

DEAN BECKER: To be baptized in the river of reform. The Canadian government is now waffling on their medical marijuana provisions.

JIMMY CARPER: Eww.

DEAN BECKER: They have a new health minister who's wanting to backpedal, and she's saying that she will not implement a marijuana distribution because she's uncomfortable with people smoking anything. And they want to wait until clinical trials have been completed, but the problem is no trials are underway.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah. See-- that's an easy way out for her, isn't it?

DEAN BECKER: It is, but they're giving her hell up there. She's not going to get away with it.

JIMMY CARPER: OK, good.

DEAN BECKER: Some great news. Last week the Seattle Hempfest drew 150,000 people.

JIMMY CARPER: Whoa!

DEAN BECKER: Who were smoking, shopping, and rabble rousing.

JIMMY CARPER: Hey, that's great.

DEAN BECKER: It's probably the world's largest single pro cannabis event. It was hot. They say it was crowded but trouble free.

JIMMY CARPER: Good.

DEAN BECKER: Speeches cannabis commerce sounding the theme of pot pride, urging people to come out of the closet.

JIMMY CARPER: I like that. Coming out of the closet for pot pride.

DEAN BECKER: Exactly right. Jimmy, we're following you guys closely.

JIMMY CARPER: Hey, there's all kinds of coming out of closets, folks.

DEAN BECKER: That's right. That's right. The Afghan opium boom continues. They have a second crop that's coming in, and not to belabor a point, but the effort to educate the-- excuse me, to eradicate the Afghan opium trade is a mess. The United Nations reported that the Karzai government's eradication was largely failed. They said this year's crop is near record levels and could bring in more than \$1 billion in farm gate revenues.

JIMMY CARPER: Wow.

DEAN BECKER: Yeah. And those farmers over there need it to be honest with you.

JIMMY CARPER: I think that's the only crop that country grows that makes any money.

DEAN BECKER: Well, right. You can't haul vegetables to market over those mountain roads.

JIMMY CARPER: That's right.

DEAN BECKER: How are you going to make a living otherwise? Let's see. I had one other story I wanted to tell you right quickly and that is the good news. Now we all know the drug war is failed. It has failed, will always be a horrific failure. And if you would ask your listeners to tune in Monday through Friday for the 420 Drug War News, I have a daily news report that will air starting Monday of this coming week.

JIMMY CARPER: Hey, hey, hey, great.

DEAN BECKER: And we will also have a show of this coming up Friday, the midnight one hour show.

JIMMY CARPER: Yep.

DEAN BECKER: We'll discuss the Rainbow Farm Murders which happened September of last year. That's where the FBI was, by the way, when they should have been catching the terrorists. They were out in the fields shooting pot farmers.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, brother.

DEAN BECKER: And then we'll also have some guests on to-- to discuss the tortures and the brainwashing so common at drug treatment centers. And that's about it for *Cultural Baggage* for the week. Jimmy, I appreciate the opportunity.

JIMMY CARPER: Thanks for calling in. That's *Cultural Baggage* with Dean Becker and you can hear a full hour of Dean Becker this coming Friday night at midnight.

DEAN BECKER: And every day, 420.

JIMMY CARPER: And every day, 420. There you go. Hey, good luck.

DEAN BECKER: Thank you.

JIMMY CARPER: Take care. Thanks for calling.

DEAN BECKER: You bet.

JIMMY CARPER: Dean Becker, the only heterosexual who has a permanent spot on *After Hours*, yes. Yes, we have heterosexuals. Let's face it folks. 90% of the world is heterosexual, so we got to get along here.

Now KPFT governance show, this is number one. Why is Pacifica different? The Pacifica Foundation, which owns KPFT, is changing its structure so that members will have the power to elect the board of directors which ultimately control the stations. KPFT is presenting these short pieces to inform members what's going on to give them some background into Pacifica and KPFT and why it's important to understand that elections are coming soon. This piece is about why Pacifica stations like KPFT are different from the other stations in the area.

So this is a big change going on at the radio station. This piece lasts 17 and 1/2 minutes, and at the top of the hour, we'll be back and with music and mayhem and all kinds of good stuff for you. So stay tuned.

[STATIC]

CALLER: Can you hear me on-- can you hear me? Am I on the air?

PRESENTER 1: Broadcasting was essentially invented by unlicensed amateurs who weren't working for the government and weren't working for large corporations. A lot of them hadn't even hit puberty yet.

CALLER: Can you hear me?

PRESENTER 1: Mostly assumed that radio would only be used for point-to-point communication between ships or from ship to shore and the like.

PRESENTER 2: Might have to turn your radio down.

PRESENTER 1: And they weren't just sending Morse code. They started talking.

CALLER: Am I on the air?

