

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

[MUSIC PLAYING]

(SINGING) After Hours. After Hours.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, yes. You've tuned in to *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. Here at *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 OK. We're here for you, too. So sit back, relax, and enjoy this week's edition of *After Hours*.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

Hello, Houston and College Station in the world and welcome to the July 21st edition of *After Hours*. I'll be your producer for the evening, Jimmy Carper. And before we get to our segments, our first segment is Jewel Gray and Jimmie Vaughan, yes, Jimmie Vaughan who's sitting behind me.

HOST: You just pushed me into his chair.

JIMMY CARPER: I see that. And of course, on the second half, we've got Steven Jerome talking about the Black community. And let's see, a few things, you're not even on, Jewel, forget it.

JEWEL GRAY: Talk away.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, just talk away, girl. First of all, I want to say hello to my MPBs out there, Wilson and Randy at the LS unit, Junior at the Nubian Prince, and especially the Tea Man, I have a soft spot in my heart for the Tea Man, always will. And I want to thank, gosh, I've got a great letter from Junior this week and a letter from Randy and a letter-- and artwork from the Nubian Prince, whew.

HOST: Nubian Prince.

JIMMY CARPER: Look at that artwork. Isn't that beautiful?

HOST: Oh, well, child.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, yes.

HOST: He's very good at this.

JIMMY CARPER: And this man is out, too. Look what it says right on the front of it.

HOST: Queer radio with attitude.

JIMMY CARPER: That's right, and--

HOST: Hello, it's very cool.

JIMMY CARPER: Junior, yeah, I got you a letter. That was a terrific letter. I want to thank you for that. And of course, the HATCH folks will be getting that. And let's see, happy birthday today to Shawn Carter. He's 31 years old and-- 31, and Vanessa Edwards Foster, it's her birthday and I don't even know her age nor would I give it over the air. The music that you heard at the beginning of the segment, we started out with a new one from Daniel Link.

And you heard that exclusively here last week because he was here from Austin with a preview of the CD that was just released on Friday in Austin. That was *Seance*. And from Kevin Hannan, we heard *Madman*. Now see, you can contact Daniel Link for a copy of his CD at www.daniellink.com. And Kevin Hannan is the-- I'm supposed to know this ahead of time, aren't I? I'll find that out and tell you later, yes, because I want to do a couple of more things before I get to Jewel.

We've got-- well, first of all, on Monday, Monday, Monday, Monday, no, that just doesn't sound right. Anyway, on *Queer Voices*, this is the fourth Monday of the month so that means that JD Doyle is having the queer music heritage. And this month, he has arranged to have one song from each of the Outmusic Award winners, the OMAs. That's our gay Grammy's, folks. And so this is a terrific thing.

So listen to that. It starts 9:00. Of course, *Queer Voices* starts at 8:00 PM every Monday evening, goes to 10:00. Live 2002 is coming your way. This is a 2 and 1/2-hour long show of all live entertainment. All of the entertainers volunteer their time and talents to this and give their absolute all, making it an excellent evening of fun, laughs, and just plain awe-inspiring music.

This year, it's at Keys West, a great piano bar. And at the Live 2000, we'll be inducting Miss Camp America Foundation, Carolyn Roberts, Sourigene Aburgine, and Mr. Bob Bouton into the Gulf Coast Archives and Museum. In fact, this benefit is for the Gulf Coast Archive and Museum. This benefit has held every year, and it pays our rent. This is very important.

HOST: And that's a very important thing.

JIMMY CARPER: Very important.

HOST: Got to pay the bills.

JIMMY CARPER: That's right. And so that is August the 18th at 6:30 PM at Keys West located at 817 West Dallas. Now let's-- also, I want to promote the Black Expo 2002 is coming here in October 4th through the 6th. And you can find out more about that from the guy who runs the men's gathering, paulguillory@yahoo.com. And he's looking for, especially, gay parents to be involved in the Black Expo. We'll be talking more about that probably in the second half of the show.

