

SANDY LOPEZ: Canada also backed up because Canada was a guest. So when Canada said, we're not going to do it, they invited Costa Rica. And so Costa Rica joined it for the second time. And when Argentina backed up, they just couldn't find anybody else and they just went, do you want to come over? And then Honduras said, OK.

[LAUGHTER]

FRANCISCO We hear the food's good.

SANCHEZ:

JIMMY CARPER: This is so bizarre.

SANDY LOPEZ: And it was the most-- it was the most amazing thing, because the cup ended up being a success. I mean, it was the most profitable--

JIMMY CARPER: In spite of everything.

SANDY LOPEZ: Yeah, in spite of everything, it ended up being a success. And the teams that actually went in and did a fabulous job were the Central American teams, Costa Rica and Honduras.

JIMMY CARPER: And did anybody get kidnapped?

SANDY LOPEZ: No, nobody got kidnapped. And they've actually had a really good theme for the cup, which was, like, peace.

JIMMY CARPER: Sure!

SANDY LOPEZ: You know, we want peace. And that was kind of cool.

JIMMY CARPER: It was sort of like a cease fire while that was going on.

SANDY LOPEZ: Yeah, and I think there was a lot of that.

JIMMY CARPER: OK, OK.

SANDY LOPEZ: Nobody died doing the work.

[LAUGHTER]

PARTICIPANT 1: During the American camp, I was like, oh, gosh.

PARTICIPANT 2: Did they have somebody other than Ricky Martin singing the theme song?

SANDY LOPEZ: No, they do not have-- they don't make a show.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, OK.

SANDY LOPEZ: They don't make a show. The World Cup is more different. It's more commercialized. It gets more sponsorship. Those ones are pretty good, but at the same time, they're more based on, let's play, let's do it, let's get it, let's go.

PARTICIPANT 2: But we've got these people out here in professional sports and out in Madison Avenue whose heads are stuck so far you know where that they cannot see. And to them, soccer in the United States can be a success if it's marketed properly.

SANDY LOPEZ: It's like-- I'm telling you, you know how Robertson-- I don't know if you've been to Robertson Stadium when we have soccer games here. It's packed.

PARTICIPANT 1: Really?

SANDY LOPEZ: I mean, it's like when I want to see the Honduran community, you know where I go? To a soccer game. I mean--

PARTICIPANT 3: That's because of the Hispanic community that we have here in Houston.

SANDY LOPEZ: But that is your market.

PARTICIPANT 3: And they're the ones that do it.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, but--

PARTICIPANT 3: But we're building--

PARTICIPANT 2: But the thing is--

PARTICIPANT 3: We're building a generation that's coming up that is now playing soccer.

JIMMY CARPER: Are you saying that because it's Houston, we have the market? If it was a soccer game in Chicago--

SANDY LOPEZ: You have the market, because Chicago-- the market is in any major city because--

PARTICIPANT 2: You got to understand first of all, soccer is not a Hispanic game.

SANDY LOPEZ: Yeah, it's universal. It is a universal.

PARTICIPANT 2: They kill each other in England and France over soccer.

SANDY LOPEZ: Russia.

FRANCISCO Oh, yeah.

SANCHEZ:

PARTICIPANT 2: They kill each other!

SANDY LOPEZ: Ireland.

PARTICIPANT 2: The passions run that high.

SANDY LOPEZ: Yeah.

PARTICIPANT 2: The passions run that high.

PARTICIPANT 3: But your plain vanilla American, who does not identify with an ethnic origin other than--

PARTICIPANT 2: No, no, we're talking about people--

PARTICIPANT 3:I'm saying, somebody from Des Moines, Iowa, could care less about soccer.

PARTICIPANT 2:OK, American football players, they go out with all kinds of padding, and helmets, and all kinds of protection.

Soccer players just have their supporters, their trunks, and their shoes.

PARTICIPANT 3:Yeah, you have shoes if you're lucky.

PARTICIPANT 1:And those shorts very well tied. [LAUGHS]

JIMMY CARPER: But since I've been on the internet, I-- well, OK, some of these guys don't even wear underwear. I've seen the pictures.

PARTICIPANT 2:I know. That's what I love about soccer.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, my god. Look at them.

PARTICIPANT 1:(AMUSED) OK, that's the reason why.

JIMMY CARPER: But, I mean, it's such a rough sport, though. I mean, there's like no protection there.

PARTICIPANT 2:No.

JIMMY CARPER: It's like, whoa, guys are really butch.

SANDY LOPEZ: But it is a market anywhere in the United States, because the United States is a very diverse population. The problem is that your regular Joe will not go because they don't understand the sport.

PARTICIPANT 3:Exactly.

SANDY LOPEZ: But what they don't understand is, like-- I mean, I like baseball, but I don't go to it because it ain't my sport.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

SANDY LOPEZ: I mean, in my country, the only thing we play is soccer. And believe me--

JIMMY CARPER: So are you trying to tell me that-- this is a queer show.

SANDY LOPEZ: Mhm.

