

**JIMMY CARPER:** Right.

**JUDY:** Literally.

**JEWEL:** Really?

**JIM:** Oh, yeah, that's right.

**JUDY:** Yes, don't go there.

**JIMMY CARPER:** And so many people-- when you say Houston, the first thing they think of is Mary's.

**JEWEL:** Mary's.

**JIM:** Mary's naturally.

**JEWEL:** Mary's was the first gay bar I ever walked in to.

**JIMMY CARPER:** See? Mary's was the first bar in Houston that ever had go-go boys.

**JEWEL:** Go-go boys.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Go-go boys has been open that long.

**JEWEL:** I remember when the drummer had go-go boy.

**JIMMY CARPER:** And it opened when I was young, so you can imagine how old that is. Anyway, Jewel, thank you.

**JEWEL:** I'll be back on the third week and next month.

**JIMMY CARPER:** That's right. Have a wonderful Pride Week.

**JUDY:** And we're going to wait here at this time.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Jim, thank you. Judy, thank you.

**JUDY:** Thank you.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Rainbow's probably going to be hanging around.

**BIG ROY:** They did tear down Midnight Sun--

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes, they did.

**BIG ROY:** --just recently. I can't believe it.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes, but I will always think of that as Jerry Vanover's play.

**JEWEL:** Yeah.

**BIG ROY:** I could not believe it.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes.

**JEWEL:** Yeah.

**JUDY:** We'll get a picture and we'll--

**JEWEL:** The midnight's come, and what was the one across the street? The Chicken Coop.

**BIG ROY:** The Chicken Coop, whoo.

**JUDY:** I have a Chicken Coop T-shirt.

**BIG ROY:** And then over there off--

**JEWEL:** Oh really?

**JUDY:** Yes.

**BIG ROY:** Then over there off of Tuam, the Old Hole.

**JEWEL:** Yeah, the Old Hole.

**BIG ROY:** It's now housing. Well, everything's going to houses, half of this neighborhood.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah, really.

**JUDY:** That's a home next Sunday.

**JIMMY CARPER:** OK, we'll see you next month. Thank you very much. Now, a little something from True Soul, our friends True Soul, Jerry and Jose. Ooh and Jose is so cute. Oh, my, my.

**JERRY:** Hi, we're True Soul, and you're listening to *After Hours*.

**JIMMY CARPER:** And we're back at *After Hours*, Queer Radio With Attitude. And Big Roy is going to tell you about some of the things going on at the community center. And Katie is going to talk about the art thing that's going on there. So between the two of you, fight it out.

**BIG ROY:** OK.

**KATIE:** Oh, do you want me to go?

**BIG ROY:** Yeah, go ahead. Let us know what arty thing is going on over there.

**KATIE:** Right, well, we're having the Lesbian and Gay Community Center Art Festival, Saturday, June 22 at 7:30 PM. We're having a number of local LGBT artists. On the list is David Ellsworth, Jamie Davenport, David Groover, Tori MacMillan, Kat [? Bozanic. ?] We're also going to have some live entertainment there. And I'm actually DJing there as well, spinning some house stuff and some more popular stuff.

**BIG ROY:** Cool.

**KATIE:** So yeah, I'm really excited about that. I'm looking forward to it. And again, that's Saturday, June 22 at 7:30, the Lesbian and Gay Community Center Art Festival.

**BIG ROY:** OK, now, this weekend, in partnership with the Houston Gay and Lesbian Film Festival, the community center is sponsoring two movie screenings and a costume contest. *The Wizard of Oz* sing-along will be held on Sunday. The community center is sponsoring the screening of the 60th anniversary print of *The Wizard of Oz*, and that's going to be at the Rice Media Center.

**KATIE:** Sunday, Sunday, Sunday.

**BIG ROY:** And in conjunction with the screening, the center is hosting a sing-along during the movie, which begins at 2:00 PM. Glinda, the good witch, will lead the audience in singing *Over the Rainbow* and other tunes from that 1939 Judy Garland hit.

**KATIE:** I wonder who they have done the fairy.

**BIG ROY:** Oh, trust me, there will be no shortage of fairies.

**KATIE:** (GIGGLE) I am so not going there.

**BIG ROY:** And the Rice Media Center, if you don't know, is located on the campus of Rice University. It wouldn't be at U of H.

**KATIE:** Oh, no.

**BIG ROY:** Of course not.

**KATIE:** Of course not.

**BIG ROY:** Anyways, take entrance number 8 from University Boulevard. Admission to films at Rice Media Center is only \$6.

