

JIMMY CARPER: Who said no gift, just apply the entire donation to KPFT because he's giving money, he wants to give money to the show. He doesn't need anything for it. I mean, it's nice to have KPFT t-shirt or something and we're happy to give them to you, but here's a guy who pledged a lot of money and doesn't care.

Well, does this guy work in any of these places? American Express, Apache, BP America, Bank One, these people will all match your pledge. Dow, First Data, GT, Honeywell, Kellogg, Merrill Lynch, May department stores, Mobil, Pennzoil, Pogo, SmithKline, Southwestern Bell, Williams Company, Freeport-Mcmoran, Exxon, the Boeing Company, BankUnited, Cooper, Monsanto, Pitney Bowes, the Panhandle,

SPEAKER 1: Jewel, you got to be careful with some of these names, they aren't helping us. Some of the companies you named there, it's very interesting because Pacifica and KPFT are the only station you'll hear some negative reports of some of those companies and it's very strange when you hear Monsanto, because usually that's Jim Hightower's favorite company to discuss about.

JIMMY CARPER: That's true. That's absolutely true.

SPEAKER 1: They'll match if you work for them, they'll match your pledge to KPFT.

JIMMY CARPER: And if you are not out at work, they're not going to know that you pledged for After Hours.

SPEAKER 1: They'll just know you pledged KPFT.

JIMMY CARPER: KPFT.

SPEAKER 1: IBM these are major places, Chevron.

JIMMY CARPER: You bet. You bet.

SPEAKER 1: One of the things you can look at now, ladies and gentlemen, is if you're wanting to pledge here's the newest premium we have with KPFT going on is the fact that you may have heard of this revolution, revolt, anarchy, that we've been having lately. Now you have an opportunity to determine where KPFT goes. And the only way you can do that is as a member of KPFT as a fundraiser, in our fundraising effort at the basic membership level of, \$35, you get to vote. And you get to help decide the course of where KPFT is going to go with the lab organization, with the National Board and a lot of the other programs is going to be happening here soon. And that's going to come off of--

JIMMY CARPER: That makes you a member of KPFT. The voting thing hasn't actually been nailed down yet. I don't know that you have to actually pay money or be a member to vote because we want all of the input from the community. But it certainly identifies you as being a member of KPFT. And of course, you get a bumper sticker with a basic membership level.

SPEAKER 1: And that's tax deductible.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes it is. Yes, if you turn on your--

SPEAKER 1: Squeeze it in here before tax time.

SPEAKER 2: If you turn on your television, one of the stations is doing something similar to us. But here's the difference, they go on for one month, every three months and basically say, give me, give me, give me your money. And during that time is when they put on their best programming you can find. For better or worse, we here at After Hours, we don't give you the best just when we're asking for money. Thanks, Chris.

JIMMY CARPER: Thank you very much.

SPEAKER 2: You get this you get the same effort out of us, whether we're pitching for money or not.

JIMMY CARPER: You get the same amount of crap from us every show.

SPEAKER 2: Right. I used to say it was everything we do on KPFT. But we've-- Democracy Now has been putting out special programming for KPFT. The new show that we're carrying out of Berkeley flashpoints.

JIMMY CARPER: Flashpoints, Yes.

SPEAKER 2: They've been doing extended programming just for us. And we are growing. We're trying to put in free speech radio news here.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, every-- from 6 to 6:30 Monday through Friday.

SPEAKER 2: We have a Bureau here that's going to be trying to have some reporters giving you news and information. So that the only news you're getting right now with KPFT is scary enough, it's Roy and I.

JIMMY CARPER: Now there is now a weekly Native American show from 10:00 in the morning till noon. I forget which day.

SPEAKER 3: Oh, I'll have to find that one. I'd love to hear that.

SPEAKER 2: If I remember correctly, I think it was Tuesdays is when I saw it on the email.

JIMMY CARPER: So there's new things happening here. We've got more public affairs. We're keeping the music that you've always loved. And of course, on After Hours it's always queer music by GLBT artists.

SPEAKER 2: And we're just hoping that we can get back to some of the classic queer music and not get as much Country Western. We're not AAA anymore, Jimmy.

SPEAKER 1: Let me squeeze a few more names in, Coca-Cola, Compact, GE, Honeywell, Pitney Bowes, just a couple of more names. SmithKline, couple more names if you work at these places, they'll match your donation.

