

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

[THEME SONG PLAYING]

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 and the world, and welcome to *After Hours-- Queer Radio with Attitude*. This is the December 15, 2001 edition. I'm Jimmy Carper. I'll be your producer for the evening.

We've got a fun show lined up. We've got lots of queer Christmas music. We've got Jewel and Jim in the first half of the show. In the middle segment, I'm going to have a phone-in interview with Rosemarie Kroll, a new-- well, actually she's not all that new. But she's new to *After Hours*-- a lesbian artist. And I've got a CD. I'll be playing some of her music.

And in the second half, I've invited several people. And let's see who drops by. And we have the regular crew here. We've got Chris. Well, I don't know, maybe Chris is not here this week. Yeah, that's right. He's in San Antonio. Big Roy is in the lobby and you can talk to him right now at 713-526-5738, 526-KPFT. Ryan and Bobby are here in the studio with me.

RADIO CREW: Hello, again.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes. And a couple of things. I want to say, hello. I want to talk about the music. First of all, we opened up with Kevin Scott Hall with-- from his EP, from last year, I believe it was. And that was his own composition called "Holiday Spirit."

And from the *Northern Lights*, gay-- Capital City Men's Chorus, their *Northern Lights* CD, that-- a second one was the traditional Welsh gift-giving song, called "Calenigg," C-A-L-E-N-I-G-G, for the Irish, who know that I mispronounced that.

OK, I want to say hi to Randy and Randy and Daniel. Daniel, I've got your letter. And yes, we got everything off to Miss Lopez. And if you were half as persistent with her as you were with me, I don't see where you're going to have any problems. But I haven't been able to get a hold of her yet.

I wanted to give a shout out to the T-Man wherever he is. I'm always thinking about you. And Michael, I had a short phone call from him last week after-- at the end of the show. And I want to recognize him there.

A couple of things coming up. Our own Mary-Beth Selassie-- and I know I'm mispronouncing that-- she sings jazz, blues, and standards. And she is going to be at the Vintage bar at 4356 Westheimer, at Mid Lane. And that's Thursday, December the 20th, 8:00 to 11:00.

She does-- she just standards like nobody else can do standards. And I really love that music from that woman. If you can make it, that's this Thursday, December the 20th, at the Vintage Bar 4356 Westheimer. OK.

Yes, other things coming up this week. Let's see. A very big one, a ho, ho holiday dinner on Sunday, Sunday, Sunday. That's today, as a matter of fact. Dinner at the Lesbian and Gay Community Center-- it's a monthly potluck. And it returns just in time for the holidays. Join us Sunday, December 16th, at 6:00 PM. Bring a favorite dish or a beverage.

And December the 22nd, next Saturday night, at the Community Gospel Church, there's going to be the last of the meeting-- last year meeting of the men's gathering. And we'll be talking more about that a little bit later.

So before I bring Jewel and Jim on, I've got a piece of music from-- actually that JD Doyle gave to me. And it's a whole bunch of queer Christmas music. And this is one that I didn't have, and I hadn't heard before, and I'm very happy to play it, especially on Jewel's show. It's by a woman named Amy Mills. It's called "An Old-Fashioned Lesbian Christmas." And here she's going to tell you what that's all about.

JIM: Really? You offend her?

JEWEL GRAY: Oh, are we on?

JIM: Oh, my goodness.

JEWEL GRAY: I hope we weren't talking about Deborah Bell while I was-- I was sitting here talking about Deborah Bell. I hope we didn't get all that on the air. I don't hear me at all. Maybe it's just that I don't have any earphones on. Oh, that's better. That's much better.

JIMMY CARPER: That really helps when you put on the headphones. Yes, indeed.

JEWEL GRAY: Oh, just to clear things up, Deborah, we were just talking about-- I was telling-- I was sharing a compliment with Jim, that I got from Deborah Bell, at the [? Handnet ?] mixer about our program. And I told her, I said it was the best compliment I've ever had.

She said that-- she was listening one night, and that we did one of the funniest things she'd ever heard. She said she peed her pants she was laughing so hard. And I asked her, I said, well, what was it we were talking About

She said it was when I was telling the people on the air about moving my trailer onto the lot, trying to get that trailer just the right angle out there and screaming at that man, flapping my hands and being, you know, me. And she said she heard me talking about it, and she laughed so hard she peed her pants. So, and I said, you know, I've waited my whole life for a compliment like that, that I made somebody laugh so hard they peed their pants. I said I was just sharing that with Jim. I felt like it was our--

JIM: Yeah, I've dreamed of making somebody pee--

JEWEL GRAY: Is that golden showers? Is that what you call it?

RADIO CREW: Oh, my goodness.

