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SPEAKERS

Jimmy Carper



Jimmy Carper 00:01

used widely on both sides, you know, from both sides of the same.



00:06

And I think Jason's you're from the Bay Area. And I think you're, you know, one of the, you know, locus is of avant loci of the gay and lesbian community in the country. And so I would gather that you developed a non gender specific approach, and I'm sure that you gotten a lot from the gay and lesbian folks that you know, is that correct? Oh,



00:31

yeah. I mean, you know, when I joined the Society of Janus back in 1977, if memory serves, it was about 85% gay men that made up the membership and maybe 10%, or leather dikes, and then they were just sort of a sprinkling of us, you know, hats in through there. But I, obviously, it was very, very clear to me from my earliest days in the s&m scene, that this was an activity engaged in by people of many different sexual orientations and preferences and so forth. So it only seemed sensible to describe it that way. That's



01:11

really cool. I think, politically, that, you know, this particular form of alternative sexuality is that place where gay and lesbian and heterosexual people meet on, you know, the same ground.



01:25

I think so I was up that living in leather in Portland, Oregon last month. And the that was very, definitely a pansexual energy type of group. And that was really neat to to be around that

energy.

 Jimmy Carper 01:44

Well, there's a pretty good group of people that put together living and louder. And fortunately, I've had the opportunity to meet up you know, some of those people. And I believe if I'm not mistaken, I want to say at least, maybe four Lil's ago there was one here in Houston. Yeah, that was hosted by Dean Waldron,

 02:13

the National Weather Association living in leather room annual conference. It's going to be in Dallas next year. And I had one full time there, by the way. Yeah, it was here in Houston, I think that was like 1992 or three, something like that. It's really quite an event.

 Jimmy Carper 02:31

At that point, I was just getting involved in the leather community on a social level, here in Houston. So it was it was quite refreshing for me. But getting back to your book, there was a topic that it always kind of, I'd like I've always liked to talk about here on the show. And in your book. It kind of puts down guidelines. We've talked about contracts here. And contracts. I know we're gonna go into negotiations. But I've always believed that you do your negotiations first. And then you have in your contract with that submissive pretty much outlines your scene. I've always going with that. I've always told people here that contracts are contracts and negotiation has always when they were introduced into my playing scenes, they've always made them better. Because there was no wondering what your partner wanted. And what's so ironic is is the man that does the show with me, Jimmy is basically into vanilla sex all the way. But he has taken this negotiating contract type of thing into his relationship as far as letting his other half know what he wants and what he doesn't want. And it has made the relationship better. Not so much dealing with sex, just their relationship.

 04:21

I would think it would also confirms and ensures an atmosphere of consensual reality. Would you concur? Oh,

 04:30

yeah, I have a quote in the book that's been fairly widely repeated. I got a kick out of it. The quote is, when two people are alone together and one of them is naked and tied up and the other one is standing there with their arms full of torture implements. This is not the time to have a serious mismatch of expectations. No.



Jimmy Carper 04:54

 Jimmy Carper 04:54

That is so true.

 04:56

And that's, that's turned out to be one of the most quoted lines in the book and I'm happy about that. And I, I think negotiation, I think the ability to negotiate skillfully and ethically, is one of the most fundamental s&m skills there is. Of course, it's arguably fundamental skill for life in general. Line one time says you don't get what you want, you don't get what you need, you get what you negotiate.

 05:27

Can you elaborate on on the terms, you know, skillfully and ethically?

 05:34

Well, first of all, I, I don't think you can really do s&m to any significant and satisfying degree unless both or for that matter, all people participating in the play, have a fairly high degree of integrity. You know, there's, there's an element of risk both to does the element of risk physical, there's an emotional risk. And there's a risk to your relationship with the other person in doing s&m Play with them, that just simply isn't there, in the overwhelming majority of you know, more vanilla interactions. And if you doubt the trustworthiness of the other person, you know, virtually nothing is going to happen. I am a woman of some sorrowful experience once said to me that trust was more important than love. And I think she may have a point. In terms of the skill of it, a large part of it is of course, in there's, there's more than a small amount of introspection here, before you even approach the other person, you know, what do I really want to have happen? To a certain extent, you can speculate on why you went that, but you know, what, what are my limits? Today? Which ones? Am I amenable to having pushed a bit? And which ones do I really feel that, you know, maybe need to stay where they are? You know, I, I think it's important to point out that limits are not necessarily there to be pushed. Right? Oh, yeah.

