

[MUSIC PLAYING]

[BED CREAKING]

[HEAVY BREATHING]

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

[MUSIC PLAYING]

JIMMY CARPER: Oh yes, you've tuned into *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 Huntsville. And welcome to *After Hours*, queer radio with attitude. I'm Jimmy Carper. And my co-host tonight--

MONICA Is the woman that brings the attitude every few months. I'm Monica Roberts.

ROBERTS:

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, it's transgender night for the first half of the show. For the second half of the show, Sandy's going to be here for the Latino hour.

MONICA Cool.

ROBERTS:

JIMMY CARPER: Cool, cool, cool. And before we get too far into it, I want to talk about the music that we just played because it's very, very important. Two of these two artists are going to be in Houston next Saturday night. And they're going to be playing live at the Sidecar Pub. That's located at 11202 Huffmeister. Yes, it's way out of the Montrose. It's almost--

MONICA Way out in the county.

ROBERTS:

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, it's Spring Cypress just this side of Jersey Village. The artists-- the first one you heard was Christy Claxton, and she's a Texas girl-- woman. And that was from her new CD called *Out of Nowhere*. The song is "Best-Loved Girl."

And the male that you heard was Daniel Link, off of his EP called *Out of the Silence*. And that was called "Constant Faithfulness." Yes, and I'm telling you all throughout the show, if you give us a call at 713-526-5738, we will give you tickets to the show this Saturday night.

We've got people out there answering the phones all night long-- 526-5738 for tickets. And later on, we'll be giving out Daniel Link CDs, so stay tuned for that. Now before we get into anything much, we have announcements to make. And there's some folks here who I was with this evening at the old Shamrock-- Bruce, Judy?

BRUCE: Hey, Jim. We wanted to just come by and say hi to everybody, and let everybody know that the Crew of Olympus 31 ball was a success.

JUDY: Wasn't it fabulous?

JIMMY CARPER: Yes it was. Yes it was. It was more lights, more glitz than ever before.

BRUCE: And the theme-- guess what-- was 2001-- a Space Odyssey. Go figure. But it was a fabulous ball, as Olympics balls always are. And they crowned King and Queen Olympus 31. Miss [? Anita ?] [? Goff ?] is the King and Mr. [? Don ?] Hearst is the queen. So we send our congratulations out to them.

JIMMY CARPER: And a lovely couple they make.

BRUCE: Such a lovely couple, yes. [LAUGHS]

JIMMY CARPER: I'm telling you, those back pieces-- woo!

BRUCE: There were some very heavy costumes out there. I know one member commented he had \$400 worth of feathers on his costume--

JIMMY CARPER: I'm not surprised.

BRUCE: And I'm not even going to guess how many thousands of dollars of rhinestones he had on. But it was a flawless costume, as always-- flawless drag everywhere. And just a room full of--

JUDY: Little green men.

BRUCE: --people dressed to the nines.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, yes.

MONICA Oh, you're making me wish I was there. Oof!

ROBERTS:

JIMMY CARPER: Oh! It was wonderful. It was just wonderful. It's an invitation-only-- and they raised thousands of dollars. It's a big fundraiser.

BRUCE: It's always a big fundraiser. So we just wanted to come by and--

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, I'm glad you did.

BRUCE: --share royalty names with you.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, yes. Last week, this show was so honored. Last week, we were the first media to announce the new emperor and empress of the Royal Sovereign Imperial Court of the Single Star. This week, we're the first media to be able to announce the new king and queen.

BRUCE: And there you have it. The emperor and empress were there as well.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, they were.

BRUCE: We got to sit next to them.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, Barbara Walker, who was the first female empress, and Wes Stewart, who is the new emperor.

JUDY: And they were flawless, just like everyone else.

JIMMY CARPER: Now the tableaus that they had at this Mardi Gras ball this year-- they really outdid themselves. When that guy came out with the Enterprise-- I'm telling you, this was a model of the Enterprise that must have been 20 feet long and 10 feet high. And he was wearing it. He was wearing it, and there was lights and glitter.

BRUCE: It was pretty flawless. It has one more appearance that it has to make--

MONICA Was he dressed as Captain Kirk?

ROBERTS:

BRUCE: --and then it has to be transported to the museum.

