

[APPLAUSE]

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, don't be Irish if you're gay. Well, that just doesn't work right here in good old Houston, because the gay community has always been invited to march in the St Patrick's Day parade. You're listening to KPFT Houston and KEOS College Station.

NARRATOR: The following program contains language or images of a frank or sensitive nature.

SPEAKER: Oh, boy.

NARRATOR: Which may be considered objectionable by some. Listener discretion is advised.

[THEME MUSIC]

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 transgender 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 March 16 edition, and I'm your producer for the evening Jimmy Carper. First of all, I want to say hello to all my MBBs out there, men behind bars who write to us and let us know how they're doing and are listening in right now, like Wilson and Junior the hunk, Junior the hunk, and Michael, Paul, Randy, Randall. How many more? How many more? Too many, too many. Hello to all you guys out there.

So second of all, I want to remind you before we get into our first guest of the evening, and we're going to do that very quickly-- and let me tell you just what's happening tonight. We've got Jewel and Jim here. And at 12:15-ish we're going to be talking to Janine Bridges, the mayor's liaison. And before we do that, we've got Bob Bouton, who's going to tell us about a couple of things here.

The second half of the show is Bobby special show tonight for disabled queers. And in the meantime and all through we are in our first membership drive of the new Pacifica. And we sure would appreciate your pledge of support. Just give us a call at 526-5738-526 KPFT and talk to Big Roy or Chris or whoever is out there in the lobby, and they'll take your pledge. And then we can just go on with the show.

But for right now, let's get right into Bob Bouton. I have a little thing here from the court talking about, let's see. We've got tonight, Sunday night, Sunday, Sunday, Sunday at the briar patch, JJ is hosting a show for garden party for Camp Hope. And I'm showing that gingivitis, yes, the infamous gingivitis is having a show at Mary's tonight at 6:00. The show will benefit the Lesbian Outreach Center breast cancer program. It's one of the programs that is not covered by federal funding, and they really need the help and the visibility. So there's two shows for you to attend and that's court stuff.

BOB: Yes.

JIMMY CARPER: And you are, kind of, caught stuff.

BOB: I'm, kind of, caught stuff, OK. That's fine. That's fine.

JIMMY CARPER: You were Emperor which one?

BOB: I was Emperor 15.

JIMMY CARPER: 15 out of.

BOB: Around 18 now.

JIMMY CARPER: Around 18.

BOB: Yeah, it's been a couple of years back, anyway. Like so many things have been a long time ago as it were.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, not that long, and you're still with it and you're still doing stuff.

BOB: Still working with the court, doing a lot of as much as I can.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, the usual stuff plus new stuff, I hear.

BOB: Plus new stuff. Yeah, that's what I'm here for, two of them. Two of the court things, one of the new stuff.

JIMMY CARPER: Two new stuff.

BOB: Yeah, exactly.

JIMMY CARPER: OK, what do you got?

BOB: Well, actually, the first part being the court stuff as they put it actually has to do with the Gay Pride Parade. That's going to be coming up in June. We're looking to do a little bit of help.

JIMMY CARPER: The last Saturday in June.

BOB: The last Saturday in June, of course, is the parade. Well, the court usually hosts the Grand Marshals reception.

JIMMY CARPER: That's right.

BOB: Of course, the Grand Marshals were newly named. Congratulations, by the way.

JIMMY CARPER: Thank you. Not me particularly, but the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard I've been a member since 1988.

BOB: Imagine that, another old one.

JIMMY CARPER: So that's 14 out of the 20 years they've been around.

BOB: Yes, and so, of course, the court usually hosts the Grand Marshals reception the week of Gay Pride.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

BOB: Well, this year we're going to be doing it upright. And we're trying to find as many of the past Grand Marshals as we can find.

JIMMY CARPER: Hey.

BOB: Originally, of course, the first Gay Pride Parade in Houston was like in 1979. We had one Grand Marshal. Her name was Thelma Hansel, I believe. And I'm not even sure frankly if she's still around. But if she is--

JIMMY CARPER: OK, that was the first Grand Marshal, but it really wasn't the first Pride Parade. It was--

BOB: Oh, that could be.

JIMMY CARPER: --in '75 and they marched down Main Street and it was like-- they didn't even call it a Pride Parade.

BOB: They just ran down Main Street and hope for the best right.