JEWEL GRAY: Oh, I see the direction of the show, right now. Pfft.

JIM: No, no.

JIMMY CARPER: I'm just surprised that Deborah Bell was-- I'm just surprised that Deborah Bell was up that late.

JEWEL GRAY: Well, she says she listens to us often, which was, you know, a very-- And I told her then.

JIMMY CARPER: Is that better?

JIM: Yeah, that's much better.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

JIM: Thank you. Thank you.

JEWEL GRAY: Have we been on at all?

RADIO CREW: No, no. He has not been on.

JIMMY CARPER: You have but--

RADIO CREW: No, he hasn't.

JIMMY CARPER: OK, I didn't realize that Deborah Bell stayed up that late.

JEWEL GRAY: Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah. She says she listens quite often. And I was very honored. And I shared our pleasure with her about the great compliment. And I promised her I would share it with the guys down here.

JIMMY CARPER: Everybody.

JEWEL GRAY: Everybody. And I was just talking about it when we went on the air. And I was teasing, I said I hope everything didn't go out, because--

JIMMY CARPER: Well.

JEWEL GRAY: So I wanted to clear that up. So if Deborah is listening, she knows we were talking good things. Thank you. Thank you, Deborah. Because that meant a lot coming from Deborah.

JIMMY CARPER: In fact, it was nice seeing her again.

JEWEL GRAY: It sure was.

JIMMY CARPER: She's been busy doing other things. And I haven't seen her in a long time.

JEWEL GRAY: I haven't seen her in a lot longer.

JIMMY CARPER: She looked really good.

JEWEL GRAY: That's what I told her. She really looked good. And she thought I was giving her a lesbian line.

JIMMY CARPER: No.

JEWEL GRAY: And I said, no, you look good, girl.

JIMMY CARPER: That's right.

JEWEL GRAY: She did. I said the last time I saw her, she really looked tired and

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

JEWEL GRAY: --dark, you know, her face was dark. And she really-- and probably because she was working so hard doing whatever she was doing. But she looked really marvelous the other night.

JIMMY CARPER: Yep, she did.

JEWEL GRAY: Yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: So how are you doing?

JEWEL GRAY: Oh, I'm doing peachy. Peachy? I'm sitting. I was-- we were-- you were going through all your stuff earlier. And I, sitting here, turned to Jim, and I said, we're doing our best stuff, now, ain't we?

JIM: I know. I know.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

JEWEL GRAY: Yeah, we're missing all--

JIM: Now, catching up is the entire show.

JEWEL GRAY: That's what he said, you know. I tell people it's kind of a cross between *Letterman* and *The Gong Show*.

JIM: I really liked that last act.

JIMMY CARPER: Except no matter how fat you are--

JEWEL GRAY: Actually, *The Gong Show* part changes

JIMMY CARPER: --I'd never kick you off.

JEWEL GRAY: --every time, you know? But *Letterman* is always in there.

JIM: Boy, that's there, but whoo.

JEWEL GRAY: *Letterman*. Are we going to have a special guest tonight or did we get a cancel on that?

JIMMY CARPER: No. I, I-- it's-- well.

JEWEL GRAY: We didn't get a confirmation on that?

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, right.

JIM: OK, Gotcha.

JEWEL GRAY: Gotcha. OK, no, no guest. We'll have to wing it. No guest.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh my goodness.

JEWEL GRAY: Oh so you're going to do some yule music, huh?

JIMMY CARPER: I'm going to do yule music.

JEWEL GRAY: Yule music.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

JEWEL GRAY: And my kind of yule music, huh? That's something we talked about the other night.

JIMMY CARPER: Wasn't that cool?

JEWEL GRAY: Yes, that was. And I love that.

JIMMY CARPER: That was Amy Mills. Let's see, where's that thing. I already lost it. Here it is, JD Doyle made a tape--

JEWEL GRAY: Yay, JD.

JIMMY CARPER: --for me, oh, gosh, three years ago. It says 11/98. I didn't know I had it that long. And this is Amy Mills. I don't know anything about the woman. But boy, that was fun.

JEWEL GRAY: Yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: And I wish she put out more like that. That was really, really good. And that's--

JIM: I can't believe he just said that.

JIMMY CARPER: What?

JIM: I wish she put out.

JEWEL GRAY: To put out more like that. Double entendres. Double entendres.

JIMMY CARPER: I'm sorry.

JIM: Sorry.

JEWEL GRAY: If it wasn't our minds in the gutter, no one would notice. We're probably the only ones in all the listening audience--

JIM: That caught that.

JEWEL GRAY: --caught that.

JIMMY CARPER: Usually, I catch that.