The parade committee of the pride committee, parade committee of the pride committee-- I don't know, that's the way it's here, is planning a very informal meeting on Tuesday, July 23rd at 7:00 PM at the community center. The meeting is basically just a wrap up of what went on during the Parade Day. We want input on how things went for you, what we could have done better, and what ideas you may have for the next year. So that is at the community center, 803 Hawthorne, Tuesday, July 23rd.

HOST: I thought they were amazingly helpful during that parade.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, they were, actually.

HOST: They were very cool. They even dealt with some of the people who were well-drunk long before the parade started.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes. An Uncommon Legacy Foundation is hosting their Seventh Annual Extra Mile Awards brunch on Sunday, the 28th of July. For more information, you can visit www.uncommonlegacyhouston.org. And tickets are \$60 and sponsorships are available. But this is a very, very important meeting.

And then last but not least, and we want to remind you that each and every Thursday afternoon at noon till 1:00 at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, RFA, Recovery from Food Addiction, the 12-step program put on by Ed Barnes, he's-- well, it says here, "We are a fellowship of food addicts dedicated to physical, spiritual, and emotional recovery achieved by abstaining from flour, sugar, and wheat in all of its forms and by living the 12 steps of recovery to the best of our abilities."

That's St Stephen's Episcopal Church, which is located at 1805 West Alabama. That's every Thursday, 12:00 noon to 1:00. Now it's time for Jewel.

HOST: Jewel, her picture is just--

JEWEL GRAY: I'm sorry. We were just having lunch. I'm sorry.

JIMMY CARPER: I see that. Oh, but one more thing that--

JEWEL GRAY: We were just having lunch.

DON BROWN: How long we've been talking?

JIMMY CARPER: We will be--

JEWEL GRAY: We've been carrying on for 15 minutes.

JIMMY CARPER: We will be giving-- we have a DVD giveaway tonight.

JEWEL GRAY: Is that one of those things I can run outside and call on my cell phone?

JIMMY CARPER: No.

JEWEL GRAY: No, OK.

JIMMY CARPER: No, you're not eligible. This is a big evening.

DON BROWN: I hate when that happens.

JIMMY CARPER: The wonderful, romantic gay fantasy-comedy, and it's put out by Wolf Video. And they have given us a number of them to give away. We gave a number of them away during membership drive. And that made a lot of money for us. And so later on in the show, I'll be giving that away. But now it's time for you, Jewel.

JEWEL GRAY: Me?

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

JEWEL GRAY: It's my turn to talk?

JIMMY CARPER: It's your turn to talk.

JEWEL GRAY: Well, I needed some warm up here, right?

JIMMY CARPER: Warm up?

JEWEL GRAY: It's a foreplay here.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, hey.

JEWEL GRAY: You're calling me and oh, you're on.

DON BROWN: Oh, darling, he needs foreplay.

HOST: Good gracious.

JEWEL GRAY: Well, we-- I happened to see an article in a paper that I checked out on the web this weekend. And I sent it to Hamnet, and then we got quite a few responses. And I got to thinking that maybe we should get all these responses, these various responses together in one room and see what we could find that we had in common rather than the finger-poking that we have sometimes going on. And so I asked Don Brown here, he's here tonight, and Dan Weiner, and rainbow--

DON BROWN: Weiner.

JIMMY CARPER: Weiner, Weiner.

JEWEL GRAY: I'm thinking about Rainbow the Clown and like--

JIMMY CARPER: We're like, wah, wah, Weiner.

JEWEL GRAY: Weiner and Rainbow the Clown is down here. Bobby's out there, and Jim's in there. I wish Jim would come in and be part of this conversation. I think he thought he just got kicked out.

JIMMY CARPER: What?

JEWEL GRAY: I think he just got caught-- thought he just-- I think he's got a great political sense. Anyway, we wanted to sit down and talk about some of this stuff tonight. And I invited these people down to see if we could find some common ground, where when we walk away, we see each other again as brothers instead of as--

DON BROWN: Good point.

JEWEL GRAY: --contenders or like in an athletic, the competition, and find places where we can get together on some of these things. I was telling Dan and Don before the show, I'm one of those bleeding heart liberals, one of the ones that everybody talks about. That bleeding heart, that's me.

DON BROWN: That's right. I'm the yellow doll Democrat. Yes, I am.

JEWEL GRAY: Except, and I got to thinking about the exceptions--

HOST: Boo, boo.

JEWEL GRAY: --to that. I don't have a problem with capital punishment, not at all.

[LAUGHS]

JIMMY CARPER: Ironically enough, I do.

JEWEL GRAY: We'll see and that's what I was going to say. I'm not-- just because I identify most of my philosophy in a left leaning direction, it doesn't mean all my philosophy is that way. And what we need to do is start finding that bit of piece of my philosophy and the bit of piece of Dan's philosophy and the bit of piece of Don's philosophy that is common with us all, and start working from there again because what we're doing is exactly what I've watched Washington do.

It's become very, very competitive. And people are spending billions of dollars on getting into office. And they're spending thousands on Armani suits, and it's gotten like they've forgotten what they're there for. And I think we're beginning to forget some of the things that we're here for.

JIMMY CARPER: Well, I have always said and let me start this out by saying, maybe this will start some conversation going--

HOST: Oh, Rainbow's here, too.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, Rainbow's here.

JEWEL GRAY: I said that.

DON BROWN: It's a full house.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, hello.

DAN WEINER: Hello.

JIMMY CARPER: Hello, dear. I am a flaming liberal. However, the only way that I'm a flaming liberal, because I am also HIV and so I am-- I am retired, is because of my lover's Republican fiscal outlook on life. That's the only way I'm able to be a flaming liberal. So I always try to think about the other side before I go off on the tangent somewhere. I hope I do.

JEWEL GRAY: Well, you know, I thought what was interesting is that I've realized that there were several people on hand that I disagreed with and I disagreed with strongly. But I found that I liked them very much. And I got to thinking, if I were just dealing with them on hand, that back and forth about the ugly things, then they would appear to be different people. I'm fortunate enough to have known these people away from having that, too. And it just got me thinking about stuff and that's why I posted that article that-- what's her name?

DON BROWN: You were just picking a fight.

JEWEL GRAY: Yeah, Caligula.

DON BROWN: You were just picking a fight.

[LAUGHS]

DAN WEINER: There's one thing I would like to interject.

JIMMY CARPER: Nice going.

DAN WEINER: Myself and most of my fellow libertarians like to follow, I don't remember exactly the exact words, but the paraphrase of Thomas Jefferson was that, they would never let political views get in the way of friendship. And that's something I always live by because when I was much younger, I was as big into being a libertarian as I am now. And I thought, Oh, I'll just be living a libertarian life with libertarian people and blah, blah, blah.

And I found that I didn't have a whole lot of friends because first of all, they just weren't that many. And outside of politics, we didn't necessarily get along.

JEWEL GRAY: Well, Dan, what I'd like you to do first--

DAN WEINER: You have to spread out.

JEWEL GRAY: Well, what I'd like you to do first is tell me what you think a libertarian is, not the rhetoric, the stuff that we can read in the pamphlet, but what you think is how you live your life as a libertarian.

DAN WEINER: We are, first and foremost, individuals.

JEWEL GRAY: What does that mean?

DAN WEINER: It means that the individual human being is the source of value and morals and ethics, and politics in life. That without the individual human being, there is nothing. A group is a non-entity other than the fact that it's composed of a bunch of people-- a bunch of individual people. And any philosophy which renders the group more valuable than the individual is a philosophy that must be disposed of. It must be rejected.

JEWEL GRAY: That one for all, all for one thing.

DAN WEINER: Yeah. It's only valuable in this-- when everybody in the group has enough of a common purpose.

JEWEL GRAY: Or choice.

DAN WEINER: Yes, or choice, the choice to be in the group or not. But the individual must always reign supreme in the philosophy of life. And the other element that Marx-- or defines being a libertarian is a totally consistent adherence to the non-aggression principle.

JEWEL GRAY: Pacifist?

DAN WEINER: No.

JEWEL GRAY: Just non-aggression.

DAN WEINER: Not at all, non-aggression. It means you do not have-- you can do what you want with your life. But you cannot initiate force or fraud against other people. And if you obey that dictum, you are a libertarian even if you don't realize it.