JIMMY CARPER: But we're talking about soccer, and you're-- is it because there's universal appeal here?

SANDY LOPEZ: It's-- I mean, it doesn't matter. I mean, I'm queer and I love it. My brother loves it. I mean, everybody I know loves it. But there's your-- I mean, you're not going to go and put a soccer league somewhere in Waco because nobody ain't going to go. But it's like in Texas, Dallas, San Antonio, Houston are major markets.

PARTICIPANT 1:Mhm.

SANDY LOPEZ: I mean, Louisiana is a major market because of the fact that Louisiana has the biggest Honduran population, one of the biggest Central American populations.

JIMMY CARPER: Really?

SANDY LOPEZ: Mhm. It's like for every American, there is two Hondurans.

[LAUGHTER]

PARTICIPANT 3: Well, the other thing also is that within the--

SANDY LOPEZ: I love it, though.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

JIMMY CARPER: We love you.

PARTICIPANT 3: The people who are not identifying with another country, i.e. Honduras, Panama, what have you-- and like in my case, I was born and raised in Panama. And I played soccer as a kid. I played it in high school. I played it in college. But I would rather play the game than watch it.

JIMMY CARPER: Ah.

FRANCISCO There's a-- we used to do--

SANCHEZ:

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, Francisco, you're here!

[LAUGHTER]

FRANCISCO Yeah. I used to work for a Hispanic marketing agency. We had a client that was-- I think it was a-- they're

SANCHEZ: obviously not a client anymore because I can't remember their names. I think they were the Hurricanes, and they were-- they were a soccer team. And one of the complaints that we kept hearing from their management was that their idea was that Americans couldn't appreciate a game where there wasn't constantly scoring, like basketball, or baseball, or football, when the score--

PARTICIPANT 1: Or there was--

FRANCISCO In the course of an hour, there's-- an hour game, the score's maybe 1-2 and you win, but there wasn't enough

SANCHEZ: scoring. There's plenty of excitement, but there wasn't enough sort of--

PARTICIPANT 1: Oh.

FRANCISCO People were drawn to scores.

SANCHEZ:

JIMMY CARPER: There were football games that are like that. There are baseball games that are like that.

SANDY LOPEZ: But football--

PARTICIPANT 3: But rarely.

SANDY LOPEZ: Soccer is not a violent-- soccer is not violent. It's not like hockey, where I'm going to beat you, or football, where I'm going to beat you, or where baseball--

PARTICIPANT 2: Ask the fans if it's not violent.

[LAUGHTER]

PARTICIPANT 3: Soccer can be violent.

SANDY LOPEZ: Well, but not on the field.

JIMMY CARPER: Only if your team loses.

[LAUGHTER]

SANDY LOPEZ: We're not talking on the field. There have not been many violence. I mean, yeah, I can slap you around if you kick me the wrong way, because it's like, that's just human nature. When somebody hits you, you're going to hit back, unless you have really control. And it's like, but if not, you're just different. But it's like soccer is a really beautiful sport. And it's like, as a Latino, I love it, and I wish Houston had one.

PARTICIPANT 3: Well, it's part of your heritage. It's part of your culture. Whereas the average American I don't think really understands all the nuances and all of the moves and so forth in the game. I really don't think they understand the game. And I think we're building a generation who is playing it now. Young kids and so forth have soccer leagues and they're playing it. And ultimately, I think it will happen.

JIMMY CARPER: OK, let's break for a little bit. I want to thank-- we have got a caller on the line.

PARTICIPANT 1: Oh!

JIMMY CARPER: And she's called because she's been listening to the show for a very long time. And what I want to say to her is, you're welcome.

PARTICIPANT 1: And thank you.

JIMMY CARPER: That was really nice of you to call in. So let's go to a quick piece of music and we'll regroup and--

SANDY LOPEZ: Could you play that Dido, number five?

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, I've got the Dido in there. And you two have to fight out.

SANDY LOPEZ: Because I wanted to dedicate it to a friend of mine.

JIMMY CARPER: Ah, OK, let's do that.

SANDY LOPEZ: Yeah, he lost his mother on Friday.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh.

SANDY LOPEZ: And it's like, I've always wanted-- we all banded together. I want to tell him that we're there for him and that he's got to be strong and everything he needs is right there. You just need to see it.

JIMMY CARPER: This is for him.

SANDY LOPEZ: Yeah.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

JIMMY CARPER: Dido, and you're listening to it on *After Hours*, queer radio with attitude on KPFT Houston and KEOS College Station. And we're back with Francisco Sanchez and Sandy Lopez with the Latino hour.

SANDY LOPEZ: Yeah, we've been asked to change the subject. [LAUGHS]

JIMMY CARPER: No, I--

[LAUGHTER]

And we--

FRANCISCO First, you were telling people to straighten up. Now you're telling them [INAUDIBLE].

SANCHEZ:

[LAUGHTER]

JIMMY CARPER: The thing is-- woo!

[LAUGHTER]

The thing-- no, I know, but sports and especially soccer can be a very emotional topic.