JEWEL GRAY: Yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: It's just right over my own head. What's that saying? Well--

JEWEL GRAY: He's wearing that beaver shirt again. I swear he does this just for me.

JIM: That's an otter. I'm telling you, it's otters.

JIMMY CARPER: It's an otter. Jackie Thorne walked in.

JEWEL GRAY: Jackie Thorne. Hey, Jackie.

JIMMY CARPER: Why don't you jump in there--

JIM: My goodness.

JIMMY CARPER: --and tell us a little what's going on with the court these days. Because I know there was a show at Chances tonight.

JEWEL GRAY: Cool. Pull up a chair.

JIM: And yes, let's all stop talking while Jackie is coming into the room.

JEWEL GRAY: She's walking in. She's pulling up a chair. She's about-- she's about to sit down. You know, it's not plugged into anything.

JIM: But yeah, really.

JIMMY CARPER: We could start a weekly segment at this rate, because Jackie's been coming in pretty often.

JIM: She's attacking me with the headphones. Here, let's--

JIMMY CARPER: We had a problem with guests last week, and Jackie came in and saved the day. And here she is again. Well, Hello.

JIM: Oh, Oh. Oh, no. Is it going to work?

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, it's going to work.

JEWEL GRAY: Oh, look at this.

JIM: Well, duh.

JIMMY CARPER: No, we're short one.

JEWEL GRAY: That's how I [INAUDIBLE] to a headphone.

JIM: We're short one pair.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, OK.

RADIO CREW: Yeah, that's--

JIMMY CARPER: Hi, Jackie.

JACKIE How are you?

THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: Great.

JACKIE Good.

THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: Tell me about the show.

JACKIE Well, we had our Christmas show this evening-- raised \$865.

THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: And that's at Chances, right?

JACKIE Yeah. It was at Chances. Plus they had just a pot full of toys--

THORNE:

JEWEL GRAY: The dykes are putting out over there.

JACKIE --for the toy drive.

THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, that's great. You know, I am just-- I'm always amazed at the amount of money that's raised in a small bar, like Chances.

JACKIE Well, you know, it's funny, because we get a lot of support. I'm not sure why.

THORNE:

JEWEL GRAY: Well, because you're good.

JACKIE But we get an awful lot of support--

THORNE:

JEWEL GRAY: You're good.

JACKIE --from the women in that bar. We get an awful lot of support from them. And they really, really enjoy it when we

THORNE: come in there and do a show for them.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, well, hey.

JACKIE So.

THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: I guess, because if you didn't, they'd have to sit there and look at each other. I don't know.

JACKIE Yeah.

THORNE:

JEWEL GRAY: Which is a horrifying prospect, sitting around in a bar looking at each other.

JACKIE Yeah.

THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: They're playing pool, for God's sake.

JACKIE Yeah, well I was listening to y'all on the radio on the way-- on the way down here from Chances. And when I
THORNE: walked in, I commented to Jim, I said, you know, y'all are having entirely too much fun in here.

JEWEL GRAY: We try to have fun.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah. And poor Big Roy is by himself in the lobby.

JEWEL GRAY: Out there doing them-- [INAUDIBLE]

JIMMY CARPER: Did Rose come in with you?

JEWEL GRAY: No. She sure didn't.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, OK.

JEWEL GRAY: No, we had the kids this weekend.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, OK. So Big Roy's up there all by himself. I've told people, give them a call, 713-526-5738. And

JEWEL GRAY: I'm sure he'll be thrilled.

JIMMY CARPER: Look, here comes the sweetheart. Look at this. Here, he comes with this--

JEWEL GRAY: With a mug.

JIMMY CARPER: --huge cup of coffee for me.

JACKIE There you go.

THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: I could not do the show without Big Roy.

JEWEL GRAY: He's sucking up because it's Christmas. He's sucking up, because it's Christmas.

JIM: He's just an office boy, and every time--

JACKIE While you-- while you're--

THORNE:

JEWEL GRAY: He wants to tag along to Hawaii.

JACKIE While you're slurping up your coffee, I will tell the people that, if you didn't make it to Chances tonight for our
THORNE: Christmas show, be sure that you come down to the Brazos River Bottom, BRB, tomorrow at 8 o'clock, on
Sunday, Sunday, Sunday--

JIMMY CARPER: Sunday, Sunday, Sunday.

JACKIE --for the Colt 45s Christmas show.

THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: That's going to be great.

JACKIE And if you can bring a toy with you?

THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: Not that kind of toy.

JACKIE No, no.

THORNE:

JEWEL GRAY: I haven't got one I'd spare.

JACKIE For a young child.

THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: For a child, yes.

JIM: We're talking about the small children.

JIMMY CARPER: If you bring that kind of toy, he'll be there helping at the door, taking you in.

