came in had been there a long time and had pretty much predetermined the way it was going to grow from there, actually, not grow, just moved from there. And when I came in, I had-- I've always been an idea person.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, yes.

JEWEL GRAY: And when I came in, I saw lots of places that could grow. And one of the places that it could grow was getting it on the internet because by that time, internet was starting to-- the computers were getting on. The computer was starting to get big. But by that time, New York, San Francisco, Los Angeles, Miami, and Chicago were all had their Switchboards online, all of them. And I kept saying, it's just that far away. It's just that far away from us.

JIMMY CARPER: And now it's here.

JEWEL GRAY: We've got to do it.

JACKIE THORNE: The other thing too is on the internet, there's an anonymity there. The people feel they're anonymous. They can contact. They can get information.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

JACKIE THORNE: And they don't have to reveal who they are or what they are. They can reveal what they are, but they don't have a real who they are. And so therefore, they're comfortable in revealing who they are.

JEWEL GRAY: Don't you have resources on the computer so that they can-- yeah. Because I haven't been there in a long time. But I did look a couple of times in the past and I thought I remembered seeing that you could just like dial up--

STEVEN: Yes, you can click on-- if you go to the web page, you can click on the resource links and pull up several resources on there.

JEWEL GRAY: Get that or call yourself some live person and get them. [COUGHS] Excuse me.

JIMMY CARPER: That is www.gayswitchboardhouston.org.

STEVEN: Correct, www.

JIMMY CARPER: Got you.

STEVEN: Also, I want to say that the Switchboard is very vital in just building the community here because what a lot of people do is before they move to a city, the first thing they do is pick up the phone and call the Switchboard to get that human--

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

STEVEN: About what the community really is like not what the magazine might say, but what it actually is. And we do get a lot of calls for that information. And we do actually even mail out packets to other cities. So we're getting calls not only from Houston but across the country now.

JACKIE THORNE: That's absolutely true because I have had several instances where I've had calls to the GCTC hotline from people from New York, Miami that were planning on moving to Houston and they wanted to know what is the situation for the transgender community there. And the same thing I'm sure is true throughout the entire GLBT community.

JIMMY CARPER: You bet. We get those calls a lot.

SALLY: And just people who are traveling to Houston and they want information.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, those are fun calls because these are people--

JEWEL GRAY: Call us from New Orleans--

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, yeah.

JEWEL GRAY: --just the weekend and they need to know where to stay, love in. Yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, yeah, all these different-- those are a lot of fun.

JEWEL GRAY: There's so little-- there's some of the nuances of information was when I was a Switchboard, I don't know if-- and I keep saying that when I was with Switchboard because I want people to understand things have changed.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

JEWEL GRAY: When I was with Switchboard, one of the things that people would ask us was, what cab company can I use? Because it was very important. If you would tell some yellow cab people where you wanted to go and they knew it was a gay and lesbian place, they wouldn't take you, or they'd overcharge you. People would call and when we would when they we would find out they were from out of town, we would add, there's a cab company in town. You can call them, and they have no hassles.

Or people would often ask, know what kind of transportation can I use? Can I take a bus and get there? Can I take a cab? Which cab company is gay friendly? So there were nuances people usually don't think about the community.

JIMMY CARPER: You bet.

STEVEN: And with our new volunteers, we always let them know you're not only just giving out information on the phone, but you also contribute to this information. If one of our volunteers-- we have one volunteer who he loves restaurants, so he's like our restaurant director. Any time he goes to a restaurant, he says, oh, this is a very gay friendly restaurant. Bring that information back in and we put it on the database. So the volunteer is not only just passing out the information, they actually bringing in and contributing information to the Switchboard.

SALLY: The other thing I wanted to mention is how the Switchboard works with other nonprofit organizations here because we do an awful lot of referrals for people looking for other organizations. I remember in an analysis of the phone calls for a couple of months, our number one referral was to PFLAG. It was parents who were calling gay lesbian Switchboard Houston to find out where they could go for resources. And we, of course, with other nonprofit organizations, we can give referrals to that, too. And that's an ongoing resource list that is always building.

JACKIE I can't count the number of calls that I have gotten from GCTC that have been referrals from the Switchboard.
THORNE: People calling up.

JIMMY CARPER: Yep.

JACKIE I want to know something about the transgender community.
THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

JACKIE I'm transgendered myself. I'm transsexual or whatever. I need information. And, of course, immediately you all spoke to us.

STEVEN: Talk to you

SALLY: Sure.

JACKIE Which is fine. That's what we're there for.
THORNE:

SALLY: Yeah, and in some cases, people are referred back to Montrose Counseling Center if that's what they're looking for. But if there's a better organization that can serve those services like that organization, will refer.