JIMMY CARPER: On a Sunday afternoon. And Jewel is right here also. Jewel.

JEWEL GRAY: Bunch of queens waving their arms.

JIMMY CARPER: What?

JEWEL GRAY: I said it was a bunch of queens and they were all waving their arms.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

JEWEL GRAY: And their Boas.

JIMMY CARPER: And Boas.

BOB: As the case may be.

JIMMY CARPER: Ray Hill leading. And ever since '79, I think he's been at the end of the parade.

JIM: One way or the other.

JEWEL GRAY: Actually, it was a very dignified parade.

JIMMY CARPER: Were you there?

JEWEL GRAY: No, but I've heard Ray talk about it many times.

BOB: Yes, well, for those of us who weren't there, we're still trying to find those who went there.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, all the Grand Marshals.

BOB: Yes, absolutely. Oddly enough, I really have very little information on the years, mostly in the '80s, like '82 and '83 I have no clue who were the grand marshals then same for '86 and '87. So if we have any information on any of those years, I'd love people to get in contact with me.

JIMMY CARPER: OK, how do they get you?

BOB: Best way to do it would be just to send me an email if you can. Send it to HouBob77006@aol.com.

JIMMY CARPER: That's very clever.

BOB: Well, it's an attempt, anyway. And so that would definitely be one way to try and help us find as many of these folks as we can.

JIMMY CARPER: HouBob.

BOB: HouBob77006, what else? @aol.com.

JIMMY CARPER: Easy, easy.

BOB: Yes. And that's what we're trying to do that particular evening. This year we are going to show just how much pride we all have and try and bring as many of the past Grand Marshals along with us as possible.

JIMMY CARPER: That'll be fun.

BOB: Which would include me and would, of course, include you for that matter.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, as a matter of fact.

BOB: So that's what we're trying to do is find as many of them as we can. So if you have any information on the past Grand Marshals, please get in contact with me.

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

BOB: So that's one.

JIMMY CARPER: OK, that's one. And you have a partial list. I think I may have a couple at home, and I know we've got old suckers out there who are listening to this show. And they have been around, they know these things.

BOB: And I'm sure they're going to be very grateful that they just got called old suckers. But the attempt really is to try and show as much pride in the pride system as we have.

JIMMY CARPER: This is the gay community. Calling somebody a bitch is not necessarily a bad thing.

BOB: No, fairly common. So that's one of the reasons.

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

BOB: The other reason is, as you know, I'm also a member of the PWA Holiday Charity. We have created and we've been working on a new group to the holiday charities called the Wishful Thinking Fund.

JIMMY CARPER: Wishful Thinking.

BOB: Wishful Thinking. And basically, what it is it's trying to fulfill a little niche in the community that isn't presently covered, which is trying to fulfill, quote unquote, "the wishes of individual people" to try and help out. We have several wishes that we're working on now, one of which frankly, last week we helped a gentleman who had storm damage from tropical storm Allison.

But as it was with various things, he had lost his homeowner's insurance and couldn't get his house repaired. So we did. We repaired it for him. We found a company that was able to give us the supervision assistance as well as another benefactor who paid for all the materials. All we had to supply was the manpower.

JIMMY CARPER: Wow.

JEWEL GRAY: So help.

JIMMY CARPER: What?

JEWEL GRAY: I said, I a poor lesbian who could use some help.

BOB: Oh, if she needs the help and if she qualifies, the only thing she needs to do is be HIV positive and have qualified for Social Security disability. Those are the only two requirements that we have.

JIMMY CARPER: What if she has breast cancer and she's on SSI or something?

BOB: Well, I'm not going to say no. However, that's not what we were created for.

JIMMY CARPER: OK, I got you.

BOB: We unfortunately have to live by the standards that were set up, which was the people with AIDS holiday charities. So that's where we come from.

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

BOB: Beyond that, again, all we really want to do is get the word out that the agency exists. If you qualify for those two things, please let us know. And we will go from there and see what we can do to try and get some individual help for folks.

JIMMY CARPER: And all lesbians out there with HIV.

BOB: Absolutely.

JIMMY CARPER: For a couple of reasons because something that BOB may be talking about in the next segment is lesbians and STDs and the fact that safe sex is not practiced a lot among lesbians. And what's not talked about is IV drug use among lesbians and gay men, of course. That's something that's not talked about. Whenever we talk about IV drug use, it's like we're talking about people not part of our community.