**KATIE:** That is not a bad deal at all.

**BIG ROY:** That is not a bad deal. And they're also having something for people like me, a Divine look-alike contest.

**KATIE:** Oh, gosh.

**BIG ROY:** The community center is sponsoring the Sunday--

**KATIE:** Sunday, Sunday, Sunday, yes.

**BIG ROY:** --June 16 screening of *Female Trouble*, which was a 1975 John Waters classic starring the legendary Divine.

**KATIE:** You got to love Divine.

**BIG ROY:** Oh, she was just so divine.

**KATIE:** She was so great.

**BIG ROY:** Anyways, prior to the 7:00 PM screening, the center will host the Divine look-alike contest and a panel of three judges will pick out the most divine of the divine.

**KATIE:** Now, I would kill to see you in Divine outfit. Seriously, I think that would just be the bee's knees.

**BIG ROY:** And wouldn't you know, Jim Carper, our very own Jim Carper, producer and host of *After Hours*--

**JIMMY CARPER:** What?

**BIG ROY:** --*OutSmart* contributor D. L. Groover, and the community center's vice president, Deb Murphy will be the judges on the Divine look-alike.

**KATIE:** Wait a second. If he's judging then, wouldn't he be biased for you? Wait a second.

**BIG ROY:** Anyway, the top Divine will receive a prize.

**JIM CARPER:** Big Roy is going to go as Divine.

**BIG ROY:** I don't think so.

**KATIE:** Oh, come on. You know you want to. Come on, you know you want to.

**BIG ROY:** Thankfully I will be at work.

**KATIE:** Oh, crud.

**BIG ROY:** You know it.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Besides, I'm not going there. No.

**BIG ROY:** The top Divine will receive a prize and a center membership. And all contestants are admitted free to the screening of *Female Trouble* as guests of the center, so you got to come in full drag as Divine.

**KATIE:** Oh my God. It makes me wish I had gained about 200 pounds and had the other parts.

**BIG ROY:** Now, also going on at the center is they're offering varying programs for Houston's gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender community, including a celebration of NAMES Project Houston through objects, photographs, and memorabilia from a collection from the Gulf Coast Archive and Museum of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered History as well as paintings from the positive art workshop, which is located at 803 Hawthorne.

**KATIE:** Wow.

**BIG ROY:** And if you would like more information, call the center at 713-524-2022.

**KATIE:** Wow.

**BIG ROY:** Also, Pride Parade is coming up, and--

**KATIE:** Of course.

**BIG ROY:** --the Pride committee of Houston needs volunteers for Houston's Annual Pride Parade. And so if you'd like to volunteer, go to the center and leave a message in the box or you can call the center at 713-529-6979.

**KATIE:** Yeah, and hopefully, we can get some of the younger crowd too because just personally, I just think that it's great that we have a lot of mentors within the community. But hopefully we can get some more people, the post-Hatch kids, and so forth involved too. I think that would be really good.

**BIG ROY:** Also, now, this is not necessarily at the center, but we got to tell you the Montrose Clinic has been selected as the beneficiary of charity tables at Katz's Deli throughout the whole month of June.

**KATIE:** Oh my God.

**BIG ROY:** So if you'd like to, you'd have to request to eat at their charity table and 10% of the total food bill will go to a donation-- as a donation to the Montrose Clinic.

Speaking of which, the Montrose Clinic offers free HIV testing Mondays at Key West at 8:00 PM to midnight and Brick's 4:00 PM to 4:00 PM, also on Wednesdays at Mary's 4:00 to 8:00 PM, and then at the Lesbian, Gay Community Center on Wednesdays from 6:00 to 9:00 PM.

If you'd like more information about this, you can call the Montrose Clinic at 713-830-3000. And so there you have it. You've got the screening of *The Wizard of Oz* with Glinda, the good witch, leading a sing-along and *Over the Rainbow*. And then you got Jimmy Carper judging who is the most divine of the divine. Now, Jimmy, what kind of criteria goes into judging the divine of the divine?

**KATIE:** Yeah.

**BIG ROY:** What kind of divination do you use to who is divine?

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh, well, it's not so much the look as the--

**KATIE:** Attitude?

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah, that's it.

**KATIE:** Well, because Divine had a definite attitude.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Whoo, did she ever.

**KATIE:** I mean, the girl just carried her weight like nothing in this business, I swear.

**JIMMY CARPER:** OK.

**BIG ROY:** And that's all we have for the community center for this week. And next week, Chris, will have more goings on.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Good, thanks very much.