JACKIE In a lot of cases, it's a situation, somebody is in town for the weekend they just want to know where to go and so forth like that and, of course, we try to guide them not only where to go but know where not to go.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

JACKIE But by the same token, if someone is looking for counseling or professional medical assistance and so forth for hormones or whatever, we try to refer them to the proper place.

JIMMY CARPER: All right. I want to-- before we-- were getting close to 3 o'clock here. I know that I love talking about the Switchboard.

STEVEN: I'm woke now.

JIMMY CARPER: But I know. But we also want to talk about the other organization, BLOG.

STEVEN: OK. Well, before we start talking about HBLOG, I want to thank Sally Hougher from Montrose Counselling--

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, Sally.

STEVEN: --center for being here tonight. And we got to get you back over here.

JIMMY CARPER: You are so much fun. Whenever I go to a festival or something and I see Sally, I hang out with her.

SALLY: Oh, no, I'm not blushing.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, yeah, you have more fun with her.

STEVEN: But she didn't wear her pink, fuzzy slippers.

JIMMY CARPER: Well.

SALLY: I have slippers that are little fuzzy, kitty cats.

STEVEN: And once again, to our listening audience, that number is 713-529-3211. That's the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard.

JIMMY CARPER: That's right.

STEVEN: So if you have issues, give us a call.

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

SALLY: Thank you so much.

JIMMY CARPER: Sally, thank you for being here. And--

[APPLAUSE]

Oh, yes, yes, yes, yes, yes.

JEWEL GRAY: Yay. With the laugh track.

SALLY: Thank you.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes. And, Jewel, thank you because you gave a lot of insight that we wouldn't have had.

STEVEN: Thank you.

JEWEL GRAY: I was just going down memory lane.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, now--

JACKIE THORNE: Jewel involved in some of the earlier activities of the Switchboard and the formation of it.

SALLY: And given that this is the 20th anniversary--

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

SALLY: --it's wonderful to have that input. If anybody has volunteered with the Switchboard and wants to get back in touch and wants to get involved, we would love to have them come out for Pride Parade and be with us for the--

JIMMY CARPER: That would be great.

SALLY: --grand marshal.

JIMMY CARPER: Great, great. Yeah.

SALLY: Please us at Montrose Counseling Center.

JIMMY CARPER: And you get to ride at the beginning of the parade, and then you can stop and watch the rest of it, which is really great.

JEWEL GRAY: Yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

STEVEN: Bring your partner with you.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, you bet. OK. So, Steven.

STEVEN: Yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: You are now the president of this new organization?

STEVEN: OK, yeah

JIMMY CARPER: Or is it a new organization?

STEVEN: It's an old organization that's a new organization.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, OK.

STEVEN: Kind of like a phoenix coming out of the fire.

JIMMY CARPER: There you go.

STEVEN: And we're talking about HBLOG.

JIMMY CARPER: HBLOG. OK.

STEVEN: Fun night. It stands for the Houston Black Lesbian and Gay Coalition. And what HBLOG really is simply is just it's like an umbrella organization that combines-- gets all the resources for the Black gay and lesbian community here in the city, also the transgender. Don't let me forget them. I need them by my side.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, that's right. That's right because there are a lot of transgenders in the Black community.

STEVEN: HBLOG will be--

JIMMY CARPER: Is it the Black community or is it the African-American community?

STEVEN: Is the African-American community. And the reason I say that is because it's not only the Black, but it's also African and all people of color, whether they're from the islands from South America, anywhere.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, OK.

STEVEN: But its focus is mainly African-Americans and people of color.

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

STEVEN: And to get the resource, get the information out there of what's going on in the Black community really everything from, again, the bars to what legal resources is out there, medical resources. This organization is being set up so that young Black gays and lesbians can come if they're looking for a job, they can use the database at the office for HBLOG to say, pull up various employment agencies, look at their database see if they can qualify for a job. HBLOG will be sponsoring some job fairs for the community.

JIMMY CARPER: That's very important.

STEVEN: We have job training programs for the community. We want to make the Black gay and lesbian community more aware of what's out there for them financially, educationally, medically. We just want to open the door and let them know just what's out there here in Houston. And we do have a lot here in Houston. And we have a very large Black gay, lesbian, transgender community.

JIMMY CARPER: We have a huge-- yes, it's a huge community.

JACKIE THORNE: I had a wonderful friend of mine. His last name happened to be the same as mine, Adams. Ray Adams was a drag queen Chantal, who unfortunately passed away several years ago. But back then, there were no resources like this. And this is absolutely fabulous that something like this has been put together.

STEVEN: And this is something that the community needs.

JIMMY CARPER: You bet.

STEVEN: Not only the Black gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community, but the whole GLBT community is part of a unifying effort to bring this entire community together here in Houston.

JIMMY CARPER: A lot of people might not know that there is a separate Black Pride Week.