JIMMY CARPER: The Gulf Coast Archives and Museum.

JUDY: And actually, one of the Bork is in the back of the truck as we speak. Borg.

BRUCE: Borg.

JIMMY CARPER: Borg.

MONICA I've got the "Star Trek" theme going through my head.

ROBERTS:

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, yeah. It was great. It was great.

BRUCE: Yeah. The "Close Encounters" costume was just flawless with all the lights. It looked just like the spaceship.

JIMMY CARPER: It was just incredible.

BRUCE: Gary always does good costume, and this was no exception for him. So yeah, it was just a really flawless evening, and we just wanted to come by.

JIMMY CARPER: And you're still all dressed. I had time to go home and change.

[BEADS RATTLING]

Oh, and you've got the rainbow flag--

BRUCE: The rainbow flag throws.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, you are so lucky. Look at that-- that's beautiful.

BRUCE: Rainbow-colored beads and the rainbow-colored stripes with the 50-star field. It's really cool beads.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

BRUCE: And then there's these lovely alien beads.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, those are-- yeah. The aliens face on--

BRUCE: The plastic "2001" on the Olympus Space Odyssey bead that flashes-- flashing lights in it.

JUDY: Well, let's not miss this lovely wrist corsage.

BRUCE: --because we were--

JIMMY CARPER: Wrist corsage?

[LAUGHTER]

JUDY: These things.

JIMMY CARPER: You were wearing--

BRUCE: The captains got just a little frooffree with their table decorations.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, I see that.

BRUCE: We turned ours into wrist corsages. And because we actually got to go up in call-ups for the museum, we also got one of these lovely medallions that's actually-- the enamel paint on one side and the crew of Olympus logo on the other side.

JIMMY CARPER: I got two.

BRUCE: The "Space Odyssey" stuff.

JIMMY CARPER: So one goes to the museum.

BRUCE: Lots of really cool stuff.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

HOST 1: That's almost like a blown-up thing I saw in a-- mosquito netting or a tablecloth that [INAUDIBLE] my parent's campground when I was a kid.

MONICA You have to be careful.

ROBERTS:

BRUCE: It's mosquito net with some--

MONICA [INAUDIBLE]

ROBERTS:

BRUCE: --puff paint and some--

MONICA Pipe-cleaner.

ROBERTS:

BRUCE: --pipe-cleaner and some of these little--

MONICA A lime-green pipe cleaner.

ROBERTS:

BRUCE: --sticky things and floral tape and wire.

JIMMY CARPER: It's amazing what can be--

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

BRUCE: --what you can do.

JUDY: Actually, it came from The Little Shop of Horrors because it ate my blouse.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh.

JUDY: That was terrible. And I was up in front of His Majesty--

JIMMY CARPER: Oh my thing.

JUDY: And I'm sitting here and my wrist is stuck to my shoulder.

[LAUGHTER]

BRUCE: I'm betting your shoulder then is.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes. Yes, there was a Little Shop of Horrors-- the plant--

BRUCE: That was pretty flawless, too.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, it was great. Just a wonderful, wonderful show.

BRUCE: They covered a lot of the really bad movies and they covered all the science fiction movies.

JIMMY CARPER: And tell David Dandy he can keep his hair. We don't want it at the museum, thank you very much. He was wearing about 6 feet of green hair. [LAUGHS]

BRUCE: It was just wonderful.

MONICA How Marge Simpson of him.

ROBERTS:

JUDY: Yes, really.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, looking like Marge, yes. Oh, it was great.

BRUCE: It was wonderful.

JIMMY CARPER: We thank you, Bruce and Judy, for dropping by.

JUDY: Chuck's hiding in a corner. He wouldn't talk.

JIMMY CARPER: Chuck, open your mouth.

JUDY: Hi, Chuck.

CHUCK: Hi.

JIMMY CARPER: Thank you.

BRUCE: So, sayonara.

JIMMY CARPER: Thank you so much for stopping by.

BRUCE: You're welcome.

JUDY: Bye.

JIMMY CARPER: And congratulations to the new king and queen-- 31.

BRUCE: Yes.

JIMMY CARPER: King and queen of Olympus.

BRUCE: [? Don ?] Hearst and [? Anita ?] [? Goff. ?]