JEWEL GRAY: Aliens.

JIMMY CARPER: Aliens, yeah. Those people out there.

JEWEL GRAY: Oh, there's Puppy.

JIMMY CARPER: Two of our regulars have come in with a little puppy.

BOB: But that is what we're trying to do is trying to get the word out that we exist that we can hopefully find some help for folks. And again, if you need assistance or if you know somebody who might have a wish that they'd like granted, again, contact me at HouBob77006@aol.com.

JIMMY CARPER: This is make-a-wish.

BOB: This is the Wishful Thinking.

JIMMY CARPER: Wishful Thinking.

BOB: Yeah, no, make-a-wish, I'm afraid was already talked so that's something else.

JIMMY CARPER: Wishful Thinking.

BOB: This is Wishful Thinking.

JIMMY CARPER: Now, you're looking for volunteers.

BOB: We're looking for-- we actually have three different types of membership, one being administrative, meaning when we get wishes in, we assign it to a person. They handle all of the coordination of finding a company or a group or an organization that's willing to help. We also have volunteers like the guys that came out and helped us last year or last weekend tear down the back of a house and rebuild it.

We also have the third, which is benefactors which are those people that just want to go out and help raise money for us to do all these things. So we have different kinds of membership in the organization.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, OK.

JEWEL GRAY: How about people who just want to throw money at you?

BOB: The people just want to throw money at us not a problem. We're more than happy to take it and just ride with it and do what needs to be done.

JEWEL GRAY: Who do they get a hold of, you?

BOB: Yes, you can contact me directly. And what I'll basically do is just turn around and send you the addresses and maybe phone numbers and things for people to get in contact with, and we'll go from there.

JIMMY CARPER: This sounds very much like Sisters, really the same very similar type of organization.

BOB: Very similar type of organization, just a slightly different bent on who we're trying to help.

JIMMY CARPER: OK, two wonderful organizations. I've been promoting Sisters ever since I heard about it and now Wishful Thinking.

BOB: Now you've got one more to go.

JIMMY CARPER: Hey, great. I like that. I like that.

BOB: OK, well, thank you very much for your time, BOB.

JIMMY CARPER: Rob, thanks for stopping by and--

JEWEL GRAY: Stop by any time, you bet. Looking for some corporate sponsors or--

JIMMY CARPER: I told him there was an open door policy for the court. Whenever they want to push something, we're here. That's what we do.

BOB: And Lord knows we can be pushy, so we take it at every opportunity.

JIMMY CARPER: OK, thank you very much. And, of course, we are still in our spring membership drive or maybe it's the winter membership drive or spring. It's spring.

SPEAKER: It depends. If you went to Minneapolis, it's still winter.

JIMMY CARPER: Well, you see, we were supposed to do this in January, but we couldn't do it because we didn't. It was for all kinds of--

JEWEL GRAY: It's winter, because Texas only has two seasons, summer and winter. Actually, it's fall.

JIMMY CARPER: It was spring today.

JEWEL GRAY: Summer and fall.

JIMMY CARPER: Today was spring.

JEWEL GRAY: Oh, well.

JIMMY CARPER: You missed it.

JEWEL GRAY: That was it.

JIMMY CARPER: 526-5738-526 KPFT. There is a woman who is coming to Houston. Janis Ian will be in concert.

JEWEL GRAY: I love her.

JIMMY CARPER: Saturday, March the 30th UH Downtown.

JEWEL GRAY: I saw her when she was doing stuff and she was 16 years old back in Cincinnati back in the old day.

JIMMY CARPER: At 17. At 17, yeah, the old days.

SPEAKER: She was 17.

JEWEL GRAY: She was 16 or 17.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah at that time, yeah. This is at the UH Downtown 1 Main Street. General seating tickets are the usual price. And you can get them at www.ticketweb.com, or get in touch with UH Downtown. That's Saturday, March the 30th. And this is something that you'll probably hear because this was a big one off of a CD that she recorded a couple of years ago called *Breaking The Silence*.

