

NARRATOR: The following program contains language or images of a frank or sensitive nature, which may be considered objectionable by some. Listener discretion is advised.

[MUSIC - GLORIA GAYNOR, "I AM WHAT I AM"]

JIMMY CARPER: OK, are we over that song yet? Anybody? Can we take a vote?

SCOTT LEWIS: I'm over that song.

JIMMY CARPER: OK, I mean, Scott and I have been talking about months for like changing the theme song for *After Hours* and, well, when you count on Scott for anything, you know you never get enough.

JEWEL GRAY: Yeah, here's your new theme song.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

This is the best tight studio I've ever been in. Of course--

JIMMY CARPER: Really?

JEWEL GRAY: Yeah, I love it when it's tight. [LAUGHS]

JIMMY CARPER: Whoa--

JEWEL GRAY: I get to hug and touch on people-- I get to hug and touch on people I don't normally get that close to because it's tight in here. Well, this is Jewel Gray, and I'm sitting here with Jimmy Carper. This is *After Hours*, your late night gay and lesbian radio, or gay and lesbian late night radio.

JIMMY CARPER: That's it.

JEWEL GRAY: Got to get those-- got to get those PR blips down. Late night-- gay and lesbian late night radio. And we're looking for a good time tonight. I'm glad you tuned in. We're going to be asking for some-- asking some questions later.

So get your pencil and paper ready, because I'm going to give you our number a couple of times here before we start so that you can remember how to get in touch with us. You can call us at JAM-KPFT. And for those who have a hard time reading the dial, what number is that, Jim?

JIMMY CARPER: [LAUGHS] 526-5738.

JEWEL GRAY: Echo, echo, echoes. Is that what you're trying to do? He's doing special effects down here for nothing tonight. Oh, we get those thrown in for nothing tonight.

JIMMY CARPER: I got you. I got a cold, and so--

JEWEL GRAY: You don't sound too bad. A penny, we got special--

JIMMY CARPER: Penny for special effects.

JEWEL GRAY: Later, I want to talk about a couple of things that are in the-- out new this week, OutSmart is out--

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, yes.

JEWEL GRAY: --a new gay and lesbian monthly magazine, and we'll talk a little about that. Some of the people that are near and dear to *After Hours* are involved in this magazine. And I think they've done a good job.

I know that I've talked to a few people in our community last couple of days. This came out, I think, Wednesday. I think Wednesday.

JIMMY CARPER: Tuesday.

JEWEL GRAY: Tuesday.

JIMMY CARPER: Tuesday.

JEWEL GRAY: And I've talked to a few people who were a little disappointed. I'm going to talk about that too, why they were disappointed.

JIMMY CARPER: They need to be slapped.

JEWEL GRAY: Well, that's what I said, because I thought it was-- I thought it was a good magazine. They thought it was tired. [LAUGHS] Well, mostly because of the cover story has played-- they've really played these guys out. This couple wanting to be a married couple, and they were on Oprah, and Donahue, and Sally Jessy.

JIMMY CARPER: They're coming to Houston.

JEWEL GRAY: And that's why they put them on the cover, and I think that is appropriate.

JIMMY CARPER: Absolutely.

JEWEL GRAY: Even if these guys are tired and the story is tired--

JIMMY CARPER: They don't look tired to me.

JEWEL GRAY: --even though the story is tired--

JIMMY CARPER: And guess what? They've got clothes on.

JEWEL GRAY: That's right. And they're a good-looking couples. So it can't hurt to have a good-looking couple selling your magazines. But it's a good magazine. I thought it was well-done. It's made by the same people who put together *Uptown Express* and a few others. And it has very professional, very good looks. So we'll be talking about that later. We'll talk about some of the reasons that people are disappointed in it and some other things.

We have an actor here from a theater that's presenting *Of Mice and Men*. We're going to talk to him. He also happens to be part of a gay Quaker group. And I think we'll talk a little about that with him. So we have an interesting evening lined up. When are you-- what time do you want to do QMZ so I can work around you?

JIMMY CARPER: I see. Around 1:30.

JEWEL GRAY: OK, around 1:30 we'll do the QMZ.

JIMMY CARPER: I've got a full QMZ too. It's packed. And I've got some old stuff, some new stuff, and a couple of tidbits about Houston back in the '60s.

JEWEL GRAY: Oh, cool. I love that stuff. This is for you Diane.