DON BROWN: But true or false, a couple of weeks ago, you made the comment that really your philosophy is this, anarchy is what you're looking for. It's anarchy.

DAN WEINER: Anarchy is my-- anarchy does not mean-- anarchy simply means self-rule, individual self-rule as opposed to governmental rule.

JEWEL GRAY: So formally, it means that-- but it means a whole different picture to people who don't know that rights are formal.

DAN WEINER: I look at anarchy-- the libertarian anarchy as being way down the road somewhere. I don't generally push that issue particularly because it's off in the future. Our culture is nowhere near ready for it.

DON BROWN: But when you talked about anarchy, of course, you knew that--

DAN WEINER: I don't remember talking about anarchy in Hamnet.

DON BROWN: Yeah, and you had responded to a message that I had written and you were clarifying your position as opposed to where I was coming from. I believe we were talking about-- you were agreeing with me on the fact that the Democrats, the Republicans, the independents, all just seemed to be making hay off of separating everybody. Do you remember that?

DAN WEINER: Not particularly.

DON BROWN: Well, I'll drop that.

[LAUGHS]

JIMMY CARPER: Anyway, I want to mention we were talking about getting along with people. And I want to mention tonight that if you follow Hamnet, you know that Don Brown has had a differing opinions with Mr. Ray Hill.

DAN WEINER: I'm outnumbered.

JEWEL GRAY: I asked for you to be here, but you had another commitment.

DON BROWN: But you know what? OK, go ahead.

DAN WEINER: But tonight at the Access Houston office, Ray was-- they were filming--

JEWEL GRAY: He could be here.

DAN WEINER: --his prison years. And you came, Don. We were there.

DON BROWN: Right. Me and Ray have corresponded besides being on-hand in that. I mean, me and Ray are both looking at things from this different side of the same coin. And we appreciate the fact that that's what we're doing. But we both know we're on the same team, and we were working for the same goal.

JEWEL GRAY: So basically what we're talking about is you've not have angered each other because you disagree, but you have passion about your particular philosophies. So that's what people see. It's not really, I don't like you. You don't like me. This is the passion you feel for your philosophies. And I'm sure Ray would say the same thing. As matter of fact, I think that's what he did say in his last post. Generally-- basically, that's what he said.

But I really didn't want to address so much what was going on at hand that it had spurred this conversation. But I was wanting to get a basic about our individual philosophies on how we see our political self, not the party rhetoric, but how we see it, how we're living our lives. I'm one of those people. I'm non-violent. I just abhor any kind of violence.

I just think that I don't care what it is. And I really appreciate Texas using a needle so there's not a lot of violence when they kill the [COUGHS] excuse me.

DON BROWN: Well, the funny being on that, though, is that they actually swab them with a--

DAN WEINER: I know.

DON BROWN: --with alcohol so that they don't get infected--

DAN WEINER: Classic infection, yeah.

DON BROWN: --the last second before they die.

JEWEL GRAY: But that's what I thought we'd do. And then we could see where we overlap in some of the things because I was sitting here with Dan, and I was thinking, well, I could go with a lot of that. And I understand what you're saying. But I have to point out that a lot of people won't when you talk about anarchy because you're talking about a specific, very formal definition of it as opposed to what people had a picture of--

DAN WEINER: Not really because liberty and anarchy is-- it's different from-- well, liberty and anarchy is actually a different aspect or a different form. It's really a libertarian philosophy produced without a government.

DON BROWN: So the next step down--

JEWEL GRAY: You'd like us to be able to live without some authority above us.

JIMMY CARPER: With libertarian, it's good and anarchy is-- with everybody else is bad?

DAN WEINER: If you have the individual's culture that libertarian philosophy looks to produce, then yes, it works because you have the non-aggression principle as your enabler. The virtue of the non-aggression principle is that it enables freedom to work. You can do is you wish with your life, as long as you're not initiating force or fraud against other people. That means you can have as many husbands or wives as you want. You can have nothing but husbands and be a man and marry them under libertarian philosophy.

JEWEL GRAY: That's your business.

DAN WEINER: Yeah, but the point is that as long as you are not--

JEWEL GRAY: Until you hurt or force someone, it becomes somebody else's business.