SANDY LOPEZ: I know, and passionate.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, very passionate.

SANDY LOPEZ: Because with me, you always get passion.

[LAUGHTER]

FRANCISCO And his number is.

SANCHEZ:

[LAUGHTER]

JIMMY CARPER: Ooh! [LAUGHS]

SANDY LOPEZ: OK, I won't speak to Francisco anymore.

FRANCISCO Yes, you will.

SANCHEZ:

[LAUGHTER]

JIMMY CARPER: So how about your-- who are you dating this month?

SANDY LOPEZ: Actually, I'm-- damn.

PARTICIPANT 2: Oh, man, that is cold!

SANDY LOPEZ: Woo!

FRANCISCO OK, has it changed, Sandy?

SANCHEZ:

SANDY LOPEZ: Well, it has changed.

JIMMY CARPER: Ah-ha! Ah-ha! [LAUGHS]

SANDY LOPEZ: Yeah, but I'm not dating anybody.

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

SANDY LOPEZ: Well, not in that sense that-- you know, my friend--

JIMMY CARPER: You're dating everybody.

SANDY LOPEZ: I wish I could.

PARTICIPANT 2: He's in between boyfriends right now. [INAUDIBLE]

SANDY LOPEZ: No, no, no, I'm not in between boyfriends. I'm just taking time for myself. Because I've been seeing somebody, but to me, it didn't really spoke love.

JIMMY CARPER: You got dumped, huh?

SANDY LOPEZ: It spoke-- no, no. [LAUGHS]

[LAUGHTER]

JIMMY CARPER: I'm sorry, I'm sorry. That's mean of me.

SANDY LOPEZ: I wish that would have been the point. But it's like, no, I just realized that there wasn't love there.

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

SANDY LOPEZ: And it's like a really deep love for a friend. And that's what we're into right now, friendship, and just getting to know each other as friends. And I got other friends too.

[LAUGHTER]

FRANCISCO And you know each other very well.

SANCHEZ:

JIMMY CARPER: And I see. I see.

SANDY LOPEZ: OK, do not go there, please.

JIMMY CARPER: And, Francisco?

FRANCISCO Still happily taken for 3 and 1/2 years.

SANCHEZ:

JIMMY CARPER: Good, good, good, good, good.

SANDY LOPEZ: I feel so jealous every time he says that, but it's like, gosh, if I were 18 and I was happily taken-- [LAUGHS]

[LAUGHTER]

I'm sorry. Oops, my mouth went ahead of myself, my friend.

JIMMY CARPER: That's OK. That's OK.

FRANCISCO That's the problem with your relationships, Sandy.

SANCHEZ:

[LAUGHTER]

JIMMY CARPER: Ooh!

SANDY LOPEZ: Good payback.

FRANCISCO And Jimmy's like, now we're going back to another song.

SANCHEZ:

[LAUGHTER]

You said gay it up. We have to get catty.

JIMMY CARPER: Well, that worked, didn't it?

SANDY LOPEZ: And vindictive. [MEOWS]

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

SANDY LOPEZ: My heart just-- [SIGHS] so lift it up a little bit.

JIMMY CARPER: Since you've been here, let's see, we've had the non-discrimination thing passed.

FRANCISCO We have.

SANCHEZ:

SANDY LOPEZ: And I was very happy about that.

JIMMY CARPER: Actually, I'm very-- not only am I happy about that, but I'm happy about pretty much everything that's happened since then. Because it looks like there won't be a referendum about it.

SANDY LOPEZ: Mhm.

FRANCISCO It looks like it, we're hoping so. We'll keep our fingers crossed. But they sort of run out of steam on the other

SANCHEZ: side.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, it seems-- and plus, it seems that the Republican right is not looking to have a referendum for this. And you know why? Because they know they can't win. Because it's just the right thing to do. I mean--

SANDY LOPEZ: Plus, you don't want to go into an election with the stigma that, I fought this, I fought equality for everybody.

JIMMY CARPER: That's right, because most of the people in this town, and I think in this country, feel that there should be-- there should not be discrimination when it comes to housing and jobs.

PARTICIPANT 2: Well, I remember at the caucus when this whole subject first came up, board members were very divided over this. And I told them, I said, no, this is not the 1980s all over again where we got burned big time.

JIMMY CARPER: Well, that's--

PARTICIPANT 2: I mean--

JIMMY CARPER: Well, I think that's--

PARTICIPANT 2: --burned? We got roasted to a crisp.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, what a lot of the older folks were feeling. You didn't want to have to go through that again.

PARTICIPANT 2: But the nice thing about working here at the station and being involved in the caucus and in politics, like I've been from both ends, I get-- you have your fingers-- you get the pulse of the community that you're dealing with. And this was the right time.

JIMMY CARPER: Well, yes, but--

FRANCISCO And it was worth waiting for it. That's why it's taken us five years to get to this point. And in terms of five years,

SANCHEZ: I'm talking about it was in-- I think it was in Denver, or it was Colorado where the Supreme Court said the city can make this kind of decision on to offer non-discrimination. And I remember we had a rally when the Colorado decision came down.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, that was incredible.