JIMMY CARPER: Cool. [LAUGHS]

JEWEL GRAY: There are a couple of other things we'll be talking about. One thing I want to talk-- I want to say real quickly before I forget tonight, a man in our community showed some unusual kindness to the Bearing Care Center the other day. And I want to thank him because when you show kindness to the Bearing Care Center, you show kindness to me. And I want to say that I appreciate it.

And his name is Michael Baker, and he's the florist at Whole Foods over on Shepherd. And he called us the day after Valentine's Day and gave us, oh god, \$1,000 worth of flowers that we were able to give to guys at the care center who loved them, because these guys live on fixed income and they don't have the capacity to buy frivolous things like flowers.

And we were able to give them these flowers and they were able to pass them on to the people that meant a lot to them in their lives. People who are caregivers or team members of care teams, and their home care nurses, and people like that, their parents. These guys don't get to do that very often. And it was very nice of Michael Baker to think of us the day after Valentine's Day. And remember that this is not an ad--

JIMMY CARPER: That's super.

JEWEL GRAY: --this is not an ad, but Michael Baker is at the Whole Foods store and he runs his own florist shop. So stop in and ask for him.

JIMMY CARPER: When someone does a service like that to the community--

JEWEL GRAY: And I think it should be recognized.

JIMMY CARPER: --not only should it be recognized, but I think we have an obligation to do so.

JEWEL GRAY: Well, he told me, when I talked to him, that he was going to split the flower. So some other group in town got a half of that. And I know that was another \$1,000 worth of flowers, roses, dozens and dozens and dozens of beautiful roses. I was shocked when I walked back there.

But he told me that he's the owner of the flower shop in Whole Foods. It's not part of Whole Foods. He's the owner. So that's why I felt that we could do this, because everybody knows about Whole Foods there. They've been real positive in community. So I wanted to highlight, especially Michael Baker there and his flower shop.

So that was my own little agenda tonight, because it's one of those things that we rarely do in our community, is thank the people who really make a difference. And I like to take that opportunity when I have it. And when I have it is when I've got you, our trapped and confined audience who have to listen to me because you've turned us on tonight, which I'm very grateful about. There was something else. Oh, gosh! Maybe we should just go to something to play. And let me set up play--

JIMMY CARPER: Because we've got-- we've got lots of things planned.

JEWEL GRAY: Oh yeah, the Asian tape. You were talking about doing the--

JIMMY CARPER: We have--

JEWEL GRAY: Gay Asian tape.

JIMMY CARPER: I've been talking about playing this tape now for about a month. And every time I put it on the machine, we get involved in something else and never get to it. But maybe tonight we'll get to it. We've got some new music.

JEWEL GRAY: Who's got something new out?

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, Pink.

JEWEL GRAY: Pink. Oh yeah, tell me [INAUDIBLE].

JIMMY CARPER: [? I am Q-U-E ?]. In fact, Pink called us last week, and I had forgotten the CD. Left it at home. I know, I know, I know. So you heard it first on *Lesbian and Gay Voices* Friday night.

But Jack played a cut that was not my favorite. I've picked out four cuts that I particularly like on this new album. And I want to start out with the one that Pink likes the best. I want to see how many people picked up on this. It's called *Beautiful Body*, and this is called the Auntie Mame mix.

JEWEL GRAY: Auntie Mame mix.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, but see if-- I don't know. See if the song is a little familiar. You're ready?

JEWEL GRAY: Yeah, let's do it.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

WOMAN: Pleased I am to make your acquaintance.

JEWEL GRAY: We're back, and you're listening to *After Hours*. My name is Jewel Gray. And sitting with me right now-- excuse me. My voice got so much deeper there. I must have taken a butch pill or something. Maybe it's this mic. I can't hear anything. Maybe that's what it is. There we go. I can hear it now. What a relief! [LAUGHS] I don't sound that butch.

I have Grant Kilpatrick sitting with me, and I talked about him a few minutes ago. I knew it was something Patrick-- and he told me it was Kilpatrick. [LAUGHS] So Grant has been a volunteer at the care center and drops in occasionally. And we've been keeping tabs on him because he's developing into one of Houston's newest actors and has been receiving raves every time he does something.

Let me read something out of-- I think this is the *Houston Post*, the review in the-- yeah, the *Houston Press*. The review in the *Houston Press*. It says, "Grant Kilpatrick keeps pace with commanding leads. Employing the slurred speech of an impoverished laborer who can't afford dentures, Kilpatrick totters with the fidgets of palsy and the ineffective outrage of old age."