JEWEL GRAY: Well, she's not just the old stuff. She's doing a lot of new and yeah, it's not--

JIMMY CARPER: This is called--

JEWEL GRAY: Yeah, she's not-- I just didn't want anybody to think this was like remember the old days kind of concert.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, no, no, no, this is a new Janis Ian. And if you haven't heard this song, she's going to sing stuff like this too. It's called *Ride Me Like A Wave*. And you're listening to it on *After Hours*, queer radio with attitude on KPFT Houston and KEOS College Station.

[MUSIC - JANIS IAN, "RIDE ME LIKE A WAVE"]

Ah, Janis Ian from her CD *Breaking The Silence*. That was called *Ride Me Like A Wave*. And she's going to be at University of Houston Downtown 1 Main Street Saturday, March the 30th performance at 8:00 PM. See them for tickets.

Now back with Jewel and Jim and--

JEWEL GRAY: Marty too but--

JIMMY CARPER: And we have someone else and they don't even know that they're on the air yet.

JEWEL GRAY: Rose left. It was-- Tom dye your hair red.

SPEAKER: Oh, it was just-- are we on the air?

JEWEL GRAY: No, we're not.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, you are.

SPEAKER: We're talking about serial killers.

JIMMY CARPER: The music stopped, and I turned you on.

SPEAKER: Well, you usually hold and talk and then we then you point at us, so we didn't know.

JEWEL GRAY: You know it's Saturday night.

JIMMY CARPER: It's Saturday night. That's right. It's Membership Drive and it's a new *Pacifica* and just all kinds of new people around.

JEWEL GRAY: The new, new *Pacifica*.

JIMMY CARPER: It is. It's the new old *Pacifica*, actually.

BOB: Yeah, with all the old people back.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, which is cool. And we are doing phenomenally in this Membership Drive. The first three days we got up to \$125,000.

JEWEL GRAY: That's not bad.

SPEAKER: That's great.

JIMMY CARPER: And the last membership drive that we had, we did for 12 days, and we had a record \$288,000. So here in three days, we're almost halfway there. It's just remarkable. But we still want management to know that people who listen to *After Hours* are supporting this station and the show also. And they can do that by calling us at 526-5738 and pledging their support. Big Roy's out there.

SPEAKER: Oh, Bob, I haven't heard from Bob. Bob, we're waiting for you, Bob.

JIMMY CARPER: I know.

SPEAKER: We're waiting for you, Bob.

JIMMY CARPER: We are. We are.

SPEAKER: Jewel, how are you doing?

JEWEL GRAY: I'm doing OK.

JIMMY CARPER: You're going to be moving into the Montrose area.

JEWEL GRAY: In May. In May.

JANINE: There's been a couple of new announcements. Did you say you were single?

JEWEL GRAY: Yeah, well, that's why I'm moving. That's why I'm moving. Well, I don't know about the Montrose. I'm looking for something that's--

JIMMY CARPER: Maybe the Heights.

JEWEL GRAY: I need a two bedroom place that doesn't cost an arm and a leg. So I sent Judy an email, told her keep her ear out for something, and she told me to talk to you.

JIMMY CARPER: Possibly the Bins area.

JEWEL GRAY: You guys went for the same people.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, but he doesn't have any two bedrooms.

JANINE: Word is that people are moving to the burbs, though.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, yeah.

JEWEL GRAY: It's just I can't stand being so far from here anymore.

JIMMY CARPER: But Needville is beyond the burbs.

JEWEL GRAY: 60 some miles out. Pardon?

JANINE: Near center.

JEWEL GRAY: Yeah, well, it's cleaner for sure.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, I don't trust air I can't see.

JEWEL GRAY: Yeah, really, can't cut it with a fork. You don't want to breathe it either. I hear you.

JIMMY CARPER: And they've got streets out there that aren't even under construction.

JEWEL GRAY: That's right. They got streets out there that don't even have asphalt on them. My street didn't even have asphalt on it until last year.

JIMMY CARPER: Wow.

JEWEL GRAY: So it was dirt, no kidding.

JIMMY CARPER: New area, yes.

JEWEL GRAY: I'm sorry I missed last month but I had the chicken pox. Can you believe it?

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, come on. You can come up with something better than that.

JEWEL GRAY: I had them when I was a kid really. I thought about that too. I thought nobody's going to believe this. I had them when I was a kid, so I thought I was immune, wrong. Pardon?

JANINE: Sure it wasn't impetigo?

JEWEL GRAY: No, it was chicken pox. Well, the kids got them.