PRESENTER 1: And as they started talking, the idea emerged of not just talking to one other person out there and just trading emails so to speak but broadcasting from one to many. People started putting phonographs next to their transmitters and playing music into the ether.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

VOCALIST: (SINGING) On top of the world. I'm rolling along.

PRESENTER 1: And this time, radios, the people who are doing this, it was mostly a homemade affair. It was only a subculture.

VOCALIST: I'm singing a song

PRESENTER 1: And the first radio act was passed, and this is in the 19-teens. It didn't have a whole lot of effect. They didn't really have the means to enforce all of the rules, and the rules weren't as strict as some of the ones that would come along later. But after World War I started, the airwaves were formally nationalized, and everyone was ordered to shut down their transmitters and to let the military control everything.

At the same time, the military discovered that they had their people they had trained to use the airwaves weren't as good as these amateurs that were now joining the military and were quite more adept than the formally trained professionals. And so as a result after the war, there is this awareness that you couldn't just hang on to all the airwaves, that even from the military's point of view, it was useful to have this amateur subculture.

And so the amateur band was permitted to continue. But now they had all these new rules that basically said that if you're going to be an amateur, you cannot be a broadcaster at the same time, and at the same time you start to see the emergence of commercial stations. If you wanted to be a broadcaster, you had to be in one of these licensed professional broadcast stations.

Before long, we had another radio act, the creation of the Federal Radio Commission. Federal Radio Commission decided to regulate the airwaves in a manner that favored commercial advertising supported network stations, and this favored non-commercial stations with points of view, church stations, union stations, and the like. And you don't really get a serious effort to do things differently, again, until the late 1940s when Lewis Hill creates the Pacifica Foundation.

PRESENTER 3: Many romantic feelings were associated with radio broadcasting, as with aviation and motoring across the far western United States. Listener sponsorship, of course, is an effort to complete the integration of this medium with the community of which it is part.

GILBERT GELDING: This is Gilbert Gelding, and you're listening to *Counting Coffins* on KPFT, Houston. Today we're asking our listeners what is different about Pacifica. Line 1, you're on the air.

CALLER: Am I on the air?

GILBERT GELDING: Hello? Hello?

CALLER: Can you hear me?

GILBERT GELDING: Oh my goodness.

CALLER: Uh oh.

GILBERT GELDING: There's something very peculiar about these telephones here.

[DIAL TONE]

Line-- ow. [STAMMERING] I think--

CALLER: Why it's different?

GILBERT GELDING: I think you're on the air. Hello?

CALLER: You mean in real terms or sort of corporate sounding terms?

GILBERT GELDING: Exactly.

CALLER: Well, I think because it's really uncensored programming and the programmers have the independence to make their own choices without any immediate supervision, with only the most [? white-handed ?] guidelines.

PRESENTER 4: Line 1, you are on the air. Apparently not. Let's try that again. Well, I must be doing something wrong. Let's try line 1 one more time.

JIMMY: Oh, it's me, Jimmy. Pacifica, it's really like an oasis, almost in a desert or something. On all of the Pacific stations, you can find information, culture, entertainment that you won't find anywhere else. It's informative. It's unique, diverse.

Pacifica provides an alternative. It's like the opposition media to the status quo.

PRESENTER 5: What you will hear now will bring back memories to some, will open up new fields to others, but most important--

PRESENTER 6: Lewis Hill, who had been interestingly part of the amateur radio subculture when he was younger, decided to start a noncommercial station on the FM band that was supported by the listeners rather than supported by selling advertising. And he sort of stumbled on this business model.

He originally wanted to have few commercials, just enough to pay the bills, and then he wound up doing this instead. And this was back before the government was giving money to radio stations. You didn't have Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and you didn't have National Public Radio.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

The idea really was to be supported just by your listeners, and it didn't entirely work out because he wound up getting some foundation grants after a while as well because he was running out of money. But it was a different model.

PRESENTER 7: You're on the air in 5, 4, 3, 2, 1.

[BELL RINGING]

[RADIO SCANNING STATIONS]

PRESENTER 8: I think Jack was inspired now.

CALLER: Because it has a mission statement, that makes it different than most other stations.

PRESENTER 9: You can't have good without evil. There's no evil. I mean, you can be a good person, but you can't be a hero with no evil because you have to make it better and there has to be something that you must make better.

[MUSIC - THE MOODY BLUES - "NIGHTS IN WHITE SATIN"]

VOCALIST: (SINGING) Knights in white satin never reaching the end.

PRESENTER 10: Maybe there's other community stations that have similar ideas and ideals as to this [INAUDIBLE].

VOCALIST: --never meaning to send.

PRESENTER 10: It's a very, very special station.

VOCALIST: Beauty I'd always missed with these eyes before.

PRESENTER 10: Pacifica is very special.

VOCALIST: Just what the truth is, I can't say anymore.