Then it says, "What range, last year, he was hysterically effective-- he was hysterically effective as a lecherous old queen in the group theater's workshop or *Ally, Austin, and Ralph*," which got wonderful reviews. People were banging down the door to get in. I know that. I talked to several people who saw that. "It's agonizing to watch his lonely attachment to a dog he's been around so long that he doesn't even know it's stinking in decay."

There's a nice picture in here. And I swear you-- I told you the other day. I can't think of that guy's name. Who was the next door neighbor, the best friend of the Real McCoys? Doesn't look like him? Do you remember the Real McCoys?

GRANT No.

KILPATRICK:

JEWEL GRAY: Don't you remember them? That looks just like him with his old train hat on. Anyway if anybody out there is old enough, you might remember the Real McCoys. This guy was the neighbor. And tell me about this program. First, it's John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men*.

GRANT *Mice and Men*, a classic that was first produced in New York in 1937. And it's really is amazing that now this play

KILPATRICK: is still timely.

JEWEL GRAY: Relevant. Yeah, we were talking about that.

GRANT And it deals with human relationships, which are so important to all of our lives. And it implies a little that there

KILPATRICK: is a relationship between this Lennie and George. And Lennie, of course, is mentally deficient. And it also deals with euthanasia, which was quite new.

JEWEL GRAY: Yeah, shocking.

GRANT Really shocking. And to think that he was so far ahead of his time and talked about such issues. It wasn't well

KILPATRICK: received at first.

JEWEL GRAY: Yeah, we talked about that. It was a flop.

GRANT People were shocked by the theme. But it has become a classic and he certainly knew the itinerant workers of

KILPATRICK: California. His grapes of wrath, of course.

JEWEL GRAY: Of course.

GRANT It's so famous. And Burgess Meredith played-- they played George in the first movie that was made when he was

KILPATRICK: a young man. And incidentally, we were both about the same age, close to 70.

JEWEL GRAY: That's what's remarkable about you, Grant, is that you are close to 70. And it just seems to me like you've just blossomed that when I first met you, you were involved in a lot of things. But since then, you have just blossomed. You've just taken off.

GRANT Well, I never wanted to admit that I was getting old. None of us really want to. But I said, be damned if I'm going

KILPATRICK: to let my muscles go to pot. I started working out at the Y. I can still dance and--

JEWEL GRAY: Carry on with the youngest of them. [LAUGHS]

GRANT And I said, there's no reason in the world why people should get old and become couch potatoes, and if they would do something with their lives. I start new things. I went back to cosmetology school three years ago and got my license so that I could supplement my social security and--

JEWEL GRAY: And you started with the theater.

GRANT Well, no, I have been in theater all my life.

KILPATRICK:

JEWEL GRAY: Really?

GRANT Yes, and I've been in Houston Theater for 20 years. You didn't know that?

KILPATRICK:

JEWEL GRAY: No, I sure didn't. You surprised me.

GRANT And so I'm an old actor.

KILPATRICK:

JEWEL GRAY: And old actors never die. They just get more-- they just-- what is it? Get more curtain calls.

GRANT They get moldy.

KILPATRICK:

JEWEL GRAY: Moldy. [LAUGHS] Well, tell me about this character you play.

GRANT Well, he's an itinerant worker and he's lost his hand on the ranch. And he knows that it's almost over for him.

KILPATRICK: And George and Lennie have this dream of having a ranch of their own. And this is his out, and he wants so much to be a part of it. And the dream isn't realized.

And it's very sad as a play that you see new hope. That I see all of these older men on the street who are out of work, who can't get jobs. And you mentioned, I think earlier, that I'm a Quaker. And the Quakers have a philosophy of helping others. This is what it's based on, service to mankind.

It was based on Jesus teachings, that love thy neighbor as thyself. And it's all George Fox in England in the 17th century. He thought there was something wrong with organized religions. And he'd get into the angle in the Church of England-- churches, and stand up and condemn the ministers. And many of them were thrown in jail.

And one time, a judge was condemning him and he stood up and he said, they too shall quake before thy master. And the judge said, get this Quaker out of here. And that's how the Quaker name came to be attached--

JEWEL GRAY: Wonderful.

GRANT --to this Society of Friends. And we're known as Quakers, but it's actually called the Religious Society of Friends.