JIM: Not mental children.

JACKIE Yeah. They will have-- they will have large boxes. Not those kind of boxes either.

THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: They do have pretty large boxes over there at the BRB.

JACKIE They will have-- They will have places where you can deposit the toys for the children.

THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, yes, yes, yes.

JEWEL GRAY: It's a madhouse here.

JIMMY CARPER: Heck, yes.

JIM: Let's all talk at once

JIMMY CARPER: This is fun. This is fun. This is what I like about radio.

JEWEL GRAY: Somehow we manged to make a charity announcement degrade all the way down to this. Well, Jackie, Jackie, what if they couldn't make it to either place? Is there some place they can send their donation or drop it off?

JACKIE Yeah, well NLA, of course, is the driving force behind the toy drive.

THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: National Leather Association.

JACKIE National Leather Association Houston, exactly. God, I don't know what their--

THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: I don't either.

JACKIE --phone number or address is.

THORNE:

JEWEL GRAY: Well, somebody who is NLA give us a call.

JACKIE But I am sure-- no, I am sure it is in the *Gay Lesbian Yellow Pages*.

THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: Of course. And if you don't have one of those, what's wrong with you?

JACKIE If you pull up-- Well, I was thinking, you know, *OutSmart* also has a resource guide.

THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, you bet.

JEWEL GRAY: Oh, they sure do.

JACKIE Yeah.

THORNE:

JEWEL GRAY: Sure do.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes. And if you don't have either one of those publications, what the hell is wrong with you?

JEWEL GRAY: That's right.

JIMMY CARPER: Speaking of *OutSmart*--

JACKIE Sorry about that.

THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: No, speaking of *OutSmart*, they're going to be on *After Hours* next month. I ran into Greg. And I said, you know, it's been too long since you've been on the show. And then I happen to remember that he's never been on the show.

JEWEL GRAY: They call him "Leatherman," but, you know, if you only wear two inches of leather, I don't think that's-- I don't think that's reasonable to call you the "Leatherman."

JIMMY CARPER: Well, that's only because that's a law.

JACKIE Yeah, Greg is--

THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: You can't get rid of that.

JEWEL GRAY: I see. Because I've seen him in two inches of leather.

JIMMY CARPER: Whoo.

JACKIE Yeah. Greg is a real sweetheart.

THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, he is.

JACKIE And of course, he doesn't want anybody to know that. But he is.

THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, you know [INAUDIBLE].

JACKIE Inside that cold steel exterior beats a a heart of mush.

THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: So that's going to be fun having him on.

JACKIE I bet.

THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: And I hope he brings everybody with him.

JEWEL GRAY: You know who I used to like to get on? The guy from Q-Patrol.

JACKIE Yeah, well, Ann, she is very knowledgeable about what's going on. If you can get her-- get Greg to bring her

THORNE: along.

JIMMY CARPER: Ooh, and I'd love to have Blase DiStefano. He's got a wonderfully twisted sense of humor.

JEWEL GRAY: And that would fin in just right here.

JACKIE Kind of like mine.

THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, it certainly would. He might have to become a regular.

JIM: Oho ho.

JEWEL GRAY: Yeah, we could work something in.

JIMMY CARPER: OK, let's see. You're listening to *After Hours* on KPFT Houston and KEOS College Station. I'm Jimmy Carper. And we've got-- Jewel and Jim are here. Jackie Thorne is here. Ryan and Bobby are here. And Big Roy is in the lobby. And he is on the phone, I see.

JACKIE You mean you have somebody in here with talent? No.

THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: Hey, hey.

JACKIE We can't have any of that.

THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: So what else is the court doing? I know there's a show. DD DeMarco's got a show coming on the 29th doesn't she?

JACKIE Well, OK. Of course, we're in the throes of candidacy, right now.

THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: Right.

JACKIE And the candidate for emperor and empress. For empress are Shelby St. John and DD DeMarco.

THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: Right. Two wonderful, wonderful people.

JACKIE And for emperor are Woody Steiner and James Fulton and Shawn Carter.

THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: I know.

JACKIE And the court-- as some of you may or may not be aware of, the court is one of the few organizations-- in fact, the

THORNE: only other one that I'm really aware of is the pride parade-- that allows the community to vote for our officers, which is basically what the emperor and empress are. They are the co-presidents of the organization for the coming year. And we ask the community to select the co-presidents for our organization. And the voting will be on January the 5th and also January the 12th. January the 5th is the early voting for people who are going to be out of town on the 12th or whatever. And both times, they will be-- excuse me.

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

JACKIE They'll be at the *Houston Voice* office, which is--

THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: 500.