**ANNOUNCER:** Houston Global Awareness Collective is having a yard sale on Saturday, June 29 from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM at Corazon Fair Trade Arts and Crafts located at 2318 Waugh Drive. All proceeds will go to funding a lecture given by Noam Chomsky on October 18 and organizing various other community actions.

We are in urgent need of donations from the sale, so clean out your closets and garages and drop off your donation at Corazon between 12:00 PM and 5:00 PM, Tuesday through Sunday. Again, the yard sale will be held on Saturday, June 29 at 2318 Waugh Drive between Fairview and Maryland. For more information, contact [hjac2001@yahoo.com](mailto:hjac2001@yahoo.com) or call 713-743-3093.

**JIMMY CARPER:** You're listening to *After Hours*, Queer Radio With Attitude on KPFT Houston and KEOS College Station. I'm Jimmy Carper. And we have Stephen Jerome.

**STEPHEN** Well, good morning.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Good morning. Good morning, and welcome to your new spot.

**STEPHEN** Yes this is the life, but I'm living fine.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah, last month was your first run-through and tonight this--

**STEPHEN** And yes, I did a good job.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** You did a really good job.

**STEPHEN** You have shifted me another hour.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Well, yeah.

**STEPHEN** OK.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah, we've shifted that 1:00 to 4:00 instead of midnight to 3:00, but we'll survive, and we'll still do good program. I always remind folks that originally this show was from 2:00 to 4:00.

**STEPHEN** AM?

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** AM.

**STEPHEN** Central Standard Time.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** That's why it was called *After Hours*, after the bars closed. And it was really geared toward gay men who came home alone after the bars closed and were by themselves.

And the originator, Buddy Johnston, would get on and just talk about gay life and being gay and coming out of the closet, and all of that. And he screamed it for so many years. And so many people have done it now. So I almost don't even think about talking about coming out of the closet.

**PARTICIPANT:** I'm coming in to apologize and get a kiss.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh, just for what?

**PARTICIPANT:** For being late. I was half hour late.

**STEPHEN** Late?

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah, well, you see, we were doing stuff, though.

**STEPHEN** It's 2:45 in the morning.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** We'll see you next-- yeah. Let's see in the-- yes, yes, yes.

**STEPHEN** So now, I'm competing with what, 10 o'clock news in Hawaii?

**JEROME:**

[LAUGHTER]

OK.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Actually, we're a breakfast show in London.

**STEPHEN** OK.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** If you can imagine--

**STEPHEN** Somebody bring me an omelette, please.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** --a breakfast show. I know. You looked like you could use some breakfast.

**STEPHEN** Well, to all my brothers and sisters out there who are awake, good morning.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Good morning.

**STEPHEN** I hope you have your coffee cup with me. Our guest for the morning's segment is either asleep.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Or didn't set his alarm.

**STEPHEN** Yeah, I won't say what else.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah.

**STEPHEN** But anyway, tonight, we're going to hear a little segment. And we're going to start off with a little music by a lady

**JEROME:** who was known to be an open bisexual in her day.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes.

**STEPHEN** She was the Lady Day, Billie Holiday. And in this song, she sings a song about strange fruit and what it's like

**JEROME:** being different in a norm society. So here's Mrs. Day.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Let's get to it. And you're listening to it on *After Hours*, Queer Radio With Attitude on KPFT Houston and KEOS College Station.

Well, my engineering skills are somewhat less than what they should be tonight.

**STEPHEN** You need another cup of coffee.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah, I do need another cup of coffee, evidently. OK, here we go.

Lady Day, Billie Holiday with *Strange Fruit*. And as you said, I really like this version because you don't have too many things of her talking actually. And that song was written for her. That I didn't know until I got this CD.

**STEPHEN** Well, we do have some announcements coming up.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes, we do.

**STEPHEN** We get these out of the way, and then we can just gay out for the rest of the night. The Houston Black Lesbian

**JEROME:** and Gay Coalition is having a mixer this Wednesday to celebrate Juneteenth beginning at 7:30 at the Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center.

**JIMMY CARPER:** What group is this now?

**STEPHEN** The Houston Black Lesbian and Gay Coalition.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** OK, now, is this a group you're involved with?

**STEPHEN** Yes, of course, why would you ask that?

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah, and what is your involvement in this group?

**STEPHEN** Currently, executive director.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** I see, I see. I see. OK, and this is a fairly new group?

**STEPHEN** Yes, it is. Well, actually it's not. It's an older group, kind of went asleep for a while.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh, OK.