JIMMY CARPER: That's amazing. I thought you could only get that once.

JEWEL GRAY: No, no, the kids got them. And then there's something like between seven and 20 days incubation period. So the kids were just coming off and I was just beginning to believe that everything was cool. And the next morning I wake up with little dots all over me. And the dots looked vaguely for me. And I said, oh no, it can't be. Went to the doctor, sure enough, I had chicken pox. I was thinking maybe it was stress, maybe hives, something you know, shingles. It's very related to shingles.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, in there.

JEWEL GRAY: But no, the doctor made it very clear to me you can get chicken pox more than once. So I've had twice now. Maybe that'll be enough.

JIMMY CARPER: Wow.

JEWEL GRAY: You know, my mother passed away last year, and I didn't have anybody to call to tell me yeah, you had chicken pox. I remember the mumps, and I remember the measles. And I'm pretty sure we had the chicken pox. My mother was one of those mothers if one of us got it, she shoved us all in the room with that one. So we all got it at the same time.

JIMMY CARPER: We're of that era. That's what happened when anybody you knew had one of those, everybody took their kids over to play with those kids and so everybody could get it.

JANINE: Right. Yeah, that's right.

JIMMY CARPER: Why? It's just that to get it over with.

JANINE: So they'd all get it at one time.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, that's right.

JEWEL GRAY: So it was all at once.

JIMMY CARPER: All at once instead of spreading it all.

JEWEL GRAY: Yeah, because there is a long incubation time. I could be infected and infect the whole roomful of people and not get it for another two weeks. And then you could get it in two weeks after that. So it's very easy to pass around without even knowing you've got it.

JANINE: So how are you feeling, Jewel?

JEWEL GRAY: Pardon? I'm feeling pretty good.

JIMMY CARPER: The idea being that once you had it you would be immune to it.

JEWEL GRAY: Right. That's what I thought.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

JEWEL GRAY: Well, no, no.

JIMMY CARPER: OK, well, those are the old days.

JEWEL GRAY: That's not true about anything that I used to think either. I asked the doctor about mumps, no, measles, no. It's not absolute. I used to think it was concrete. It's not.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, my goodness.

JEWEL GRAY: It's not.

JIMMY CARPER: Who knew?

JEWEL GRAY: Who knew? Well, as soon as I got it, I was on the net looking to see, learning as much as I could about it, because my kids get it and I got to take care. I've got responsibilities, so I had to find out as much about it as I could. And that's when it made it very clear to me that not to be around people who had suppressed immune systems and several other things. And that's at the time--

JIMMY CARPER: And I appreciate that you didn't come down.

JEWEL GRAY: At the time I missed the show, I didn't have them. But the children were already broken out, and I didn't want to take the chance then. It's a good thing because then I didn't get them.

JIMMY CARPER: Thank you.

JEWEL GRAY: So I didn't want to come down here because we often have people coming in and--

JIMMY CARPER: Have suppressed immune system like me.

JEWEL GRAY: Yeah, so I didn't want to take a chance, so that's why I missed.

JIMMY CARPER: Well, I'm so glad to have Janine here.

JEWEL GRAY: Me too.

JANINE: Oh thank you.

JIMMY CARPER: And we wanted to have you maybe before the election, but that didn't work out. And so now it's after the election, so how do we stand?

JANINE: Well, I think we stand in really good shape still. I think that none of us can complain of the fact that we have such gay-friendly candidates these days. And we now only have one choice, but we have several choices, particularly you had several choices.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, that was great.

JANINE: Yeah, district 25.

JEWEL GRAY: I don't know how great that is. Then you're splitting up the vote and it becomes more like you have a bigger chance that we can't get somebody into office.

JANINE: Well, that's true. But it sure was an exciting race. But I think the two candidates have merged. Bill and Robinson are two very gay-friendly candidates.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

JANINE: And I think Bills got a little bit more history with the GLBT community than Carroll does. But if either one represented us, I think we'd be in good shape. And you know Paul Colbert, who was not victorious that night nor Stephen King were both gay-friendly as well. But you're right. They both evenly took-- well, Steven took 17% and Paul took like 20%.

JEWEL GRAY: What it really does is it wakes up all the other candidates out there. So they began realizing that they can't just ignore us anymore. Even the Republicans are starting to fall over into this side where they're looking at things that they didn't look at before. And that to me is what the best part of it is.