DAN WEINER: Yeah, if you do it on a criminal-- in a deliberate fashion, it's criminal. If you do it by negligence, it's a civil matter.

JEWEL GRAY: OK, so then you have some authority.

DAN WEINER: In the minarchist, what we call minarchist or minimal government scheme, yes. You have the government devoted to protect the individual rights, to defending the country, providing a court system for the resolution of disputes. Everything else, literally, is done by private enterprises.

JIMMY CARPER: You're assuming that humanity will treat each other nicely.

DAN WEINER: Not at all. That's the point of having that basic code of behavior. That's the point of the non-aggression principles that enables those who do not treat people well to suffer the consequences.

JEWEL GRAY: Well, the way I see that then, Dan, is that you're stuck. If the whole world doesn't go along with you, then nobody does because if you get the population of America, who suddenly becomes all libertarian but the rest of the world is not, they're going to come in here and stomp us to death.

[LAUGHS]

DAN WEINER: Are they?

JEWEL GRAY: Pretty much, pretty much. We're dealing with real world.

DAN WEINER: Our country where a lot of people can't defend themselves?

JEWEL GRAY: Oh, yeah, that's pretty much.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, that's where the pink pistols come in.

JEWEL GRAY: Pretty much. They're gonna come in and stomp.

DAN WEINER: Here comes the pink pistols.

JEWEL GRAY: But I can have all the pistols in my hands I can do, and there is nothing that bomb is going to stop.

DAN WEINER: Considering the devotion that Americans in particular have to their weapons as well as many other things, the only way a country could invade us would be to drop nuclear bombs.

JEWEL GRAY: Dan-- yes. Well, Dan, I got to point in, in my place where I've listened to you talk about this, and I really appreciate that this is the way you think. But to convince me, and that's basically what I'm asking you to do, convince me to be you, to get involved in the Libertarian Party that this is really something that-- and what you're saying to me in this terms is like you're talking like that you have an ideal society that you can mold and it's going to do these things.

And like you said-- like I said, if you don't get the whole world to do it, then nobody can do it because somebody's coming to stop us.

DAN WEINER: Well, that's like saying you have no-- you can't have your freedom till everybody else lets you, and that's nonsense.

JEWEL GRAY: But then you say, well, we'll take our guns and we'll go-- we'll defend ourselves. Well, what I'm saying is, Dan, there will never be a war where we're defending ourselves with guns again because the weapons are too high. People are not shooting each other anymore, Dan.

DAN WEINER: But society has evolved.

JEWEL GRAY: They're doing it by remote control. They don't see you anymore. There's no eye contact.

DAN WEINER: It's a push button war.

JEWEL GRAY: It's a push button war.

DAN WEINER: Society is devolved.

DON BROWN: Now he's getting really irrational.

DAN WEINER: We'll blow each other off the map.

JEWEL GRAY: And you can have all the other hand guns you want, and I'm all for that. You know I'm--

DAN WEINER: Tie remote.

JIMMY CARPER: Exactly.

JEWEL GRAY: I'm a gun owner, too.

DON BROWN: Really?

JEWEL GRAY: Yes, and I have no problem telling people that I can shoot you. And I will shoot you. And I was in the service. They taught me how to use it. I loved it. It was such a rush.

[LAUGHS]

DON BROWN: Oh, God.

JEWEL GRAY: It was such a rush, girl. I mean they're laying on the ground there and them guns going off, man. I'm telling you, I was wetting my pants. And there you go again. I'm legal that I-- and I own a gun. I have no problem with that. I think that's-- and I agree with a lot of what Dan's saying, except when we get to that point where we're going to defend ourself.

That worked when everybody in the world had muskets. And that's when that was written. And those kinds of things were written when everybody had muskets that we should have those--

DAN WEINER: Technology makes no difference. Freedom is always a value, and freedom is something you must always protect and have available to you.

JEWEL GRAY: With aggression.

DON BROWN: I don't think you're ready.

DAN WEINER: You can't defend with greater rate of aggression because then you've blown it. It's like this nonsense that Bush keeps telling, I've got to give up a little bit of secure-- of your rights in order to have the security against the terrorists, rubbish.