 07:19

When you, I noticed in the book that you have a checklist of various activities, do you identify? I noticed that some checklists of you know, like a catalogue of, or a menu, if you will, of different activities that you know, a person might be willing to engage in from some standpoint or another? Do you identify limits as soft limits or hard limits? are, you know, do you do have an area of that regard? I don't recall, I haven't read the book in quite a while. Well,

 07:50

there is a section in on the checklist, what I noticed that I noticed about nine years ago, while I was in the very early stages of writing the book, that virtually everything that happened within the context of an s&m scene fall into one of 16 categories. And I wrote those categories down

the context of an s&m scene fell into one of 16 categories. And I wrote these categories down. And then I created a mnemonic, a memory aid to help me remember what these categories were. And I've negotiated many scenes, running down the checklist in my head. And in writing the book, I had the short form of the checklist, and then I had the longer form which, which as you know, goes on for your seven and a half pages, or thereabouts. And I didn't, it's funny, I didn't think anybody I sort of did that as an intellectual exercise and did that because to a certain extent, I felt I had to in writing the book that the book would be incomplete without it. And I didn't really think that anybody was going to actually sit down with a seven and a half page checklist with their lover. And I have been amazed by the letters and email and personal conversations I've had since the book was published that surprisingly, large number of people did, in fact, sit down and go through the entire long form point by point and the people who have gotten back to me about having done that have uniformly reported very successful results in that in you know, having a satisfying time with their partner. And



09:28

when you negotiate, I mean, I know that I've generally tend to do this verbally, and I have a checklist in my mind and different things that I'm interested in doing, you know, as a top, you know, in usually the person with whom I'm discussing, you know, they have an agenda if they want to talk me. And, you know, I'm very open to that. And so they sort of give me the bit of the catalogue that they're interested in. But when you're negotiating, and I've heard this said, you know, the sort circumstances are very important, aren't they? I mean, there are some times when a person is is, you know, fully functioning as a human being, you know, and their consciousness is a, you know, a level of, you know, individuation or whatever. And then there are other times if someone's like extremely sexually aroused or manipulated or, you know, overtaxed and it's not a good time to negotiate. If



Jimmy Carper 10:26

I can say this word, but I'm going to, I think what he's trying to say is the best time that you had the best time to not try negotiating, is when you're thinking with your that'll work. Yes, sir. I need to remind people that you are listening to after hours on KPFT Houston, and ke O 's College Station, this is queer radio with attitude.



10:56

They have a marvelous thing down in Southern California that goes up think with your head.



11:05

And so I mean, it's there. There is a certain lesson, let's talk about, you know, spontaneity. If oftentimes, I mean, there's there are ongoing negotiations and, you know, feedback between top and the bottom in the scene. Would you talk about that briefly? Well,



11:25

yeah, there's, yeah, I think it's very, very true that this is something that you don't do to someone, something you do with someone. There's a marvelous book out on communication skills called people skills. And the person who wrote that book, and I'm sorry, I don't remember who wrote it. But he, he has a great line in there that says proximity without intimacy is inevitably destructive. In the case, well, in general, it's preferred practice to try not to renegotiate too much once the scene has already begun. You know, there's often a feeling that the submissive or bottom enter sort of a hyper suggestible state and might agree to things in the heat of the moment that they wouldn't have agreed to ahead of time and which they will be very angry about afterwards. You sometimes get away with it, but it's it's risky from from several different viewpoints, and generally not a recommended practice.



12:42

Jay, would you say the use of a safe word is like, I guess it's not negotiation? That's certainly communication as



12:49

well. This is, there's a saying nothing gets people talking like a debate about safe words. But in point of fact, I don't believe really in my heart, based on having been in the scene for 22 years, having done a large number of s&m scenes, certainly having seen a very large number of s&m scenes, I don't believe that it's really in a real world sense possible to do a no safe word sane. I mean, you can't legally revoke your right to consent. And people can talk all they want about it. But you know, the bottom looks at the top and says, you know, get your hands off me, you son of a bitch, or I'm calling the police. And the top proceeds at that point. The Monday morning could be a real bear,