PRESENTER 9: To me, the true superheroes, the ones who have survived, coincide with the true mythic hero. They have the power. They have the power. And they get the call. The call is a mystic thing. Like I say, it can be a bat flying in your window. It can be anything.

Sometimes, they avoid the call, but they can't. They can't because they are put on this Earth-- sometimes sent to the Earth on a rocketship. But they are put on this Earth to fight evil, to fight evil to make things better. And that's the hero in its purest form.

PRESENTER 10: What is this terrible thing, this great-- [VOICE FADES]

[ORCHESTRAL FANFARE]

CALLER: Well, I think that the main difference between Pacifica and any other network or even just their independent stations is the fact that a common person can come in and have their view expressed. Most people that are activists or have a different taste from what you find in the commercial radio, they can go in and create the ideas and see them grow and germinate with the community.

CALLER: I think the difference between Pacifica and other community and/or public radio stations is that Pacifica is mission driven. Pacifica was founded for a set of purposes. And those purposes are etched in stone. That's why we are a nonprofit able to solicit money from people in support of those purposes. So we can't go off and pursue some other purposes.

And that's a little different concept from community radio in that-- in community radio, the-- it's more or less a community access project where the community can define the purposes of its system. And public radio I tend to describe as state radio.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

PRESENTER 12: With more corporations--

CALLER: Radio stations and NPR don't give alternate points of view.

PRESENTER 6: When Lewis Hill creates the Pacifica Foundation--

CALLER: It allows freedom of expression, minorities to voice their opinions.

PRESENTER 13: It's brass knuckles radio. Brass knuckles.

[MUSIC - SLUM VILLAGE - "PLAYPEN"]

VOCALIST: (SINGING) We come to invade ya while ya playin' in your playpen.

PRESENTER 13: Brass knuckles. It's brass knuckles radio. Brass knuckles.

PRESENTER 14: Line 1, you are on the air.

CALLER: Pacifica radio is the only venue for free speech radio, for *Democracy Now*, for programs that are covering news and actually being censored by mainstream media.

PRESENTER 13: Brass knuckles. It's brass knuckles radio. Brass knuckles.

CALLER: I have personal experience with CNN, with ABC, with CBS choosing to cancel programming on talk shows, choosing to intimidate producers and not covering issues that are crucial to big stories that are out there. For example, 911, there was a lot of manipulation of the media around September 11th--

PRESENTER 13: Brass knuckles.

CALLER: Frightening people into not--

PRESENTER 13: It's brass knuckles radio.

CALLER: --civil rights were going away--

GILBERT I think you're on the air. Hello.

GELDING:

CALLER: I was going to Los Angeles, and they said, well, while you're out there, be sure and listen to KPFK, and so I listened to KPFK.

[MUSIC - TALKING HEADS - "CITIES"]

VOCALIST: (SINGING) I'm checking them out. I'm checking them out.

CALLER: Then I went to-- I was going to New York and they said, well, listen to our radio station up there, WBAI.

VOCALIST: Some good points, some bad points.

CALLER: And then I went to San Francisco and spent a long weekend there, and I just literally couldn't get out of the hotel room-- listening to KPFA. And I certainly saw why we needed a radio station like that in Houston.

VOCALIST: Find myself a city to live in. I will find a city, find myself a city to live in.

CALLER: Well, it's supposed to be different from all other stations. It's supposed to be listener sponsored and a grassroots radio without commercial plugs or underwriting. However, it does involve personalities, and somehow personalities are driven by things other than corporate underwriting and plugs.

They're driven by personal agendas, and Pacifica is the reflection of the times in which it exists. So this is not necessarily true of other states which have fixed niches. They're going to do-- NPR station's going to have the same schedule, you're going to hear *Morning Edition* or *All Things Considered*, so-called *All Things Considered*, *Some Things Considered*.

And they were pretty much have the same format and crisis level given the fact that we're bombing the hell out of Panama or Iraq or wherever, but Pacifica has that potential, which is used from time of time, of structuring its programming to suit the time.

VOCALIST: Find a city, find myself a city to live in. Find a city, find myself a city to live in.

PRESENTER 15: Until 1949, nobody in public or community radio had received a license unless they were at school, college, municipality, maybe even a private business, and this is the very, very first time that just a bunch of ordinary folks [INAUDIBLE] FCC after a license.

PRESENTER 16: Pacifica is, I believe the first radio network that is about to be governed in a democratic process.

CALLER: When I found KPFK by accident, I heard things I had never heard.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

And that changed my life completely, from being a person who was trying to run off and hide somewhere to someone who understood that I had to become engaged, had to become educated, and that I wasn't alone and that I can join with other people.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

VOCALIST: (SINGING) Put aside your religion,
do your god a favor and--

CALLER: To have hope to change things, to make this a better society.

VOCALIST: Forgive yourself for everything.

CALLER: That's why Pacifica was founded. And that's why it's so important that we preserve it.

