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SPEAKERS

Shawn Carter, Jimmy Carper, Jewel Gray

J

Jimmy Carper 00:23

Oh yes, you've tuned into after hours queer radio with attitude right here on KPFT Houston 90.1 FM. The crew of after hours is ready to bring you news interviews, dialogue and music geared for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people and their friends. Hear it after hours, we may be diverse, but we have one thing in common. We are all out of the closet and urge everyone to come out of their closets. That means standing up for yourself taking responsibility for your own life and being proud of who you are. Realistically, we know not everyone can do that because of age job or frame of mind. That's okay, we're here for you too. So sit back, relax, and enjoy this week's edition of after hours. Hello, Houston in College Station and welcome to after hours queer radio with attitude. This is the December 8 10th edition on Jimmy Carper. And very quickly, I'd like to tell you about the music that you heard right before the opening there of the show. That last song was rich, it was Tom McCormack nice queer songwriter and singer. With Christmas. We'll start and I was mentioning to one of our guests tonight that this song is just right up his alley, he could do this beautifully. And that came off of Richard Foltz fol tz us a CD called a songwriters Christmas it's a singer songwriters doing their own stuff before that brand new music from the capital city Men's Chorus from their CD entitled silent noon. And that was we are not afraid to love. Beautiful, beautiful beautiful music there from that group. Capital City Men's Chorus asked for it by name at Lobo. Preferably, it's probably the only place you're gonna find it here in Houston. Tonight we have a full house with people rustling papers and no this is the country deich show.

J

Jewel Gray 03:19

Oh, that's right.

J

Jimmy Carper 03:22

Here she is here. Hi, Julie. Hi.

J Jewel Gray 03:24

I'm doing good.

J Jimmy Carper 03:26

You have a cohort.

J Jewel Gray 03:28

I have lost cohorts tonight. I just met these two guys. I think I know you from somewhere before I'm trying to think I mean your regular one but my regular one in Miami. My bosom buddy Jim here Yeah. Jim Vaughn. I bet nobody knows that I bet they everybody knows us just Jim right? Yeah a few people know that because you know it's hard for me to remember sometimes because I hardly buy Okay, so what

J Jimmy Carper 03:58

out Dan has been a round a very long time. Well I don't want oh no, no, no, no Dan Dean and Otto and you have been everywhere doing everything with this group that group you've been in theater you've been on the stage? I've seen I've seen you let's say fundraiser yes I have all the way I remember when you were I guess this was for a fundraiser you were doing a revealing a dance at

S Shawn Carter 04:39

well I need to see this one I missed out

J Jewel Gray 04:48

Oh, I got the listing. I got the damn pictures. Really? Sound like they'd be worse. Oh, you do?

J Jimmy Carper 05:00

Oh, boy, and Shawn Carter is here. Now, you know, the list goes on and on with Shawn. Most recently, I think, no, it may not be that recently because he's done a lot of things since then. You were the grand co Grand Marshal last year. Yeah. And you've done a lot of things in between because now you're the secretary of HD LPC, you're very active in the court. And so many other organizations, I can't even remember. So I'm not going just

05:37

That's all I need.

J

Jimmy Carper 05:38

You guys are here to discuss

♂

05:43

exmo

J

Jimmy Carper 05:45

They're lovely and talented exmo. Now, what in the hell is XML?

S

Shawn Carter 05:49

XML is the new merger of Exxon Mobil. Aha, we've actually Ray Hill has dubbed it exmo. Because it sounds more like a cartoon character. So it's easy for us to rally the cause behind that. Yes.

J

Jimmy Carper 06:06

And I'm happy to say that all of the CO hosts that you listen to here on after hours are not only out of the closet, but they do not use exmo products.

♂

06:19

Thank you very much

J

Jewel Gray 06:20

for the expo.

J

Jimmy Carper 06:27

And for a very good reason. Excuse me, Reese, in the merger branch. You talked about that. Jewel you talk about you've been keeping up with it just Yeah.