**STEPHEN** About two years ago and started to revive it. And purpose of it is to network throughout the Black community to

**JEROME:** bring all the resources out there and make them available for the Black community.

**JIMMY CARPER:** We've been talking about that in particular, you and I--

**STEPHEN** Oh yeah.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** --in the last few weeks about the white gay community and the Black gay community and the problems in getting them together and the fact that probably the white gay community does not even realize that there is a different Black Pride Month.

**STEPHEN** Oh, yeah, they don't-- not only that. They believed that the mainstream, or if we want to call it the white gay community, does not actually realize that there are other unique gay communities within the gay community as a whole.

**JIMMY CARPER:** That's exactly right. Yes. For whatever reason, whether-- when I say the white gay community, I mean, that there's--

**STEPHEN** Basically, that's what we mean, Anglo-Saxon community.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah.

**STEPHEN** And other gay communities, such as the Black community-- their standards are different. Our standards are

**JEROME:** different. Our beliefs, our value system is different.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah, they have different value system because we were talking about that. One thing in particular about the difference in the Pride celebrations between the two is that there is a lot more church involved in Black pride.

**STEPHEN** But the church still plays a very vital role in the Black home and in the Black family where there's extended

**JEROME:** families, such as a gay family or the traditional family as we think of it sometime.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Mm-hmm.

**STEPHEN** And because church does play that role and family plays the importance, that's where sometime in the Black

**JEROME:** community we don't necessarily say come totally out because that's the issue, because we do want to respect our family.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Mm-hmm.

**STEPHEN** And it's not to say it's hiding. It's just a matter of respect sometimes.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah.

**STEPHEN** And so with this-- and we celebrate Black Pride. We celebrate Black Pride and Gay Pride differently.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes, we do.

**STEPHEN** In the white community, you're marching. It's like saying, hey, I'm out here. And in the Black community, we like,

**JEROME:** hey, we've been to a party.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes, that's right. Yeah.

**STEPHEN** So there is a difference there.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah, get your best clothes and just really look--

**STEPHEN** Yeah, there's a time to celebrate.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah, and look good and party.

**STEPHEN** Yeah.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Like you said, yeah.

**STEPHEN** And look at the eye candy. But along with that-- and this month is also a special month because we are

**JEROME:** celebrating Juneteenth--

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh yeah.

**STEPHEN** --as a lot of people-- all Blacks in Texas know it was June 19 that we found out that slavery had been abolished,

**JEROME:** even though it was six years late, so that says a lot about our postal system here.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Well, actually it was Union soldiers, wasn't it, that finally came to Texas.

**STEPHEN** Yeah, and they came to Galveston.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah.

**STEPHEN** In fact, they landed a few blocks away from Hollywood on the Boulevard.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** No kidding.

**STEPHEN** Maybe it was a bed and breakfast back then.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** OK, OK.

**STEPHEN** When they came here-- and because of the time difference, Blacks here celebrated June 19 as the day of

**JEROME:** emancipation.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah, it's just unbelievable even to me. And I'm not young that it would take that long for word to reach Texas that emancipation had happened.

**STEPHEN** Yes, well, it actually--

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** It's incredible.

**STEPHEN** Looking back at it, it was, like, almost a year and a half before Texas found out that we were actually in a war.

**JEROME:** That says a lot about what goes on here in Texas.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah, we are our own country in a lot of ways.

**STEPHEN** And still in a lot of ways, we are still our own country.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** And we're one of the-- also one of the key players in the Black community. I know there's a big group in DC.

**STEVEN** Currently?

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** And of course, I don't know. Probably both coasts they have--

**STEPHEN** Los Angeles has a very large population, such as Atlanta. And this city also is now making progress and strides

**JEROME:** where the Black gay community is becoming more visible. Like Splash Day is celebrated as Black Gay Pride here in Houston, which is nice.

**JIMMY CARPER:** That is nice.

**STEPHEN** Because cities across the country are starting and thinking. Now, it's like 18 cities have their own Black Gay

**JEROME:** Pride.

**JIMMY CARPER:** And being in the media, I'm often frustrated because I don't get the information so that I can promote this.

**STEPHEN** For whatever reason that is, that's basically been the same problem throughout all aspects of the Black

**JEROME:** community and the white community working together is that lack of communication. And hopefully the Black Lesbian and Gay Coalition will help solve part of their problem by buying a way to--

**JIMMY CARPER:** I'm hoping that. Yeah.

**STEPHEN** --open the communication lines between both communities.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** And especially through this segment, you know what? I want to have the whole community together.