KILPATRICK: Probably the most tolerant people you've ever seen. They never form judgments about anyone. They believe that the inner light or God is in everyone, and man has to find that for himself. And they devote their lives to service to mankind.

It took me a long time to feel I was even worthy to be a Quaker, because I was too self-centered. We all are. But it's unfortunate that we aren't raised in this country with this idea of helping others. We're raised with this philosophy, I'm the only one who is important. To hell with the others. And we stomp on people, we ignore them.

And if we went back to some of the old values of helping our neighbor-- and you hear it now, get together with your neighborhoods. Get out all of the-- you have the minority groups like the gays fighting for their rights. And we still have the homophobic folks in the society who are so against any--

JEWEL GRAY: And fighting amongst us ourselves.

GRANT Well, our meeting is right now discussing same-sex marriages. And this Sunday, tomorrow at 9:30, we are having

KILPATRICK: two young men from Austin who have been married three years to discuss the problems they've gone through as two married men. And people may not know it, but gay marriages have been blessed by the Catholic Church since the sixth century. Did you know that?

JEWEL GRAY: No, I didn't. Tell me more.

GRANT And women were blessed in the 18th century. It took them a lot longer to be recognized as is always is it seems.

KILPATRICK: But this young professor at Yale made a study of it. And he found this blessing that's now kept hidden in the Catholic Church, but it's still on the books, blessing same-sex marriages.

And they want the meeting to-- we have to agree unanimously on any decision. And they want the meeting to agree to same-sex marriages under the auspices to make it an issue so that it can be legal in our court systems and our legal system, which it isn't. And until same-sex marriage has had the same rights as heterosexual marriages, it won't be meaningful. And so they feel that if they condone these and allow people to be married under the auspices of the church, then they have a chance of getting the laws changed.

JEWEL GRAY: Well, you tell me a little bit about your service. You said that it's a silent service?

GRANT Silent meeting.

KILPATRICK:

JEWEL GRAY: There's no minister?

GRANT No minister.

KILPATRICK:

JEWEL GRAY: No one stands up and gives us an hour lecture?

GRANT No, you are-- if you feel moved, you may stand and address the meeting. And we call that ministry. And you can

KILPATRICK: state a concern, a problem, or even just a thought that has come to you. And it's so interesting, because you'll be sitting there maybe thinking and meditating and somebody across the room will voice just what you've been thinking about.

We've had themes that come out, people are facing fear. And sometimes it gets so emotional. We're having this discussion about same-sex marriage, well, we have every type of person in the meeting, homophobics. This guy said, I can't imagine what two fellows would do together. Just makes me sick to think of what they might be doing together.

And this young gay boy who was sitting next to me, he rose and he said, I thought the Quakers were tolerant. He said, I was really surprised. And somebody said, no, this is our way of discussing. But to have unanimous approval of a gay marriage, you can imagine how difficult it is to get any group to agree unanimously about--

JEWEL GRAY: True. Yeah, I've run into that a lot lately.

GRANT And well, we have to agree unanimously on any decision the meeting makes.

KILPATRICK:

JEWEL GRAY: It's part of the charter.

GRANT It's just part of the Quaker rules or laws. We don't have many. The big thing about Quakers is that we are for

KILPATRICK: peace and they are recognized as conscientious objectors by the government.

JEWEL GRAY: Pacifists.

GRANT And that's the one thing they all agree on. But as far as lifestyle, as far as how you dress or how you think, that's

KILPATRICK: up to you. It's probably one of the most liberal churches now that exist. And I--

JEWEL GRAY: Is this the same-- would these meetings be the same as the meetings that they would have in, say, rural Pennsylvania?

GRANT Well, this is where it started. William Penn was granted Pennsylvania by the King of England, and he brought

KILPATRICK: Quakerism to America. And that's why the headquarters is in Philadelphia still for the Society of Friends.

The Friends Service Committee is known all over the world. They go into countries that are at war, always humane purposes, to help the women and children. And they always object to any war.

And it's amazing how much legislature has been passed because of their lobbying in Washington for peace, and banning the bomb, and all of these things. But any issue that they feel is not humane, they will stand up and fight against. And this is, I think, the wonderful thing about it.

JEWEL GRAY: Well, you weren't always a Quaker?

GRANT No.

KILPATRICK:

JEWEL GRAY: What happened?