VOCALIST: Everyone is good. Everyone is good. Everyone is good. Everyone, everyone is good. Good, good, everyone. Everyone is good.

CALLER: Pacifica's very special.

ANNOUNCER: *How Is Pacifica Different* was produced by Otis Harding Maclay and mixed at Scooter Built Studios for KPFT, bigger than Texas--

[MOOING]

--and Pacifica with excerpts from WBAI's Peter Bochan, also from WBAI--

JANET COLEMAN: Janet Coleman--

ANNOUNCER: From KPFK--

CALLER: Thank you, Rafael.

PRESENTER 17: Thank you, Dave.

ANNOUNCER: From KPFA--

CAROL SPOONER: Carol Spooner--

[? GREGORY WONDER WHEEL: ?] [? Gregory ?] [? Wonder ?] [? Wheel-- ?]

ANNOUNCER: With [? Jeffrey-- ?]

JEFFREY LANKFURT: Are you taping this?

ANNOUNCER: [? --Lankfurt ?] from KZXY Mendocino. Also--

PRESENTER 18: [? TUC ?] Radio and [? Moriah ?] [? Daleiden. ?]

ANNOUNCER: Don't forget--

JESSE WALKER: Jesse Walker, associate editor at *Reason Magazine* and author of *Rebels on the Air-- An Alternative History of Radio in America*.

ANNOUNCER: Also [? Stephanie-- ?]

[? STEPHANIE ?] Free speech

HENDRICKS:

ANNOUNCER: [? --Hendricks ?] and--

[? STEPHANIE ?] [? Stephanie ?] [? Brooks-- ?]

BROOKS:

ANNOUNCER: From KPFT--

GILBERT Gilbert Gelding--

GELDING:

[? JIMMY ?] Jimmy Clark--

CLARK:

ANNOUNCER: Jacqueline Baptiste, Debbie--

[? DEBBIE ?] How dare you--

CAMPBELL:

ANNOUNCER: --Campbell, Dr.--

PRESENTER 13: Brass Knuckles--

ANNOUNCER: --Woodson.

[? CHRIS ?] [? Chris ?] [? Hanson. ?]

HANSON:

[? NUSRAT ?] [? Nusrat ?] [? Malik-- ?]

MALIK:

ANNOUNCER: Ray Hill from Grassroots Radio, Unwelcome Guests, Free Pacifica, Save Pacifica, the A Infos Radio Project, and Radio for All--

PRESENTER 13: Brass Knuckles--

ANNOUNCER: [? Lynn ?] Garrett.

PRESENTER 13: It's brass knuckles radio. Brass knuckles.

ANNOUNCER: Music by Talking Heads, Mickey Hart, Slum Village, NPR, Moody Blues, and The Roches. Thank you for listening.

PRESENTER 13: It's brass knuckles radio. Brass Knuckle.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, yeah. [? Jeff ?] [? Krasner, ?] "Son of a Preacher Man." Boy, he does that good. I like his version very, very much.

And you're listening to *After Hours*, queer radio with attitude on KPFT Houston and KEOS college station. That was the Pacifica governance report. There's two more of them coming our way. They're being done that all kinds of-- all times of the day and night and weekdays and weekends just so that we can get the word out to everyone who listens to KPFT.

Now let's see. We've got a whole bunch of folks here. Let's-- Lynn. Hello, Lynn.

HOST 2: Morning.

JIMMY CARPER: Morning. How you doing?

HOST 2: Doing fine.

JIMMY CARPER: We've got-- let's see. Who have we got on the mic here?

HOST 3: Hello.

JIMMY CARPER: Hello, Bobby.

HOST 3: This is Merlin.

JIMMY CARPER: Hey.

HOST 3: How you doing?

HOST 4: Hello. I'm Kenny.

JIMMY CARPER: Kenny.

HOST 5: Who am I?

[LAUGHTER]

Chris.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, OK.

HOST 5: Yeah, Chris.

JIMMY CARPER: But--

HOST 5: I wasn't sure what name I was going by this week.

JIMMY CARPER: Lynn is the newest on the *After Hours* staff, and you've got some information about the Rainbow Room.

HOST 2: Well, actually it's Ranch Hill Saloon--

JIMMY CARPER: Ranch Hill Saloon, oh my-- didn't I say KPFT Houston and KEOS college station?

HOST 5: Oh, I wasn't even pointing that out.

JIMMY CARPER: I figured she was going to start talking so we just do the traditional thing of just ignoring whatever's going on in the other room. I was going to go to something else with you.

HOST 4: Oh, OK. Gotcha. Oh.

JIMMY CARPER: Go ahead, Lynn.

HOST 2: All right. Ranch Hill Saloon on the 31st of August is going to have a talent show. They've got 17 trophies they're going to give out. Will be princess and prince for the talent show. It's going to be karaoke.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, boy. That could be really good or that could be really bad.