Jimmy Carper 13:47

I would assume and that at that point, you are crossing the line from s&m sex to almost a right type situation, that



13:59

you could make a very strong and frequently very successful argument that that was indeed, the case. I mean, it's funny, I wrote an essay once, as I said, the other issue in my life where the issue of these other areas of my life where the issue of consent comes up, was back when I was working on the ambulance, because sometimes we would have people who were badly hurt and clearly needed to go to the hospital. But they wouldn't agree to go. And there were very only under very limited circumstances could we pick them up and carry them kicking and screaming to the ambulance and take them in, even if doing so in fact, save their lives? You know, most of the time if they were really adamant about not wanting to go in we had to honor that request. And, you know, if a person can't give you if a person can't surrender their right to consent or refuse, lifesaving medical care, they certainly can't surrender their right to, you know, participate or choose to not to participate in an s&m scene.



15:07

Now, there are scenes that, you know, I've chosen not to participate in, because they're so what, you know, there's an entire, you know, area of play that's being called Edge play. And there was a lot of a lot of controversy about this, I think, in LA conference a few years ago, when they started having a, you know, a topic discussion or a group meeting about this concept of edge play. In for instance, you know, one thing might be someone who, and, and we see so many films and movies that represent, you know, dominant and submissive role play in a non consensual setting, which, you know, is approached as some sort of fantasy or masturbation fantasy, and everybody seems to have no trouble with this sort of representation. And then I would have, you know, a lot of people fantasizing about being, you know, wanting to play the role of being raped, or forced or coerced or whatever. I've pretty consistently refused to participate in this sort of thing. But, you know, how do you feel about that? And how do you how do you cope with that? And in terms of protecting your own integrity and your own safety as a top or a bottom?



16:26

Wow, very compound complex questions. Sorry.



Jimmy Carper 16:31

You know, J real quick, before you answer that. Let me give you a minute to think about it, because I want to I'd like to kind of add something to that. Okay. Number one, I've always believed that when you are dealing with Edge play, it is going to depend on the person you're with, because everybody has an area that where they won't go. If I'm not mistaken. And in that, in that, that, you know, that sense itself. You should feel comfortable as a top or a bottom, mainly as a bottom, saying, I don't want to go there. Because in so many situations, I know in the gay scene, we've got many bottoms, who feel uncomfortable, letting people know what their their limits are, where they're, you know, what their edges are, because of fear of not being accepted into the same.



17:48

Anyway, what about rape scenes? Oh, my God, how would you deal rape in quotes? You know, how does that sort of thing get negotiated and Jays world?



17:59

Well, I don't have a lot of experience in those sorts of things. So I can't hold myself out as an expert on that. I've seen some scenes like that. I think if you're asking me about a particular scene like that, for for a lot of people, that's not necessarily edge play. I mean, there are an awful lot of people out there who have rape fantasies being in one role, or the other, or perhaps both. And scenes like that can be negotiated ahead of time, much like any other kind of s&m scene does, and it can be done with a standard safe word, place.

 Jimmy Carper 18:54

Well, let me ask this, do you think that, let's say, during negotiations, you let the person that you're playing with know what your boundaries are, let them know what you do and what you don't do? That doesn't necessarily mean all that has to happen in that thing. So that still does allow for some kind of spontaneity, because that I believe, is probably the biggest thrill about a rape scene or role playing

 19:20

and perhaps the biggest, you know, drawback to, you know, sober negotiating is, you know, oh, well, you know, we have to do this and the top feels like, they have no creative leeway, but, you know, set up like a menu of options and, you know, play based on that, you know, field of, you know, availability. It's

 19:42

funny, I'm almost in negotiations fetishist. I really am. It's my Well, again. It's a matter of setting priorities. And it's a matter of and Looking at the okay, what are some of the most important things, what needs to happen before other things can happen? And negotiation is such a bedrock skill. A person who's good negotiator has a lot of doors open to them. And the person is a poor negotiator has more and more doors close to them. I mean, it's mean, I really use that 16 point checklist. And you know, I've heard people say, well, negotiating takes all the fun out of it. I have absolutely not found that to be true.