JIMMY CARPER: Thank you. OK, so Monica--

MONICA Oh, excuse me.

ROBERTS:

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, dear, it's your show.

MONICA Oh, fun. OK, so we're going to do our usual routine with the gang and the community. Well, first off, I wanted to

ROBERTS: congratulate *OutSmart* for their new header on the magazine on the February issue. Now it reads, Houston's gay, lesbian, bi, and trans magazine. So I wanted to congratulate *OutSmart* for doing that.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, yes, I read that on the Han-Net that they had done that. It was the filibuster newsletter that I get.

MONICA Yeah, me too.

ROBERTS:

JIMMY CARPER: I was really impressed, really impressed. And it was not just outsmart-- there was another organization that has put the bi and transgendered name into their--

MONICA I believe it's the Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus now. I believe it's the caucus-- now has done that.

ROBERTS:

JIMMY CARPER: OK, we'll see. OK, in the studio, we have Alyssa and we have Melanie. And Melanie is just--

MELANIE: Looking for headphones that work right.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, well. You might not ever get that. Anyway, she is a dream this evening in a Q-Patrol T-shirt and in your leather jacket.

MELANIE: Oh, yeah, I'm so butch.

JIMMY CARPER: She is so butch.

MELANIE: Where's my makeup?

JIMMY CARPER: She's sitting next to Alyssa, who is always very femme.

MELANIE: I just had to give Alyssa a [INAUDIBLE] Q-Patrol fashion citation.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, my. What did she do?

MELANIE: Just the outrageousness, of her.

JIMMY CARPER: I see-- Mardi Gras beads--

ALYSSA: Am I outrageous?

JIMMY CARPER: --with a silk blouse just won't go--

MELANIE: Yeah, that's just--

JIMMY CARPER: Will not do, dear.

ALYSSA: Shoot. Wait till you--

MELANIE: Multiple colors of Mardi Gras beads there.

MONICA I didn't have any until I met these people-- the Judy and--

ROBERTS:

MELANIE: Ignorance of the fashion law is no excuse.

[LAUGHTER]

MONICA Well, I think you need to bring some of those to the airport next week when Mardi Gras really comes into full swing.

JIMMY CARPER: So Q-Patrol has been giving out fashion citations?

MELANIE: Oh, yeah, I was over rearranging the storage room for Q-Patrol. And I found all sorts of interesting little tidbits.

HOST 1: So does this mean you like it or you don't like it?

JIMMY CARPER: Well--

MELANIE: You just have to read that for yourself, really. Everything's all--

HOST 1: At first, I took it as a compliment. Now, after hearing you-- not so sure now.

JIMMY CARPER: It's all part of letting people know that Q-Patrol is around.

MELANIE: Yeah. Amazing all the little bits of toys and other fundraising things they have in there. I still haven't figured out what the seven pairs of handcuffs are for, though.

[LAUGHTER]

MONICA You haven't figured that out already?

ROBERTS:

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, my, that could be-- that sounds like a party.

HOST 1: Now, let me read this fashion citation. "A fundraising opportunity, Q-Patrol Inc. You have been observed by Q-Patrol Inc. to be dressed in extraordinary attire, even for our community. To redeem yourself and ease your conscience, please remit a donation of \$5 or more to Q-Patrol at once. Thank you."

[LAUGHTER]

And on the back, it says what Q-Patrol's all about here-- non-profit organization, blah, blah, blah. You better be hitting me up after I get paid.

MONICA Yeah, no kidding.

ROBERTS:

JIMMY CARPER: Well, Q-Patrol is very important to this organization. They're the folks that are out there every Friday and Saturday night to make sure that you can get to your car and back when you're visiting the bars in the Montrose.

MONICA In one piece.

ROBERTS:

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, yes. Yes. And quite a few people, I think, have been saved from whatever.

MELANIE: Yeah, it's one thing--

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

MELANIE: They say, with the visibility of the Q-Patrol patrols and vehicles and things-- it makes a very good deterrent. When people know that they're being observed, it takes away their permission to act in an inappropriate manner when they--

JIMMY CARPER: That's right.

MELANIE: It's like singing in your car. As soon as you see somebody watching you, you stop.

JIMMY CARPER: You stop. [LAUGHS] And so all of those boys that are driving around, looking for some faggot to beat up-- they see the Q-Patrol and they get the hell out of town.