HOST 2: I think it's going to be good. Their website is www.RanchHill.com. Also information that I wanted to get out for those of us who live up there in that northern area is they will have a free AIDS testing from the Montrose Clinic--

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, good.

HOST 2: On the 29th of August. So any of us that do not want to drive down here to Houston, we have our chance up there to do this.

JIMMY CARPER: The 29th of August, what day is that? Do you--

HOST 2: That's a Thursday.

JIMMY CARPER: Thursday.

HOST 2: That is also men's night.

JIMMY CARPER: Oooh!

HOST 5: Men's night.

JIMMY CARPER: Menz-- M-E-N-Z.

Where's up there?

HOST 2: Up there is in Conroe, Texas. They are located on Airport Road. I believe the address is 2111.

JIMMY CARPER: Ranch Hill Saloon.

HOST 2: Yes, sir.

JIMMY CARPER: Now isn't there another bar in Conroe now?

HOST 2: That's the only--

JIMMY CARPER: Is that the only one?

HOST 2: One that I know of that's up there.

JIMMY CARPER: But they've been doing lots of shows with the Royal Sovereign Empirical Court of the Single Star and I believe the Imperial Court of Houston also did a show up there. They've been very, very generous in opening up their doors to raising money for AIDS organizations.

HOST 2: Yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

HOST 2: They've been real good. They've-- last week, I was up there, and then I went up tonight for a couple hours. And they're having a real good turnout. I'm really impressed. If I may, I'd like to give the number out.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, please do.

HOST 2: And make me go slow here, Jimmy.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, I know because I'm writing it.

HOST 2: Oh, OK. Area code 936--

JIMMY CARPER: 936, woo! OK, that must be long distance. 936--

HOST 2: Not if you live up there.

HOST 3: [INAUDIBLE]

JIMMY CARPER: That's right.

HOST 2: 411--

JIMMY CARPER: 441--

HOST 2: 64.

JIMMY CARPER: 64.

HOST 2: 26.

JIMMY CARPER: 26. 936-441-6426.

HOST 2: That's it.

JIMMY CARPER: Ranch Hill Saloon. Yeah.

HOST 2: www.RanchHill.com.

JIMMY CARPER: Good. What does it look like on the inside?

HOST 2: It reminds me a lot of Chances.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, OK.

HOST 2: It does. They have--

JIMMY CARPER: Well, you just scared the men of the group here.

[LAUGHTER]

HOST 2: It is mixed up there.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, sure.

HOST 2: I've been really impressed with what I've seen up there. Thursday is basically all men. That's OK. Wednesday and Friday, we have karaoke up there. The guys participate in that and do rather well.

JIMMY CARPER: Good.

HOST 5: Yeah, there's the reason why karaoke translates to tone deaf.

JIMMY CARPER: There used to be a bar in Houston that cater to men and women. And I really had the most fun there because I don't know. There wasn't any pressure.

HOST 2: Yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: No, it wasn't a dating frenzy thing. Plus the music was great because they played everything from dance to country and western. So you could actually waltz plus doing anything else.

HOST 2: Hell, I won't say they do any waltz, but they did have some country and western. And they do--

JIMMY CARPER: Sure.

HOST 2: Some rock up there.

JIMMY CARPER: Little two step.

HOST 2: Just a little bit of everything. And like you said, the mixed group, the mixed company there does take a lot of the pressure off.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah. Probably has a pool table.

HOST 2: Two of them as a matter of fact.

JIMMY CARPER: OK. Sounds like a fun place.

HOST 2: It is. I've enjoyed the last couple of trips up there.

JIMMY CARPER: Good. Good. OK. Let's see. We have a heterosexual in the house.

[LAUGHTER]

HOST 5: And maybe he just ran away.

JIMMY CARPER: An avowed heterosexual.

GUEST: Yes.

[LAUGHTER]

HOST 5: In the words of the Borg, you will be assimilated.

JIMMY CARPER: Nah, nah, nah, nah. We treasure our straight friends. You want to get on the mic there.

GUEST: Yes, it wasn't for straight-- if it wasn't for the straight people there, we wouldn't have more homosexuals.

JIMMY CARPER: There is not enough turkey basters to go around.

GUEST: That's right.

JIMMY CARPER: We come from people like you. And can you tell us your name, please.

HOST 3: He doesn't have headphones on yet so he can't hear most of what you're saying I don't think.

HOST 5: And he's lucky for it, too.

JIMMY CARPER: Hey, hey, hey, can you tell me your name please?

GUEST: Probably not.

JIMMY CARPER: What name would you like to use for the evening?

[INAUDIBLE]

[LAUGHTER]

JIMMY CARPER: Let's put it this way, darling. There's very few people who will know who the heck you are listening at this hour of the morning.

GUEST: All right. Yeah, my name's David.