SPEAKER 2: And if you're not sure, just check with your HR department at your company and see if they will do something like that.

JIMMY CARPER: There you go, there you go. Let's go to a piece of music and--

SPEAKER 1: Well I'm going to be gone.

JIMMY CARPER: Say thank you Jewel for being here. Thank you Jim. And especially thank you Janine.

JANINE: Thank you, Jim.

JIMMY CARPER: It's always fun with you. I'd love to get you in here and get your hair down, you know?

JANINE: And I love it, too. Thank you.

JIMMY CARPER: Thank you so much. And now this is new music. You've heard it here and only here. It's Marc Weigel from his new CD, *Out of the Loop*. It's called, *Love your Body*. And it's kind of dance music and it's telling you guys to love yourself and stay off the drugs and all of that stuff, guys. Here we go. Oh,

SPEAKER 2: Oh, here's one. Become what you've always wanted to be. Your new body awaits you at [BLEEP] gym.

SPEAKER 4: Is there something wrong with your old one?

SPEAKER 2: Here. OK. This is it, page 37, our local gay newspaper. Laser hair removal. Prices is starting at \$99. Botox, collagen, symetra.

JIMMY CARPER: Marc Weigel from his CD, *Out of the Loop*. That was *Love Your Body*. Like it is. You're listening to *After Hours*, queer radio with attitude on KPFT Houston and KEOS College Station. I want to thank Kenny for a nice pledge that he just called in. And of course, Dan, I'm in love with Dan. And JJ, yes. And you can add to that by calling (713)-526-5738. 526-KPFT.

And it's-- what are we doing here?

BOBBY: Hello.

JIMMY CARPER: Hello.

BOBBY: How are you doing?

JIMMY CARPER: I'm fine. What are you up to?

BOBBY: Oh--

JIMMY CARPER: It's Bobby.

BOBBY: It's Bobby.

JIMMY CARPER: It's Bobby and JJ.

BOBBY: And JJ.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

BOBBY: Hello, JJ. How are you?

JJ: I'm here.

BOBBY: Yeah, of course, usually at this hour he's--

JJ: Usually I have a date at this hour but oh, well.

BOBBY: Is that what you're calling them now?

JJ: Now serving number 964.

BOBBY: Thousand.

JIMMY CARPER: I know what that's like.

BOBBY: Sure you don't want to add a few zeros to that?

JJ: Oh, please, I'm a virgin.

BOBBY: Oh.

JIMMY CARPER: Somewhere, I'm sure.

BOBBY: In an alternate Marvel reality. Anyhow.

JJ: Behave, I know a few dirty little secrets.

BOBBY: Not of mine. Please, I should be so adventurous as to have a few dirty secrets.

JJ: Just go to Crossroads, his name's all over the place.

BOBBY: Only because everybody knows who I-- I keep threatening to get a t-shirt that says I know everyone and I haven't slept with any of you.

JJ: Mine should read I sleep with them all.

BOBBY: Yeah, well.

JIMMY CARPER: What is this segment about, by the way?

BOBBY: Well, we're going to be talking about what it is like to live in a community, in the gay community, in the queer community and be a person living with a disability.

JIMMY CARPER: What do you mean by disability?

BOBBY: Yeah, I was getting to that part. OK.

JJ: Ooh, I like that one.

JIMMY CARPER: It wasn't supposed to do that.

BOBBY: A disability, I opened my mouth and music comes out. Mutant powers, here. No.

JJ: It's the sci-fi convention taking over.

BOBBY: There you go, anyhow. Things carrying over from that. Well, I was born with spina bifida.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes. What does that mean?

BOBBY: I was-- I'm working on that part. That basically means that I was born with a gap in the lower, in the lumbar region of my spine, the lower part of my spine where a part of my spinal cord did not develop. And thus, my spinal cord was growing outside my back in that one small section, leaving me paralyzed from the armpits down at birth.

I've had 18 operations to correct various parts of that. And I can walk, albeit, I told people, this is the reason I don't drink, I already walk like I'm drunk, why bother? So there was first that whole thing in my life is having this problem that affects my ability to maneuver, particularly, in small places.

When I'm out in the open, walking about this neighborhood, I can get anywhere. But in small spaces, I can't maneuver around things as fast. It's an adventure. And I'm also fond of saying that I'm on a first name basis with every sidewalk in the neighborhood because I've hit every last one of them at least once.