 Jimmy Carper 20:32

Yeah, I wouldn't think so either. Also,

 20:37

I and I think one of the things like, one of the aphorisms is that the first scene you have with someone is the one most likely to go wrong. I mean, like, when I teach workshops, on negotiation, and so forth, you know, one of my teaching points is that, you know, it's much more important that a first scene between two people not end badly than that it ends really, really well. I mean, I've got my primary partner, I've got one secondary partner, now we've we've played together a whole bunch of times. And we can do with very, at this point, given how well we know each other, we can do with fairly minimal negotiation, pretty extreme and heavy things, and which we occasionally feel like doing. And, and that works, you know, just the, the number of unknown variables is really low. And, you know, I'm quite attuned to her reactions, I'm quite attuned to when she's in played a stress and when she's in real distress, right, and so forth. And there are times when I push her or he pushes me pretty hard. Yeah. But it's, you know, it's, again, it's, you know, good pain versus bad pain as it were.



Jimmy Carper 22:01

Well, let me let me ask you a question. Do you believe that the negotiating process is ongoing?



22:10

Well, to a certain extent, I think that once you in you know it to a certain extent, it's a matter of definition here, I would certainly hope that communication is ongoing. Yes. In terms of negotiating, meaning, you know, establishing agreements about what will and won't happen. As I said, it's ethically dangerous to try and enter that area once the scene has actually begun. But certainly, the the communication is important. I invented a nonverbal check in technique that I've used quite a bit with good results, and I've taught it to other people, and they have good results. It's described in SM one on ones called the to squeezes technique. Are you familiar with that?



Jimmy Carper 23:05

I'm gonna have to say no, but I would like for you to elaborate on it, because if I haven't heard it, I'm sure there are a lot of people out there that have



23:12

pretty simple, and one of the things that it does is that it recognizes that doing a verbal check in May sort of mitigate the energy of the scene. And it also acknowledges that sometimes submissives are in sort of a very deep kind of nonverbal space. And so it's difficult for them to respond to questions. And so this is this is a way of checking in non verbally and in the standard way that I would do that if I'd been playing pretty heavily with someone and they seem kind of spaced out. I would, you know, take one of my one of their hands in mine and I would give their hand to firm but not painful squeezes, which in essence asks them Are you basically Okay, mean like, are all systems for wealth? You know, this term in Houston, you know, are are all systems basically go here?




Jimmy Carper 24:07


Are we ready for launch? And,





24:09


and if I get two squeezes back, that tells me yes, I'm fundamentally okay. Yes, the scene is basically all right. And there's nothing we need to handle or deal with now we can continue. And it lets them do a physical response as opposed to a verbal response. So it helps both of us stay enrolled and preserve the energy scene and still have some good communication going on.

 Jimmy Carper 24:35
Okay.

 24:36
Now, it's great

 Jimmy Carper 24:37
when I when I had said, ongoing with negotiation, I may I may have worded that wrong, communication is better, a better word. But what I think I was basically talking about is, is it good after the scene is over? You reevaluate what you did, and and to see if maybe you can and go further.

 25:00
Yeah, in fact, there's actually sort of, I've got an article that I'm working on called the seven phases of negotiation, but three of the phases are post scene. And the first post scene phase is sort of immediately after the scene is over, you basically, you're still in the other person's presence. And this really isn't a time for too much discussion. And certainly not a time for too much analysis. It's more of a time of just sort of emotionally reconnecting in a relatively non s&m space and just sort of cuddling and being with your partner. And sort of, you know, again, just sort of like, you know, making sure the plane has landed, and so forth. And I usually save any sort of analysis until the next day, and what I will typically, and what I will do with a new partner, and I'll tell them this, what I'm negotiating ahead of time, and I'll say, okay, the day after we play, or within, within a couple of days after we play, I'm gonna want to talk with you about what worked and what didn't work, and so forth. But I'm going to make a point of asking you three questions. And the first question is, on a scale of one to 10, what's your overall feeling about the scene? I mean, just just taken as a whole, how do you feel about it? And then, you know, what was the best thing about it? And then on a scale of one to 10? How good was it? And what was the worst thing about it on a scale of one to 10? How bad was it? And then, you know, further conversation flows from that. And that works pretty well as the second phase. And then the third, the third phase is sort of what we call the aftershock phase. And this can be up to a week or two weeks afterwards, which is, you know, something may come up for you or the other person, possibly some, some injury, which you weren't aware of might manifest itself or some emotional aftershock might come up. And that's just sort of, you know, an agreement to make yourself available to talk with the other person, and you'll see how they're doing and so forth.