JEWEL GRAY: I agree there, too.

DAN WEINER: You'd give up your rights.

DON BROWN: I agree with you there.

DAN WEINER: Thank you. We've been it all up. And besides this, as far as I'm concerned, I think that Bush and Clinton and--

DON BROWN: Weiner and Bush.

DAN WEINER: --and other Bush and all those nasty idiots have basically fomented the situation that's led to the 911.

DON BROWN: We're now firmly set on that proverbial slippery slope.

JEWEL GRAY: Oh, yeah.

DON BROWN: There's no doubt about that.

JEWEL GRAY: On the edge of the abyss--

DAN WEINER: Unless we turn around.

JEWEL GRAY: --for sure.

DAN WEINER: We're stuck. And think about it this way, when was the last time anybody committed a terrorist act in Switzerland?

DON BROWN: Really?

DAN WEINER: It never happened.

JEWEL GRAY: Well, we don't know that.

DAN WEINER: It hasn't happened in our lifetime--

DON BROWN: I'm thinking, well, what happened with the Nazis when they were bringing--

JEWEL GRAY: Well, I don't want too far--

DAN WEINER: All I'm saying is that--

DON BROWN: What the Nazis did--

DAN WEINER: We are in the spot we are because of--

DON BROWN: --with the Jews were considered to be a terrorist act.

JEWEL GRAY: We don't want to get off on our tangent list. Let's go get those. Something that Don brought up is that--

DAN WEINER: We are at the problem we are with the terrorism because we have become the aggressors in world affairs.

JEWEL GRAY: I agree, we did.

DAN WEINER: We are not-- the United States-- the government has no rights. It has only powers and authorities. We, as people, grant them. And we should not and do not and ought not grant them the power to commit acts of aggression in our name against other countries.

JEWEL GRAY: I agree.

DAN WEINER: If somebody doesn't like the Taliban in Afghanistan, God bless you, get together a freedom fighter group and go over there and kick ass.

JIMMY CARPER: OK, now hold on.

DAN WEINER: But don't be--

JIMMY CARPER: We're going way off because one thing that Don brought up, and I really do want to discuss is that the community, the queer community, GLBTs, all of us, getting together and working together for a common cause. And his point is that we're all going off in different directions.

DON BROWN: Exactly, yes.

DAN WEINER: Well, you really-- all you can do is establish whatever is universal amongst us.

DON BROWN: But you know what--

DAN WEINER: And work together in those and go our separate ways on the other.

DON BROWN: But you say that, but I don't see that happening. On Hamnet, how many nasty messages have I received because I'm saying something that just is in opposition to what someone else is saying.

JEWEL GRAY: Let's hold a minute.

DON BROWN: I'm just shining a light on a different point of view. The fact of the matter is that we as gay, lesbians, bisexuals, transgender individuals all have a common goal, a common cause. But yet for some reason, how many times this evening since I've shown up here have I been referred to as the Republican?

JEWEL GRAY: Yeah, by me.

DON BROWN: Exactly. Everybody has referred to me as the Republican.

JEWEL GRAY: I was just getting ready to ask about that.

DON BROWN: The fact of the thing--

JIMMY CARPER: Where is that--

HOST: Don't we have one of those screaming voices that we can play every time we say Republican?

JEWEL GRAY: Yeah, really. That's why I was just getting ready to say, Don, OK, we talked to him. And I think we've got a down. Even though we've come to a place where we have issues, we have an understanding of what the philosophy is. I don't know what yours is. I really don't. I don't know what that is. You know why, because I'm afraid of Republicans. I'm afraid of Republicans because what past Republicans have done and what I can see.

Now I know Democrats have made their mistakes and I know they've done ugly things, and I know they are bad guys.

DON BROWN: There are bad people everywhere.

JEWEL GRAY: But as a party, the Republicans have stomped on my head since I was 13 years old and whispered to another person that I liked another girl. And from that time forward, the Republican and it's not-- we were talking about my house. It's not the party. It's the party allowing the religious right to get in there and dominate it. Now they've allowed that.

DON BROWN: This is not 1980.

JEWEL GRAY: Now that's why I said I don't know where you stand because I don't understand that.