I've fallen on every last one. I fell-- matter of fact, I had a fall yesterday at a restaurant. Sat smooth down on my butt and tried to send my tailbone up to my spine up through my teeth. But anyhow, basically--

JIMMY CARPER: You are a flamboyant character.

BOBBY: Well, thank you.

JIMMY CARPER: For those who can't see you. You have long hair, you have a beard and a mustache. You wear a lot of silver--

BOBBY: Silver jewelry, Silver and pewter jewelry.

JIMMY CARPER: Ears and rings

BOBBY: Earrings.

JIMMY CARPER: And cuffs and--

BOBBY: Stuff. And in the winter, you wear a cape and you walk with a walking stick.

BOBBY: Yes, I do. And I walk with a walking stick. People get thrown by the walking stick because they think it's like decoration. They often don't realize that I'm actually using it to stand up because people don't-- people who are disabled walk with a cane, or crutches, or stuff like that. This one doesn't. This one chooses to use a staff. A walking staff.

JIMMY CARPER: And JJ--

BOBBY: And here we have a friend of mine, an old friend of mine.

JJ: I wouldn't be calling anybody old, dear.

BOBBY: That wasn't a reference to the age. That was a reference to the year on your car mileage, anyhow. And JJ has a disability of his own.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah tell us about it.

BOBBY: Although you wouldn't know it sometimes.

JIMMY CARPER: No.

JJ: Hey, I have reputations to uphold, or down-hold, whichever you may look at it.

BOBBY: So JJ, you want to explain the details of yours and how, by the way, you became that way. What's wrong with you?

JJ: Would you like the version that I give to the kids at work or would you like the version of real life?

JIMMY CARPER: No, let's have the real one.

BOBBY: Let's have the real story, sugar.

JJ: I like the fun one first.

BOBBY: I don't care, I want the truth. I know that's a difficult concept.

JIMMY CARPER: What do you tell the kids at work?

JJ: You have to understand, I work for "Blank" Is Us. And I deal with kids all day. I love it. What happened to your leg?

BOBBY: Shot off by a cannonball.

JJ: It's like, I didn't feel like putting myself totally together today. So I just left it under the bed. You'd be surprised some of the looks that I get.

JIMMY CARPER: I'll bet.

JJ: Either that or shark attack.

BOBBY: Of course, those of us who have known him is the only thing under his bed are his ex-boyfriends. Anyhow--

JJ: Soon ex-boyfriends.

JJ: Yes. Actually in my case, with all seriousness, I am what they consider a thalidomide baby. It was a drug used during the 60s by our illustrious US blankety, blank government.

JIMMY CARPER: And 50s, '50s and 60s. I remember.

JJ: And basically, this is a reason, thalidomide is the reason it takes forever to get any kind of a drug on the market, nowadays. Because back then, we didn't make everybody go through the drug testing like we do now in order to get something on the market.

JIMMY CARPER: And what was this drug for?

JJ: It was-- thalidomide was given to women via military families because of where my dad was stationed at the time for morning sickness, much like Motrin is given nowadays.

JIMMY CARPER: And the side effects were--

JJ: Side effects, actually, I consider myself quite lucky. Most of the people were born with no arms, no legs, or missing major extremities. In my case, I'm missing one leg. I'm an amputee from one leg down. And I'm missing from the bone, down. I'm actually in the world of people with disabilities, I'm considered one in a million. My classification is actually hip diso-tech. It's very rare because I actually don't have a pelvic bone on that side. It's like what I call the science fiction freak of nature, but hey, it's what makes me lovable.

JIMMY CARPER: Something has to.

JJ: One leg, easy access.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, well--

JJ: You'd be surprised how many dates I get--

JIMMY CARPER: He went-- he went there, didn't he?

BOBBY: He went there, yep.

JJ: Hey, if you can't make fun of yourself, who can you make fun of?

JIMMY CARPER: Thank you, yes.

JJ: And those of you that do know me know that I do poke fun of the disabled in more ways than one.

JIMMY CARPER: You also, I don't know if you're still doing it, you were doing a web thing, weren't you?

JJ: I do a lot of web things.

JIMMY CARPER: About your disability, darling.

BOBBY: For disabled queers.

JJ: Actually I started a group about three, maybe four years ago now. It is called Able Queer.

Able Queers.

JJ: Able Queer. We're not in total conjunction with other organizations yet, but we have been working together with a lot of other cities and programs that they're trying to do.