J

Jewel Gray 06:35

Well, I was just reading on the hand. That's you know, that's the only way I keep in touch with ~~going on anymore~~. And I was reading both these men had been posted on the chat several

young on anymore. And I was reading both these when had been posted on the chat several times about different things and people referring to them or establishing that I hadn't actually read Chris's I mean, Shawn stuff that I had seen somebody reposted. You know how that goes. Oh, yeah. And then and sauce pieces and what he said but basically what I understand and the truth is I know very little about it is that Exxon and Mobil this New Conglomerate, has decided to resend on promises they made some time before about domestic partnership benefits. Is that about it?



07:13

Well, somewhat mobile had domestic partnership benefits. Some time ago, and when the merger went into effect, Exxon, the higher ups at Exxon decided so



J Jewel Gray 07:25

Exxon really did. Exxon did not. I did see that several people refer to in current terms, I think Exxon is a rather conservative company,



07:35

very kind.



J Jewel Gray 07:36

I understood that they have mergers with Canadian companies where the Canadians are very, I guess you would say with it as far as domestic partnership deals as well as the rest of the world on the host. Yeah. And that they have some places up there that they're late leaving stand and I see something tonight about that on the net. Do you Did you see that? I haven't seen where there's some question about what they're going to do in Canada now that they're doing this here, and the Canadians won't stand for it? Because here, you know, the majority of Americans, you know, not the majority, obviously, but a good deal of Americans here. You know, don't agree with it, but up there very few don't. So I was wondering,



08:12

Well, I think their whole premise has been that they follow the laws of the nation that that they're operating in, and Canada may have domestic Canada may have domestic partnership benefits. So that's probably why they go ahead and follow the legal laws of Canada. Now in in the United States, there are no domestic partnership benefits per se with the government. So they're just going to fall along the lines of legal marriage.



08:44

Keep talking. That's what we're doing this some little technical things.

J

Jewel Gray 08:50

But so it's fine. So what what do you think about this? This,

♀

08:55

you know, gets a bunch of Tammy grant. Yeah.

J

Jewel Gray 08:58

Are you? Are you? Are you employed with either company?

♀

09:03

No, I'm not. No.

J

Jewel Gray 09:04

Do you know people that are? You just see this?

♀

09:06

I know a few people. I know the one of the co chairs of the gay and lesbian, bisexual and transgendered employee group at Exxon. And he's pretty much upset with the decision. Also,

J

Jewel Gray 09:17

I imagine I can well imagine. So what? So what do you guys think we should do? I mean, obviously, you guys have gotten together. And this is something well, we

♀

09:24

had a first meeting.

S

Shawn Carter 09:25

Yeah. But one thing that everyone has to understand is, because there has been some question I've noticed one of the first times this came out, Jimmy was on handing out a second. I don't understand why we're doing this. That what has happened is exmo is going to let the mobile employees that were originally enrolled in domestic partnership benefits, they get to keep

them, okay. Now, employees with Exxon, of course, didn't have that prior to this. Actually, they're one of the The only major oil companies that didn't Chevron shell Amoco, they all offer domestic partnership benefits. And Exxon does not have a non discriminate non discrimination policy for sexual orientation written that doesn't include sexual orientation. In fact, last year they had sent a vote to their shareholders. And it was voted down like 94%.

J

Jimmy Carper 10:32

That always happens in the board of directors, because shareholders from everywhere, you know, they send you out a proxy card if you have zactly. And it says the board recommends this. And oh recommended now, and they recommended No, so most of the people are going to go with what the board right?