MELANIE: And we're still looking for volunteers, too. If you're interested in Q-Patrol sign up for a patrol or make a donation or anything. You can call 713-528-SAFE.

HOST 1: What's that number-- 528-SAFE?

MELANIE: S-A-F-E.

HOST 1: Sanctioned by the Houston Police Department Citizens on Patrol Program.

JIMMY CARPER: That's right. One of the oldest in the nation-- oldest continuing COP-- citizens on patrol-- group. And that is because so many, many times, a citizens' patrol group forms because something has happened in the neighborhood. And then after six months to a year, it stops, and so the patrol falls away. But the one here in the Montrose has been continuous for many, many years now, ever since Paul Broussard.

MELANIE: Yeah, that happened right after I moved down to Texas. I remember hearing about that. That was before I was really out to anybody. I don't even remember if I was out to anybody at all, at that point. But I remember that and all the talk about that and everything.

Yeah, it's interesting, lately-- oh, a few months back, there was an article in "The Voice" about Q-Patrol in desperate need of volunteers. And actually, a great percentage of the volunteers we've got since then have been from the transgendered community-- pretty much an overwhelming number.

And most of those are driving in from Missouri City and Alvin and Spring and--

JIMMY CARPER: That's pretty amazing.

MELANIE: --and outlining areas-- Baytown and all that. And it's funny, when you see the hundreds of guys running around here in the bars and everything like that, and they're expecting to get to their cars without having somebody clubbing them on the head. But then again, we never see them come down and volunteer any time.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, take one of their drinking nights off, Friday or Saturday night, and help on that patrol.

MELANIE: Because it's not like it's a full-time job. If just one person from each bar took one night out of, I don't know, three months to come volunteer, we'd be swimming in volunteers.

JIMMY CARPER: We certainly would. We certainly would. And that number, again--

HOST 1: 713-528-- S as in Sam, A as in apple, F as in Frank, E as in electric safe. 713-528-S-A-F-E. Always a good idea on the radio to repeat it.

MELANIE: Yeah, when Jimmy's around also-- that's why tapes everything.

JIMMY CARPER: Ooh, yes, everything is taped. Yes, indeed. And eventually, I get copies to people I've promised.

MELANIE: (SARCASTICALLY) Oh, yeah. I was listening to one the other day from way back in March.

JIMMY CARPER: Ah! I finally got it to you, huh?

MELANIE: Yeah, I just got it yesterday. It was really good.

HOST 1: As a matter of fact, maybe next July, you'll get the one from me back in November.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

MELANIE: Here we have Mr. Q-Patrol himself--

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

MELANIE: --Chris.

CHRIS: You can also email us at qp_callouts@hotmail.com.

HOST 1: What is that again?

CHRIS: Qp-- Q-Patrol-- underscore callouts at hotmail.com.

MELANIE: Yeah, I never remember that. Oh, get that thing away from me. The microphone--

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, oh! I was wondering. Hey, it could be anything. That was Chris-- could be anything.

[LAUGHTER]

HOST 1: We'll leave that to your imagination.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh boy.

MONICA Send us a dirty look on that one.

ROBERTS:

MELANIE: Yeah, that's the great part about listening to the show-- it's just all the imagination that you can put in.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes. I've just been handed from Bobby, who will be answering the phone, because Big Roy is going to not be here for the next few weeks-- he's on assignment.

MONICA Aw.

ROBERTS:

BOBBY: But that's OK. He's not here even when he is.

MELANIE: Ouch!

BOBBY: Love you, Big Roy, if you're listening.

JIMMY CARPER: He isn't!

MONICA That's good. Anyhow.

ROBERTS:

JIMMY CARPER: It's from the-- *OutSmart* that we just talked about. And it's an article about Daniel Link, who I just mentioned, who's going to be here setting this coming Saturday, February the 17, at the Sidecar Pub. They have it at 290 on Highway 6.

Our address is 11202 Huffmeister. He's going to be on the bill with Christy Claxton, Texas' own lesbian singer. And he's from Austin. Yeah, Chris?

CHRIS: The Sidecar Pub is at Huffmeister and Florida Lee. It's 1 mile north on Huffmeister from US 290. It's out in the sticks.

MONICA It's a nice little club.

ROBERTS:

JIMMY CARPER: But they want--

MELANIE: I used to live two blocks from there.

JIMMY CARPER: See, they want to do-- oh, my God.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

JIMMY CARPER: They want to do a gay night, and so that's why they're having openly gay singers and-- yeah, Chris?

CHRIS: Well, just tell Mary Beth that KPFT sent you.

JIMMY CARPER: You bet. You bet. And you can tell Mary Beth that KPFT sent you with a free ticket by calling 713-526-5738. 713-526-KPFT. And Bobby, or Rainbo, or somebody will be answering the phone. And now I need to shut up about it because Monica needs to talk. She's wound up and she needs to talk about it.

MONICA Ooh!

ROBERTS:

MELANIE: Go for it, girl.

JIMMY CARPER: And you know-- whew--

MELANIE: Yeah, lay it on us, home girl.

MONICA OK. Well, you know our friends in the conservative right have been busy lately.

ROBERTS:

MELANIE: Yeah, I can hear the jackboots down the street.

MONICA [SHARP EXHALE] Oh, please. I was wishing I was at the fake inauguration last month--

ROBERTS:

JIMMY CARPER: Ooh.

MONICA --of his fraudulency.

ROBERTS:

HOST 1: Hail to the thief.

MONICA Yeah, as my mom says, he was selected, not elected.

ROBERTS:

JIMMY CARPER: And I think, unfortunately, he'll go down in history as the only president selected rather than elected.

HOST 1: I saw something in *The Washington Post* about how the City of Washington DC is really warming to this guy and there's a real honeymoon going on.

MELANIE: Oh, boy.

MONICA Try telling that to the Congressional Black Caucus--

ROBERTS:

HOST 1: Yeah, really.

MONICA --especially the members from Florida.

ROBERTS:

JIMMY CARPER: There's always folks that will brown-nose themselves to see what they can get.

MONICA Clarence Thomas?

ROBERTS:

[LAUGHTER]

JIMMY CARPER: She said it-- I didn't.

MONICA Armstrong Williams, Ken Hamlin. Oh, never mind. Shall I continue?

ROBERTS:

JIMMY CARPER: She knows and she tells.

MONICA It is Black History Month.

ROBERTS:

[LAUGHTER]

OK, I'm sorry--

HOST 1: This show's a gas.

MONICA Yeah, but it has been fun watching Junior sit up there and take off the compassionate part of the conservative

ROBERTS: mask.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, like all of a sudden, there's no AIDS department.

MONICA And he tried to wipe out the race relations one at the same time. And then he finally-- he backtracked on it 24
ROBERTS: hours later.

JIMMY CARPER: Did he?

MONICA Yeah, saying, quote, I go, oh, there was some miscommunication. Yeah, right!

ROBERTS:

MELANIE: Yeah, he communicated what he didn't want us to know about.

MONICA Oh, yeah, he had another mic mishap, too.

ROBERTS:

JIMMY CARPER: Oh.

MELANIE: Oh, yet again.

JIMMY CARPER: There's going to be a whole encyclopedia of them before this four years is over.

MELANIE: Yeah, but he won't be able to read it.

[LAUGHTER]

HOST 1: To hear the libertarians talk-- there was a posting on the internet about this. To hear the libertarian presidential candidate Harry Browne talk-- I don't think he ever dropped the Tedster's name. But the guy is no better than Ted Kennedy-- pointing out how he's really just a communitarian. You constrict personal freedom for society.

CHRIS: Yes, yes.

MONICA And you notice our friends Mr. Sanchez and Mr. Todd have been very busy trying to smash the domestic partners
ROBERTS: debate here, and as they attack Mayor Brown at the same time--

JIMMY CARPER: Of course, of course.

MONICA Since this is an election year, ladies and gentlemen here, for the mayor's race later on this year. So they're going
ROBERTS: to try every dirty trick in the book to try to get him out of there.

JIMMY CARPER: Like Todd could ever, ever dream of being mayor of this town.

MONICA Rod Todd! He's in Tom DeLay's back pocket.

ROBERTS:

JIMMY CARPER: Ooh, what a dirty place to be.

BOBBY: Oh!

[LAUGHTER]

JIMMY CARPER: And Melanie is leaving on that note.

[LAUGHTER]

HOST 1: Does anyone have any thoughts about Kay Bailey Hutchison talking about running for governor?

MONICA Oh gosh. It'd be bad enough.

ROBERTS:

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, gosh.

MONICA Oh, that's going to be fun.

ROBERTS:

JIMMY CARPER: We'll have to build the next closet for her hairspray.

[LAUGHTER]

MONICA Well, the good news is that Tony Sanchez is considering a run on the Democratic side. And he's already lined up

ROBERTS: a lot of support on that. [? Listen, ?] to take that off his back. I was going to say, we definitely need to start taking the state back from our right-wing friends--

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, I agree.

MONICA --before they really mess it up any further. It's bad enough we can't breathe in the morning.

ROBERTS:

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah!

MONICA But getting back--

ROBERTS:

JIMMY CARPER: And you know, I don't think it's me. I've been in Houston for 30 years. And when I first came down here, I loved the water. It really tasted good. And now it's really not tasting good.

MONICA Interesting. May have something to do with all of the development around Lake Houston.

ROBERTS:

JIMMY CARPER: Hmm.

MONICA And maybe a possibility-- but I can remember once back in the late '80s, when I used to go to Sam's and

ROBERTS: supposedly get Ozarka. And me and mom read the label-- "Taken from Harris County Water Supply."

JIMMY CARPER: And you're paying for it?

MONICA Yeah, that's what we were saying! Why are we paying for this? And it's coming straight from the water supply.

ROBERTS: We can turn around and basically save some money and drink it out the tap.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

MELANIE: Oh, I don't remember exactly how long ago it was-- they were actually talking about specifically bottling and advertising Houston tap water as Houston tap water. Do you remember that, Jimmy?

JIMMY CARPER: No.

MONICA Yeah, it was not too long ago. It was sometime last year.

ROBERTS:

MELANIE: Yeah, it was--

JIMMY CARPER: Rainbo's here. He remembers.

MELANIE: --it was back when Bob Lanier was mayor. And they were coming up with different names for it. And the best one I had ever heard was Bobweiser.

[LAUGHTER]

MONICA Oh, when he was busy finding ways to spend the metro's rail money?

ROBERTS:

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, brother.

BOBBY: They were scared about how much it would cost to get the system and everything.

MONICA Oh, so they're like, (BABY VOICE) I'm scared of how much money it's going to cost us to pay for the domestic

ROBERTS: partner benefits?

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, please!

BOBBY: [INAUDIBLE] all these other things.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, well how much is it costing to pay for the families of married people?

MONICA Or even, how much is it costing to pay for Rob Todd's lawsuit that overturned Mayor Brown's executive order to

ROBERTS: begin with? A lot more than these domestic partner benefits are going to cost.

JIMMY CARPER: You're absolutely correct there.

MONICA And another-- the lawsuit here-- the other lawsuit that held up the light rail on something that we've already

ROBERTS: voted on, folks, in 1970.

JIMMY CARPER: That's what I don't understand.

MONICA Well, bottom line is Mr. DeLay wants all that money to go to his district in Fort Bend County. So that's why we're

ROBERTS: having such a problem with him releasing \$65 million for us to build our rail system because he's afraid that people in the 'burbs will like riding the rail to work instead of driving on clogged freeways.

BOBBY: And then stopping at different areas along the way to Sugar Land. Or like in the Woodlands-- oh, these people that would have to stop at North Main, Crosstimbers-- what is the name of that mall there-- Northline Mall.

MONICA Shoot. Hey, like I said, they don't mind riding rail mass transit in other cities. What's wrong here?

ROBERTS:

BOBBY: Well, see, the thing is, if you ever go downtown and see the people get on the buses to the Woodlands, what is their diversity? They have no diversity.

MONICA Pretty much.

ROBERTS:

BOBBY: They don't want to have a rail system that stops at North Main, Crosstimbers and Northline Mall, Little York, West Road, Beltway A, Greenspoint, 1960, to the Woodlands, and then return.

MONICA Or the airport. Let them stop at the airport.

ROBERTS:

MELANIE: Oh no, not--

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

BOBBY: Or you can go the other way with Rob Todd's district-- stop at Scott Street.

HOST 1: Keep the hoi polloi out.