SPEAKER 5: Sorry.

SPEAKER 1: That's OK.

JIMMY CARPER: I know you like having things shaped like that close to you, but you know-- I forgot to mention to JJ, who is a member of the court. So he's used to microphones and microphones in clubs, where you have them in your mouth.

SPEAKER 1: You have to deep throat them.

JIMMY CARPER: These microphones

BOBBY: Are too sensitive.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, if you get too close, they get garbled.

BOBBY: I could sit back here and you'd still hear me.

JIMMY CARPER: Yep. So I'm sorry.

JJ: OK, where were we?

BOBBY: You were explaining about Able Queer.

JJ: Able Queer is basically what I'm trying to do, and a number of other people around the country. We are working together with the different organizations, trying to get people that are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender out of the closet and into the streets. A lot of the people, and a lot of you out there may not realize what a lot of it's like and people with disabilities.

Some of you, the reason that you stay in the closet or you don't go out is, as somebody with a disability, you're one of those little crippled people. You need to go play. From the straight community, or the regular community, oh, you're one of those little blankety blank sucking queers. You need to go over there and play with them.

And from people within our own community, oh, they want to put you up on a pedestal, or they're afraid they're going to break you or this or that. And it's like, you're one of those little cripple people, you need to go play with the ones in the wheelchairs over here. They don't realize being somebody with a disability does not mean that we're made of glass. It does not mean that we don't have feelings.

BOBBY: And it does not mean we don't have sex.

JJ: Thank you. Because trust me, he doesn't, I do.

BOBBY: I don't because I want to marry him first.

JJ: I want to test drive him first.

JIMMY CARPER: That's right. Let me see that merchandise.

JJ: Thank you. And if you would like a-- if you would like a test drive, call now and make a pledge.

JIMMY CARPER: There we go. Call now, do something about that, yes.

JJ: Call now, make a pledge, and we'll set you up for a test drive.

JIMMY CARPER: There you go. (713)-536-5738.

JJ: Before this devolves into get Bobby or JJ a date--

JIMMY CARPER: No, I think this is a very important-- I wanted to go there because there are many disabled people that you see around in the bars. And maybe you don't get to know these people because-- what? Because you're afraid that--

JJ: You're afraid-- you're afraid to approach them.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, why?

JJ: Because maybe you're afraid of your own disabilities that you have?

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

JJ: Everybody out there, I don't care if you consider yourself to be God or the goddess or whatever, everybody has some type of a disability. One of the things that I like to do because I have gone, I'm involved with another group that I can't mention on air due to the nature of it. We actually go into the schools at an elementary level, and we literally say, look, you can be going home tonight.

Your school bus gets hit by a train and you're going to end up in the same condition as me, if not worse, possibly. You don't know if you're going to be driving down the road and riding home with your mom and dad and end up the same way. We're trying to educate these kids nowadays in that hey, this can happen to you. Trust me, neither one of us asked for this. But the thing is, we make the best of what we got. We have to.

SPEAKER 1: Don't we all do that?

BOBBY: Well, yes and no. There are plenty of people out there who don't know how to make the best of what they've got. All they see is themselves as a queer disabled person, a cripple. And trust me, I understand it from the point of view of seeing myself as somebody people won't go for. I've been single for four years. If I ask somebody out, that's cool. But nobody ever asks me. Nobody ever comes up to me and say, hey, do you want to go out? And I think that the reason that happens is several things. I think one, there are people who assume that disabled-- there are some people who assume that disabled people don't have sex.

JIMMY CARPER: Well I know that's wrong.

BOBBY: Yeah, for one. Another is I think some assume that we are doing something or that we all already have somebody who stays with us because we have a disability. And they don't want us to be alone, kind of things. And I've seen stuff like that.

JIMMY CARPER: As someone who's been in that situation, let me say this. I have been afraid to approach someone with an obvious disability because maybe I didn't want them to think that I was interested in them because of the disability. That I had this kind of fetish.

JJ: Oh trust me, you meet-- you do meet the freak.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

JJ: We do meet the freaks.

BOBBY: I'm like-- it's like--

JIMMY CARPER: And how do you handle that?

JJ: Actually some of the freaks that I've met have been some of the best dates that I've had lately.

JIMMY CARPER: How do you deal with that?

SPEAKER 1: Yeah, how do you deal with that?