S

Shawn Carter 10:49

I mean, usually half the time, right, people don't even read it, but how the board wants it. And so they didn't have sexual orientation. Mobile did. Now they don't have it. The overall corporation doesn't any employees that were with mobile that had planned on enrolling. I mean, there are people that, you know, I know that there are many gays and lesbians out there that want to go with a company that has domestic partnership benefits, that has, you know, sexual orientation and their non discrimination clause. And now you've got employees that have gone to this company. And maybe prior to their registering for the new year, fiscal year for benefits, if they didn't do it, that they can't. They're saying that Exxon has said that they don't discriminate against anybody. They don't necessarily need to say sexual orientation. But the bottom line is, they're already discriminating against gays and lesbians, because domestic partnership benefits any kind of benefit in the company is basically an extra wage or salary. And so they are discriminating against gays and lesbians. And the bottom line is, is as a community, you may not care about Exxon or whatever, but it's in generally, the overall consensus in our country, we've got to make a statement, we've got to be the ones to stand up and say, Look, we're not going to buy your products we're not we're going to do everything we can to make sure you know how far the gay dollar goes. And we can do that. And that's why we got together organizing this rally in January. But like I was at a party Friday night, and it was, of course, it's the big buzz, sure topic. But the key thing is we can't do it with you know, 1000 people, that's great. But it's not enough. No, you know, we've got a lot more in our community and that care. So we've got to get everyone out there. You've got to everyone, you know, I emailed my entire family and said, cut your excellent cards, you bet. And I love you. And I trust you, Mom and Dad and everybody, but mail them to me that you cut your cards,

o

12:53

okay. Actually, Shawn had a wonderful idea. When we have when we hold the rally, we were thinking about inviting shell and Chevron to come and have a booth to sign up and to get their credit card application.

S

Shawn Carter 13:07

Right in Right right and then your credit card and they'll give me an application

J

Jimmy Carper 13:12

I liked that I liked that clever. You were talking about the policy. And since then, there's been a lot more come across on the net, showing that it is not it that Exxon would only provide it if they had to have to, because there are some unions that worked for Exxon, and it is it is part of in the union, there are people who work in Canada. And it's part of that in candidate, which means that the company is providing them only when they have to or when they're forced to do and that's

S

Shawn Carter 13:54

all it's like it out of you know, 50 states, there are 11 states that have that right as a general policy, right means that there are 11 states of ExxonMobil employees that are going to have to be given those privileges. But you've got, you know, 39 other states, Texas as one of them who bet those employees aren't given the same privileges that the other employees are so for them to say that they don't discriminate. You're in your own company. I mean, you just state the state, they're discriminating against people.

J

Jimmy Carper 14:24

Right? They're black and white, what's going

♂

14:26

to come first? I mean, you had discrimination and I mean, like the government may say one thing and the company I mean, who's gonna be the take the first step on this issue? I mean, it's a chicken and eggs and in Texas being is so conservative, we're going to be one of the last states to have legalized. And a lot man it Yeah, just for our protection. And if the companies don't make a step, I mean, one of the things I shell and Chevron, they've been great in this effort, Chase NK has been wonderful. They all have domestic partnership benefits and non discrimination clauses. We just were asking Exxon to take and relook this issue.

J

Jimmy Carper 15:11

Because it doesn't only affect gays and lesbians fine.

J

Jewel Gray 15:15

It affects people who have common law wedding. families that are, you know, separated families like, if your niece loses her parents and they move in, she has to move in with you, it will cover her two because this person is one your is your domestic, you know, in your house becomes part of your family.

J

Jimmy Carper 15:38

Something else that you might not have thought about is that many, many older people, retired people who maybe have lost their loved one are now pairing up with others. They are not getting married because it costs money, they lose money doing that. And so they're losing benefits also, because an ex Xsan employee or x mobile employee cannot provide the benefits to their spouse.

S

Shawn Carter 16:10

So everyone has to get out there until it's not just that it's not just gosh, no, no, but the one problem that is going to happen. And for anyone to say that this can't happen. The numbers I've seen, I've seen different numbers. The most recent number I've read was 9000. layoffs are predicted Yeah. About 16,000, which is common, you know, with a big merger like this. Now you tell me considering that Exxon has three out of four, every three out of four hire management position are Exxon people that don't have this policy that never had this policy that voted it down. If you have an excuse the term you got some Baba manager, who's got to figure out who is going to lay off? Well, you know, the easiest thing for him to do is just gonna say, Well, who the hell has these domestic partnership benefits?