JIMMY CARPER: Actually, there was a gay Republican running for Justice of the Peace, I believe. He was on Lesbian and Gay Voices right before the election.

JANINE: What's his name?

JIMMY CARPER: He's a Log Cabin guy.

JEWEL GRAY: Don't even know his name.

JANINE: Oh, Alex Waltham?

JIMMY CARPER: That's the one. Awesome. I met him somewhere.

JANINE: Yeah, oh, that's great.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, and he was actually, I believe he's running unopposed in the Republicans.

JEWEL GRAY: If we can get more gay people to do it. Rosie did the other night. Come on, say, hey, when you're talking about ta-da-da-da, you're talking about me. You've seen me for six years. When you're talking about da-da-da-da, you're talking about me. So if we could get more politicians who came on, people that and just said, look, when you're talking about these faggots who are hanging out at the bathrooms and stuff, that's not me. But when you're talking about gay people who are interested in the world of politics and reasonable people, that's me you're talking about.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

JANINE: Well, GLBT is such a-- and you'll notice I don't use when I first went into the mayor's office, you know that the position, the liaison position was called gay and lesbian liaison, and we've expanded that. And I think that we always have to remind ourselves and our politicians, our politicians have been really very encouraged by our expansion and inclusion and very supportive of that. We've got several and a couple that are running now that would support ENDA. So that's a really good thing.

JEWEL GRAY: Well, it's a sad thing that we have to have a group supporting GLBT people. It's a sad thing that we can't just-- it's one of those things I'm always telling people what part of all are our politicians and these religious right people, what part of all don't they understand? Is it just the all that they pick? Well, that's not all.

And it just disturbs me that we have to form these little groups. What's his name? What was the name just a minute ago? Not Alan.

JANINE: Alex?

JEWEL GRAY: Alex, no. The guy who was here a while ago from the--

JANINE: Oh.

JIMMY CARPER: Bob.

JEWEL GRAY: Bob. was talking about his group doing the wish stuff and--

JIMMY CARPER: Wishful Thinking.

JEWEL GRAY: Yeah, and Jimmy was talking about the Sisters. I have a problem with that too. I'm thinking, here's money going here and here's money going here. What we need is one large group that gets all of that kind of stuff and helps all these people.

JIMMY CARPER: Well, maybe what you're thinking about is more of an administrative or just type of body that can--

JEWEL GRAY: We're splitting ourselves so thin, we're not doing ourselves any good.

JIMMY CARPER: --head up several different organizations and save them that money.

JANINE: Well, I have a theory about that. I think as is in other parts of our world, there's always going to be groups focused on the needs and issues of different groups. And as much as we talk about the GLBT community, I think that's the umbrella, and we have a community full of subgroups and communities. And I honestly think because of the varied programs that we have and desires and hopes and wishes that administratively it would be simply a nightmare to try to bring them together.

And somebody told me this once. I was laying in bed one night thinking, God, why does this organization exist, and why does that one organization exist? Just like you just said Jewel. And a friend of mine said to me-- now, here I'm giving away on myself, so it sounds like I was having pillow talk. That was a long time ago.

Anyway, she said, listen, Janine, there's money enough for everybody and everybody's desires. So if you have a Sisters that focuses on raising money for lesbians, well, women, right, with terminal chronic diseases, then that's a really focused area. And it's not really being exclusive. But I just simply think it'd be a nightmare. I don't know if it'd be possible to bring us all.

JEWEL GRAY: I don't either. I don't know. If it started that way, it would be one thing. But after you have several organizations, it would be impossible to bring them together.

JIMMY CARPER: And we're having this conversation, but overall, GLBT people donate more money to causes and volunteer more time than straight people do.

JEWEL GRAY: Then why is it the switchboard is suffering?

JIMMY CARPER: It isn't now. It was suffering by itself and it may be that the board that was there, and I was a part of that was not really doing its job or certainly not doing it effectively, because we couldn't get people. We now are part of Montrose Counseling Center. And the man who's heading this up, Steven Jerome, is an incredible go getter. He works the problem, and he is bringing in-- we're now having classes with 10 and 15 people in them for training and we hadn't done that in 10 years, hadn't been able to get that many people in 10 years.

JANINE: Jim, where does the information for those folks that are getting trained come from? I don't want to call it a hotline, but it's where people call for information regarding our community, right?