JJ: It can be real hard to deal with. Back when I was first officially coming out of the closet, I met a lot of-- what I consider, nowadays-- weirdos. I had one guy, I'm going to try to keep it as clean as I can, so forgive me here.

JIMMY CARPER: It's after two.

JJ: OK, cool. I had this one guy that I met in a bar in Chicago, very nice guy, got mad because-- and he knew about the disability, he was OK with it and all that-- but when we got home, he was mad because I had no hip so I couldn't stump fuck him.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, my.

JJ: It's like-- yes.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, I know what you're saying.

JJ: And it's like, to me, that is even-- I'm open minded. Jimmy, you've known me forever.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, hell yeah.

BOBBY: Open minded, or--

JJ: I'm open minded and everything else, but that even threw me for a loop. It's like, whatever floats somebody's boat with me is fine, but at the time, being 16 years old--

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

JJ: And basically, back then, getting into the underground clubs as it was hard enough to have something like that thrown at me.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, no kidding. I don't think I could have--

JJ: It just, it blows your mind.

JIMMY CARPER: Hard to handle, yeah.

BOBBY: It's interesting. I get told a lot that people think-- I get all kinds of nice things said to me by my friends. And I have an amazing array of people.

JJ: He has more children than God.

BOBBY: Yeah, I have-- everybody-- people who have known me for a while know my nickname is Merlin.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes

JJ: And that-- but to some of the younger gay crowd, I'm Papa Merlin because they know I'm there I'll be their--

JJ: Daddy.

JIMMY CARPER: They can talk to you.

BOBBY: They can talk to me. And they know that-- and they know what they tell me doesn't go any further than me. No I'm not.

JJ: Next time, no teeth. Ouch.

JIMMY CARPER: I hate teeth.

BOBBY: You know, I have this-- I do have this amazing set of friends.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, you do.

BOBBY: But I also have been-- I've been this way my entire-- I've been disabled my entire life. And that's a long time to study people and to watch people. And I spent the first part of my life studying people and not talking to people. People who know me now probably couldn't imagine me sitting in a corner and saying nothing.

JIMMY CARPER: No, no. You know, but that is just totally.

BOBBY: But there was a time when that's all I would do. And I learned to decipher reactions to me.

JIMMY CARPER: We've got our other voices here too. There's a couple other guys here that may want to jump in there.

JJ: Yeah, we have background.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, yes, please do.

DEVON: We all like the back.

JJ: Hey, it's fun that way.

DAVID: You have to excuse him. I have to apologize for him a lot.

JIMMY CARPER: Who is he? And who are you?

DAVID: I'm David. And the one that was on before was my lover, Devon.

DEVON: Devon.

DAVID: I'm actually, a lot of people don't know it by looking at me, but I am considered disabled and a crippled. I have what is called accelerated cell degeneration.

JIMMY CARPER: What's that mean?

DAVID: Basically my internal organs are breaking down. And by the time I reach 35, I should be something close to a lump of jelly.

JIMMY CARPER: So your insides are aging?

DAVID: But my exterior still remains the same.

JIMMY CARPER: That's kind of what AIDS does because the disease and the medications, it really ages all of the internal organs. And so my lover is 21 years older than I. However, our bodies are probably about the same as far as--

BOBBY: And that's the thing about my disability--

JIMMY CARPER: That's amazing. I had not heard of that before.

DAVID: It's actually a very rare. Very rare--

BOBBY: Very, very rare. I have heard of it.

DAVID: There's only maybe a handful of people in the entire world that have it. And the ones that do don't live very long. They found out when I was very young that I had it. And they tried different things with medication, gene therapy, everything they could throw at it and it pretty much it was nothing. And they just told me to live my life until I turned into a gelatinous flank of skin laying on a table somewhere.

BOBBY: Oh, that's lovely. Go live your life until you drop dead.

JIMMY CARPER: Well, you know, that's--

JJ: Enjoy it while you can.

BOBBY: There's nothing, there's nothing wrong with the idea of enjoy it while you can. That's lovely. It's just being told that this is what's going to happen to your body is a frightening thing. My parents were told from the get go that no matter how old I was chronologically, my body would always be 10 years older than my chronological age.

DAVID: And so your mind is more along the lines of 30, 40 years older than I am now. I'm only 23 and you can ask Devon, I act like I'm 70 sometimes because I get worn out really easy. I have a difficult time-- here lately, I haven't even been able to work because I've been getting tired so much. And every time I get a cold, the flu anything, it's a big thing because I don't heal as quickly.