 27:18
Fantastic. Go ahead. Jay. We, I think we have about five more minutes for this particular interview with you. And, again, you know, on behalf of Jimmy and John and myself and a large portion of the listening audience out there, I'd really like to thank you so much. You know,

there's so many important points that you have to make. And and I think you're just a wonderful leader of the communities that we're all a part of here. Thank



27:44

you. We have some follow up information on our website, if I can mention the number. You know, it's funny, rather than give you the URL, if they just do a search on the phrase greenery press, which is the company that publishes my books now, it'll pop up pretty readily. And both my partner and I have a number of essays up there and links to other places, and so forth. And there's information about all the various books out by greenery press and so



28:15

forth. But you'd like to mention some of those and perhaps on Well,



28:19

there's SM one on one, of course. And then there's the topping book and the bottoming book. There's our new book on non monogamous or open relationships called the ethical slut if I can say that.



28:34

Especially at this hour. There's the



28:37

book on vaginal fisting called a hand in the bush. There's Miss Abernathy yeas concise slave training manual. And a few others. Fantastic and



Jimmy Carper 28:50

all this information can be gotten off of the



28:54

green repress. repress website.



28:57

We've got some books in progress. My better half is working on a book about what happens after non monogamy. It's called Beyond seduction. And I'm co authoring a book on electricity

play. Yes, I'm writing it with an electrical engineer and handling the electricity handling the medical stuff. Let's lots of research.



29:26

Let's mention your better half, whom I presume we will be interviewing at a later date. Certainly, at her nom de plume is lady Green Lady



29:35

green author of the sexually dominant woman workbook for nervous beginners and author of the complete spanker



29:45

and the bottoming book as well. That



29:48

was written under by Katherine list. dosti Easton co wrote the clapping book bottoming book and the ethical slut. Great.



Jimmy Carper 29:56

The last time I looked at those the s&m No one and bottoming book and topping book were available at Lobo. Right, right here in Houston. And also crossroads. Crossroads also.



30:07

Excellent.



Jimmy Carper 30:08

Again, I would personally like to, to thank you for your number one, your patience. And number two, after all, has been a learning experience for all of us, after all of it still doing the energy. Yes, thank



30:21

you very much.



30:22

Well, I'm kind of kind of wrestling with a cold here. So I'm just glad it didn't bust out, you know, hacking and coughing during the talk. But it's



30:31

been fun talking to community radio. Things happen.



30:36

We'd like we'd like to spend the last few minutes I think, going through some of the local educational organizations and you know, whatever we can throw in in terms of local events. Jay, thank you again, and we'll sign you off now. I think and I'll be talking to you personally, later in the week, I guess. Okay, Russell, thanks a lot.



30:56

Pleasure meeting you all.



Jimmy Carper 30:58

Nice meeting you, too.



30:59

Thank you for coming to after hours. Good night.



31:04

Once again, that was Jay Wiseman, on the line from San Francisco, author of the book sm 101, which is available here locally at Lobo and crossroads and other fine bookstores. What would you like to talk? Can you tell us about NLA? What is in LA doing? They're doing bar attendings and it's the national association



Jimmy Carper 31:25

in LA has a few different things out would you hand me that paper out of there?



31:29

Let me go through pap. And so going on with Pat? Well, they're a bunch of different organizations in Houston. Houston, pap or people exchanging power is meeting every Saturday every the first Saturday of every month at 7:30pm at a nightclub called Tantra. And the location for that nightclub is 5718 Fairdale. You can contact them by dialing 713780441. Again, that's every first Saturday of the month at 7:30pm Tonto nightclub. And I think next month we're going to interview one of the driving forces behind that group, Travis. And he'll be telling us more about all of these he's been on

 Jimmy Carper 32:09

the show before hasn't Yes, as I recall now from past shows, he'll Houston educates and encourages leather meets every third Saturday, Sunday afternoon at PS at three in the afternoon.