JIMMY CARPER: That and telephone counseling and all kinds of things, yeah.

JANINE: All right.

JEWEL GRAY: That's one of the things we are going to talk about is STDs is one of the places that we used to do a lot of that educational, information was with the switchboard. And when it started losing and it was just barely making a weekly shift--

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, we barely were hanging on.

JEWEL GRAY: We lost a lot of that information out there. And another thing I have a problem with, I'm really politically incorrect tonight.

JIMMY CARPER: No, go ahead.

JEWEL GRAY: Is the AIDS Foundation. I know that it's very important that there are HIV organizations out there supporting people who are HIV positive. But the world is different than it was when AIDS Foundation began.

JIMMY CARPER: That's right.

JEWEL GRAY: Insurance companies are more responsive. Doctors are more responsive. People are less frightened, and people are more involved and less people end up disowned by their families. It's much more accepted. And I think the AIDS Foundation and some of these HIV organizations should expand into other fields.

JIMMY CARPER: They really should or like the organization, I really love the community Resale Shop that offered free stuff for indigent AIDS patients. They went out of business because they said, we started this 15 years ago when we meant it to last maybe five years. And we wanted to help gay men who were indigent. And that's all changed now. We don't have gay men coming in anymore.

JANINE: It was my understanding that AIDS Foundation, Jewel was starting to look at strategically, taking a look at who are we now? Because you're right. The face of AIDS has changed.

JEWEL GRAY: I'm not saying to short anybody out there who needs help. But fewer and fewer people need the kind of help that the AIDS Foundation was established to give.

JANINE: Right. And well, it would be interesting. I think it'd be interesting to know what the vision is for the next four to five years, because we have changed. It's become more of-- I understand it still causes death, but it's become more of a chronic disease, hasn't it?

JEWEL GRAY: Right, managed.

JANINE: Right. All right, and so matters chronic as well.

JEWEL GRAY: But fewer people. When the plague first hit, just the slightest hint that you were HIV positive, you could lose your job, which meant your insurance, which meant your benefits, which meant your doctors. And before you know it, I knew this guy back when for a typical example, who was making \$90,000 a year. He's an architect. He was well known in town, \$90,000 a year in one month time. He went from living at \$90,000 a year lifestyle to \$435 \$437 which was Social Security because he was HIV positive, lost his house, lost his business, lost his doctor, insurance, everything. He went from \$90,000 a year lifestyle to actually \$437.

And that was going on every single day hundreds of times. And the AIDS Foundation and some of these organizations just had to have them. I was around when the AIDS Foundation began. And we were going to these meetings when they were talking about beginning. It was back before AIDS was even AIDS. It was still GRIDs. And talking about this and sitting in little rooms discussing with people, what are we going to do? How are we going to do it? AIDS Foundation was born. PWA Coalition was born. These places were all born.

And those services are needed in other places, and I think it's time that we started looking, not that HIV is not as important as it used to be. t I'm not saying it's not. What I'm saying is that it doesn't need as much support from us as it used to now that the real world is supporting, more supportive of it. And we should look at things like lesbians who have breast cancer who lose their job because they can't go to work because they're having chemotherapy and they can't be in an office because they're throwing up all day.

JIMMY CARPER: Gingivitis from the court will be putting on the show at Mary's tonight Sunday night for breast cancer at Montrose Clinic.

JEWEL GRAY: And there are a lot of other things. There are a lot of other things. I think we need to start looking at spending money on education of our own people, gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transsexual people education.

JIMMY CARPER: Well, you're right. You're absolutely right. And I remember that for many years--

JEWEL GRAY: He always says that when he wants to go on.

SPEAKER: You're absolutely right now

JIMMY CARPER: I don't do that.

SPEAKER: It's a favorite segue.

JIMMY CARPER: There was in the mid '80s, the Pride committee wanted to maybe not have floats, not spend a whole lot of money on Pride because we needed the money in the AIDS community. And after a few years, it got to the point where yes, we're giving to AIDS communities, but we also need to spend money on celebrating ourselves too.

And I think now is the time to, like you said, look at it and look at other things. There's lots of other things happening. Nowadays, people die and it's like, oh, they didn't die of AIDS. Oh, yeah, there are other things happening.