And a lot of people, some of my former lovers along the lines that we're talking about, as soon as they found out that I was crippled, they ran for the hill.

BOBBY: Oh yeah, they do. Every time.

DAVID: It was detrimental more to me because I'd gotten attached to him, I'd been in the relationship and they ran as soon as they found out that, oh God, he's going to die when he's 35. We're out of here. And I was only 19 at the time, you know? It's really more detrimental. Well, I'm not going to say that, but it's detrimental to a person when they don't have an obvious cripple.

And I'd understand if people didn't want to come up to you because you had an obvious cripple that it would be detrimental to you, but it's hard on someone like me--

BOBBY: Who doesn't show it completely on the outside. And that's the thing that-- and that's another thing I wanted to mention was that there are those of us who have things wrong with us that can't be seen. And some of us have to go through that thing later on of telling somebody this is something that's wrong with me. And wait for the reaction.

JJ: People don't realize it. And I think that's--

BOBBY: Hold on. They're trying to give me a turn.

JIMMY CARPER: I'm doing traffic here.

BOBBY: Oh Yeah. Our air-wave traffic controller.

DEVON: Well as far as myself, I was hurt on the job while I was working. And we were in an auto accident and I got my neck messed up. And they did the CAT scans and stuff like that and found out that my disks that are in there actually, gravity is messing them up.

It's pushing them down from them being jarred. And myself, I'm on workers' comp, therefore I don't work and stuff. But I have trouble doing physical things, like picking up stuff too heavy, getting dizzy, looking down too much, neck just hurts really bad. And it's just hard to do certain things.

DAVID: And yet he stays with me and takes care of me.

DEVON: Yes.

BOBBY: That's because he cares about you.

JIMMY CARPER: And I guess it's to me now.

BOBBY: Your turn.

JIMMY CARPER: I have-- I got my HIV test in 1987. And I have had to have been HIV positive for several years before that, at least. And it was never a problem. OK, HIV positive. And in the early 90s I started medication. And I'm still on medication.

But in the past couple of years, things have changed. And my cheeks have kind of sunken in and I'm getting that look. And suddenly, I find that people are putting me in another category. Now all of a sudden I am not in the sex category anymore.

People look at me and think oh, he doesn't have-- no sex there. Absolutely not, nothing. He's got it and so that's it. And it's like, hey, there's still an urge there. There's just not an outlet anymore.

DAVID: That's what a lot of people don't realize is that just because you're crippled doesn't mean that you don't have any sex drive.

JIMMY CARPER: That's right.

JJ: That's the thing.

DAVID: Devon can atone, I still have somewhat of a sex drive--

DEVON: Even though mine's off the chart.

DAVID: He wears me out a little too much.

JIMMY CARPER: We'll talk after the show.

BOBBY: Can you spread this around a bit?

DAVID: I won't let him do that. He's all mine.

BOBBY: And even beyond the sex part of it, we are all emotional, we are all human. And we all have emotional reactions to our lives. And we want love. We don't want pity. We don't want somebody staying with us because they feel sorry for us. We want somebody staying with us because love.

JIMMY CARPER: That's what I'm seeing in people's faces now. People I don't know, when I look at them, I'm seeing that. And that is something I've never seen before and it's quite jarring.

DAVID: It was like yesterday I think it was. Yeah, it was yesterday. I went to take my dog for a walk and my hip was hurting me for no apparent reason, but it was hurting. And I was limping around the block, taking the dog for a walk. And I could tell just other people who were walking around were looking at me different than usual when I just walk around the block. They were looking at me like I was some kind of freak or something was wrong with me.

And it's sad that our society, as great as it has grown, can't get past that whole, ooh, it's different, let's gawk at it face.

JIMMY CARPER: And do you know, It's better now than I think it's ever been because when I was a kid, when someone had a deformity, the family kept them up in the attic.

JJ: They were kept in an attic. I'm only 38 years old and my mother was given the option of putting me-- just because I had one leg, putting me in a sanitarium.

DAVID: Ouch.

BOBBY: As a baby--

JJ: Those of you that would love to see me there, sorry.

BOBBY: As a baby, they were going, if I had not been adopted by a doctor at the place where I was born, they were going to put me in a home for mentally and physically challenged. They were going to treat me as if I was a mental case and lock me away and say, good bye. You are not a part of society. You do not exist.

JJ: We've come a long way.

BOBBY: And we've come a long way, baby.

DAVID: Well used to be that they would actually lock people up in sanitariums for being gay.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah.

DAVID: It's come a long way as a society, but you walk around the street and if you do have a handicap, and I'm sure you all probably noticed it, people still stare at you.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, yeah.

DAVID: And it's like, if we walk around holding hands or something and people still stare at us. We live in the Montrose district, and people still stare at us.

JIMMY CARPER: Actually now it depends on the stare because I've seen you two walking down the street, holding hands. And I thought, oh, that's so sweet. I love that. I wish more people would do it. And so that was my staring.

DAVID: You can tell the different stares. There's the "oh, how sweet, it's cute" stare. And then there's that "absolute disgust wishing death upon us from above" stare. And then there's that stare that "Oh, my God, they're doing that in public".

DEVON: It's the yuppies moving in.

DAVID: And there's a whole bunch of them. And what I would love to see is just somebody who could just drive down the street and see a whole bunch of crippled people in a parade and not stare at them. And it would never happen, but still. The fact that it takes so much-- people's intention so much that just because somebody is crippled or different, it's sad that our society hasn't gotten past that. Because we've learned to accept Blacks. At one point in time, Blacks were persecuted just for being Black.

JIMMY CARPER: And in some places, still are.

BOBBY: Saint Patrick's Day, the Irish were persecuted in this country at one point.

DAVID: Nearly all immigrants to this country have been persecuted in some form or shape. Like the Japanese in the Chinese when they came over to build our railroads, they were persecuted after the railroads were completed.

BOBBY: And there's something I just wanted to point out. While the subject of this is being gay and disabled, while I know I have a disability, I do not live in that every day. I see it in other people's eyes when they look at me, whether they're looking at me as a person or as a person with something different about them. But just because I am born with a disability doesn't mean that's the only thing about me. There's more to me than that disability.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, I understand that. And I've tried over the years to not be different. Some days, you're just not going to feel good. And the fact that I'm taking 40 different pills at various times of the day. And you have to keep the schedule going, but I try not to live my life according to that schedule. I just try to live my life. And most of the times, I can do it. It's the days when you're not feeling too great, it's there.

BOBBY: One of the other points I wanted to bring up is the reason that-- one of the things is that we all-- pretty much everybody here is either sitting here is either gay or bi or whatever.

DAVID: I think we're all gay.

DEVON: We're all queer.

JIMMY CARPER: All gay.

DAVID: Yeah, we're all gay.

JJ: We jumped the fence and ran. In my case, I rolled down the fence.

DAVID: I drove you off the fence, but still.

BOBBY: We all live-- as wonderful as the gay community can be, we all live in a world where gay is all too often about Abercrombie and Fitch.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, I know.

BOBBY: And GQ, and all those pretty faces.

JIMMY CARPER: And we will never be that.

BOBBY: And I guarantee you, pretty much, while I love every last person in this room, none of us here fit that perfect, pretty queer mold.

DAVID: Hey, now that's fighting words.

BOBBY: We are beautiful human beings, but we are not those people who you will see in those magazines. We are not those perfect, pretty people who everybody is looking for in the bars, in the clubs and all of that. And we have to live in with that being the model.

DAVID: Yeah, but how many people do you see--

BOBBY: And we have to break out of that and show them that, hello, we're part of this group too. And guess what, we're still part of it. We're here.

JJ: But look at it this way too, if you think about it, a lot of the people that are seeing us and looking, a lot of them might be playing devil's advocate. They might be worried that it could happen to them. And it scares a lot of people.

JIMMY CARPER: And think bad things are going to happen to all of us throughout our lives.

DEVON: I have people walk up to me all the time. I ride public transportation.

SPEAKER 1: Oh, what an adventure that is.

DEVON: Trust me, that's an adventure and a half. In the city, let's shoot metro.

BOBBY: If you're built the way we are, that can be an adventure and a half.

SPEAKER 1: Well, just be getting on Metro's dangerous.

BOBBY: I have a button I wear on the bus-- I have a button I wear on the bus, it says, "you can let me sit down, or I can fall on you".

DAVID: I've done that one, actually. I was feeling really sick one day and this lady just kept looking at me funny because I had to have been looking really pale--

BOBBY: That would be different from your regular complexion