**STEPHEN** Right.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** I've known for a long time that there's a separation between Black and white gays.

**STEPHEN** And not only in just Black and white gays, just really Black and white. In fact, in this country with all the different

**JEROME:** ethnic groups we have, we still have that separation--

**JIMMY CARPER:** Sure, we do.

**STEPHEN** --with all our different groups, I mean, Hispanic, Asian.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Absolutely, the Hispanics have a-- we talked about the bars being in the Montrose, but for Hispanics, that the two big huge bars--

**STEPHEN** Are outside Montrose.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** --are very outside southwest area. And then there's a couple of others along--

**STEPHEN** The Black bars outside of Montrose.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes, and really the white community doesn't even really know where Black bars are.

**STEPHEN** Right.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** It's going to be word of mouth or something.

**STEPHEN** From working at the Switchboard, a lot of the white community doesn't even know that there are bars outside of

**JEROME:** Montrose.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah, That's true. That's true. As a matter of fact, we're finding out--

**STEPHEN** Montrose is no longer really the scene of the gay universe.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** No, no, it used to be that--

**STEPHEN** Just like the city has diversified and grown, gay community has also.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** There are gay bars in Conroe.

**STEPHEN** Yes.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Of all places.

**STEPHEN** Yes, Conroe has like two gay bars now.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** That's Incredible to me. It used to be there was one on the north side. And just now, there's I think one or two still there and now Conroe too. It's incredible. In fact, the Courts is doing a show in one of the Conroe bars.

**STEPHEN** Oh.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah, so--

**STEPHEN** So that sounds like we need to go to Conroe.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** I've been there once.

**STEPHEN** Next month, we'll be from Conroe.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah, we'll do a live remote from the bar in Conroe.

**STEPHEN** Also, while we on the topic of talking about Juneteenth festivals and all this and in case of many, you don't know  
**JEROME:** they had a big Juneteenth parade downtown.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes.

**STEPHEN** Also, they were out of town, best pick park today with a very large picnic concert. I heard it was real great. I  
**JEROME:** didn't get to make it. I don't do concerts over 90 degrees.

**JIMMY CARPER:** I can understand that. I mean, there's a reason that the GLBT Pride Parade is at night.

**STEPHEN** Yeah.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes.

**STEPHEN** And there are still more things that'll be going on throughout the course of the week up until Wednesday on June  
**JEROME:** 19, different celebrations. The next dialogue meeting for the Men's Gathering--

**JIMMY CARPER:** Before you get into the Men's Gathering, I need to legally remind people that they are listening to *After Hours*,  
Queer Radio With Attitude on KPFT Houston and KEOS College Station.

**STEPHEN** OK, the Men's Gathering is going to be meeting Saturday, June 22, which is next Saturday.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** That's right. I finally got one of the announcements before it actually happened.

**STEPHEN** I usually read them like the day of it. It starts at 6:30 at Community Gospel Church, which is located at 4305  
**JEROME:** Lillian.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Mm-hmm.

**STEPHEN** And I believe they are understanding the drama-- they're going to be talking about the drama triangle, sex, love,  
**JEROME:** and addictions.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh, can you tell us a little bit about the Men's Gathering? I know you have been to-- you don't run it or anything  
like that. You've been to several of the meetings because we've talked about the Men's Gathering here on the  
show and on *Queer Voices* Monday night.

**STEPHEN** OK, yeah.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Every Monday night 8:00 to 10:00. I know that Paul Guillory has been a guest on that show.

**STEPHEN** The Men's Gathering-- it's a support group for Black African-American men.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** OK.

**STEPHEN** And I say both since I don't know which way you want to include yourself, but it's for--

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** That's kind of-- yeah, OK, go ahead.

**STEPHEN** It's for healing and for having a safe place to discuss issues that deal with being Black and being gay and being

**JEROME:** both within the community at large. It's a moderated meeting, and it's very helpful. And I think it's a very positive step with raising the self-esteem of Black men in the community.

**JIMMY CARPER:** And it's for Black men only.

**STEPHEN** Yes.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** OK.

**STEPHEN** They do have a meeting that's for women and for other races, but the Saturday meeting is for Black men only.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** I think that's important.

**STEPHEN** Yes, because it gives them a time to get together among their own selves and feel free to speak as they feel. And

**JEROME:** so I think it's a very positive step.

**JIMMY CARPER:** You've been to a couple of the meetings.

**STEPHEN** I attend a Yahoo group, OK?

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh, OK, OK.