FRANCISCO I think it was in '90-- well, I'm not sure. Was it five years ago? I'm not sure it was five years ago.

SANCHEZ:

JIMMY CARPER: Gosh, was it that long?

FRANCISCO It was the nearest first term.

SANCHEZ:

JIMMY CARPER: Wow!

FRANCISCO So it maybe-- so he had, what, three terms. So it's six, 10 years, right?

SANCHEZ:

JIMMY CARPER: Gosh, because I can remember that vividly.

PARTICIPANT 2: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

FRANCISCO Yeah, so--

SANCHEZ:

JIMMY CARPER: I remember that.

FRANCISCO --that amount of time because we had the rally right there at the reflection pool.

SANCHEZ:

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, yeah.

FRANCISCO It's amazing it's taken that long to get to this point, but I think the timing worked out very well.

SANCHEZ:

SANDY LOPEZ: Plus, this is something for us to be proud about, I mean, the fact that Houston is a city that is changing and we're taking a step into that. We can say we've done it, we have helped in some point into making Houston a more gay-friendly, a more friendly to anything, anyone.

FRANCISCO And it throws you off to see the headlines because you're usually like, oh, this city passed this, and that city's

SANCHEZ: passed that. And then you look at the *Chronicle* and you think, OK, well, now Houston. And so you see those headlines. It's still-- I still have a hard time believing it.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

FRANCISCO I live in a city that's going to have a non-discrimination clause.

SANCHEZ:

JIMMY CARPER: I know! Yeah, right.

FRANCISCO I mean, like in San Francisco, or Sacramento, or San Jose, New York, Boston, but not Houston.

SANCHEZ:

PARTICIPANT 2: What really breaks my heart-- there is a lot of other countries, and even Mexico City for that matter, has passed a lot of very pro-gay ordinances and a lot of countries. And this country used to pride itself as being the leader of the free world, and we're being left--

SANDY LOPEZ: You know that that is not-- you know that just because you say something doesn't mean you're going to do it.

JIMMY CARPER: No, that's true.

SANDY LOPEZ: I mean, the United States is not the most liberal country in the whole world. It is not the most accepting country in the whole world. And one of the things that people have to realize is that one of the reasons why a lot of countries outside of the United-- a lot of countries in the world are doing changes is because, I'm going to say this because, you know, it's of the European Union.

JIMMY CARPER: Mhm.

SANDY LOPEZ: They are the ones who have set the example for everybody. They're the ones that keep setting the example for the whole world to see. The fact that they have a unified region, the fact that they have a unified currency, a unified government, a unified way that if, it's our way or the highway.

JIMMY CARPER: That's right.

SANDY LOPEZ: Because it's like, in order for any country to receive help from the European Union, your constitution have to agree to their bylaws. And they do not tolerate discrimination of any kind.

JIMMY CARPER: That's right.

SANDY LOPEZ: Of any kind.

JIMMY CARPER: Now, on the realistic side of it, in 1964, we had civil rights for African-Americans. And in 2001, there's still racism.

SANDY LOPEZ: That's never going to change. I mean, I don't want to say that because I really do not know. But my heart tells me that there's always going to be something that we have to hate or dislike about--

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, I hate-- I just despise that, that we have to look down on someone to feel better about ourselves. Now, that's chickenshit.

SANDY LOPEZ: But the problem is that we all have done it. We all have done it. I mean, it's like, you know, the whites with the Blacks.

JIMMY CARPER: I know, I know.

SANDY LOPEZ: The whites with the Indians. The Indians with the Black.

JIMMY CARPER: Absolutely.

SANDY LOPEZ: It's like we do it amongst each other. I mean, the nationality thing. It's like there was a time in my life that I could not tolerate a Mexican because there was so much hatred in me.

JIMMY CARPER: Mhm.

SANDY LOPEZ: But then it's like you change. You learn to know people. And it's like, oh, they're not as conceited as you thought they would be.

[LAUGHTER]

They're practically good friends.

JIMMY CARPER: Because not everybody--

SANDY LOPEZ: Yeah, because--

JIMMY CARPER: A whole people--

SANDY LOPEZ: You don't stereotype anymore.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

SANDY LOPEZ: But then it's like I used to stereotype because I used to live in a country where it's like everybody seemed so different. Like, I've always-- there was a Jewish community in La Ceiba where I lived. And it's like, it was very small. And they were very nice. But at the same time, it's like, every time you spoke to them, they'd talk about the Holocaust and how bad it was for them. And sometimes, it was so repetitive that it's like, I don't even want to talk to you because you're going to start telling me about how bad it was.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

SANDY LOPEZ: And it's like-- and that's something that I started to learn when I was little. If I'm going to be with somebody, I want to be with somebody positive. It's like, yeah, we all have our things, and it's just like, I was raped, my whole family was-- and all this stuff. And it's like, and you don't see me telling you every single time I see you how bad my life is.

JIMMY CARPER: No.

SANDY LOPEZ: And it's like some people just dwell too much.