J

Jimmy Carper 17:00

You bet? You bet. We're gonna be the first and guess what,

S

Shawn Carter 17:04

they can't do anything about it right now. And so there are gonna be a lot of people are gonna get laid off, you know, you may walk a little squishy, and you're gone.

J

Jimmy Carper 17:17

Oh, that's, that's going that's back to the 60s.

S

Shawn Carter 17:20

Yeah, and it's that's the point, you know, someone was saying recently, something like this, Exxon, you look at this whole situation. And it's the point of saying, Okay, are we moving into the 21st century? Or are we going back to the 19th century, and

J

Jewel Gray 17:33

this isn't really just about Exxon and Mobil, the water Expo, it's not, it's not just about that. It's about a, an attitude, it's allowed to run rampant and it can be catchy, and it's already bad

enough to, you know, have people considering in Michigan where I know, they have do have domestic partnership, you know, benefits that, you know, it's just maybe we can, you know, change it. I mean, Exxon did want to, you know, want us back at these things. Yeah. And I seem to think that I think not, same thing. I think that it runs in times like this, where if something starts, it's like domino effect, other things start crumbling around. And I saw that with the propositions in California and Colorado, there were a bunch of myths around the same time. And I think that because it arouses certain attitudes out there, they see these people who are natural homophobes who tend to, you know, smile at you in one time, but do what they can do to hurt you later. Or, you know, see that somebody else is standing up to those homos. So they, you know, they do it, and it's just kind of a domino effect. So, you know, it's more important than just the x most the people I mean, you know, because how many people were talking about 40,000 people? Well, you know, it's not that it's the attitude that is catchy,

S

Shawn Carter 18:52

it's perpetuates that negative attitude. And they've got a look, it's the bottom line is especially you think of it in any you could be in the smallest organization or the biggest company. When you're a leader in anything, you're going to project an attitude that people are trying to look at, they're going you're going to be a role model for other people. You know, Exxon now, there are the biggest conglomerate now in this nature. And if they're setting this example, you know, we were thinking that we were moving ahead, because I think it's like 80 out of the Fortune 500 companies now have domestic partnership benefits. And yeah, some people think that's kind of small.

J

Jewel Gray 19:32

But it when you consider the fortune 500 fortune

S

Shawn Carter 19:35

500 companies that's, that's making a huge statement right there.

J

Jimmy Carper 19:39

15 years ago, it was small mom and pop organizations that provided if any, and, and Levi Strauss, and that was it. Yep. And look how far we've come

S

Shawn Carter 19:52

80 out of 80 That's, that's a big number.

J

Jimmy Carper 19:55

And that really should tell the story to Exxon Exactly.

S

Shawn Carter 19:59

But you know, the big First thing that we can tell the gay community is, you know, think back and look at the statement we made with course, it remind you exons remember a lot bigger, but we made a difference then remember a name? Yeah, that was and that was, and those were, you know, we say, Yeah, exons bigger. But that was also a while back, when we didn't have as much support with bigger companies that we do now. So we can make that big, we can make that difference.

J

Jewel Gray 20:26

It just amazes me when a company like ExxonMobil, you know, looks around and they're, you know, peers that their corporation peers, and they see these major corporations shell and was at Chevron and places like that, who were doing this, and that they don't, you know, they don't just sort of join in because, you know, if they see these people doing it, why? You know, because so that tells me one thing, what to tell me, it tells me that they're 10 or 12 people who this is actually, you know, somewhere in the higher up at Exxon who are homophobic, you know, and that they're making this happen, and they have that kind of power. And then, you know, that kind of frightens me now that that comes out of my mouth, that these 10 or 12 people.

J

Jimmy Carper 21:08

But in another sense, we're not back with a Anita and with course, because many, many, so many more of us are out. Oh, yeah. And so it's not just us, it's our parents. It's our brothers and sisters. It's our uncles and aunts. It's it's all our relatives, friends. I mean, it's not just 10% here.

J

Jewel Gray 21:30

Right, right. That's right.

♂

21:31

I think that's why Chase is moving ahead so fast right now here in Houston, with their domestic partnership plan. They're the leader in this. They're getting all the business from the community, from relatives of Brady's

J

Jewel Gray 21:47

grads glad to see them in the parade, right.



21:51

Insurance companies think of domestic public partnership.



Jewel Gray 21:58

I can't see why they would care. They're making money there.



Shawn Carter 22:01

Now, I gotta tell you that when it's almost like one big fear that they've got, is, you know, and yes, we said domestic partnerships affect everyone in different areas. But the bottom line is general, especially in this country, you think domestic partnership, you think gay? Oh, yeah. And the companies? Well, unfortunately, with insurance companies right now, what do they have to pay for it? Unfortunately, a lot with the gay community has AIDS and AIDS related illness. And so you know, for insurance companies, domestic partnership means Oh, my God, we've got to pay a lot of money for these people. And that is in our in our country that you know, well, you know, what, folks, you're an insurance company, that's your job. You're supposed to be paying for these illnesses. That's why we pay you all this money if they don't want to, when it's their turn when they have to pay the money. Yeah.



Jewel Gray 22:48

Insurance? Don't get me started on



22:53

that they'll do that.



Jimmy Carper 22:54

Yeah, Insurance insurance companies got to ensure healthy people.



22:59

Oh, well, sure. They want



Jewel Gray 23:00

you to they want you to die without so you can't collect any



23:06

health insurance.



23:09

I don't know about any of it. I don't know about X, Mo or not. But I know that shell is self employed, or excuse me self insured. So that is money coming out of their pocket every time they have to pay for prescription.



23:22

So yes, yes. Fascinating. So



23:25

that may be one of their fears. And



23:27

it can be expensive.



Jimmy Carper 23:28

But there's



Jewel Gray 23:30

no more cheering people who are in it was strange. Exactly. It's no more expensive. I mean, there's



23:37

a stigma that they want to play. I'm



Jimmy Carper 23:39

sure there's a history of it with other companies that it does not cost them that much more. Because first of all, there's not that many people that are going to really register



Shawn Carter 23:50

Previously recorded and broadcast television. Broadcast with the U.S. network with the United Way.

EXACTLY. FOR WHY AND I GOLLA TELL YOU, I RECENTLY WORKED WITH THE UNITED WAY agency, at the counseling center, and we just went through this big change, and either way, finally got domestic partnership. Oh, good. You know, we've been trying to get it. But the problem is, is you know, we went through this big change and we're now with Cigna. And it's our whole policy, you know, with any policy plan change, we're gonna get through, you know, minut changes. But literally the difference like for me, I am on three HIV meds, and right now I'm paying 30 bucks for 90 day supply that has now gone up to 165 bucks. You know, that's a big thing. So, of course, I'm not going to enroll in for my partner. And someone was like, Well, why not? You have that chance to sit because he's got better insurance than I do. Now. Why would I want to put them on this? So you're right, not everyone's gonna sign up domestic partnerships, because that's one thing, especially in gay couples that we've seen in all the reports about gay aid dollars is that, you know, a lot of the bigger companies are realizing that we have more to spend, because you're when you look at, you know, as a gay couple of lesbian couples, they know, most of them don't have families trying to raise, they've got more money to spend. And you know, it's the same thing with insurance. If you've got two working people in a relationship, then you know, they're probably they've probably got good insurance either way, and they're not going to need to do this, and some of them do, but it's not this big, huge change that they're scared of and think, Oh, God, we're gonna have you know, 5000 people sign up.

J

Jewel Gray 25:31

It's not that many people who will sign up who will cash in on it, especially considering the, you know, what, 50% 60 70% of the people out there are going to be straight people paying into this. So it's not like, you know, it's not like, we're going to take more than what we would, you know, our normal, you know, ratio of monies.

J

Jimmy Carper 25:53

We ought to get, you know, what's the normal ratio of money? You know, you just said, most of us don't have children. Right, you own a home, you pay school taxes,

J

Jewel Gray 26:02

and you don't got children, it works out. It works out, believe me. And believe me, I believe it doesn't work out. I believe we're gyped. And then they got I don't believe it really bounces out. You know, I was thinking back and back in the middle 80s. There, there was a little stamp that came out that you could stamp your money that said gay money, gay money, I think we ought to do that more often. I think we ought to put gay money out there and let people know how much of it is floating around, we spend this money. And the more these people know that we have economic power, okay, they're not listening to a scream and yell on the steps of the White House. But they will listen when their cash register doesn't ring. And I believe that's bottom line. If we find a way to kick them in the cash register. We can start manipulating the system because we do spend money. I mean, they say and I'm not real sure I believe this. But they say that we're more affluent than the average Americans. Now I don't know about that.



27:00

But they say that we are ushered in talk to me.



Jewel Gray 27:04

Reason behind it is that most of us had more time in school to study than most kids, because they were all out playing the games. And we were right.



Jimmy Carper 27:15

About the stamp for game money. Let's do it something else that's been going on over the web. And it's been about having just a little business card that says you can just leave it with the cashier or anywhere saying you have just had a gay or lesbian. You have been hit by Yeah. And in fact, Kwame, if we have to go even further with this since we opened it up, you made an offer over the



27:49

I certainly do. To help out and anybody that wants to



Jimmy Carper 27:54

take your businesses is printing



27:57

that That's right. Yes. In graphic design. Okay. So I will do the typesetting for free for you and discounted printing brains. So anybody that would like to



Jimmy Carper 28:06

have a great idea that was a great idea. Tell us what the company is. Its preferred graphics and personal plan. Oh.



28:18

The personal Hello, this is



Jimmy Carper 28:19

PR here.



28:22

What do you want to know? I'm very good at this. Where are you? Right? Okay, we're located on it in your Shepherd. Telephone numbers. 713-862-3312. Great. Slow on the



28:39

listeners that are driving down the street.



28:42

Just remembered. Preferred graphics go unlisted. Okay. But if you have a pen in your hand, it's 77138623312. Okay.



J Jimmy Carper 28:54

Did you ever noticed that when on your answering machine or your calling notes or wherever you hang back at



29:02

90 miles an hour? The



J Jimmy Carper 29:03

numbers go by twice as fast as the words



29:07

listen to that same message you know, six times. Getting that last number?



J Jewel Gray 29:12

commercial on TV? Wasn't the taxi drivers name something pizza? Pizza. Yeah. Also Mills has been going on here you know, like we were talking about with this, you know, Exxon thing and I was just saying that things tend to come in bunches like this. We also have some fussing going on in town here about the festival, maybe parade. I read a lot about that. And tonight and everybody was making hoopla over it and I was hoping that we might see rainbow here tonight because Rainbow said some rather eloquent things. You know that man is really an eloquent man.

J

Jimmy Carper 29:49

He's getting there. We got to work on the spelling. I can't

J

Jewel Gray 29:53

spell so somebody else can. So rainbow if you're out there, calm down here. Let's talk about this. I know he's out there somewhere. He's probably just sitting it out in the parking lot waiting

♂

30:03

for me to be flamingos

J

Jewel Gray 30:06

Come on girl.

J

Jimmy Carper 30:08

Anyway, no, but it's, it's

J

Jewel Gray 30:11

true. I'm kind of scared of that

J

Jimmy Carper 30:13

that kind of scares me. Yeah, I didn't think of it until somebody brought up something because the whole thing has been about the West fast, right? That goes on in the spring and in the fall. And a very, very small percentage of the neighborhood is bitching about,

J

Jewel Gray 30:31

well, you know, that like to 10 or 12 people on top of Exeter, you know, few people wanting to control 1000s of lives that they have? No,

♂

30:39

we're talking about two weekends out of the entire year. You can, you know, show off a little portion of us go

J Jimmy Carper 30:45
down to City Hall and lie.

J Jewel Gray 30:47
Yes. I saw that boy rainbow. That's when rainbow was very eloquent when he ran off what happened at that meeting? I was just like, what sat there and didn't break up? Isn't

♂ 30:57
this why somebody coined the phrase God so loved the world that he didn't send a committee

♂ 31:07
that's good.

J Jewel Gray 31:09
I'm afraid of these neighborhoods. sociation for quite some, you know, they tried some stuff like this before about the festival when it was a different festival. Yeah. And it seems like the, you know, the people who came to this neighborhood and bought homes in this neighborhood, then got here and then wanted to change everything that they saw here when they bought it here. Wow. I don't understand the logic of that. Why do you want to change the ambience of a neighborhood that you bought a house? Why did you buy it if you didn't, like

S Shawn Carter 31:41
do their homework and find out exactly what the neighborhood was like?

J Jimmy Carper 31:45
Or, or in the matter of several owners of houses on Avondale, we have have, we've found out that it's a matter of market value.

♂ 31:57
Right? Oh, there, they

J Jimmy Carper 31:58

bought it for cheap. They want to sell it for high. And so to sell it for high, you got to get rid of the

∅ 32:06

route, right power,

∅ 32:08

power, the almighty dollar.

J Jewel Gray 32:10

About money, the money even in your own community. Yeah. Because I know. And you know, I'm I'm little sorry to say this. But I know several of these people involved in this are gay people. Yes. And that hurts me that they would want to see something. See, I don't think this West fest is just a big party that we throw a couple times a year. I think it's a cultural event where where we open our neighborhood and our culture up to people to come down and be part of it. We do it at the at the braid. Yeah, you know, where we offer people come down and have a good time with us and get to know is, here we are. And lots and lots and lots of people do used to come down here. There's not you know, everybody on the street isn't game that most people on the street aren't gay. But they they come down to this neighborhood and I say our neighborhood because I lived here many years and I love this neighborhood. You know, come down to our neighborhood and and get to see who we are. I think that this is more than just a big party that we throw a couple times a year and I don't think so much marketing that goes on at this party either. Because I heard people talking about people made money. Well, so what it's not about the money, the money Hey, the fact that these people are here is a plus to the people on the street. I mean, what else would you do with all these people on stream? By?

J Jimmy Carper 33:22

You know, if you threw a Fest in in any other neighborhood, would you get 100,000 people to go?

J Jewel Gray 33:29

Oh, I think it's like twice I used to cruise Montrose out here, West. I

J Jimmy Carper 33:35

live in Kingwood. And I have to act like this and I want to go to the Montrose maybe I'll see a drag queen and let loose. Exactly.



33:44

This is the thing that gets me the street fest is the one time is one of the few times that you know, what is it four days out of an entire year? That's when everybody who everybody I mean, at one corner you have the bands that are the Jesus



J Jewel Gray 34:00

people and right next to the Rastafarians. And bikers right there,



34:07

that to bikers, and all of these people are in the same place at the same time. And 95% of them are getting along with each other for one for one week, two weekends out of the year. And, and they're complaining about this because it's messy for you know, and it caught you know, causes.



J Jewel Gray 34:28

I actually the people who took over the festival after the little indiscretions that we had, then still not happy about. But the people who took over have done an excellent job. They've had excellent safety procedures they've had I think, you know, I've read places where people weren't happy about the Porta toilets and all this. But you know, I saw somebody wrote in the I've never seen a line at one line at one



34:53

after this past street fest I didn't see by the next two days I didn't after it, I didn't see paper. No paper.



J Jewel Gray 35:03

No. And I've been down here after too and would not have known and have not known until somebody said later in the day. Oh, yeah, the festival was Sunday. I'm down here Monday and there's no sign of it. What Can this hurt these people? It's not about. It's not about just a big party in the street. It's about a lot more. I think it's a bringing together all these people, all these different cultures. And then it's it's almost like, I think it's more than a street festival. Oh, yes. You know, I think it's more important than just a street party that we can move down to the park or something like that. I mean,



35:37

it's almost like our version of Woodstock twice a year,

J

Jewel Gray 35:40

kind of sort of not, maybe not Woodstock, certainly.

O

35:49

Has anybody gotten the businesses together that the vendors that so long,

J

Jewel Gray 35:53

I saw somebody talking about the vendors and how somebody was fussing about crossroads, and I don't want to step on any toes because I don't know exactly what's going on with this crossroads thing. But it seemed to me that in the postings that I saw that crossroads was part of the fussing, yes, if they didn't, that they said they didn't make any business that they had to close. And then we you know, I've been in Crossroads during the festival. What are they saying? They were close. And then I saw that somebody said, Hey, they were open. And I've been in crossroads during the festival. I came down here and got here, you know, at 10 o'clock in the morning and wandered over and waited and went in, we wandered up down the road, and then went into crossroads. I know they were,

O

36:31

they did more than a good enough job of chasing away people who they didn't want there.

J

Jewel Gray 36:36

Well, that's what they said they had to hire security to watch for shoplifters, because there was so many people in there. I bet they make a killing on that.

J

Jimmy Carper 36:45

Security. There are businesses further up Westheimer who would love to be sure sure.

J

Jewel Gray 36:53

Sure. Kill the being Yeah, no question. And this so you know, when you look at the when you looked at the facts and the logic and the situation, you see that it's not about now that you know, invisible bottles broken on the street, the invisible dog poop over people's yards? Like it's not there, right all the time anyway. And you know, I have to say, yes, Jim. Yes. It is loud. And it is raucous. Yeah. And, and we had police officers down on that street to control any problems and I've seen them control and maintain I've seen them surround and maintain a situation that could have been a lot worse. And I mean, they were quiet, they were efficient, and they did

their jobs. And I was I almost hesitate to say this I was proud of them. But you know, I hesitate to say that because I've seen them when I wasn't so proud of yeah that that particular day I was proud of and I'm and then I got to think and these guys were on private duty they were doing this on their own time. They chose to be here they didn't have to come down with an assignment they had



37:58

more snakes and tattoos per mile and



38:02

I'm still waiting for those those big dogs to eat one of the chihuahuas



38:11

Yeah, I don't even see dogs fighting



38:15

the animals fighting



Jimmy Carper 38:18

like I said, like I say it or every time I go there I have this I come away feeling the same way I saw that when you said too much silver and not enough skin yeah



Jewel Gray 38:30

I didn't see anybody mentioned that they had any problem with not enough you know not enough clothes because not seeing a lot of people down there I thought should have been down on the street dress that was just my opinion. I wouldn't have forced it on anybody else. But you know I was surprised that that didn't come up you know that there was a lot of lewd little behavior down there. You know, I've seen that but that didn't even come up. This is about dog poop bottles and yeah, noise and anything that could drain those no parking



38:57

signs that go up overnight around town. Oh. magically appearing really? You can have your car parked in the same place for three months and suddenly one day it's gone. And it's like, Oh no, the festivals.

J

Jewel Gray 39:14

Also, I saw some were written tonight. Somebody said that the tow trucks the police didn't tow off any cars. So you know the association was saying they were parked in the wrong place and nobody told him except the tow truck records show that that 200 had been towed.