JIMMY CARPER: Hey, David.

HOST 4: There's a lot of people listening at this hour and--

JIMMY CARPER: I didn't say there weren't a lot of people listening. I said a lot of people who would know who he is.

HOST 4: Oh, OK.

JIMMY CARPER: Thanks for coming on. You came in with a friend of yours.

GUEST: Yeah, I came in with Kenny. He's-- he's my gay friend. I'm living straight in a gay world.

HOST 4: Yeah, there's-- he's constantly surrounded by gay people.

GUEST: Yeah.

HOST 4: It's like-- if we go down to Lobos, and he's like I just like the environment.

JIMMY CARPER: I know what you mean. In fact, my ex landlord, who's very, very straight, became very-- we became a family, my ex landlord and his wife and then a couple other people in the mix. And at the beginning when I first met him, he was a little uptight about hanging out with some gay guy and--

HOST 4: Especially one in a bright pink shirt.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah. You can tell pink is my color. But after a few years, he just-- all of those walls came tumbling down and he-- I'd walk in the door and he said hello Queen Ola.

Just let that feminine side out and--

GUEST: Well, see, I come from a podunk town. I come from out in West Texas, and there are no gay people out there.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, yes, there are.

HOST 4: Yes, there are.

HOST 3: There are.

JIMMY CARPER: They're just not out. They're just there.

HOST 4: David was afraid to take me there--

HOST 3: Did you not have any women coaches in your-- in school? Come on.

GUEST: I've been to Midland Odessa.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, ooh, that's-- that's exactly where I'm from.

GUEST: Yes. Yes.

JIMMY CARPER: There are gay people there, but you don't see them.

GUEST: No. You're right.

JIMMY CARPER: They're not gay as far as anybody's concerned.

GUEST: In the conservative area like that, gay-- there are a lot of gay people, but they don't go out to any clubs. There may be one gay club, but only the most brave will go to it. And in a town like that, gay people know each other, and they have functions at their own-- at their houses.

HOST 4: Yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: And I came here and the first day of school, I walk in and I see two girls making out. And I'm like OK, wow. When did this happen? That was our school--

HOST 3: Whoa, a heterosexual dream.

JIMMY CARPER: Well, that was our schools token lesbian couple.

GUEST: Oh, I see.

JIMMY CARPER: They were the well-known lesbian couple.

GUEST: Gotcha.

JIMMY CARPER: So how did you feel?

GUEST: Just first it shocked me, and then after a while I was just like you know what. Forget it. I don't-- it's-- it's them. If I'm offended by it, they don't really care. They're often their own little world. I'm sure they could discuss it if they see me making out with some girl in the hallway.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

HOST 4: I well.

JIMMY CARPER: You sound like Montrose material.

GUEST: Yeah

JIMMY CARPER: Well, actually the gay population in the Montrose probably only about 20% to 30%.

HOST 5: That's the world.

HOST 3: We just happen to be the most visible because we're out there.

JIMMY CARPER: We just have lots of straight but not narrow friends.

HOST 3: Exactly.

HOST 4: Unfortunately there's a lot more narrow moving him.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, well-- yeah, well, we have had to deal on occasion with people walking into places like Lobos or what was formerly Crossroads.

HOST 3: Yes.

JIMMY CARPER: And you watch them. They will walk into the building, they will go, they will look around for a few moments, and if it's at Lobo's, they will-- the mother or father who invariably will have a 10-- a five-year-old with them will suddenly realize oops, taking a good look past the sign that says "18 only."

HOST 3: And with just good cause.

JIMMY CARPER: With good--

HOST 4: That sign is not visible anyway.

JIMMY CARPER: And all of a sudden-- and all of a sudden they beat a hasty retreat back toward the front door--

HOST 3: And send the husband back to go buy a napkin rings.

JIMMY CARPER: And do back-- send the husband back to buy napkin rings.

HOST 3: Yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, you know. It's just-- the poor dears, they don't know how to handle us.

MERLIN: Well, they've got to get used to it.

CHRIS: They better get used to it because they're moving into our neighborhood.

JIMMY: We're here. We're not going away.

CHRIS: Exactly, and the straight ones who have been here have been dealing with us for a century now.

JIMMY: Yeah.

CHRIS: Plus I always remember back about a year and a half ago, I got tickets to see the movie *Hit and Runway*. It was a special screening they were doing. And they didn't give out the tickets to just the gay population, even though this is a gay-themed film.

JIMMY: Mm-hmm.

CHRIS: So I'm in the theater, and there's a bunch of-- I look around before the lights went dimmed and basically a lot of older people, couples, granny and grampy in there watching the film. And in late comes this woman with her two daughters, probably 8 and 10.

MERLIN: Oh no, not a good thing.

CHRIS: Within about two minutes of them sitting down, there was two men kissing on the screen. And they were sitting probably about three or four rows behind me. And I heard the one girl go, yeah.