JACKIE --500 Lovett at the corner of Whitney, catty-cornered from here.

THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: Across the street from the Lovett Inn.

JACKIE Yeah, across the street from the Lovett Inn. And the time on the 5th will be from 10:00 till 2:00. And then the

THORNE: time on the 12th will be from 10:00 to 6:00.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, good. I'm not-- I don't [INAUDIBLE].

JACKIE If you can arrange your-- if you can arrange your schedule to where you will be in the Montrose on that Saturday,

THORNE: between those hours, it won't take you a minute or so--

JIMMY CARPER: No, that's right.

JACKIE --to vote.

THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: Right.

JACKIE And then, of course, the 19th of January, at the Sheraton Brookhollow, which is up at 290 and 610, will be the coronation, which is-- although they call it the coronation, it's basically honoring the emperor and empress, who have served for the past year, while they step down. And then, of course, the announcement of the new monarchs, who have been elected.

JIMMY CARPER: And that's right at the end, right?

JACKIE Yeah. Yeah, exactly. That usually occurs about 3 o'clock in the morning, after everybody's had too many cocktails. And you know, and we're, come on, get it over with.

JIMMY CARPER: And if we're lucky enough, we can make the announcement on *After Hours* before we go off the air at 3:00.

JACKIE Yeah.

THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: If somebody calls this in, you know, and tells us about it. You know, we've done the last two years.

JACKIE Yeah, the tickets are \$25. And since we have coronation paid for, every penny of that goes to the beneficiaries, which-- oh boy, I'm going to get in trouble.

JIMMY CARPER: There we go.

JACKIE I want to say it's Sisters and--

THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, I hope it is the Sisters.

JACKIE --and the Montrose Clinic women's program, I think. I'm not sure.

THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: Now, Sisters is a wonderful organization.

JACKIE Yeah, I know that the-- I know one of-- the IPR, one of their charities is the Stone Soup. And I can--
THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: That's the Imperial Prince and Princess Royale.

JACKIE Right. Yeah, and of course, they are responsible for putting on the PR ball, which occurs in February. And they are kind of the carryover from the prior reign to assist the new monarchs in hitting the ground running. And of course, the PR ball in February is when the new monarchs--

JIMMY CARPER: What's PR?

JACKIE --hand out all of the-- PR, Prince Royale.

THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

JACKIE Or Princess Royale. But that's when the new monarchs hand out the line titles and honorary titles to all the people who attend.

JIMMY CARPER: I'm telling you, if you have not been to a court function, a big court function, like coronation--

JACKIE Yeah, well the court--

THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: Boy, is it fun.

JACKIE Yeah.

THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: I mean you're going to see jewels until your eyes bug out.

JACKIE Yeah, the coronation is-- I mean, it is all beads and sparkle and flash--

THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: I mean big jewelry.

JACKIE --and everything.

THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: Big jewelry.

JIM: And some of it will be real.

JACKIE Yeah.

THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

JACKIE Oh, trust me, it is not real.

THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: I mean, you got to wear sunglasses. I mean there are sparklings going on here. They have big gowns and just all kinds.

JACKIE Yeah, they have some gorgeous gowns.

THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: It's wonderful.

JACKIE And for those of you who are members of the transgender community and you've got that beaded or sequined

THORNE: gown that's collecting dust in the back of your closet--

JIMMY CARPER: Get it on, girl.

JACKIE --that you never have any place to wear--

THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: This is the place.

JACKIE --now you've got one.

THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

JACKIE Come and put \$25 down. And I guarantee you, you will have a wonderful time.

THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, you will.

JACKIE Actually, if you want to, you can head down to the hotel during the day, Saturday, and they have a hospitality

THORNE: room.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh?

JACKIE I want to say it opens at like about 10 o'clock in the morning and runs until about 4 o'clock in the afternoon on

THORNE: Saturday. And they have munchies and cocktails and socializing.

JIMMY CARPER: Great, you can get blasted before the meal.

JACKIE Yeah, And that's free.

THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: Wow.

JACKIE And then after the coronation is over with,

THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: If you're still standing.

JACKIE --everybody repairs to the hospitality room, or the hostility room as they call it at that-- depending on who gets

THORNE: elected. And they usually have-- well, of course, obviously, they still have the cocktails and everything, but they also have a--

JIMMY CARPER: Referees.

JACKIE --brunch. Well, yeah. No, usually by that time--

THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: There were some big referees.

JACKIE Usually, by that time, everybody's so cocktailed, nobody's going to get hurt.

THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

JACKIE But they have a--

THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: Because nobody can handle brunch.

JACKIE --breakfast brunch of some kind. And it's a lot of fun.