BOBBY: Stop at the mall near-- what's that-- Gulfgate Mall area.

HOST 1: Oh, please.

BOBBY: --airport to Clear Lake. That is why it has nothing to do with money. It has nothing to do with it.

MONICA It's always been--

ROBERTS:

BOBBY: They don't want a diverse group of people riding all the way to Clear Lake.

MONICA And the other thing they-- yeah, go ahead.

ROBERTS:

HOST 1: I've lived in Washington DC area in addition to this. And speaking personally, I'm not all that crazy about riding city buses. But the Washington DC Metro-- now, they must have spent a-- I'm about to say something you can't say on the radio, so I won't. But they must have spent pots and pots of money on this thing.

But Metro Rail up there-- the subway, which is above-ground in the suburbs in some places-- really works very well. And they're spending a lot of money on it. And now that they've finished the basic system, they're talking about expanding it.

But I don't know why they don't do that here. They're just talking about, are they going to put the light rail at street level or are they going to elevate it, or heaven forbid, build a subway here?

MONICA Well, originally, when metro was set up, it was supposed to be a heavy rail system-- it was supposed to be a

ROBERTS: subway system. It was voted on in '78, which is what-- Rob Todd and his boys and girls continue to say that we never voted on rail.

Bull! 1978, we voted on it, and voted 2-1 in favor of it-- a subway, Rob! And the conservatives-- all right, so what happened-- Kathy Whitmire's mistake was hiring Bob Lanier, who was coming from the Texas Highway Department, as her metro chairman.

HOST 1: Can anybody say conflict of interest?

JIMMY CARPER: Isn't that interesting?

MONICA Mm-hmm. Especially after she had grabbed Alan Kiepper, who had set up MARTA. And he basically was going to set up metro as a MARTA clone. The rail system was supposed to be in place about 10 years ago.

So you spend \$2 billion on a rail system, OK, yeah, you say, (STUPID VOICE) oh, that's a lot of money. You know how much it costs to expand the Southwest Freeway from downtown to Beltway 8? Three times that.

HOST 1: Let me put this in perspective for you about timing. The Washington DC system, I believe-- now, somebody can call up and say I'm wrong-- it either began in the late '50s-- they started working on it in the mid '60s.

They opened their first station-- I think it was Farragut West or something-- around 1976. And they just finished their basic system just a few months ago, if I'm not mistaken. Now they're talking about putting in new lines, which I think they badly need.

MONICA Yeah, they do.

ROBERTS:

HOST 1: But we're talking about two or three decades here, folks. It takes a long time to build a good system.

MONICA Yeah, because I've had the pleasure of riding, when I do my lobbying up there, in DC. And the fantastic thing about it-- I can get off a flight at Washington National and be at the Capitol Building in 15 minutes. And if anybody's been in Washington DC traffic--

[LAUGHTER]

HOST 1: Second-worst in the country.

BOBBY: My sister lives way outside of DC. And she would drive to work downtown. I would take the rail. I was down there in 20 minutes-- in 20 minutes, down to M Street and 16 or whatever it is. And she would drive, and we would be-- a couple of times, we'd ride back and would be stuck in traffic. But the people on the rail-- it only takes 20 minutes to get out of there-- get out of town, get in town.

MONICA Yeah, same with Atlanta. Same with Atlanta. Same with any city that I've had the pleasure-- of having a rail component, like San Francisco. Even freeway-happy Los Angeles has one. So what's the problem here?

BOBBY: Well, you can take a look at Seton Lake Park and Ride, which is up on 249. If people would park their cars at Seton Lake Park and Ride, they could get on the 44 Acres Home Bus. But no, they have this million-dollar bus with plush seats that will pick them up and take them downtown, and bring them back to Seton Lake. You know why they don't want to ride?

MONICA The riffraff!

ROBERTS:

BOBBY: Because they're not going to ride through the neighborhoods of Acres Home. That is basically why. And I believe that's all-- that's the basic reason why-- it has nothing to do with money.

HOST 1: Well, I have to jump in here and add one other thing. Maybe what you're saying is true for a lot of people. For me, I find a lot of the city buses-- I haven't ridden a city bus in Houston in 20, 30 years.