**STEPHEN** And going on--

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** And so you we're talking about there was a triangle thing.

**STEPHEN** Yeah, they're talking about sex, love, and addictions, kind of self-explanatory.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah, well, when you get to addictions and then you're talking about sex and love, certainly both of those can be addictive.

**STEPHEN** Oh yeah.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** But there are other, of course, addictions in all community.

**STEPHEN** There are addictions that will lead you to sometime make unsafe choices when it comes to sex, unhealthy

**JEROME:** choices--

**JIMMY CARPER:** There you go.

**STEPHEN** --to be with love. And addictions when-- a lot of people like to think of addictions as drug alcohol addictions, but you can be addicted to just having somebody around you. We have fancy words like codependency, but that still mean you're being addicted to having somebody there.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah.

**STEPHEN** And so it's not always just drugs and alcohol. It might be other addictions that you have and how they may cause you to make not necessarily the right decisions at times. So any guys, Black guys out there, if you want to check this out, go check it out. It's a good thing to really attend.

**JIMMY CARPER:** That's at the Community Gospel Church next Saturday at--

**STEPHEN** 6:30 till 9:30.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** OK.

**STEPHEN** 4305 Lillian, just off of Washington Boulevard.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Mm-hmm.

**STEPHEN** But that's south of The Heights, yeah.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah.

**STEPHEN** OK.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah.

**STEPHEN** It's cool up there.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** And now, you're also involved in another group.

**STEPHEN** I know.

**JEROME:**

[LAUGHTER]

**PARTICIPANT:** Do you have any spare time whatsoever?

**STEPHEN** No, I don't.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** No, he does not.

**STEPHEN** No, I don't.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** First of all, you are the executive director of-- I'm saying--

**STEPHEN** Now you tried--

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** --executive director of the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard.

**STEPHEN** Volunteer manager.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Volunteer manager. Well, executive director to me. Now, you run things-- it's your responsibility to keep all the volunteers happy and to get more volunteers involved.

**STEPHEN** Right.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** And you've been doing a terrific job at that. I've done that job, and I did it very badly evidently because we had a hard time getting people. But since you've been at the helm, all the shifts are covered. And we're looking--

**STEPHEN** It takes a lot of chocolate.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** --looking to expanding the shifts.

**STEPHEN** In fact, we have expanded some shifts to cover up until midnight.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah, a couple of nights or cover till midnight.

**STEPHEN** And to anybody out there listening who have four hours a month free time and you want to just hang out,  
**JEROME:** volunteer for the Switchboard.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah, it's fun.

**STEPHEN** It is. Actually it is fun. You do handle crisis calls, but you're trained in handling those crisis calls.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** The training is incredible.

**STEPHEN** It is a learning experience.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** I think the training at the Switchboard should be available to everybody, whether they ever answer a phone or not, because it teaches a lot of life experiences.

**STEPHEN** Right, and you also learn a lot about yourself.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes, and learning how to shut up really is one of the biggest ones. It's what we call active listening. It's like so many times when people are telling us a problem, we want to jump in there with a solution.

**STEPHEN** Right, and sometimes they're not looking for a solution.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah, that's right. Or they already have a solution. They know it, and they just have to--

**STEPHEN** They just want somebody to bounce it off of. And that's what we're there for.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah.

**STEPHEN** And we're there 24 hours a day.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** That's what I like about it. I mean, we have people who answer the phone during the day. And we have specific shifts at night--

**STEPHEN** Those strange ones like me who don't go to sleep.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Exactly, and then there's crisis intervention. If it's a crisis overnight, somebody will be there to answer the phone for you.

**STEPHEN** And for a city of our size, we're very fortunate to have this service.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes.

**STEPHEN** Some cities large like us do not have that service, not on a 24 hour, seven day week basis.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah, we talked earlier about the billboards that have already gone up.

**STEPHEN** Have you seen it all?

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes, I saw the one on Montrose. It's wonderful.

**STEPHEN** I love this.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes, it's just wow. And I think it's needed. The Switchboard kind of slowed down a lot right before the merge with the Montrose Counseling Center. And it's built back up. And now we need to get those phones ring some more.

**STEPHEN** And that happens because as times change, the different issues have changed. Originally Switchboard started

**JEROME:** out as really an HIV/AIDS information.

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

**STEPHEN** And as times have changed, now, we are dealing with issues such as aging issues, domestic violence issues. And these are issues that are very important right now and very prevalent in the communities. In fact, like in the Black gay community, one of those issues that's really just now starting to be addressed is the thing of domestic violence.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Mm-hmm.