[LAUGHTER]

Next thing I know the three of them are flying down the aisle.

JIMMY: That's the door. That's fine.

CHRIS: That's what they get for picking a film, by taking these free tickets and not looking at any idea of what the film is about.

KENNY: Oh, no.

JIMMY: They should have stayed. They probably would have learned something.

CHRIS: Well, besides the fact, I mean, it's a rated R film, and she's bringing her two daughters in.

JIMMY: Yeah.

KENNY: Oh.

DAVID: Well, you find that most heterosexual people don't want to learn that there are people that feel the same way we feel about our opposite sex as the same way about the same sex. And that they're actual people.

JIMMY: Yeah.

DAVID: I mean, it's--

MERLIN: That's the thing I was really scared about coming out in high school was that they wouldn't see me as a person. They would see me as my sexual identity.

JIMMY: Yeah.

MERLIN: And I was just like, OK, it doesn't matter who I sleep with. I'm a real person here.

JIMMY: Yeah.

LYN: Sexual orientation, not identity.

MERLIN: Exactly.

JIMMY: Yeah.

CHRIS: Now, if you're talking about coming from the Podunk Mid-Ode--

JIMMY: Midland-Odessa.

CHRIS: Now, do you live here in the city, or do you live in the suburban area?

DAVID: I live up with-- I live up around where Kenny does. I live in Spring.

JIMMY: OK.

KENNY: He is suburban America.

CHRIS: Hey, I understand I live in Copperfield. I went to school out in Klein.

JIMMY: Oh, sorry.

[LAUGHTER]

MERLIN: Whoa, I knew you were fine, huh?

JIMMY: Well, was it Klein or Klein Oak?

DAVID: Klein.

JIMMY: OK, that's where they, like, drive the Mercedes and--

CHRIS: Yeah, yeah, there were three-- there's three schools in--

KENNY: Klein, Klein Oak.

DAVID: That's what I was doing there.

CHRIS: And if you're gay, they'll drive the Mercedes over you.

LYN: It wasn't clear like at the Hilton.

[LAUGHTER]

JIMMY: That's right. That's right. That's right.

MERLIN: Oh.

KENNY: No.

JIMMY: No, no, there's a young man in the background who refuses to get on a mike and everything.

CHRIS: Well, he hasn't found a good-looking enough mike to go sit on.

LYN: No.

MERLIN: Oh.

KENNY: Oh.

MERLIN: Now, he went there.

JIMMY: Now, the reason I would love for him to be a part of this conversation is because if anybody here was not a-- sorry, if there was anybody here who did not fit--

LYN: A stereotype? I'm the walking contradiction.

JIMMY: It's the walking contradiction here, the guy who drives the great red barge.

LYN: No, I know.

JIMMY: Yeah.

LYN: F350 Crew Cab Dually. I'm a country redneck gay chef.

[LAUGHTER]

MERLIN: That thing is bigger than my first apartment, just huge. Are you kidding?

LYN: Who pay this?

MERLIN: That thing can play. It was bigger than my apartment.

LYN: A VCR and a PlayStation.

CHRIS: You better be careful with this type of videos.

JIMMY: That's just wrong, yeah.

CHRIS: Didn't you hear there was a couple of guys that were arrested for watching porno in their Explorer?

JIMMY: No.

MERLIN: Oh.

CHRIS: Yeah, I've heard two different stories. One of them was they're actually blow driving. The other one was they were just in the parking lot.

KENNY: What kind of porno?

DAVID: Obviously they haven't--

CHRIS: It was straight porn.

LYN: Oh.

MERLIN: No, right?

KENNY: How unfortunate for them.

LYN: Growing up in Santa Fe was interesting as hell.

JIMMY: Yeah.

LYN: I couldn't come out in-- definitely couldn't come out in high school because my friends-- after I did come out to them, they said that they would never talk to me all but one and come to find out he was gay anyway.

JIMMY: [INAUDIBLE] on this.

DAVID: I'm sorry you just live in Santa Fe. That's over.

LYN: Yeah, Santa Fe is interesting.

JIMMY: Yeah.

LYN: My junior year-- we protested the parking lot and drove our tractors to school.

KENNY: Oh, my god.

MERLIN: What?

[LAUGHTER]

JIMMY: Did you organize that thing?

LYN: I had a part in it. The school shrunk the parking lot spaces down. They were like, oh, we're going to make new more parking spaces. Well, they just took a foot off of each one.

KENNY: Oh, my god.

LYN: My truck didn't fit in those small parking. So is our tractors-- they would fit

[LAUGHTER]

CHRIS: Santa Fe where deliverance is considered a biography.

[LAUGHTER]

JIMMY: So David, since you've been in Houston and you've gotten to know Kenny and many other gay people, yeah, can you kind of look back at your days in Midland-Odessa and think, gee, I'll bet so-and-so is gay, or have you thought about that?