DON BROWN: The problem is that when Nixon came into office and we-- the Republican Party had this law and order mentality of just suppressing anybody who opposed the view of what the establishment was.

DAN WEINER: Yeah, and that's exactly the way it was.

DON BROWN: What has happened is that anybody who had a new idea abandoned the Republican Party. The problem is, is that if we continue to abandon the Republican Party, then that then becomes the proverbial rock against the rock-- well, between a rock and a hard place.

JEWEL GRAY: Well, if we keep abandoning the Republican Party, they'll all adopt this religious right.

DON BROWN: It becomes the rock. There is-- then we always have an opposing force that we're having to fight with constantly, 24 hours a day, seven days a week. We can never make progress if we give away the Republican Party to the religious right, never, because no matter what you and I agree on, we will never be able to have support from Pat Buchanan or his ilk.

JEWEL GRAY: So what I'm hearing is that you are a free-thinker who feels like we have an obligation to be part of the Republican Party because we need to be represented everywhere we-- every political issue, every political venue there is, basically.

DON BROWN: I believe that the Republican Party represents my physical views. As a gay man, I benefit more from the Republican policies having to do with physical policy. But of course, I'm stuck in a spot because there are people like Tom Delay who-- and what is--

JIMMY CARPER: Trent Lott.

DON BROWN: Thank you. Trent Lott referring to us as in the same category as being drunks and kleptomaniacs. I mean, those people set off outrage in me as they should each and every one of us. But we are letting them hold onto uncontested, a party, that if we look at just common sense, the logic of it, is that the religious right has taken over the Republican Party. And as long as it continues to hold-- have that foothold on the Republican Party, then--

JEWEL GRAY: There's going to be the rock.

DON BROWN: Exactly.

JEWEL GRAY: And we don't need a rock.

DON BROWN: Right. I mean, there are Republican congressmen that support our views but because-- well, with the first-- you and I were discussing, what was that? Do you remember what the first-- who the first openly gay--

JEWEL GRAY: Studds?

DON BROWN: I believe so.

JEWEL GRAY: Gary Studds?

JIMMY CARPER: From the Democrat.

JEWEL GRAY: Gary Studds?

DAN WEINER: Studds was Democrat and so was Frank--

JEWEL GRAY: Are you talking about the guy from Arizona?

DON BROWN: Yeah, exactly, the one from Arizona.

JEWEL GRAY: Kolbe, yeah.

DAN WEINER: Kolbe, the first Republican who ended up coming out-- or Gunderson.

JEWEL GRAY: Oh, yeah, you're right. He was, Gunderson.

DON BROWN: That's right. It was Gunderson. And he came out. He was, of course, was sensitive to our issues but because we had abandoned the Republican Party, we were not giving him any support to be able to bring forth our agenda.

JIMMY CARPER: David, wanted to make a comment here. And David is from the younger generation.

DAVID: It sounds like when you mean abandoning the Republican Party, I mean, the easiest way, I guess, is to make a vote for them. And if everyone who's gay votes for the Republican Party, well, you can only make one vote. So then with that logic, the religious right just has to go to the Democratic side, and then we've abandoned the Democrats.

DON BROWN: I'm sorry. I do not see the religious right going to the Democratic party.

DAN WEINER: Just remember Pat Buchanan took over the Reform Party and made a hash out of it. So there are possibilities. That's a risk that we libertarians face, too. Any small party faces that risk very seriously.

DAVID: I can see that.

JEWEL GRAY: But that is still an awfully big if.

DAVID: Well, I mean, it's the lesser of two evils.

JEWEL GRAY: I don't think you're suggesting that we all lean in one direction.

DON BROWN: Absolutely not.

JEWEL GRAY: We all lean on one side of the boat that we spread ourselves out and get all people from all parties on our agendas rather than having everybody in one boat pushing a big rock that we're all out there in the same pool.

DON BROWN: One of the most wonderful things that happened at the caucus endorsement meeting was we actually had a choice of a Republican and a Democrat who supported our issues that were running against each other. That's a wonderful thing.

JEWEL GRAY: And it's something we wouldn't have seen five or 10 years ago, certainly not 10 years ago.

