

**JIMMY CARPER:** 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 CDs, you better call in now, 713-526-5738, 526-KPFT.

**HOST 1:** Oh, OK, your donations at work.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yep, that's right.

**HOST 2:** Wonder if I should leave the room so I can call in.

[LAUGHTER]

**HOST 1:** But Mel-- Melanie brought up a point. The Unity Banquet's coming up pretty soon.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh, yes, yes, yes, yes. When is it? When is it? I don't want to miss it this year. I was out of town last year.

**MEL:** It's on March 24.

**JIMMY CARPER:** OK.

**MEL:** At the same location as last year, the Westchase Hilton.

**HOST 1:** Hey, right up the street.

**MEL:** Oh, yeah.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Where is that?

**HOST 1:** Right on Westheimer--

**MEL:** It's, I believe-- Let's see-- I've got the--

**JIMMY CARPER:** Right up the street from you?

**HOST 1:** Yeah.

**MEL:** Yeah. I have a draft of the pamphlet for it that doesn't include the address-- I believe it's, like, 9999 Westheimer.

**HOST 1:** Yeah, that's close.

**MEL:** It's right up there right by the Beltway.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh, OK, OK.

**MEL:** Just between the Beltway and Gessner.

**JIMMY CARPER:** That's right before the Carillon Shopping Center.

**HOST 1:** It's right in that shopping center.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh, OK.

**HOST 1:** Pretty close to it, yeah.

**MEL:** And we've got that going on. You know, we have-- as last year, the food out there is just fabulous.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Mm-hmm.

**MEL:** You know, we've got our awards that we give out to members of the community that have worked hard all year doing work for the community but for the transgender community. We have-- just to run through the awards that we give out-- we have one that we-- we call it the Champion Award-- is for actually a non-transgendered person who has done the most in the past year to benefit the local TG community.

**HOST 1:** Mm-hmm. The Dee McKellar Award?

**MEL:** Yeah, the Dee McKellar Merit Award. Yes. Basically, you know, the-- it's kind of like activist of the year. It's for a real staunch advocate for the community.

**HOST 1:** Outspoken one, at that.

[LAUGHTER]

**MEL:** Yeah, we've got that. Depending on if--

**JIMMY CARPER:** The Apogee Award.

**MEL:** Yeah, we have the-- yeah, the Apogee is the top. That's--

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah.

**MEL:** I mean, that's it. That's kind of the all-star for the-- they've either done one thing that was just fabulous, or they've just done so much stuff, that they're dizzy.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah.

[LAUGHTER]

I was there on the first year that was given out.

**MEL:** Yeah, we've given that-- we also have, like a Lifetime Achievement Award. And we have a People's Choice Award, where-- that one, we've actually counted and verified all of the votes that we've got in, which is something you can't say for other elections in--

**JIMMY CARPER:** Florida.

[LAUGHTER]

Can you say Florida?

**MEL:** But, yeah. We've-- We got--

**JIMMY CARPER:** It's a wonderful affair, and it's long ago outgrown places like Rivas, who have long ago put on, really, a nice spread and-- but--

**MEL:** Oh, yeah.

**JIMMY CARPER:** There's just too many people. Too many people

**MEL:** We would bust out the walls on that place now.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah, yeah.

**HOST 1:** Yeah.

**MEL:** You know, it was interesting. This past Monday, we got together, and checked all the votes and everything, and talked over the thing, you know. And it was really interesting seeing the people in the community-- the activists in the community that had submitted their award recommendations. And it was really neat to see everybody recommending each other, you know--

**HOST 1:** That's nice.

**MEL:** --because everybody is working their rears' off. And, like, person A is going, "Well, I really think person B is just-- needs to have this award." And then person B is going, "Well, person A is really the one that needs it."

[LAUGHTER]

**HOST 1:** Mm-hmm.

**JIMMY CARPER:** That's really nice. That's really nice because I have seen lots of work coming from the transgender community--

**MEL:** Yeah, I was even surprised--

**JIMMY CARPER:** --and lots of the working together, which is phenomenal. Just great.

**MEL:** Yeah, and the fact, this was actually put on-- the Unity Committee is made up of representatives from all five of the transgender groups in the Houston-Galveston area. We've got Helping Transgenders Anonymous--

**JIMMY CARPER:** Mm-hmm.

**MEL:** --TATS, Texas Association for Transsexual Support, CATS, Community Awareness for Transgender Support.

**JIMMY CARPER:** TATS.

**MEL:** Yeah, I mentioned TATS. GCTC, which is Gulf Coast Transgender Community and Tri-Ess, which is The Society for the Second Self. And we have representatives from all of these groups get together to work on things like the Unity Banquet, where we all get together and, like, other functions like our participation in the Pride Parade. And this is-- it's a really cool thing that we can work together--

**JIMMY CARPER:** I think so, too. I think-- and I've always had a wonderful time at the Unity Banquet.

**HOST 1:** I had a blast last year because I was nominated for an award last year, and-- which was an honor-- which was an honor.

**MEL:** And I think it's probably no secret or just a no-brainer that your name came up several times this year, too.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh, they've heard her on the show, huh, and elsewhere?