JANINE: More and more of that, Jim. And I'll tell you I've run into a lot of gentlemen in particular that have said that throughout this pandemic since-- and I was out there with the best of them in the early '80s, where they're saying we really want to give back to our sisters now and help you all in your struggles.

JIMMY CARPER: You bet, I remember that.

JANINE: And our struggles, our breast cancer, our struggles, I look at STD, you're right and the facts are staggering. And I'm really pleased to see that Montrose Clinic is paying attention, because they weren't originally in women's services. I think that's been a new thing.

JEWEL GRAY: They started with HIV stuff.

JANINE: Excellent in the past few years.

JEWEL GRAY: I believe the major reason they started was they needed a place for anonymous testing, because they couldn't go to a doctor and get tested and stay anonymous. The doctor had records, and we needed a clinic. And that's why the Montrose Clinic started, because that was a place we could have anonymous-- was it anonymous?

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, anonymous and confidential. And it was those scary days when the insurance companies were in charge and any hint--

JEWEL GRAY: They had measles out looking for it.

JIMMY CARPER: Those were the days when if you lived in 77006 and you were single male, you could not get insurance.

JEWEL GRAY: That's right. That's right. I remember those stories.

JANINE: Well, I think the reason STD is on the rise with lesbians is that I think just as some of the information puts out there, a lot of times hear I say lesbian as in they, it's we.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, agree friend.

JANINE: I think that it presents itself much like other minor annoyances that women have and they blow it off. And they don't go in and get it handled.

JIMMY CARPER: It's not minor if you leave it alone. It's minor if you go and have it taken care of. Yes, it's minor. But if you leave it alone, it can actually kill you.

JANINE: Well, but you watch these commercials on TV, and you all know something about that. They talk about minor vaginal itch. Well, if you've ever had vaginal itching, there's nothing minor about it. It's a whole major vaginal itch.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, that's right.

JANINE: And that they just-- pardon it guys--

JIMMY CARPER: No, that's true.

JEWEL GRAY: And then you got to go to the doctor. You've got to get up on a table naked. They got to get your legs spread open. It's the most humiliating thing. And I know that's why women are not hot about taking some of these because it's one of the most-- to go to your gynecologist, you have to get up on a table and spread your legs. At least I understand men have got their own little things. But at least bent over a table is a little more, a little less dehumanizing than spread your legs out the room.

JANINE: Well, I know it's very not, but it's just still, it's all humiliating.

JIMMY CARPER: I'm sorry. I had a yeast infection once and my God, if that's what women go through, my God.

JANINE: It is what women go through.

JIMMY CARPER: I don't ever want to go through that again.

JANINE: And then be a lesbian on top of that who's not out to their gynecologist, and that's one of the reasons. I was reading-- this is not any new news I know, but I was reading some research that said, the reason that women lesbians get in trouble here is that they're afraid of the bias because when they go into a doctor's office and they have to go through this, how many times have you had intercourse, they don't out themselves for fear of discrimination, because it is likely that most doctors even in this day and age will treat you differently.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, oh, yes.

JEWEL GRAY: I tell my gynecologist right away. I tell them right away. And a friend of mine was talking to me the other day. She went and talked to her gynecologist and he asked her how often she had intercourse. And she said, well, I don't. And he says, so you're a virgin. She said no. I have a female partner. He said, you have a female partner. And he looked around the room like he was trying to figure out what that meant.

JIMMY CARPER: What?

JEWEL GRAY: That's exactly what she said. She said, I'm a lesbian. He said, oh, well, do you insert things in there? It was like this gynecologist, do you insert things in there?

JIMMY CARPER: Walk out of that room.

JEWEL GRAY: That's what I said. If that gynecologist of call just is not prepared to handle lesbian situations, they're not prepared to handle any situation.

JANINE: Well, they aren't reading their medical journal. It's a simple case. As a research says of vaginosis and that can be treated. And let these girls be truthful.

JIMMY CARPER: What about females? What about female gynecologists?

JANINE: Oh, I have one. I don't go to anything other.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh.

JEWEL GRAY: There's another thing about lesbians going and see their gynecologists not telling the truth about being gay is that your gynecologist will know, and this is really frank talk whether you're a virgin or not. He's going to be able to know you've had some kind of penetration. The other thing is that there's something about straight sex that somehow protects women that because the lesbians are not having it makes them higher risk.