**STEPHEN** And HIV, as we know right now, is at a very bad high rate in the Black community.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes, it is.

**STEPHEN** And so these are issues that we deal with at the Switchboard, and we try to help people through with it.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** And with your other groups too. Now, there's another one, your MASH group.

**STEPHEN** Oh yeah, this is not MASH 4077.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** No.

**STEPHEN** MASH is men of all shades. We're not associated with DWNT. It's sort of on the long same lines. Basically MASH is

**JEROME:** for men who are interested in interracial dating, not Black and white, just interracial dating.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah, Asian or--

**STEPHEN** Yeah, it's totally inclusive on all men.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** --American-Indian, anything. Yeah.

**STEPHEN** We get together once a month, second Sunday at the Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Now, this is a new group too, right?

**STEPHEN** Yeah.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** OK, second Sunday at the community center.

**STEPHEN** It's 3 o'clock.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** 3 o'clock.

**STEPHEN** In the evening, we have discussion time. We may have a guest speaker in. Sometime we may just go out, do

**JEROME:** something social like maybe a baseball game.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh, that would be fun. Yeah.

**STEPHEN** Just stuff to get together. It's not always a heavy topic discussion. Then if there are some times when we do need  
**JEROME:** to have one of those discussions, we do.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh, OK.

**STEPHEN** There is no dudes currently. It's open. Just come in and drop by. Yeah.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** That's good.

**STEPHEN** A boy club.

**JEROME:**

**PARTICIPANT:** I Group

**JIMMY CARPER:** No, that's the group that's doing a Juneteenth.

**STEPHEN** No, it's the Houston Black Lesbian Gay Coalition doing Juneteenth. Don't get me confused, girl.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** OK, yeah. And the Juneteenth thing is--

**STEPHEN** It's 7:30 at the--

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** At the Community Center.

**STEPHEN** Yes.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Of course, on June 19.

**STEPHEN** Mm-hmm, of course.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah.

**STEPHEN** One of the few things I think is going on on June 19.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah, I know, yeah, because it's in the middle of the week this year.

**STEPHEN** Yeah.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah.

**STEPHEN** And anybody who-- everybody is welcome to come out to the reception on Wednesday night also.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** OK.

**STEPHEN** Men of all shades is men only. I have to clarify that because we do get calls from women who want to join in. And  
**JEROME:** we have to tell them this is for--

**JIMMY CARPER:** Sorry, well, there's arguments pro and con. We've discussed this together too. It's that sometimes women need their own space. Sometimes men of all colors, men of all shades need their own space. And yeah, it's not an exclusionary thing.

**STEPHEN** No.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** It's that for this certain amount of time, we just have to be together.

**STEPHEN** Like on the second Sunday, that's just what it is. It's for men who are into interracial dating to come somewhere where they can get positive feedback about it because a lot of guys out here who are into interracial dating get a lot of negative feedback from both their own race and from other races.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Let's talk about that because I know we've hit on that before of interracial dating and the reaction you get from the Black community or the white community when that happens.

**STEPHEN** You get from your own community-- and I think I can speak on this from not only being Black, but from any race.  
**JEROME:** When you start dating another race, your own community tend to treat you like you're a traitor or like you're deserted.

You're deserting the ranks or why-- I remember during the '70s when we had a lot of our Black movie stars started marrying interracial like Diahann Carroll, it's like, oh, she made some money now she wants to go to a white guy.

And the thing about with interracial dating, it's not always like that. A lot of times it's just looking at meeting a person and taking that person and liking that person for what they are, irregardless of what their skin color because you go 1/8 inch down, we all the same color.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Well, that's kind of the bisexual outlook too. Like you fall in love with the person, then you work out the plumbing.

**STEPHEN** Yeah.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** And this is kind of along those lines.

**STEPHEN** Right, like with bisexuals, in that case, if you can't work it out, you just call a plumber.

**JEROME:**

[LAUGHTER]

With interracial dating, it's looking at a person and just accepting a person for what they are, which we all are, whether we like-- with all of the different labels that we put on ourselves, one label we very seldom use is human.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah.

**STEPHEN** It's very seldom you ever hear anybody says I'm a human, and that's what we all are. We try to find things that  
**JEROME:** make us distinct and unique from somebody else instead of trying to finding what makes us all the same.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah, there is a kind of a major push that I've noticed for Black men to date Black men.

**STEPHEN** Yes.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** And I think it's a pride thing.

**STEPHEN** It is.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** It's pride in yourself and your race. And I can understand that.

**STEPHEN** And it's not only with Black men. It might be more visible right now with Black men because we're starting to see  
**JEROME:** where the Black gay community is actually making a visible impact now, I mean, with major Black communities across the country having their own separate Gay Pride and celebrations, even the way they even define their gay pride.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes, now, I think that's the major difference. I mean, it's a different outlook.

**STEPHEN** And that we find in other communities also. I mean, Asians tend to push for Asians to stay together. You see very little Asian and interracial mixing.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Well, there is a group, Asians and Friends. And they're kind of big, but yeah, you're right.

**STEPHEN** And pretty much with any ethnic group you find.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah.

**STEPHEN** You have some who do mix, but at majority, the idea of thought there is, hey, let's keep it pure. Let's keep it  
**JEROME:** straight. Let's-- oh, no I'm out of words to play on.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Well, yeah, but I have known white men who will only date Black men because that's what they're attracted to. And I don't understand it actually, but is that they're attracted to the skin color or the Black outlook?

**STEPHEN** Actually I think if you took a poll, every guy would still come out with a very different reason.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah.

**STEPHEN** Some white guys date Black guys because of the skin color. Some white guys date Black guys because of the old  
**JEROME:** Mandingo.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh, brother.

**STEVEN** Like if you know.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** But you mean for a fetish reason rather than the person.

**STEPHEN** Well, 12 inches actually isn't a foot, you know?

**JEROME:**

[LAUGHTER]

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oops. OK.

**STEPHEN** At the same time some Black guys date white guys because they feel like OK, I'll be accepted. It means

**JEROME:** something else.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Mm-hmm.

**STEPHEN** Everybody has their own reasons why they're dating somebody, especially when it comes to interracial. I think

**JEROME:** what they need to really look at is, am I dating this person for that person as a genuine person?

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah.

**STEPHEN** Or if you take away that skin color, would I still care for this person? And that's where the big difference comes

**JEROME:** in.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Good point.

**STEPHEN** And it's like maybe a messy question to tell people who are into interracial dating to ask themselves, but it's

**JEROME:** something they really need to act. If you took away the skin color, if you took away this pigmentation, would I still feel the same way about this person? It's like when you're laying in bed at night next to that person, if you turn all the lights off and just open the blinds up, you don't see any skin color.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah, that's true.

**STEPHEN** You just see all gray. So we're all like the same color all of a sudden.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** It hasn't been that many years ago that in many states was illegal for interracial marriage between heterosexuals.

**STEPHEN** Actually in many states, it was an illegal period for anything to be done interracially.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Wow, so we're just coming out of that as a species.

**STEPHEN** Yeah.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** We're coming out of that mindset.

**STEPHEN** Right.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** And so we may still have vestiges of it even in the gay community.

**STEPHEN** At one point, and we're not talking a hundred years ago.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** No.

**STEPHEN** We're talking less than 40 years ago.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes.

**STEPHEN** It was illegal for a Black man to cut a white man's hair.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** No.

**STEPHEN** You know? So.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** No, I never knew that.

**STEPHEN** Yeah, we had laws like that. It was illegal for a Black man and a white man to be buried in the same cemetery.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh, brother.

**STEPHEN** And so in case anybody want to know where the separate cemeteries come from, that's where they come from,

**JEROME:** so yeah.

**JIMMY CARPER:** And it's probably that was the backlash from the Civil War, all these laws enacted or was that--

**STEPHEN** A lot of these laws came out of the end of the Civil War.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah.

**STEPHEN** These were known as the Jim Crow laws.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah.

**STEPHEN** That's it, that Blacks couldn't walk on certain side of the streets. Blacks had to go in the back door. And we're

**JEROME:** now just getting to the point on paper and legally, we are equal.

**JIMMY CARPER:** But it takes a long time.

**STEPHEN** But mentally, that attitude is still there.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Johnson signed that Civil Rights bill in what, 1964?

**STEPHEN** Yes, that's over what, almost 40 years ago.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** 38 years ago, and we're still not quite there.

**STEPHEN** Right.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Well, a hell of a lot better.

**STEPHEN** Yeah.

**JEROME:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** But we're still not there.

**PARTICIPANT:** You still have organizations like the Ku Klux Klan running around.

**STEPHEN** And the thing about it is we're now looking at a period like in the Black gay community where Blacks want

**JEROME:** something that's unique, distinct of their own. Like I said, we celebrate gay--