STEVEN: Yes. That was something that was kind of like pushed across on the internet. You pulled up certain web pages that had a listing of Black pride events across the country. And this is something that's really growing in this country now is a separate pride events. And one of them that was listed was Houston splashed day--

JIMMY CARPER: That's right.

STEVEN: --which was last weekend. And it was not only a one day affair, but this actually event took over an entire week.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

STEVEN: They had various parties. Also they had a day-long workshop that dealt with a lot of Black issues. And this is something that the community here in Houston didn't know about. We didn't hear about.

JIMMY CARPER: How do we get this information out to people?

STEVEN: Hopefully this show will be one.

JIMMY CARPER: I hope so that-- yeah, it's just a matter of getting that information because--

JACKIE THORNE: With the internet now, I think there's more access to it than there ever has been in the past.

JIMMY CARPER: But not everybody has access.

JACKIE THORNE: I understand that, yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, but that's a big problem.

JACKIE But still in all, they're aware of the fact that-- if they go to the public library for crying out loud, they can get on the internet and so forth.

JIMMY CARPER: Sure.

JACKIE If the people look for it, there is access to this information.

THORNE:

STEVEN: That's part of the thing with HBLOG being is to be there to get this information out for those who don't have that computer access to try to get it to everywhere everybody have this same information.

JACKIE I'm really, really glad to see this happening because I know in the past, there was a situation where Club 13 or
THORNE: [INAUDIBLE].

STEVEN: Oh, yeah, back in the day.

JACKIE There were Black clubs and there was white clubs and stuff like that. That's ridiculous. I mean, we're all people.
THORNE: We're all part of the same community.

STEVEN: True, but at the same time, that would be in a perfect world. It would be great if we only just had one club.

JIMMY CARPER: I know it. I know it. But, yeah.

JACKIE Yeah.

THORNE:

STEVEN: But in this reality?

JACKIE And, of course, people feel more comfortable with people that they have something in common with.
THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: Sure.

JACKIE But by the same token, they need to also feel comfortable in going outside of that little circumscribed world of
THORNE: their own and not feel rejected if they go someplace else.

JIMMY CARPER: I hope that's something that we're going to explore in this segment in the--

STEVEN: And that will be--

JIMMY CARPER: --coming months.

STEVEN: --several segments we'll be looking at different issues of how to unify both of our communities together and at the same time how to keep that individuality because I think that what happens a lot of times we start looking at unifying and everybody is worried about losing their individuality.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah. Well, I think we need to wrap up a bit.

STEVEN: All right.

JIMMY CARPER: And that was great for your first segment. See, you were worried about that and I just said, come on, we're just going to chat and have a good time.

STEVEN: Somebody made extra strong coffee.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, I mean, the time just flew.

STEVEN: No Joke.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes. I've got a piece of music. You were worried about that. I've always had [INAUDIBLE]. This is a brand new piece of music. It's on the EP that was put out from the Stop AIDS organization that's called DL. And this is called *Do What You Want To Do* by Dutch Boy. And it's talking about being on the DL. And I know a lot of brothers--

STEVEN: Very important issues.

JIMMY CARPER: That's a very, very, very big issue. So--

STEVEN: In fact, we'll be talking about that in the upcoming months.

JIMMY CARPER: Good. And so all you guys out there listen to what this says. And thank you, Steven. See you next--

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

[MUSIC PLAYING]

Yes, you've been listening to *After Hours Queer Radio with Attitude* on KPFT, Houston and KEOS College Station. Denise called in from the heights, and she wanted to know what DL is. And we did not mention that. That is someone who was on the Down Low. That means someone who is in the straight community, may be married or have a girlfriend and sees the boys on the side.

JEWEL GRAY: [INAUDIBLE].

STEVEN: Well.

JIMMY CARPER: Is that pretty much it, Steven?

STEVEN: That's exactly it.

JEWEL GRAY: They used to call--

JIMMY CARPER: Or vice versa, it could be that with women too.

JEWEL GRAY: I used to hold that family night on Westheimer and Taft.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

JEWEL GRAY: I've met several women like that where--

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

JEWEL GRAY: --where come down here--

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, that's true. Yeah, married women. Yeah, there's women that-- it's a--

JEWEL GRAY: Is a family matter unless they--

JIMMY CARPER: Probably people who are not comfortable with saying that they're bisexual.

JEWEL GRAY: Right.

JIMMY CARPER: That's it. So that's on the DL.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

That's right. Joe's here on the third weekend. And, boy, this worked out really well.

JEWEL GRAY: Sure did

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, this was a lot of fun. I had good time tonight, thank you. Coming up at the top of the hour will be the *Early Morning Groove* with Big Bobby Fats. He'll be driving in any second. And in the background, we've got Ray the music bear and it's called *Homophobia* right here on KPFT Houston and KEOS College Station. See you next week.

[MUSIC PLAYING]