JIMMY CARPER: But where I was going with this is that--

SANDY LOPEZ: Sorry.

JIMMY CARPER: No, no, no, no, no, no, no. We have the racism with African-Americans in 1964 was overturned. But still, racism exists. And what about Latino phobia?

SANDY LOPEZ: Mm.

JIMMY CARPER: It exists.

SANDY LOPEZ: It does.

JIMMY CARPER: And when are we going to acknowledge it? And when are we going to do something about it?

SANDY LOPEZ: I mean, the major subject, when you talk about not wanting any more Latinos is when you talk about immigration.

JIMMY CARPER: Sure.

SANDY LOPEZ: You just want to close the door. You just want to build a bigger fence. And it's--

PARTICIPANT 2: Send in the troops.

SANDY LOPEZ: --the whole language thing, you know? You don't want no being bilingual. And--

PARTICIPANT 2: Well, what about the-- well, wait, but what about the white European-French that come down from Canada?

[LAUGHTER]

SANDY LOPEZ: The problem is that if you-- in regard about discrimination, if you look white, you're cool. It's like, immigrant--

JIMMY CARPER: [LAUGHS] God, please.

SANDY LOPEZ: I mean, it's like, have you ever heard about somebody, a policeman or an INS person, asking the white one papers?

PARTICIPANT 1: Yeah, that's right.

FRANCISCO American Citizen [? I am ?]? Yeah.

SANCHEZ:

SANDY LOPEZ: Show me your card.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

SANDY LOPEZ: It's like, that never happens. And it's like, every-- go to immigration--

PARTICIPANT 1: Try crossing the border.

SANDY LOPEZ: Yeah. Go to immigration one time, and you're going to realize you're going to see French. You're going to see Germans. You're going to see all those kinds of people. And some of them, believe me, just got on the ship or got on the plane. Their visa expired, and they stayed.

JIMMY CARPER: Hmm.

SANDY LOPEZ: And it's like, it's not a big hassle for them to get a visa as it is for Latinos. It's harder for a Latino to get any kind of paperwork here in the United States, because they made it so hard. So hard.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

PARTICIPANT 2: Even for the Hispanic people and Chicanos that are here in the city of Houston, it's very hard. For instance, our HISD staffing amongst teachers is still lacking with Hispanics.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

PARTICIPANT 2: The Board of Education, and the whole nine yards.

SANDY LOPEZ: I work in an education business. And it's like-- and it saddens me when I go-- I mean, when I go to a school and I see that it's a school that is mostly 80%, 90% Hispanic or Latino, and then the principal and assistant principals are non-Latino. And the only ones who speak Spanish or are bilingual are the secretaries. Or they--

FRANCISCO Or maintenance.

SANCHEZ:

SANDY LOPEZ: Or the maintenance, yeah. That's a big deal.

PARTICIPANT 2: Or the dishwasher from the cafeteria.

SANDY LOPEZ: Yeah, look for your custodian. He'll sure know the way. [LAUGHS] But it's like, things are changing, I think, but it's taking a while, a while, especially-- but it's taking longer because the community doesn't really get together and band and actually fight all this. But it's because the Hispanic community here in Houston, it's very--

PARTICIPANT 2: Diverse?

SANDY LOPEZ: Ugh, no. Hard-headed.

[LAUGHTER]

JIMMY CARPER: Two points I want to bring you up. We had a call from, I believe, Paul [INAUDIBLE] that there's a lot more than racism in this town and in the gay community. I mean, there's-- [SIGHS] there's--

[LAUGHTER]

SANDY LOPEZ: Entire town.

JIMMY CARPER: Am I rattled from the first two hours or what? Anyway, no, there is-- there are other phobias like looks, looks-ism, and weight, and age, and all of these kind of things that we have to overcome also.

And another point I wanted to make is that, yes, there's more and more of a Latino presence. And inside, I like the idea of this country having one language, but I know that in the future that it's just not going to happen. We are going to be bilingual.

SANDY LOPEZ: Well, you know like--

JIMMY CARPER: It's going to happen.

SANDY LOPEZ: --Houston, the majority of people here are Hispanic, Latino.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

SANDY LOPEZ: I mean, Houston is a Latino city. It's becoming that, yes.

SANDY LOPEZ: It is.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, well, it is.

PARTICIPANT 2: It is.

JIMMY CARPER: It is.

FRANCISCO And you certainly-- I mean, gosh, you even look at when I started coming out. And you at the clubs and people

SANCHEZ: that are in there, and it's predominantly more Hispanics than there used to be I think in some of these clubs. And I don't know if our community, you notice these things like ageism, and ageism, and people look because we're smaller, but it's certainly something that exists in our community.

PARTICIPANT 2: Well, and it's a funny thing too, because it's like what you and I were talking about before this segment, which is that this segment here is the only, is the only gay Latino segment--

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, that's true.

PARTICIPANT 2: --in the city.

JIMMY CARPER: Probably more than just this city. We have a caller on the air.

SANDY LOPEZ: Great.