 32:23

That's correct. And that that's Pacific Street, which is a popular bar here in Montrose, right here on Pacific street. That's right, easy to play with that. And that's again on the third Sunday of every month. And he'll is an educational group that was more of a loose social group. And you're meeting ground at parties and you know, some educational things. A heel is very, very in depth, and oriented. specifically targeted, although open to everyone is targeted to the gay and lesbian community. There's also an organization here, which used to be known as autumn autumn season is now known as arrows. And basically, they're an educational group. And they still evolve. I don't know. I'm not sure I know that clay is still involved with this group. And they're in clay was running the meetings. I've attended a couple of their meetings and Clay was doing an excellent job, kind of moderating and running the meeting. So what is their focus? Education, and they meet every single week, which is pretty impressive. I think oil and Spiegel in New York is the only other group I know of that meets that frequently. And every meeting I've been to, I mean, I've had a lot of experience and a lot of education in this area. Every meeting I've been to was was informative to me and a pleasure taking part with it. So I certainly recommend anyone going there, especially if you're if you're just getting started. They also have private parties that you can attend I presume I know that they used to heiresses meeting noon every single Saturday at Rogers on wall that's 12 noon every Saturday at Roger it's on Wall dry. Yeah. And there's some other groups here locally, one in Galveston. And let's see when they're meeting at 5pm the first Sunday of the month. And that's their meeting at Denny's associate gets Denise in Texas City and they can be reached on the web or through email at the collective at mail excite.com And that's Denise in Texas City then we'll give the address but it is the 5pm DNase

 Jimmy Carper 34:41
in Texas City.

 34:43

A staff meeting room. Now I



Jimmy Carper 34:46

was looking through the paper here for NLA does have some workshops planned they're not set in stone though.



34:54

I talked with Brian Keever and he's going to get me some give me some information on Monday about what MLA is doing. I know that they



Jimmy Carper 35:04

NLA was really instrumental in getting me involved in the teaching part, and doing workshops. So I know that they've usually been very active in that part. This is another organization that does not, it isn't just geared towards gay and lesbian. Oh, no, no, no.



35:25

All of these organizations are pansexual and open touch everyone, you know,



Jimmy Carper 35:31

when it comes to learning, that that or or teaching that boundary from, you know, your sexual what's the right word,



35:43

orientation,



Jimmy Carper 35:44

your sexual orientation or what your persuasion is? Doesn't matter.



35:47

That's the amazing thing in the leather community that I wish would transfer over to the gay and lesbian community when it when it's, you know, we talk about inclusivity.



35:58

We love the word queer

we love the word queer.



35:59

Yes,



36:00

we'll do. We don't want to be assimilated anywhere.



36:05

You see, I wish we could get a new word because people as old as me, I use the word queer. But somewhere in the back of my mind, I go out every time I say,



36:17

No, it's kind of an internalization. Yes. It can be revalued or you know, claimed.



36:24

That's exactly. That's why I keep saying it over and over and over, because we need to reclaim that word for ourselves. And we certainly try our best here. Since this is queer radio. You've been listening to after hours on KPFT Houston and ke O 's College Station coming up at the top of the hour will be the return of the sons of musical chairs with Billy Gilbert and Randy and Elmo, and all three of them are here tonight. I've seen them with my own eyes.



Jimmy Carper 37:02

Again, Jamie, thank you. Oh, had a great time this time. Well, all the time, I have a good time.



37:08

You too, are good balance. I mean, because Russell is so intense. And I am just just off the wall. It's great. It's always off the wall. It's a good combination.



Jimmy Carper 37:18

And I know we'll be having Russell back. Good. I like like we had said we're going to be interviewing Travis who is with



37:27

people exchanging power of witnesses and pap.



Jimmy Carper 37:31

And that should be a very interesting, interesting interview and enlightening to we'll try



37:35

to get these things announced in advance. But you know what, I think Lady green will will be on the next show. After that. We have a whole number of people even I think in Europe, we could probably get in touch with some of the, you know, publishers over there and like maybe Tim Woodward and Peter center, Nick doing Marquis and skin to respectively.



Jimmy Carper 37:57

Again, I'd like to say thank you to everyone out there that's listening. I'd like to say say thank you to Ross all because he brought something to the show that was well needed. And that was something we've we haven't had the straight side of this or the heterosexual side of this, which we'll we'll add to the show. Absolutely. Absolutely. I don't believe in cutting out any segment. I never had as long as they call themselves queer. We definitely are clear. Next week will be a plethora of different people, but we've got to go right now. So we'll see you next week.