GRANT Well, I married one. And she was a Quaker. And I was-- my wife knew I was gay when we were married. And this

KILPATRICK: was umpteen years ago. But again, it didn't matter to her because she doesn't pass judgment on people. She really is a good Quaker.

And I attended meetings all of our married life. And I thought I can never be that giving. But as you get older, you realize that there's more to life than self. And there's a great deal of satisfaction out of helping others, not for the reward or not for the glory, but just that personal satisfaction that you have helped somebody, the homeless.

JEWEL GRAY: Does that help you on stage, being-- when you do this that you have-- you sound like what you're saying is that you've emptied yourself of a lot of deadweight. Does that help you accept characters any better on the stage?

GRANT Oh, yes.

KILPATRICK:

JEWEL GRAY: Because I mean, I have heard phenomenal things about what you've done on stage. And I mean, I've heard this play was good and this play, but you should have seen Grant, is what I've heard. You should have seen Grant. Grant was great.

And I was wondering if-- I haven't seen you, unfortunately. I'm hoping to catch you before this closes. If you were in some other religion or didn't practice a religion and had all that baggage, do you think you could pick up these characters like you do?

GRANT No. Well, I've been around a long time. [LAUGHS] And I've reached the point where I am able to forget self, ego,

KILPATRICK: and concentrate on what I'm doing. I think it's just the security of being around so long that I know what I'm doing now.

JEWEL GRAY: That's what Hume Cronyn said. I was going to tell you that he said-- he said, I've been doing this long enough. I know what I'm doing. [LAUGHS]

GRANT And that's really [INAUDIBLE]. So you aren't worried about the little technicalities and so forth. And you are free

KILPATRICK: to delve into the depth of any character.

JEWEL GRAY: Well, I'm just trying to put you together here. I see these parts of you, here you are, the actor on the stage who's very good from what I understand. I mean, obviously the press thought you were good.

And here you're, a Quaker, and I do volunteer work, and you do haircuts. I mean, you do hair styling. And you just open a new place over on Hawthorne. Just got you a new chair. So you'll be actively doing that. I'm just trying to piece you together. What makes all this work for you, all these things at nearly 70?

GRANT Well, I don't want to go down to die not doing anything with my life. And if you say that I'm going to do something

KILPATRICK: else, then you do it. I used to have these old girls that would come in to the beauty college and say, oh, we admire you for starting a new career at your age. And I said, why? [LAUGHS]

JEWEL GRAY: I guess you have a point. Why?

GRANT Why? Why not?

KILPATRICK:

JEWEL GRAY: When did you were gay, Grant? I mean, let's get a little background. When did you know that?

GRANT Well, in the World War II.

KILPATRICK:

JEWEL GRAY: You were in the war?

GRANT I fought over in the Pacific, and I was--

KILPATRICK:

JEWEL GRAY: Any place specific that somebody might have heard about?

GRANT Well, New Guinea and--

KILPATRICK:

JEWEL GRAY: New Guinea. While you were waking.

GRANT --and now in the Philippines. And I was a chaplain's assistant. And the Catholic chaplain's assistant and I were

KILPATRICK: roommates, and I had my first gay experience with him. [LAUGHS]

JEWEL GRAY: I love it.

GRANT Isn't that wonderful? And I was a very mixed up kid. And when we came back to the country, United States, after

KILPATRICK: the war, I had this tremendous curiosity. And I thought that this is what I really want.

But I went to college and this young man who was a very brilliant young man, he said, Grant until you admit that you're gay, you will never be happy. And I thought about it. And I said yes, you certainly are right. And that's when I decided that I was going to explore that life. And as I say--

JEWEL GRAY: So that's what, around '50?

GRANT That was in--

KILPATRICK:

JEWEL GRAY: '48, '50?

GRANT '46.

KILPATRICK:

JEWEL GRAY: '46?

GRANT So you see, that's a long time ago. And then gays had to be in the closet. I was interested in acting and my

KILPATRICK: director at undergraduate school said, Grant, if they ever find out in New York you're gay, you'll be finished. And here at that time, Montgomery Clift was just tearing himself apart because he was and was afraid everyone would find out, and it really killed him. And it was a time when we had to be in the closet. And we had--

JEWEL GRAY: What was it like?

GRANT --pressures of the society.

KILPATRICK:

JEWEL GRAY: We had some women from Lo Far and recently the Lesbians over 50, and they were talking about that a lot of those women were married and in the closet and didn't know, because society was so strict, was so repressive to them that they had not managed to even-- other than know inside themselves that something was not what was considered normal.