THORNE:

JIM: Well, at least they won't feel it until they come [INAUDIBLE]

JIMMY CARPER: There you go. No, it's a lot of fun. I have been to that. I've been to coronation. I can never stay till the end, because it's on a Saturday night, and I have to be here at midnight. But I certainly have a wonderful evening. And I'm going to have another wonderful evening at the next one.

JACKIE Yeah, the doors open at 6:00, and coronation starts at 7:00. And believe it or not, they're usually pretty-- they're

THORNE: usually pretty good about that.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

JACKIE It's not--

THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

JACKIE It's not really real bad drag time it. Yeah, they may miss it by 15, 20 minutes, but that's about all.

THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

JACKIE So if you're planning on coming, you want to come early.

THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

JEWEL GRAY: Where did all the drag shows go?

JIMMY CARPER: I need to talk to you, too, by the way.

JEWEL GRAY: Who to?

JACKIE Accidentally, I have a-- in my purse here, I have a present for Jennifer. I brought those two tapes that I wanted

THORNE: her to see.

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

JACKIE So I'm going to leave those with you.

THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: OK, fine, fine. So Jewel?

JEWEL GRAY: What?

JIMMY CARPER: What?

JEWEL GRAY: Present.

JIMMY CARPER: Good morning.

JEWEL GRAY: Yes.

JIMMY CARPER: How are you doing?

JEWEL GRAY: I'm doing OK. I'm doing great. I'm doing all right.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah? So you're ready for Christmas?

JEWEL GRAY: Christmas is a strange time for me. I have never been a real Christmas person.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah?

JEWEL GRAY: I get the spirit all year long, but doing the work at Christmas.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, no, no, no. I don't imagine that. But I imagine you enjoy viewing the work of others, like boy, that's a nice tree. I'm glad you put it up.

JEWEL GRAY: Oh, yes. Oh, yes. Oh, yes. And I don't mind stringing 20 and 25 little-bitty, miniature lights somewhere, the multicolored miniature lights somewhere.

JIMMY CARPER: 20?

JEWEL GRAY: Yeah, that little short little things you get at the Dollar Store, just to kind of give the room that ambiance.

JIMMY CARPER: Has she seen my tree?

JIM: Oh, my goodness, probably not.

JACKIE Yeah.

THORNE:

JEWEL GRAY: I used to I have a half tree.

JACKIE I have a little artificial tree, that's in a metal can that's about 12 inches high, and that's my Christmas tree. Every

THORNE: year, I put it on top of the-- I have an old antique pump organ. And I put it up there, on top of the pump organ, the rest of the year. And then right after Thanksgiving, I take it down. It sits in the middle of my coffee table until the 6th of January, and then it goes back up on top of the--

JIMMY CARPER: Then it goes back up on--

JACKIE --top of the organ.

THORNE:

JEWEL GRAY: Well see, I have bad memories, as a child, at Christmas. My dad would go out and get a 7-foot or 8-foot tree for a 6-foot room, and then we'd start.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

JEWEL GRAY: And the nightmare would begin. And you know, he'd saw off a little bit, and he tried to level it. And of course, moms are not in the room for all this work. So who would stand there, with needles all over me, holding the tree up while dad's trying to balance it.

JIMMY CARPER: And the sap and everything.

JEWEL GRAY: Yeah, the sap and all the nasty stuff. And then you have to decorate. And everybody has an opinion about how a tree is decorated except the one decorating it. And all this stuff gets on it. And then who cleans up all the needles? Not mom or dad, but the kids, you know.

And because I was the oldest, it was a lot of cleaning up behind the tree. And then the ultimate was taking the tree down. The kids always had that responsibility of making sure every little trinket got back in a little box and all put away. And it was a nightmare, because I was always terrified that, if I dropped something, somebody would actually kill me. And then the real piece of the resistance was taking that tree out the house, out to the street.

JIMMY CARPER: And the dried, withered--

JEWEL GRAY: Grabbing at you at every chance, ripping at your poor little skin. And when you would come back in, and nobody would even say, thanks. So trees are just not a thing for me.

JIM: But I tell you--

JEWEL GRAY: And the things that go with that don't interest me.

JIM: --nothing can destroy Christmas balls faster than a big dog with that tail going, whoosh, whoosh, whoosh, whoosh, whoosh.

JEWEL GRAY: That's right.

JIM: Just smash, smash, smash. And they don't even know what they did.

JEWEL GRAY: In a second, your whole tree is gone.

JIMMY CARPER: I used to have a dog who clear a shelf.

JACKIE I have a friend-- I have a friend who has a house full of cats--

THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: It was bad at Christmas time.