JIMMY CARPER: Just a moment.

SANDY LOPEZ: Do I know you?

FRANCISCO See, I always wanted to do the Oprah thing.

SANCHEZ:

PARTICIPANT 1: (LAUGHING) Yeah.

FRANCISCO Caller, you say what?

SANCHEZ:

JIMMY CARPER: How come it works for other people and it doesn't work for me?

[LAUGHTER]

PARTICIPANT 1: Do we have--

PARTICIPANT 3: Chris, where are you when we need you?

SANDY LOPEZ: Yeah, do we have to do it from here?

JIMMY CARPER: Oh! Oh, you answered it on the black phone?

PARTICIPANT 4: Yeah.

SANDY LOPEZ: Oh.

JIMMY CARPER: OK. No, we can't put people-- yeah, she has to call back. And we have to answer it in the production room. We have two separate phone systems here.

PARTICIPANT 1: Yeah, we're sorry.

FRANCISCO And again, you're listening to KPFT.

SANCHEZ:

[LAUGHTER]

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

PARTICIPANT 2: Queer radio with attitude.

JIMMY CARPER: We certainly are.

SANDY LOPEZ: But it's like, see, but one of the biggest things that I hate about my community is the fact that the biggest thing is the masochism.

FRANCISCO Machismo?

SANCHEZ:

SANDY LOPEZ: Yeah, machismo. And the fact that one of the things that I always heard them say, you're gay, stop worrying about, you know--

PARTICIPANT 2: Oh.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, but--

FRANCISCO And on that note, a couple of months ago, we talked about the little-- I don't want to call it a riff, but National

SANCHEZ: Council of La Raza, NCLR, one of the largest Hispanic social organizations. The [INAUDIBLE] sort of had a little run-in with the [INAUDIBLE], which is a gay and lesbian national organization, over a staffer making some inappropriate comments in a news release. Just a week and a half ago, an NCLR released a statement supporting NDA, the Non-Discrimination Act, so things are getting a little bit better over there.

JIMMY CARPER: I'm still unhappy with NDA because it does not include transgenders.

FRANCISCO Right.

SANCHEZ:

JIMMY CARPER: And I just-- there's just-- I just can't get over HRC for excluding transgenders. And I have this problem with them. But go ahead. I'm sorry.

FRANCISCO And so I was just going to say, sort of, I know two months ago, we were ragging on NCLR.

SANCHEZ:

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

FRANCISCO And now they've supported it, and so I just sort of wanted to mention that.

SANCHEZ:

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

PARTICIPANT 1: I think you've got your caller on hold. Is there?

FRANCISCO There's a light blinking.

SANCHEZ:

JIMMY CARPER: There is a light blinking.

PARTICIPANT 1: Yeah, there's a light blinking!

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, my god.

PARTICIPANT 1: Yeah.

FRANCISCO Do we just click it, or do they have to click it over there?

SANCHEZ:

JIMMY CARPER: There we go.

PARTICIPANT 1: He just did.

JIMMY CARPER: OK. No, not yet.

PARTICIPANT 1: No?

JIMMY CARPER: Not yet.

PARTICIPANT 1: Not yet? Oh, OK.

FRANCISCO [INAUDIBLE]

SANCHEZ:

JIMMY CARPER: I don't know what's going on there.

PARTICIPANT 1: Oh, OK, we were just freaking out here because we want to hear the caller and we just can't get it on.

JIMMY CARPER: Well, Big Roy's in there. He knows how that system works. Please call again.

[LAUGHTER]

PARTICIPANT 1: I hope you're not calling from a pay phone.

[LAUGHTER]

JIMMY CARPER: Really.

PARTICIPANT 1: That would make us feel really bad.

JIMMY CARPER: Really.

SANDY LOPEZ: But one of the things that I've been reading about, though, and I don't want to say that I'm feeling really good about this, but it's like the Boy Scouts are suffering so much, and I just love it.

FRANCISCO Oh, let me--

SANCHEZ:

SANDY LOPEZ: Every time they get less funding from here, less funding from that, I'm just like, thank, god.

FRANCISCO I'll bring this up. We went to Philadelphia for the Madonna concert, David and I for her first US show. And one of

SANCHEZ: the things that-- we sat there, we were taking-- we were looking at the Liberty Bell.

JIMMY CARPER: Uh-huh.

FRANCISCO And we had to get in line behind like about 30 Boy Scouts. And I thought it was so ironic. I mean, I wish I had a

SANCHEZ: camera. I'm talking about the Liberty Bell with a group that's excluding people--

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

FRANCISCO --sitting here, learning about one of the images that's a foundation of this country. And I just thought it was very

SANCHEZ: ironic.

PARTICIPANT 1: That is so incredible.

FRANCISCO And I felt like writing an essay on the way back because I do things like that. I should get them published

SANCHEZ: because I can get rather spiteful in them, so I sort of hold on to them. But I thought that was such an interesting
[INAUDIBLE].

JIMMY CARPER: You know, I'm really torn because I don't like the discrimination with the Boy Scouts. But then again, I know that they do a lot of good things.

FRANCISCO They do a lot--

SANCHEZ:

JIMMY CARPER: However, but that's kind of overridden by the fact that--

FRANCISCO What are they teaching these kids? I don't know.

SANCHEZ:

JIMMY CARPER: Yes!

SANDY LOPEZ: Do you know their biggest thing?

FRANCISCO You're keeping them off the streets, but--

SANCHEZ:

JIMMY CARPER: You're teaching them discrimination.

SANDY LOPEZ: The biggest thing that I just realized-- that I was just going to tell you, you know that you're going to have a big old Boy Scouts building right next to Ella Boulevard. They're just building it.

FRANCISCO Oh, that's right.

SANCHEZ:

SANDY LOPEZ: They're--

FRANCISCO It's the largest one or something.

SANCHEZ:

SANDY LOPEZ: Yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: Really?

SANDY LOPEZ: They're building it right here on 610.

FRANCISCO Right on Ella and 610.

SANCHEZ:

SANDY LOPEZ: Yeah, Ella and 610, by the--

FRANCISCO Right by the bayou. So we'll hope it floods.

SANCHEZ:

[LAUGHTER]

SANDY LOPEZ: No, no, no, no, no. I'll actually take that back from you. Do not-- let's not be--

JIMMY CARPER: No, let's not be--

SANDY LOPEZ: --spiteful. Let's not be vengeful. Let's be-- let's just say the truth. They just don't do what they're supposed to be-- they discriminate and--

JIMMY CARPER: And they're not unlike many other organizations. They've just been caught at it.

SANDY LOPEZ: Well--

JIMMY CARPER: And they had the spotlight put on them.

SANDY LOPEZ: The only thing that--

FRANCISCO But it's wonderful you see more of these more organizations being caught. [INAUDIBLE] You see the Boy Scouts

SANCHEZ: being caught, Salvation Army being caught.

JIMMY CARPER: Yup.

FRANCISCO I mean, so there's a lot more vigilance. I don't know if it's coming from our vigilance, or folks that are friendly, or
SANCHEZ: people who just have an agenda, but--

SANDY LOPEZ: It's just that-- I mean, I was talking one of my friends because her nephew wants to be an Eagle Scout.

JIMMY CARPER: Mhm.

SANDY LOPEZ: And she's somebody that I have known ever since I was in high school, somebody I cared deeply about. And she was not aware of what's going on. And it's like-- I sort of said, do you know that I will not be able to work--

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, that's true.

SANDY LOPEZ: --for the Boy Scouts just for one single reason, because I'm gay?

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

SANDY LOPEZ: And it's like, you're my friend, my mentor, my teacher, my counselor, my everything when I was growing up, and you know my pain. And it's like-- and can you imagine that happening? And it's like-- and it was very hard for her. And I didn't want to put too much on her because I told her, it's OK, because that's what he loves and he wants to do.

JIMMY CARPER: Sure.

SANDY LOPEZ: And that's fine, but it's like I just want it for you to know what is going on. Because it's like, sometimes, it's like-- like when I came out to my mom, I came out to her, and I never told her what being gay-- I did not educate her, and that's one of the things a lot of us do. We're gay and we're very proud of it, but we don't educate the people around us.

JIMMY CARPER: That's true.

SANDY LOPEZ: And that's what we need to start doing. We need to start telling those people who care about us that this hurts me, or this makes me feel very uncomfortable, or this has gone on, and I don't want you to take sides, but I just want you to know that this is affecting me.

Because that's the only way we're going to start making changes, especially here in the city. I mean, it's like I got friends all over. And it's like-- and if all my friends knew that what subjects I felt particular about, at least I know that I would be educating them, especially when it comes time to vote.

JIMMY CARPER: Well, you see the difference-- that kind of highlights the difference between 1985 and 2001. Because in 1985, there was still-- it was still-- we were closeted. It was the thing to be closeted. And since then, just being out of the closet, so many more people know us. And that takes all of the mystery out of gay and lesbian people. And the other thing I wanted to ask is how popular is the Boy Scouts in the Latino community?

PARTICIPANT 1: It is.

JIMMY CARPER: Is it really?

PARTICIPANT 1: Yeah--

FRANCISCO Because they really target inner city neighborhoods and that sort of thing [INAUDIBLE]. But it's also ironic there's
SANCHEZ: also less volunteers I guess from our parents. I tried to be a Boy Scout in elementary school.

And so they had this meeting at the cafeteria. And all the parents or the kids that wanted to be Boy Scouts, and so they had us kids out in the hallway, playing games or whatever. And so the meeting went on for almost three hours. And because they're sitting there, trying to recruit someone to be the scout coordinator or whatever it is.

JIMMY CARPER: And nobody wants to do it.

FRANCISCO But no one volunteered. So for three hours, we're basically yelling at our parents. Like, look, your kids can't be
SANCHEZ: Boy Scouts unless some of y'all volunteer to, like--

PARTICIPANT 1: Wow.

FRANCISCO --be [INAUDIBLE].
SANCHEZ:

JIMMY CARPER: That's true, that's true.

SANDY LOPEZ: But that's because--

FRANCISCO And so we went home, and we weren't Boy Scouts.
SANCHEZ:

SANDY LOPEZ: But it's difficult. I mean, you have to understand that a lot of the parents are not fully bilingual, and those who are are busy working. So they take the time, some of them do take the time to come in to do those activities, but they cannot commit to anything. And the ones that can't speak the language. And it's pretty difficult. I mean, I see that all the time. I want to get parents to come in and help us with our kids, tutor and all that stuff, but it is very difficult because they have so many things to do, and that's something that we don't realize.

JIMMY CARPER: We're getting close to the top of the hour, but I want to ask one question and because it's coming from I'm not knowledgeable.

SANDY LOPEZ: OK.

JIMMY CARPER: But I hear-- and it's on the language thing again. And I hear lots of older people of European ancestry say, when my parents came here, they learned English because they wanted to be a part of America, so why isn't that happening now in the Latino communities?

SANDY LOPEZ: OK, I have the best question because it happened to me when I was in high school.

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

SANDY LOPEZ: See, when I came here, I was about 15, 16.

JIMMY CARPER: Uh-huh.

SANDY LOPEZ: And I came to a school that was 90% Hispanic. Half of all of them spoke Spanish. And it's like, I remember one time there was no reason for me to learn English if I didn't want to. I mean, one of my friends told me, I just learned it for the class. But it's like with us, I mean when you come to the cafeteria, we talk in Spanish.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

SANDY LOPEZ: But it's like you have to realize that I wanted to make something of myself. And one of the things that you have to do is you have to learn the language in order to succeed because you have to be able to communicate. I mean, there are some people like my mom, she tried and she can get around, and that's what she wanted. She wanted to be able to understand what somebody's telling her something, or when somebody's insulting her, or when somebody's asking her for a favor.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

SANDY LOPEZ: And that's what a lot of people do. They just learn as much as they can just to get around, because most of these people didn't go to school. They didn't go to school back in their homelands and they just can't do it here, because they don't even know how to read and write.

JIMMY CARPER: Ah, OK.

FRANCISCO And I think that's sort of a misperception there in a way because, I mean, if you look at second and third

SANCHEZ: generation Hispanics in this country, they know English. I mean, look at me for example. And I feel a little lost because English is not only my first language, but I write it very well. I make my living off it, generally. But I feel a little lost because I'm not that well-versed in Spanish.

But I think when you talk-- I think when you're looking at a history of 30, 40, or 50 years of being here in terms of when the Europeans came in the '20s, their parents were in the same situation, but they've been here for several more generations than most Hispanics here have been. So when you're talking-- we still have a lot of first generation immigrants, and so they're having a hard time speaking Spanish-- I mean speaking English, and so there's a misperception there. They're learning English.

SANDY LOPEZ: [INAUDIBLE] it's changing.

FRANCISCO I mean, my dad will barely speak English. I don't know if first-generation of immigrants don't speak English more
SANCHEZ: if it's a protection issue or because English is their first language. But I think it's probably just a timetable kind of thing. I think there's a misperception there.

JIMMY CARPER: OK, OK, I understand that. OK.

SANDY LOPEZ: Well, thank you.

JIMMY CARPER: We have a minute left.

FRANCISCO And I don't think-- I don't know if we're going to get to our caller, but thank you for trying.

SANCHEZ:

JIMMY CARPER: No, actually, we were having problems with the phone system and we couldn't get her on.

FRANCISCO Oh, OK.

SANCHEZ:

SANDY LOPEZ: But thank you so much for trying, though. It really means a lot to us that you listen and then you're there and that you like what we're saying--

JIMMY CARPER: It really does.

SANDY LOPEZ: --that you want to make a comment, because that is really important. And we invite you to listen to us next month. We're always hear from 1:00 to 3:00.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, but what I need to do next month or-- because I kind of cut you guys off. I need to edit-- suspend the news and put you on and give you an hour and a half or something.

FRANCISCO Well, we-- next month, hopefully, we'll have a couple updates on two things. I think there's a new Hispanic club
SANCHEZ: in Pasadena of all places--

JIMMY CARPER: Really?

FRANCISCO --that talks about the growing Hispanic population. Not only that, but the fact that gays and lesbians are cleared
SANCHEZ: of that in more and more different places.

JIMMY CARPER: Wow.

FRANCISCO And quick point, 40% of people in Los Angeles, and according to something Sandy was just sharing with me--
SANCHEZ:

SANDY LOPEZ: Speak more than one language.

FRANCISCO --speak more than [INAUDIBLE].
SANCHEZ:

SANDY LOPEZ: And another thing, Honduras have now the right to vote outside of the United States. So we are voting for our president in November 25th. Any gay Hondurans, you'd better be voting.

JIMMY CARPER: OK, we're out of time. You've been listening to *After Hours*, queer radio with attitude on KPFT in Houston and KEOS College Station. Rob Love is here. And let's go with it.