GRANT I just took it for granted. I had to get married and have kids. And I wasn't afraid of that experience.

KILPATRICK:

JEWEL GRAY: But you knew when you got married.

GRANT The bisexual--

KILPATRICK:

JEWEL GRAY: You just thought that was--

GRANT --wasn't even created yet. They didn't have such a thing.

KILPATRICK:

JEWEL GRAY: But you knew when you got married. But you got married because society said you were supposed to get married and have kids.

GRANT And I have two children. I have grandchildren. I love them. And my kids--

KILPATRICK:

JEWEL GRAY: Did society-- this is a real snotty question. I always want to ask this and I'm going to because I know you'll take it. Did society ever send you a check for you doing what they wanted you to do? [LAUGHS]

GRANT No.

KILPATRICK:

JEWEL GRAY: Did anybody ever say, thanks? [LAUGHS] No. I always want to say that. I want to say, society-- you did this because of the society. And I always want to say, well, did they send you a check for it? [LAUGHS] I want people to know that-- why do things for society? But go ahead-- go ahead with what you were saying. I'm sorry.

GRANT It's wonderful to have gone through this many years and see the changes.

KILPATRICK:

JEWEL GRAY: Well, that's what I wanted-- that's why when we talked the other day, I said, god, I'd really like to have you on. Because I think with Stonewall 25 coming up and some of the other things, the historical things that have happened, that we need to look back in our history. And not just at it, not just in books, and facts, and figures, and dates, but at the people who have made that history.

And they may have done nothing of great significance in and of themselves except that they live through that and can reflect back on it. And that it may that can give some of the people-- some of the younger people in our community, who feel like they're beating their heads against a wall, some hope. Because if they see how much it's come, how far we've come, maybe they can appreciate that just because it doesn't come as quickly as they want, but that it comes.

GRANT We went through the '50s with the McCarthy era. When you were almost afraid that they would find out you were

KILPATRICK: gay--

JEWEL GRAY: The thought police.

GRANT --and it was a terrible time to live. And you were matter and hell that the country was doing this to us. And then

KILPATRICK: we had-- fortunately, we had the flowered children who came along--

JEWEL GRAY: How old were you during that, in the '60s?

GRANT Well, I was born in '24. So I was in my '40s.

KILPATRICK:

JEWEL GRAY: '40s. I bet you were a hippie.

GRANT No, I wasn't.

KILPATRICK:

JEWEL GRAY: No?

GRANT No, I was--

KILPATRICK:

JEWEL GRAY: Pretty settled anyways by then?

GRANT --a college professor.

KILPATRICK:

JEWEL GRAY: A college professor?

GRANT And I was very conservative.

KILPATRICK:

JEWEL GRAY: What did you teach?

GRANT Drama.

KILPATRICK:

JEWEL GRAY: Oh, [INAUDIBLE]. No wonder you got this down too.

[LAUGHTER]

No wonder. See, I didn't know all these things about you. The reason I keep saying this about Grant is Grant did some volunteer work at the care center for lots of months. And we got to know each other that way. And I knew he was doing the acting, and I knew you were doing the hair. And I knew some of the other things about you with the Quaker part. But I didn't know the depth of the stories behind these things. So I'm like learning all over again.

This is just fascinating. And I really think that it's important for people to know our history not from, like I said, facts and figures, but from the people who lived it. Get a perspective of what has made you who you are today is the time that you spent up till today and what things that you've experienced. And maybe people who can learn that can learn in ways to connect with you on common ground.

GRANT Well, today, there is so much freedom. You are saying, what would I say to young people? I'd say, be yourself

KILPATRICK: because you do have the freedom to be yourself today. Of course, when you get older, you have that freedom anyway. You can say whatever you want. And they say you're senile or whatever.

JEWEL GRAY: Dottie. [LAUGHS] That's my life [? it works out ?].

GRANT So that's wonderful, because let them think what they want.

KILPATRICK:

JEWEL GRAY: That's right. That's right.

GRANT I have the freedom of old age and also the freedom of the time, which I love.

KILPATRICK:

JEWEL GRAY: I've heard from a couple of people that I know, that you're really taking advantage of that part of it. [LAUGHS]

GRANT Well, why not?

KILPATRICK:

JEWEL GRAY: That you're a real flirt. [LAUGHS] That people have to watch standing around you. You draw them like flies, they say.