JACKIE --that managed to destroy a number of her Christmas decorations every year.

THORNE:

JIM: Yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

JEWEL GRAY: Usually the ones at lower levels.

JACKIE Yeah.

THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: I have no pets.

JEWEL GRAY: I used to have a half a tree. Have you ever seen one of those? You hang it on a wall, and it's a tree forward, but nothing behind it, so you got just this?

JIMMY CARPER: Right. Yes.

JEWEL GRAY: I used to have a half a tree, and I would decorate it with a couple of things, like some popcorn every now and then, but mostly when I was in a relationship where that was real important to somebody else. But when it's not important, we barely get the lights up.

JIMMY CARPER: I like to decorate.

JEWEL GRAY: Yeah, I've heard.

JIMMY CARPER: I have a 7-foot tree.

JEWEL GRAY: They have rumors all the way in Rosenberg about Jimmy's Christmas tree.

JIM: They could probably see it from Rosenberg.

JIMMY CARPER: Well, it's got 2,000 lights on it.

JEWEL GRAY: Oh, God.

JIM: Oh, my.

JIMMY CARPER: And glass balls

JACKIE That's all.

THORNE:

JEWEL GRAY: You know, there are energy crises.

JIMMY CARPER: I have to run the air conditioner, because the heat generated from the lights just, you know, the room is sweltering.

JEWEL GRAY: Why?

JIM: Do you put all those blown-glass balls?

JIMMY CARPER: I really like it. Actually, actually, actually--

JIM: --on the tree? Because usually--

JACKIE You could blind somebody with that.

THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: --I have enough ornaments for at least a dozen 7-foot trees.

JEWEL GRAY: That's what I was going to say. Well, how do you decide every year what to put on this year?

JIMMY CARPER: Well, this year I didn't. I just went out and bought all new--

JEWEL GRAY: New stuff?

JIMMY CARPER: --old stuff--

JEWEL GRAY: Oh, I see.

JIMMY CARPER: --on eBay.

JIM: Yeah, he rotates them. He's got several boxers, and he's got the dates marked on them, you see, and then

JEWEL GRAY: Rotates--

JACKIE --the one with the oldest date, that's the one that gets put on the tree.

THORNE:

JEWEL GRAY: There you go.

JIMMY CARPER: I can probably have three or more, maybe four, yeah, 7-foot trees just with angels.

JEWEL GRAY: I can't imagine that in your apartment.

JIMMY CARPER: It's huge.

JEWEL GRAY: I mean you have a tiny little apartment.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah. I know.

JEWEL GRAY: To have a big tree, with 2,000 lights on it, would definitely dominate the scene.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, it does.

JEWEL GRAY: I can't imagine a 7-foot tree.

JIMMY CARPER: As a matter of fact, I can't put the bottom row of branches on, because it's too big that you can't get around.

JACKIE You can't get into the kitchen.

THORNE:

JEWEL GRAY: So he eats out all the holidays.

JIM: I'm trying to imagine a 7-foot tree in your apartment.

JIMMY CARPER: I know, I have to remove furniture and everything, yeah.

JEWEL GRAY: I like it when the neighbors decorate and make the yard look-- make the neighborhood look good.

JIMMY CARPER: And then, of course, the door and the other window.

JIM: It looks like the angel is holding up the ceiling.

JEWEL GRAY: Like Atlas? Like Atlas.

JACKIE Hey, Jim, did you read that? Did you read that thing on Han-Net about the story of how the angels came to be on
THORNE: top of the [INTERPOSING VOICES]

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, yes, the newbie.

JIM: Oh, yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, yeah. Well I've got, with my tree--

JACKIE Yes.

THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: --phew.

JEWEL GRAY: Han-Net, you can find that at Yahoo Groups.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, you can. YahooGroups.com, Han-Net, H-A-N dash N-E-T.

JACKIE You never hear more cursing out of Caper any other time of year than when he's putting up that damn tree.

THORNE:

JEWEL GRAY: And you know, I feel guilty.

JIMMY CARPER: It's the lights. It's the lights. You know, it takes two days to put the tree and the lights up, the way I like to do it.
And it's very frustrating.

JEWEL GRAY: I feel guilty for not doing it. I really do. I feel-- you know, if Pete's there, are you going to decorate? I say, no. And then I-- well, gosh. [INTERPOSING VOICES]

JACKIE The thing about it is, Jimmy keeps the Christmas spirit all year round.

THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: Exactly.

JEWEL GRAY: That's what I mean.

JACKIE Because it takes him till about October to police up all the needles that have fallen off the tree. And by then the,
THORNE: he brings the new tree in, and he's got more.

JIMMY CARPER: Artificial, artificial tree, that's right.