But in Washington DC and St. Louis, where I've ridden the city buses, sometimes they're cramped, you get uncomfortable seats, they're poorly heated or air conditioned, they're rattle traps, they stop and start, real tedious, boring blah. So there's a comfort factor here.

MONICA That's true. That is a comfort factor. That is true. That is very true on that. And then a lot of the Crosstown-- the

ROBERTS: routes here, because Houston is so expanded-- it does take you a while to get across town. And the way they're set up, yeah, there are a lot of transfers downtown.

You may pick up a bus, say, out in west Houston, and end up having to transfer to another one downtown. And that--

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

HOST 1: --efficient way to do things.

MONICA And when you're used to, say, riding in your own car and being somewhere in 15 to 20 minutes or running two or three errands, that's probably a factor in it, too. But the main thing would be to get that rail component going.

HOST 1: The comfort factor I mentioned-- in my personal opinion, it's better on the Washington metro rail, although it can be crowded and cramped during rush hour.

MONICA Oh, yeah. But I would much rather-- I would love to see that same kind of system here, which we should have
ROBERTS: had sometime ago.

HOST 1: Oh, yes. The naysayers will say, oh, it won't work-- Houston's so spread out. Well--

MONICA New York City. Throw another argument at me. Let's see, the other one I've heard about why we can't build a
ROBERTS: subway system in Houston-- (STUPID VOICE) well, population density. Uh, hello, Atlanta? (STUPID VOICE) Uh, uh.

JIMMY CARPER: Have you ever been in the downtown tunnel system?

MONICA Oh yes. Fabulous, yeah.

ROBERTS:

JIMMY CARPER: And it leaks. It has always leaked. They can't keep it from leaking. And if that happens in the tunnel system for people just walking-- a subway system, they'd have to dig lower.

MONICA Yeah, but San Francisco has a water table which is closer to the surface than Houston's. And BART has been
ROBERTS: operating.

BOBBY: Plus they have earthquakes, and I've ridden their system, and it is fantastic.

JIMMY CARPER: They do have a great system, I must admit.

BOBBY: It is fantastic.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, it is. Yes, it is.

MONICA But BART has been in operation since the mid '70s. They're expanding it to the airport now. As a matter of fact,

ROBERTS: they say the safest place to be in San Francisco during an earthquake is the transbay tube-- seriously.

MELANIE: Yeah, no buildings can fall on you-- that's for sure.

JIMMY CARPER: Wow. I did not know that. I did not know that.

BOBBY: Have you ever ridden in San Francisco--

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, I have.

BOBBY: --subway?

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, it's wonderful.

BOBBY: Oh, it's fantastic. I've ridden the one in DC many times, from '76. And it's still quiet. It's the quietest ride ever.

MONICA Yeah, when I went last year for Creating Change, me and a friend of mine-- we stayed in San Francisco. The

ROBERTS: convention was over in Oakland. So what we did was jump back and forth using BART.

And we were over there from San Francisco-- and where our hotel was, we had a BART station which was probably about three to four blocks from there. So we'd walk to the BART station, jump on our train-- we were in Oakland in about 15 minutes.

[LAUGHTER]

BOBBY: Nice. It's a secure place. You don't have to worry about the weather-- if it's cold, wet, or whatever.

JIMMY CARPER: OK. I hate to harp on this, but I'm going to break in again.

HOST 1: We're off on a tangent, I think.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, well--

MONICA We started on our usual friends, but--

ROBERTS:

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, I've been talking about the concert next Saturday night at the Sidecar Pub, with Daniel Link and Christy Claxton, two people that I played at the very beginning of the show. I have tickets for anyone who wants them, and I also now-- I've got Daniel Link CDs.

It's a five-song CD that he's providing. It's called "Out of the Silence." You've heard at least two of the songs here on "After Hours" in the past. The one I played tonight was "Constant Faithfulness." I've also played "Altar Boy."

And we're going to give the next three callers a free CD and tickets at 713-526-5738, 526-KPFT. That'll keep Bobby and Chris busy. Yes, it will. And I'm saying that because I have an announcement to make-- that there's some people coming in, and they are going to be testing the phone lines here at KPFT. So our phones will not be in operation from 2:00 AM to 4:00 AM.

HOST 1: Ooh, OK.

JIMMY CARPER: So if you want those tickets, if you want those--