LYN: Have you got your gaydar yet?

DAVID: Actually yes, I do.

JIMMY: Hey, hey.

DAVID: I have a very good one.

MERLIN: Yeah, it scares the hell out of me.

KENNY: He works at a mall, so yeah.

JIMMY: Oh, OK.

DAVID: Oh God.

JIMMY: OK, hold on. You spend all your time in Montrose. What sort of work in the mall?

[LAUGHTER]

LYN: Is this what you want to tell us?

JIMMY: Oh, what type of store do you work in the mall?

DAVID: In a food store.

JIMMY: Yeah, I see.

LYN: Oh, hell yeah.

JIMMY: OK.

[LAUGHTER]

CHRIS: Are we talking like the Hickory Barn?

DAVID: No, no, no, no, no.

CHRIS: Because if that was the case, then you could still claim.

JIMMY: Yeah, well, you see David, if anything should change with your life, we do have a bisexual segment here.

DAVID: Oh, no, no, no, no.

LYN: Which is on the second.

CHRIS: And I'm sure Gigi will be more than happy to--

JIMMY: Oh, yeah.

KENNY: David said that the only reason he become gay is to get a really cool car.

DAVID: I'm serious. I've been down here. And the one thing I've noticed the most about all the gay people down here is they all drive really nice cars, with the exception of a very few. I mean, all I've seen are Mercedes, BMW.

KENNY: '95 Geo Prizm.

JIMMY: Yeah.

[LAUGHTER]

DAVID: But you live in the-- you live in suburbs, so you're not a gay person.

KENNY: Oh, I'm a suburban gay when the cause is won, so--

CHRIS: So the term what you're looking for, David, is called sugar Daddy.

[LAUGHTER]

JIMMY: What it is is we don't have children, for the most part, but some of us are coupling and having children. And so we have--

LYN: And cats and dogs don't count.

JIMMY: Yeah.

KENNY: Oh, responding.

JIMMY: Yeah.

LYN: Yeah.

DAVID: The children some gay people should have.

CHRIS: Yeah, the only one in our community that are having children are the Catholic priests.

MERLIN: Ooh.

JIMMY: Ooh, ouch.

DAVID: Ooh.

KENNY: Ouch.

LYN: That's made a full complete--

KENNY: That's a different episode.

LYN: --segment, right?

CHRIS: OK, I can say that I'm a Catholic in recovery, former altar boy.

JIMMY: Recovering Catholic-- yes, that happens.

CHRIS: I am planning the lawsuit because I was never touched. And I feel I deserve some money out of that.

KENNY: Oh.

DAVID: Yeah, most people know I'm pagan. And somebody asked me a few years ago what I was giving up polenta. I said Catholicism. They didn't--

JIMMY: They didn't go for that.

MERLIN: I gave up Catholicism for Lent several years ago myself.

[LAUGHTER]

I'm about ready to be a best man at my brother's wedding. I said if the priest asked what church I go to, tell him I pray at the church of Saint [INAUDIBLE] of the [INAUDIBLE].

[LAUGHTER]

LYN: Oh.

MERLIN: Yeah.

JIMMY: Ouch.

KENNY: OK.

JIMMY: OK, now, any other religion you'd like to bash tonight, girl?

KENNY: No, no, I enjoy my Christianity too much.

CHRIS: Oh, and by the way, he's Christian. That's another--

KENNY: Not typicality, you know?

MERLIN: There are a lot of Christians.

CHRIS: And there are a lot of gay Christians.

LYN: Yes, I'm actually really good in the churches. Right now, I don't know much about the subject, but soon Noel and Jim Noel are doing wonderful stuff in the churches.

JIMMY: Do you know that there are-- I'm sorry, go ahead.

LYN: Oh, no, I'm just-- go ahead.

JIMMY: There are more gay religious groups. I mean, you name the religion, there's a gay group.

KENNY: I thought in the parade.

JIMMY: There are more gay religious groups than there are gay bars.

KENNY: Oh, my goodness.

JIMMY: And there were-- as you noticed, if you watched the parade, there were more religious--

KENNY: More than half of them.

JIMMY: --than there were bars.

MERLIN: There's everything. I mean, there are gay Jewish groups and gay Catholic groups and gay Christian other--

LYN: You name it.

MERLIN: And Pagan. And then you name it, there's a group out there for it.

JIMMY: Because most of us grew up in a faith. And spirituality just doesn't go flying out the window just because you're gay.

MERLIN: Just because you're gay.

JIMMY: That's right. And many people would show in the gay church.

KENNY: Oh, wow.

JIMMY: RMCC, but a lot of people want to stay with the religion that they grew up with.

MERLIN: And I think that a major part of that is because we've come to accept the idea that God in whatever--