JEWEL GRAY: Just vacuum those suckers up.

JIM: I would love to have a tree in my apartment, but I live upstairs. And this gimpy fool ain't dragging no tree up his staircase just to stick it in my-- and then drag it back down.

JEWEL GRAY: I wonder how many people aren't using trees and decorating? You know, I've noticed there's more and more people not decorating. Used to be a big thing. You kept up with the Joneses kind of stuff. But I've noticed a lot less decorating lately. Maybe, it's me.

JIMMY CARPER: I have noticed that this year there doesn't seem to be-- you mean, like external--

JEWEL GRAY: Yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: --like outside lights and stuff like that? There are several bastions in our neighborhood that people who do [INAUDIBLE].

JACKIE They're isolated in some places. I was going over to get my haircut this afternoon or this afternoon.

THORNE:

JEWEL GRAY: That hair?

JACKIE Yeah. Not at all, yeah. Well, trust me, I don't have that much hair underneath this wig. But anyhow--

THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: I've seen you without the wig.

JEWEL GRAY: I have, too.

JACKIE --about once a quarter, whether it needs it or not.

THORNE:

JEWEL GRAY: I've seen him without that wig.

JACKIE Going past this, there was a house on the way over there that had one of these gigantic, air-inflated--

THORNE:

JEWEL GRAY: Santa Claus or?

JACKIE No, no, Frosty the Snowman.

THORNE:

JEWEL GRAY: Frosty, yeah, I've seen it.

JACKIE Yeah, Frosty the Snowman, so he was about 10, 12 feet high.

THORNE:

JIM: Yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, yeah.

JACKIE Of course, with the--

THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: Guide wires.

JACKIE --with the appropriate lights and candy canes and all the rest of that stuff in the yard. And it was the only one in

THORNE: the-- it was the only one on the street that had anything out in the yard, there.

JIMMY CARPER: Well, Big Roy has a statistic for us.

BIG ROY: OK, Jewell, in answer to your question, how many use artificial trees? And I was just reading this today, incidentally. According to a Time Warner AOL poll, 22%.

JEWEL GRAY: Don't use Christmas trees?

JIMMY CARPER: No.

BIG ROY: 22% use artificial trees.

JEWEL GRAY: Oh, use artificial.

BIG ROY: That means 78% are still using the real McCoy.

JIMMY CARPER: Well--

JEWEL GRAY: I was going to answer--

JIM: No, not necessarily. There could be a bunch of that 78% that just said screw it.

JEWEL GRAY: That use a menorah. Or using a menorah.

JIMMY CARPER: Or you're like Stanley.

BIG ROY: Oh, well, 22%.

JEWEL GRAY: That's what I was more-- that's what I was asking. I wonder how many people aren't doing that thing this year, not artificial but just aren't doing the decorating or tree?

JIMMY CARPER: Or any tree.

JEWEL GRAY: You know, I like Jackie's idea, a little tree that sits out, maybe a couple of lights on it, small thing. I think that's more than enough. I mean I think we need to stop commercializing so much.

JACKIE When I was--

THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, no.

JEWEL GRAY: Oh, yes.

JACKIE When I was in college, my roommate--

THORNE:

JEWEL GRAY: Jimmy says, no, give me something to spend money on.

JIM: Well, I had a first this season.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

JIM: My ex-wife and my boyfriend decorated a Christmas tree together.

JACKIE Oh, lord.

THORNE:

JIM: [INAUDIBLE] at her house.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

JIM: It was cool.

JIMMY CARPER: And it was a real tree?

JACKIE That must have been a sight, right there.

THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: And the first tree she's had since she was like a girl.

JIM: Yeah.

JACKIE You know, Jimmy, when I was in college, my roommate was Jewish. He was from New York. And so we didn't have

THORNE: a Christmas tree. We had a Hanukkah bush.

JIMMY CARPER: There you go.

JEWEL GRAY: Yeah, and you know, actually at the fire station, just this weekend, we have a member there who is Jewish. In fact he is kosher Jewish-- very, very devout. And he actually gave us his fourth night gift.

JIMMY CARPER: Really?

JEWEL GRAY: Yes. He went out and got us some kosher cakes from [INAUDIBLE] Station.

JIMMY CARPER: How nice. That is nice.

JEWEL GRAY: Yes. And I never knew much about the tradition until we were asking him that night about it. It's interesting stuff. Now, see that's what I like to do at Christmastime is share with other people about other cultures' way of celebrating this day.

JACKIE And then, of course, tomorrow is the end of Ramadan--

THORNE:

JEWEL GRAY: And see, that's something I've been recently interested in.

JACKIE --the Eid al-Fitr service. And the--

THORNE: