

[MUSIC PLAYING]

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[MUSIC PLAYING]

- (SINGING) *After Hours, After Hours.*

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, yes. You've tuned in to *After Hours*, queer radio with attitude right here on KPFT Houston 90.1 FM. The crew of *After Hours* is ready to bring you news, interviews, dialogue, and music geared for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered people and their friends.

Here at *After Hours*, we may be diverse, but we have one thing in common. We are all out of the closet and urge everyone to come out of their closets. That means standing up for yourself, taking responsibility for your own life, and being proud of who you are. Realistically, we know not everyone can do that because of age, job, or frame of mind. That's OK. We're here for you, too. So sit back, relax, and enjoy this week's edition of *After Hours*.

Hello, Houston and College Station, and welcome to *After Hours*, queer radio with attitude. I'm Jimmy Carper. And before we get into the packed show that we have tonight, I want to talk about the music that we heard right at the beginning. Christy Claxton started it out with "Best Loved Girl" off of her new CD *Out of Nowhere* followed by Daniel Link with his CD *Out of the Silence*.

Is there-- they making CDs together here? *Out of Nowhere, Out of the Silence*. With Altar Boy, those two just finished a wonderful show at the Sidecar Pub out on Hofmeister Road, and what a fun time that was. It's just a neighborhood bar with a very large stage and regulars that hang out there and a whole bunch of gay people tonight. But everybody mixed together very well. It was a lot of fun.

- I'm sorry I missed it.

JIMMY CARPER: Excuse me-- yes.

- I'm sorry I missed it.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes. And, of course, co-hosts tonight Jewel and Jimmy.

- And Jimmy.

JIMMY CARPER: Jim.

- Jim.

JIMMY CARPER: I'm Jimmy.

- Oh, we're doing the--

- She's Jewel.

- And he's Jim.

JIMMY CARPER: There you go.

- And I'm not.

[LAUGHTER]

- Let me see. Is this the one-- the one that sets the--

- Is that the right one. I think I've got one.

- He has a mic in each hand.

- He's dangerous.

- I've just turned everything on in there.

- OK, so we're all turned on.

JIMMY CARPER: And we've got Katrina Rose.

KATRINA ROSE: Hi.

JIMMY CARPER: And we don't get to hear too much-- hear your voice. I mean, we get to read your words, but we don't get to hear your voice anymore.

- Yeah, I just flew in from Minnesota--

- Minnesota.

- And, boy, are my arms tired.

JIMMY CARPER: Minnesota.

- Minnesota, don't you know, yah.

- You have to defrost the wings after-- de-ice.

- Now to defrost my brain after I left this morning.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah. It's been cold up there.

- Yeah, it's nice and toasty here in Houston. 40, ooh, that's nice and toasty. Single digits when I left this morning.

- I'm so glad to be in the South in the winter.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, no kidding. Yeah. I'll trade-- I'll trade a Houston August for a Minnesota January anytime.

- Now I've gotten to the point where I won't. I'm just the opposite. I was up there last summer and heard 40 days in a row over 100. I can deal with 20 degrees below 0 as long as the wind isn't blowing all that much.

- And we've been pretty lucky in that regard this winter.

- A lot of snow though.

JIMMY CARPER: Someone who's not on mic yet sitting there very quietly and very-- and just-- it's just not like him.

- He's very sedate.

JIMMY CARPER: Jack Valinski is--

- Well, I don't think he's got a mic, so he's stuck.

- Yeah, he's heading into the--

- There you go.

- The co-pilot's seat.

- There you go. There you go.

- There you go, Jack.

JIMMY CARPER: Well, we have some interesting times ahead of us.

- Whoa, he's getting right into it.

JIMMY CARPER: And certainly we'll talk about that.

- Today was voting for grand marshal--

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

- Of the Pride parade.

JIMMY CARPER: We had-- today was the in-person voting. We had about two weeks or actually longer than that of voting absent-- of voting absentee or voting--

- Yes, by computer or something.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes. So we'll make that announcement in a couple of weeks.

- Good, good, good. Had wonderful people running.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes. We're very excited about that, the fact that there is a lot of talk about people running and a lot of-- we've got an incredible amount of early voting.

- Good. Good, good, good.

JIMMY CARPER: So you're here to talk about Pride?

- Well, that and what's coming up.

JIMMY CARPER: Is that why Jewel has you here?

- Well--

- I have him here because he had some free time. Because this man is busy, busy, busy, busy.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes. Yes. Yes, and I have to-- I have to pull out--

- He probably had to cancel two meetings just to be here.

JIMMY CARPER: Because this is Jewel's show. Yes. Probably did.

- Yeah, really.

JIMMY CARPER: Did you?

- No, but we definitely-- we're definitely interested in Pride Week, and as we're talking here in this cool, chilly February, it's nice to think of what June is going to feel like out there, June evening, and thinking about that parade.

JIMMY CARPER: And I want to preface all of this by saying it is well past Jack Valinski's bedtime. So we are very, very happy to have him. Ray should be-- Ray Hill is going to be calling in.

- Well, and he called in for the prison program on Friday. And I didn't hear quite all of it, but Scott [INAUDIBLE] was talking about it this evening that Ray's in great spirits, and he's doing well. He doesn't want you to send him flowers or candy or anything like that, and he said he'd be out soon.

JIMMY CARPER: He just wants you to send him those little brown boys.

- Yes. Good vibes.

- Little brown boys. Some things never change.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, yes. Brown skin fairies.

- Oh.

- Yes, yes, yes. Jack?

- Well, what's coming up? We have a campaign coming up, and we don't know exactly how it's all going to be framed. But it's going to be an exciting time in Houston. We all need to get our volunteerism going. And it's also going to be a tough time because they're going to try to say things about us that we just aren't true.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, yes.

- And there's going to be a lot of focus on Pride in this June. And it's not just the week anymore. It's a whole month.

- Whoa.

- As well it should be.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, Pride month. Now you were making reference to--

- Well, I'm sure-- the people who are subscribing to [? Handnet ?] certainly--

JIMMY CARPER: They know.

- It hit last Monday during the radio show.

JIMMY CARPER: It hit the fan!

- Yes. And I didn't actually read anything about it until after. But there was this community meeting, and there's all this thing about, well, I wasn't invited. Well, none of us are always knowing what's going-- are invited to everything or know what's always going on. But there was originally talk about extending the domestic partnership benefits to city employees.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

- The mayor, Mayor Brown, and councilperson Parker, Annise Parker, wanted to because the health benefits were about to expire and they were looking to do another contract with the vendors for the city thinking about maybe this is time to extend it to city employees.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

- Now that-- this won't affect the vast majority of us who live or work in Houston or the surrounding areas. So that was starting to be talked about, but then it was brought up, well, what good is this if we don't have non-discrimination. And as that talk was going on, it wasn't necessarily just for gay and lesbian people but for all of us, transgendered and bisexual people. And when this was discussed at this meeting, overwhelming and almost unanimously, it was saying that we need to go for non-discrimination because it would not only mean for the people working for the city but also for city contracts as in United and San Francisco, United Airlines and San Francisco. So this really would have a far-reaching thing number one.

Number two, those of us who remember 1984 and 1985 when we were so roundly defeated like 91-- or 81%, it was absolutely devastating. And I remember being on the air that evening doing a live remote for Wilde 'N Stein outside--

- Oh god that must be hard.

- Yeah, in front of the Hollyfield Center where we were hoping to have some ty-- well, we knew we were going to lose. As we got into it, we knew we were going to lose, but a lot of it was that we were-- a lot of us were naive. A lot of us thought that we can pull this thing off, and it really was-- it was terrible. And it really set the tone for this community for a long time after that.

And we went through that terrible defeat. We went through-- we were at the beginning of the height of AIDS. The economy in the city was going pretty bad, and it just looked like there was no hope for us. And here I was on the air trying to be a cheerleader for the community, and I didn't know where to do-- what to do.

And so we've come a long way, and it's really interesting because at the last caucus meeting, Sue Lovell was out there. And she's saying-- she was talking about this albatross that we're all living with, and she felt somewhat responsible for it where it wasn't her fault. She was doing the best she could for the community, and the caucus was pushed into this thing. It wasn't--

JIMMY CARPER: That's right.

- And so this thing happened, and now we're 15 years later. And it's not going to be an easy win, but it's a very possible win because we have some new activism. We have corporations that are now giving these benefits and have non-discrimination thing within what they're doing--

JIMMY CARPER: Precedent. We got precedent.

- Exactly. And it's like discrimination is bad business.

JIMMY CARPER: That's right.

- And we also have a council person downtown who basically every time when the vote doesn't want to go his way, he wants to sue the city. So all this stuff is going on, and there's this wonderful organization called Progressive Voters in Action who is doing some real grassroots type of thing where they're trying to build a list and get people out there. And how we lost that in 1985 was really because our people didn't get out there and vote.

JIMMY CARPER: That's right.

- When you only have a 10% or 9% turnout in voting, if we can get our people out there, we could win. And the mission statement of progressive voters is to get 100,000 people list. And if we can identify those people and get them out to vote, we could win.

Now I'm not on the board or I'm not really associated except for being an interested party, but as one of the people involved in Pride, certainly we're going to be focused on. And it's really interesting over the past couple of years how it's been framed. In 1997, it was the Night Parade, and two years ago it was the disco ball.

Well, last year, the mayor asked to be in the parade because we asked him, and it was just a fabulous turnout. The media, everything was, and the mayor kept saying, well, this is part of the city and I want to be part of it. And everybody should be out there celebrating.

Well, this year, certainly we know we're going to-- the crazies are going to come out more.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, yeah.

- But we also have this type of thing of having 150,000 people out in the street and helping identify our community, and the celebration that's going on is going to be great. One of the first events that we're going to have this year--

JIMMY CARPER: Before you get into that--

- OK.

JIMMY CARPER: I know Ray's going to be calling in. I'd like your comments on it, Jewel, and then I'd like Jack to move over.

- On Ray?

- My comments on Ray calling in? I think it's a good idea.

JIMMY CARPER: No, no, no, no, no, no, no, no.

- On all of this.

- Oh, I see. I see. Well, I've been watching [? Handnet ?]. And first it was the DPs, and I was calling and writing and doing all my good stuff. And then I would never thought of it. I would never have recognized that we needed to-- because it's very logical. You get this done first, and then you have this.

And once-- and I hate to say this because this is just what they want to hear-- once you get your foot in the door, then we can start piling on. But we got to get the door open, and one way to do that is with the equal benefits. They were-- I was saying that because they're going to be a lot of people who wonder, you said earlier, why they should be involved. Well, it's not necessarily that this is going to do anything for you at this time, but once we step into people acknowledging and accepting us, then more and more of it happens.

The more people do, the more it will. And so this is-- it may not touch you now, but it will touch you later one way or the other. If we lose this, it will definitely touch you. And if we don't lose it, it will touch you at some point in the future if it doesn't touch you immediately.

JIMMY CARPER: And it also sets the tone of what the city is like.

- That's right.

JIMMY CARPER: What message are we sending to the rest of the world? We're always talking about Houston being an international city and that it's a very diverse city. Well, if we're not part of that diversity, if we're not recognized as that part of diversity-- and the thing goes that when the majority votes on the minority rights, it's a tough battle.

- It sure is.

JIMMY CARPER: And certainly if we time-- turn the clock back to the '60s, if the majority voted on whether Blacks should be allowed to vote or Blacks should have equal rights, they would-- it would have lost.

- That's right.

JIMMY CARPER: And it really took the courts and a lot of people who are very brave, some of them who lost their lives, and not just Black people but some white people who are out there and many different type of people. And as the city grows and really wants to attract major corporations and good corporations, it has to show that it doesn't discriminate.

- We've got to get out of this hick town mentality and start recognizing that we are what, 3 million strong now here in this town and that there's a lot of room for diversity.

JIMMY CARPER: Well, the interesting thing about Houston as compared to a lot of other cities like San Francisco is in San Francisco, the city itself is a smaller part of the metropolitan area. So the conservatives live in other municipalities where in Houston, the city itself is the major part of the metropolitan area, so we not only encompass these somewhat liberal center city, we encompass the conservatives out in the outer part of the county. In fact, Houston even covers other counties than Harris County. So that's going to be a really interesting thing that we-- to move forward.

- I see that Katrina has something she's been--

- Oh--

- Katrina, you just going to have to jump right in there, girl.

- Well, Katrina's going to have to wait a minute.

- Uh oh.

- Oh.

- We got Ray.

- We certainly do.

- How dare he?

JIMMY CARPER: I know. I know.

- We got Ray.

- Jack, can you hit that?

- Sure.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

- Yes, and let's all stop talking while they're fixing the phone.

- Yes.

- Hello, Ray.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

- There he is.

RAY HILL: Well, I heard the first part of the conversation. I missed the last few sentences.

JIMMY CARPER: Hello, Ray.

RAY HILL: Yeah. Hey, is everybody there? Jack, Jewel, and--

JIMMY CARPER: Katrina Rose.

RAY HILL: Oh my gosh.

- Rainbow's here.

RAY HILL: Oh my God, we got quite crowd.

- Jim.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes. First of all, I want to hear about Ray Hill and how he's doing.

RAY HILL: Well, I'm footloose and fancy free.

JIMMY CARPER: That's a really weird way to talk about an amputation.

RAY HILL: My name's Wilford Brimley, and I've had diabetes for about 20 years. I remained active and watch my blood sugar pretty close.

- Frequently.

- And eat a lot of oatmeal.

RAY HILL: They sawed off my left leg today.

[LAUGHTER]

- Well, I'm glad--

- I knew I was missing something in Houston.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

RAY HILL: Well, I want to weigh in on the discussion because it's far more important than what's happening with Ray Hill's leg and all of that.

JIMMY CARPER: Thank you, sir.

RAY HILL: Let's do not have any illusions. One third of the Republican Party of Harris County belongs to people who will pay any price, go to any measure to run a media campaign to say that we are child molesters, baby eaters, all kinds of exaggerated, malicious evil lies about us. There's just no limit to that. Stephen Hotze and Dave Wilson-- Dave Wilson has called me through all this at home. I know Dave Wilson, and he has without a question the ability to get whatever signatures is necessary to pull off a referendum and they're going to do it anyway.

JIMMY CARPER: Is this the same--

- Whether we do anything or not, they're going to do it.

JIMMY CARPER: Is this the same Steve Hotze that was caught in Memorial Park recently?

- DUI.

RAY HILL: Well, yeah, that was Hotze was caught drunk in Memorial Park. Of course, if you and I had been caught drunk in Memorial Park, we'd been out there wiggling our weinies at the children is what they would have accused us of doing.

JIMMY CARPER: And what was he doing there?

RAY HILL: Just drunk--

- Wiggling his weinie at the children.

RAY HILL: Hiding from his wife and one of his 40 children. And this man is worried about my sex life? But the deal is that they have got the resources not only to pull this off. , but if we have a referendum at a time where we're not having a general election, we are going to lose again.

But let me tell you something. Ray Hill, I'm the old woman around here, and as Joe can well attest, when we lost that referendum in '85, Sue Lovell and the rest of them told me to shut up and stay out of the way because I was too confrontive and they didn't want me get out there and making people mad. And so I was supposed to hide. They finally let me do a few things in religious talk show radio, which is great sport for me. I'm-- shooting those nuts down was easy.

But after it was over with, then they had no more constraints on me. And so what I did is I put it out in both the gay and the general media. I wanted to know any gay employee of the city that got fired, any gay employee of the city that was passed over for promotion, any gay, lesbian, transgendered, bisexual employee of the city or that wanted to be an employee of the city that didn't get the job. And nobody lost their job. Nobody failed to get their scheduled promotions. Nobody that wanted a job was denied a job.

So what the referendum was about was about their running their head and saying all those nasty, evil, ugly things about us. It's all rhetorical.

JIMMY CARPER: It was PR. GOP PR.

RAY HILL: Yeah. That's what it is. Now the clock clicks on. They've got the resources because they're going to outspend us probably if last time is any indication. Remember that the--

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, I'm sure they're more sophisticated now.

RAY HILL: The treasurer of their campaign was Ben Reyes on the other side against us the last time, and they raised and spent 12 times more money than we spent. And they will be able to easily do that again without any difficulty. They raised five times more than we raised out of the congregation at Second Baptist Church alone.

And so they're going to be able to outspend us, and Dave Wilson owns half the billboards in Houston. So we're going to get the Billboard campaigns just like we got the last one, and we're going to get all the rhetoric and all of that. And we're going to lose.

JIMMY CARPER: You sound very pessimistic.

RAY HILL: I'm not pessimistic at all because I think that, in the long run, if we-- we cannot think of this movement in five-minute photo flashes. You've got to think of this movement in 20-year and 30-year-- I may not be here 20 years from now. Matter of fact, I wouldn't put any money that I had a chance of being here 20 years from now.

But you've got to think about this in accomplishing a goal of full equality and full integration of gay, lesbian, transgendered, and bisexual people into this society. And if you think about that, every time they come out with all of this crap they look more distant from reality. They look more stupid. They look more antithetical.

What is this railroad business? We need to put the railroad in because, if we get the Olympics in 2012, then we need some way to get from downtown stadiums to Astrodome stadiums. So what's the railroad business about? Rob Todd is suing the city, trying to prevent the railroad.

At the same time, he's saying he's in favor of the Olympics coming to Houston. Rob Todd says he wants business procedures to operate the city. Well, look at the Fortune 500. Who the hell do you think has lesbian and gay domestic partner benefits? Big business.

JEWEL GRAY: Yeah, big business.

RAY HILL: So the contradiction will ultimately seep through. And let them say that. There's this wonderful line from *Gandhi*, a movie about the obvious, and Ben Kingsley plays Gandhi. There's a wonderful line. It wasn't one of Ben's lines. But there's a guy there fixing to open fire on a demonstration, plodding down, setting up guns. They're going to kill a bunch of Indians for demonstrating for independence.

And one of the guys turns to the other and says, we must have the patience to absorb their anger. And we must. It's simply good acting.

JIMMY CARPER: Don't you think that the Houston voters are a lot more sophisticated 15 years later when it comes to GLBT issues?

RAY HILL: Well, Darling, I love you, and I wish I could reinforce that. But if we have an out-of-sequence referendum, who is going to go to the polls? Those who are on the list and motivated to go to the polls. How is our list compared to the list of the Republican Party of Harris County, which belongs to Steven Hotze.

JIMMY CARPER I understand that, but 15 years ago a lot of us were-- many of us, most of us were still in the closet.
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RAY HILL: Well, that may be true--

JIMMY CARPER: And our families didn't know about us.

RAY HILL: Only [INAUDIBLE]

JEWEL GRAY: And we hadn't spent the last eight years feeling pretty damn good about ourselves.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

RAY HILL: Yeah, but 15 years ago--

CO-HOST: But a closet doesn't prevent you from casting a vote.

RAY HILL: Who is in this conversation? Us, the great washed. We're not the great unwashed.

JIMMY CARPER: Well, and you know, Ray--

RAY HILL: As a matter of fact, a lot of gay people don't feel good about themselves. What Jack is doing with Pride Week, what *Gay and Lesbian Voice* is doing, what *After Hours* is doing-- we're reaching an audience. And that is growing. But that is nowhere near the numbers. And remember, politics is about lists and money.

JACK VALINSKI: Yes, and I-- as much as I love you, Ray, I really think that we do have to move the agenda. We have to start moving forward.

RAY HILL: Well, wait a minute. Wait a minute. If you're saying that Ray Hill said, let's don't go for it-- in the first place, I'm saying we don't have any choice. They're going to go for it anyway.

JIMMY CARPER: Right.

JACK VALINSKI: At this point, yeah.

RAY HILL: And we don't have any choice. We've got to go for it every time there's an opportunity to go for it. Win, play, show, lose, even if it's sudden death or loss we've still got to go for it because that is our responsibility to go for it.

But let's-- don't be unrealistic. Let me tell you something. Let me tell you a story from 1985 because there literally-- there was a major meeting in the community, and they told me to shut up and get out of the way because I was too confrontive, I was too aggressive--

CO-HOST: Houston's version of Larry Kramer.

RAY HILL: We run this-- we run this real nice, sweet, little campaign run by a straight Baptist minister from Beaumont. Boy, was that ever a genius idea. But that's who ran their campaign, didn't have anywhere near the money to launch a campaign. Barbara Jordan cut ads for us for free, and we were able to produce the best ads of the whole campaign, which is Barbara Jordan saying, this is basically bullshit-- you now how Barbara is-- and getting away with it.

And so we had all that going. But on the ballot that day was one other issue, and it was Save our Schools school board election in Spring Branch Texas. The real hero of the day we had the referendum on gay and lesbian city employment was Helen Huey.

JIMMY CARPER: Why?

RAY HILL: She took over the school board in Spring Branch school district.

JIMMY CARPER: I'm not-- I don't see the connection.

RAY HILL: Well, that was an election day-- only other election same day. Four out of seven people that voted that day lived in Spring Branch, well more than half.

And actually, the voter turnout in Montrose was not bad. It was not up to a normal city election, but it was way ahead of any special election because me and Scotty [INAUDIBLE] pored over those statistics until we went blind back.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, and I know Scott was thorough.

RAY HILL: And so, no, if you think Ray Hill is saying, let's don't go to battle every opportunity, then you're not listening to me. Ray Hill has always said, let's go to battle, let's reach beyond our grasp to go to battle, let's do it every time.

But in this case, it's academic because Dave Wilson told me over the telephone that, whether an ordinance passes or is even proposed, he is proceeding with the necessary signatures to pass a city charter change that will forever foreclose gay people from having equal civil rights of any variety in the city.

JIMMY CARPER: Well then that had--

JEWEL GRAY: I just can't believe--

JIMMY CARPER: If that goes to the courts--

JEWEL GRAY: A city of Houston's size and makeup would ever vote something like that in.

CO-HOST: The state of Colorado did it only eight years ago.

JEWEL GRAY: I just-- I just can't believe it.

RAY HILL: Jewel, it's not these out-of-sequence elections. You're not talking about--

JEWEL GRAY: It's getting people to the polls.

RAY HILL: The body politic that goes to vote on November the 4th, or 7th, or whatever is election day for city council and the Mayor. That's not the people who vote. Who vote in these special elections are people whose name is on lists.

And let me tell you, I think that what progressive voters are doing is a phenomenal piece of politics. The Caucus should have done it years ago. The Caucus should have been consistent at doing it over a long period of time.

But the fact of the matter is it's Annise's campaign money and grant who's put together progressive voters, and they are out there stumping the bushes and getting good lists that we need to have access to. And that's very valuable work. It ain't a drop in the bucket compared to what Steven Hotze and his troops can do, not even.

JIMMY CARPER: Well, so now how's Ray Hill doing really?

RAY HILL: Well, obviously I've got my thinking hat on.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

JEWEL GRAY: Yes.

RAY HILL: I'm laying here. And they had a Judy Garland biography on television. What more could gay men want?

JEWEL GRAY: That's what I was going to say, gay man's heaven.

RAY HILL: Yeah, absolutely, laying up here, staring at television, reading my old *Foundation* books. I'm reading *Center of the Cyclone*. I'm reading Ray Mullen's book because he's going to be a guest on the radio show.

JEWEL GRAY: Ray, when are you going to write your book?

RAY HILL: I'm doing that. That's what the shows are all about--

JEWEL GRAY: Oh, cool.

RAY HILL: --is the different pieces of that.

JEWEL GRAY: Oh, great.

RAY HILL: And I'm also reading Edward Albee's [INAUDIBLE]. He kind of bills it as a biography, but it's actually a history of theater.

JIMMY CARPER: So when do you get out?

RAY HILL: I will be home sometime Monday.

JIMMY CARPER: I can't believe that.

JEWEL GRAY: That's too quick.

JIMMY CARPER: You just had it done.

RAY HILL: Well, I got here Thursday.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

RAY HILL: Thursday it was done. And I woke up Friday morning, and something was missing. And what was missing was the constant pain that I had lived in for the previous three years.

JEWEL GRAY: Oh.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh. Well, good.

JEWEL GRAY: And when will you be back out on the motorcycle?

RAY HILL: Well, it's going-- I've got a hard cast on here. I didn't think about-- these are bone people, and I didn't think they've put hard cast. I thought hard casts are where you broke bones in the middle. I didn't know when you cut them off you did the same thing.

But they've got a hard cast on me. It goes all the way in hip, which gives me all kinds of geometrical problems when I go to the bathroom.

JACK VALINSKI: Yeah, I can imagine.

JIMMY CARPER: You need some brown-skinned fairy over there to help you out.

RAY HILL: Well, actually, I've got a parolee coming out of the [INAUDIBLE] prison system--

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, my.

RAY HILL: With an Italian last night. I've always done well with a little Italian stallion.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, don't go there, anyone, please.

RAY HILL: They would've been handy.

JIMMY CARPER: Just let it lay there.

RAY HILL: They've been handy.

JIMMY CARPER: And I hear you're moving.

RAY HILL: I'm in the process of moving downstairs. There's even a posse organized to do that, the closest thing the gay and lesbian community has to Martha Stewart, David Decher, and David is going to supervise my move next Wednesday.

JIMMY CARPER: So you're going to be in the same complex, just a different unit.

RAY HILL: Now, I have a garden in my-- yeah, same complex. I'm going to have a little, private patio and garden out there--

JIMMY CARPER: That's what I hear.

RAY HILL: --which is something I haven't had. It looks like the place where they buried Hitler after World War II.

JIMMY CARPER: Ouch.

RAY HILL: It needs a little work.

JIMMY CARPER: It sounds like it needs a lot.

RAY HILL: But no, no, I'm very excited. I am not pessimistic at all about our future because we're going to win ultimately because we are right. And the only thing that those people who hate us so much can do is dig deeper their grave because I told Dave Wilson this. I said, all right, we're going to do this. We're going to spend all this money. We're going to scream and yell at one another in the media, and when it's all over you're going to win the actual vote. But remember this-- you will look real sick, and we will look real healthy.

JIMMY CARPER: That's good to hear from you.

JEWEL GRAY: Oh, yeah, it's good to hear you laugh, too.

RAY HILL: Oh, well, I'm having a wonderful time except for trying to get up and go to the bathroom.

JEWEL GRAY: Yeah. We'll send some help over.

JIMMY CARPER: I love you, Ray.

RAY HILL: Well, I will be home. And let me tell you about-- Jewel, I know I've told this story too many times. But I was living in the same apartment complex I'm living now, and a tornado blew through.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, yeah.

RAY HILL: And Jewel was the--

JEWEL GRAY: It always tickles me when he tells people--

RAY HILL: --den mother for the Bering Daycare Center for PWA. And there were boards falling around, literally. And the firefighters were there and said, Jewel, you can't go in that building. She said, I'm going to get these people out and get them to safety.

JIMMY CARPER: And get their medications, yes.

RAY HILL: And you don't have another [? party ?]. These people are on medications, and you're [INAUDIBLE]. It was just wonderful.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, she went in there. Yeah, she got them out.

JEWEL GRAY: [INAUDIBLE].

JIMMY CARPER: She got to the medication, yeah.

RAY HILL: And as long as I live, I will remember-- let me tell you something. And Jack Valinski has taken Pride Week and scrupulously made it the most open participatory organization in the city's history. There is no cliquism going on in Pride Week, never has been.

JIMMY CARPER: No.

RAY HILL: Never any question about it. It's open process, and people get involved.

JIMMY CARPER: And Houston's group is now nationally recognized.

RAY HILL: Yeah, absolutely. And before I get off of there, let me say something about-- the perennial host of *After Hours* had a hard act to follow. Jimmy had one of the most difficult acts to follow, I think, in radio because the founder of *After Hours* was one of the most remarkably talented radio people I have ever seen, heard, or worked with. I just couldn't see it.

And those were enormous shoes to fill. And here we are many years later. We're still prospering. We're still reaching an audience, giving them the same kind of encouragement that I wished I could have given you all when you were the average age of the listening audience of *After Hours*.

JIMMY CARPER: Well, thanks, Ray.

RAY HILL: I love you.

JIMMY CARPER: I love you.

JEWEL GRAY: Love you, too.

JIMMY CARPER: You take care.

RAY HILL: Yes, sir.

JIMMY CARPER: See you at home.

RAY HILL: Good night.

JIMMY CARPER: Good night. Ray Hill, the grandfather of GLBT--

JEWEL GRAY: Standing ovation. That's what he's getting here, a standing ovation.

JACK VALINSKI: We need more headphones.

JEWEL GRAY: Yeah, really.

JACK VALINSKI: We got lots of heads.

JIMMY CARPER: Six people sharing three headphones. Jack, there is one story I do want to mention because it's-- it all seems-- we're going to fight, but it does seem pessimistic. But tonight I was at the concert, and there were two gentlemen sitting next to me, Eric and Jordan, I believe. They're long-term listeners to *After Hours*, but they live in the country. And they've just recently been open about their sexuality.

Now, they are a couple. They've been together for quite a few years. They had-- one has children, and not only were they honored guests at the wedding, but the new lover is on good terms with the ex-wife of the other. Both parents adore them, aunts, uncles.

In fact, one side was kind of miffed this year because they spent Thanksgiving with the other family, and then they were going to delay Christmas. And it was-- this wouldn't have happened 15 years ago. You would not have had that acceptance.

And I think in a fight like this you're going to get not only those two men going to vote, but you're going to get their families going to vote because this is the right thing to do. And they can see how it can hurt their sons.

JACK VALINSKI: Absolutely. There is so much that we have to do, and Ray Hill used to give the speech before the parade started to all the units. And I sort of inherited that job.

And what we talked about, what he talked about, and some of the rhetoric I stole from him was that you talk to all these people, and sort of cheer them on, and tell them, as you're going down that street, you got to smile because two blocks down, along the side street, somebody may be peaking and trying to see what's going on because they're not comfortable enough to be in that audience.

And you smile, and you let them know that we are a family, at least for that day. And then hopefully next year they'll be in that audience, and maybe the year after that they may actually be in the parade. And Pride is a non-profit organization just like KPFT, and we are not in these sort of word "political." But stepping on that street is a political act. Going out and seeing the parade is a political act.

And even if they're not that two blocks away, they may be reading it in the paper the next day or watching it on TV. And that's a real important statement, to let them know who we are.

The statistics from National Gay and Lesbian Task Force has always said, when they don't know who we are they're afraid of us. But when they start to know us, they start to know we're the neighbor. And we all know that we're made up of this incredibly diverse community, and what used to be framed by the media was particular segments of the community.

But the media has changed, and they're showing the entire thing. The report last year, the live report that Channel 2 did and Channel 11 did was, it's a party. Come on down. Have a good time. And they're interviewing the Mayor, and they're interviewing Annise Parker.

That's another thing. We all worked so hard to get Annise elected, and the interesting thing is we know that we've had this long history of trying to get somebody from our community elected. Isn't it neat that we got not only somebody elected but the right person elected? And Annise-- her last election, there wasn't really even anybody running against her. The conservatives didn't run anybody against her because she was good for Houston and that tone.

And it was really interesting that Lanny Griffith on channel 26 the following Monday was talking about Annise and her partner being in the parade, and that's just-- we are a family. And we have a lot of things to be proud of. And I'm a little bit more optimistic, and I think we can win this. But it's just not going to happen like magic. It's going to be a lot of hard work, and it's going to be nasty. And certainly those of us who are