GRANT Well, I have I have a lot of-- ones over at Bering who call me grandma.

KILPATRICK:

JEWEL GRAY: And you did a wonderful Dietrich in Santa suit for the Christmas party. That was wonderful. Marlene Dietrich-- he did Marlene Dietrich dressed up in a Santa suit. And did this number at the care center party, which was such a hit. People are still talking about it.

GRANT And I loved you as Santa Claus. [LAUGHS]

KILPATRICK:

JEWEL GRAY: Yeah, I have a picture. You should come by--

GRANT [INAUDIBLE] beard.

KILPATRICK:

JEWEL GRAY: I have a picture of us together. You should come by. We'll give you one. Well, let's briefly go back to your show. Where is this playing?

GRANT It's playing at the junk store on the corner of Welch and Taft, which is--

KILPATRICK:

JEWEL GRAY: Which is getting quite a reputation.

GRANT Oh, yes. It's a lovely little theater. I call it total theater because Steinbeck fits so well in the junk shop. And James

KILPATRICK: Prince, who is the director and plays Lennie in it, is really very creative as a director. And I thought, my gosh, I wouldn't have had the energy to do all he did and make that into a theater. And it really is a stunning production, not because I'm in it, but because of his talent.

JEWEL GRAY: Well, you start with Steinbeck, get a good director and a bunch of good actors. You got--

GRANT And it's a beautiful play--

KILPATRICK:

JEWEL GRAY: --a winner.

GRANT --and it's a sad play.

KILPATRICK:

JEWEL GRAY: Well--

GRANT But I wanted to say one thing. Get back to something at the meeting that, we do have a gay and lesbian concern group at our Quaker meeting.

JEWEL GRAY: Quaker meeting.

GRANT And it meets every-- the second Thursday of every month. And I was going to have John Murphy, who was head of the committee here tonight if I could, but he couldn't make it. But he said, if anyone wants to ask any questions about it, give them my phone number. And that is 523-6760, 523-6760.

JEWEL GRAY: And that's John who?

GRANT Murphy.

KILPATRICK:

JEWEL GRAY: John Murphy.

GRANT And we have what we call query. I love that term. It's really a question that we explore each time we meet on Thursdays. And it might be something like, how has being gay affected your life? Or when did you first know you were gay?

And each person speaks and tells about himself or whatever answers the question without anyone commenting on it at all. And it's amazing how well you get to know people in such a group. And I think any gay would find it interesting.

Also I think my biggest concern is all of these HIV positive people who have lost all of that interest in the spirituality. They take every escape other than spiritual. And they go on drugs, they drink, they do all of these things.

And I think if they found a group that they knew would support them, that they wouldn't be alone just as the Bearing Center creates a place for them where they have something in calm and conversation. They know they aren't alone. But they do need that spiritual aspect in their lives to help them through it for God's sakes. And this is the saddest thing to me.

JEWEL GRAY: So we want to be careful and not say that everybody who's HIV positive or has AIDS. What Grant is referring to is that--

GRANT [INAUDIBLE] the Bering.

KILPATRICK:

JEWEL GRAY: --because of his close connection to large groups of PWAs, that he sees overwhelming problems in the groups that we come in contact with who are usually indigent, and living on fixed incomes, and drugs are easy lure and very seductive.

GRANT And there are so many who find a purpose in their life and go out--

KILPATRICK:

JEWEL GRAY: Others--

GRANT --and do something.

KILPATRICK:

JEWEL GRAY: Yes, that's right.

GRANT And we don't hear about those or we don't see those, because they are using their creativity and they are doing

KILPATRICK: something with their lives. But I think if they ever found or said to themselves, there is a God in me or a light in me, and look for it and use it--

JEWEL GRAY: All I need to do is stoke it. It's already there. That's right.

GRANT That's it.

KILPATRICK:

JEWEL GRAY: That's right. Well, I want to get you back to the play just a second. I know you're really hot on this. But tell people when and where-- I mean, it's going to be at the junkyard. When? It's playing until--

GRANT Thursday, Friday, and Saturday nights at 8:00 and that 3:00 on Sunday. And incidentally, tomorrow is our last

KILPATRICK: Sunday performance. And the director has lowered the price from \$10 to \$5. So come out tomorrow if you can't afford the \$10 and the \$12 from the night performances.

JEWEL GRAY: Well, there you go, it's special on Sunday afternoon. There was something else. What I wanted to--