DON BROWN: If we can cultivate people in the Republican Party that also support our issues, then we can move the debate. And that's what this is all about. That's what I'm talking about.

JEWEL GRAY: You've pointed out something I really never had considered was that how many of those Republicans who do have support for our issues. What can they do about it if we're not out there supporting them?

DON BROWN: Exactly.

JEWEL GRAY: And that never occurred to me before. But I have said on this show many times, I've said we should all just stop and join the Republican Party. Haven't I said that here before?

DAN WEINER: Yes, I know but then I'll read something by Dale Carpenter or Andrew Sullivan, and I just get so angry.

JEWEL GRAY: Angry, angry, and there was parts that-- what's her name?

JIMMY CARPER: Camille Paglia?

DON BROWN: Paglia.

DAN WEINER: She doesn't say anything at all.

JEWEL GRAY: Paglia, that's what-- Paglia.

DON BROWN: I sort of got a kick out of what she was saying.

JEWEL GRAY: I think she-- all I really looked at was the spirit of that article, and I want to take briefly just a second to tell you what's going on. In one magazine, I happen to find an article about this woman, I mean, that she had written about the general direction she felt that politics and gay people were going. And she said that we were dividing ourselves too thin to do have any power, that we were powerless.

And that she thought that we should find some common ground and stuff. But she also said that there were some things wrong with what we were doing and the directions we were taking. And she said them boldly. So people have problems with that, especially the people who think they're heading in the right direction, being very happy. Oh, yes, we're doing right. We're doing the right stuff.

Well, when somebody comes out, especially with the kind of name she's got and says, no, there's this and this. You're having some rough spots here and let's look at them instead of pretending they're not rough. And I think that's what she did. And we had some quite lively response on Hamnet board, too. And that's why I got to thinking because I talked to Don last Saturday at my apartment for four hours.

And if somebody had told me three months ago that I would sit in my apartment for four hours with a Republican without killing me, I'd have called him a liar.

JIMMY CARPER: I know.

JEWEL GRAY: I would have. I'd call him a liar.

JIMMY CARPER: I've known you a long time.

JEWEL GRAY: But I realized something talking with Don because he started making some sense to me and not necessarily his politics because that's what I want to point out that this is really not politics that we're talking about. It's organizing. Basically, that's what we're talking about, getting back to an organization that we all have an understanding, that we're all doing the same game, we're all on the same play. And that we start moving these things along again.

And I think some people have suggested that some of the people, the activists have been doing this for 15 or 20 years. They're getting tired. They're getting full of themselves, that kind of stuff. I've seen that suggested on hand, then I've seen it suggested elsewhere. And now I don't follow that philosophy. But we do have a lot of young people out there, and we need to start getting these people involved.

And unless they hear these things from Don and from Dan and from me, they only have the big pictures that they get on TV about what we represent, what we really are.

JIMMY CARPER: They we're a mini-America. The queer community is a mini-America because we come from all nationalities and all social strata.

JEWEL GRAY: That's right and all political beliefs and faiths. I mean, there's no part of the world we're not part of. And I think that was the gist of this article was that we need to get that underlying organization back together that we've polarized ourselves because of our political views so much that we're no longer a force to be reckoned with. And at one time, I think we were becoming a force to be reckoned with.

And I think we're losing that. 10 years ago, I think we were becoming-- and I think that even though I think--

DAN WEINER: The Republicans have shown us that we are a powerful force that they cannot break, the right wing guys, that everybody loves to be a martyr. It's very hard to say. I mean, gay people have gained a level of acceptance that is not perfect, but I would say it's unprecedented.

JEWEL GRAY: Unprecedented. Oh, yes, I am so proud of where we're at.

DAN WEINER: And it has continued--

DON BROWN: But it's caused the community to become lazy.

DAN WEINER: And it's continued uninterrupted.

DON BROWN: It has caused the community to become lazy.

DAN WEINER: No, but Jewel did not say that.

JEWEL GRAY: OK.

[LAUGHS]

I said I knew what he was thinking. And that's why I tried to delicately put it that way. But I agree in some ways. I mean, I agree--

DON BROWN: When was the last time you.