**MEL:** Yeah, they got her checks in the mail and everything.

[LAUGHTER]

I was-- I felt pretty honored too, when I came through there. I actually got a few votes for things too.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Good.

**HOST 1:** Great. Yeah.

**MEL:** I thought that was kind of a surprise because I'm like, you know, I did not do anything, you know.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh, come on.

**HOST 1:** Yeah, right, Mel.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Hello, what are you doing right now?

**MEL:** Oh I'm just--

**JIMMY CARPER:** See?

**MEL:** I'm just being a hack on here, you know?

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah, right.

**MEL:** But anyway, you know-- yeah, for the-- if anybody's interested in going, it's on March 24.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Mm-hmm

**MEL:** It's from 7:00 PM till whenever, when they come in and say, "OK, your rent's up on the room."

[LAUGHTER]

**HOST 2:** Get out.

**HOST 1:** Get out of here. And--

**JIMMY CARPER:** Well, those--

**MEL:** To get the-- as far as ticket information, we have--

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah, where do get-- where do we get them?

**MEL:** Various different places. You can get them from Katz group.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Mm-hmm.

**MEL:** Their telephone number's area code 409-76-- oh, wait, this actually the wrong one. It's 741-2501. Like I said, this is a draft. This is where the phone--

**JIMMY CARPER:** OK. OK.

**MEL:** All the phone numbers are wrong, and things were misspelled and everything.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Mm-hmm.

**HOST 2:** [INAUDIBLE]

**MEL:** GCTC has their hotline at 713-780-4282.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Mm-hmm.

**MEL:** HTGA, their telephone number is 713-524-0439. TATS now has a new telephone number.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah.

**MEL:** We were using the GCTC telephone number. We finally got our own one that's got an answering machine on it, with my marvelous voice.

**HOST 1:** Oh.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh.

**MEL:** But the telephone number there is 281-437-2975. And that-- usually, you'll get the answering machine. You can leave a confidential message on it. It instructs you, if you're a telemarketer, to hang up now.

[LAUGHTER]

You can also pick up-- you can-- you like that?

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah.

**HOST 1:** Yeah, I like that one.

**MEL:** If you're a telemarketer, add this number to your do-not-call list and hang up now. Otherwise, leave a message. But you can also pick these up in person from Jewel's boutique over on Taft.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh. OK. Cool.

**MEL:** I don't have her exact address in here, but it's just right by--

**JIMMY CARPER:** It's Taft and Fairview.

**HOST 1:** Yeah, Taft and Fairview. She's a sweet lady. Yeah, I've had a chance to have some long conversations with her and her manager-- and her office manager over there, Selena. If you're listening, hi.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Hello.

**HOST 1:** And hi, Jewel.

**MEL:** Yeah, I stop by there sometimes when I'm on-- a lunch break down in the area, I'll stop by and say hi. And--

**JIMMY CARPER:** I haven't been in there yet.

**MEL:** Oh, yeah she-- they can fix you all up. Just all Queenie when you come out of there.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Hell, I'm the biggest fag in town now.

**MEL:** Oh, yeah. Well, you got the-- it's because of the voice.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah, I have that big ol' faggy voice.

[LAUGHTER]

**MEL:** Yeah, you know, you got a-- I see a little trademark symbol come out of your mouth every time you speak--

[LAUGHTER]

OK, and then also, yeah, the-- you can get a-- if you're not-- run through everything else, you can fall back on the Unity Committee. 281-585-0586. That number is usually busy because Kristen's using that number also for web access.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh, my.

**HOST 1:** OK.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Let me ask you, is there number to the Transgender Community Center?

**MEL:** Yeah, that's the HTGA number. 713-524-0439. That has an answering machine on it.

**JIMMY CARPER:** OK. One more time, slower.

**MEL:** OK. I'm sorry, I'm from Indiana.

[LAUGHTER]

**JIMMY CARPER:** This is the South.

**MEL:** OK.

**JIMMY CARPER:** People are writing while you're talking.

[LAUGHTER]

**MEL:** It's--

**JIMMY CARPER:** OK.

**MEL:** It's area code 713-524-0439.

**HOST 2:** Call now, operators are standing by.

**MEL:** Well, there's an answering machine, so--

**JIMMY CARPER:** OK, answering machine is sitting by.

**MEL:** And actually, on here, we also have one of the members of Tri-Ess, which also-- the member's wife is written several books on cross-dressing.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh.

**MEL:** And they have their own they have their own website is [www.pmpub.com](http://www.pmpub.com).

**JIMMY CARPER:** PM pub?

**MEL:** Yeah. That's Melanie and Peggy Rudd's website. And you can write on the web--

**JIMMY CARPER:** I've read one of her books.

**MEL:** Yeah. Yeah, they-- I don't remember-- I've got them all, but I don't remember--

**JIMMY CARPER:** I bought it at Inklings as a matter of fact.

**MEL:** Yeah, they--

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah.

**MEL:** They sold them back then. Their email address you can email is melpeg, M-E-L-P-E-G, @pmpub.com.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Mm-hmm.

**MEL:** And I talk with her, and she does not have a secure server set up. But you can email her with the information on where to-- you can call or fax the information.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Mm-hmm.

**MEL:** And they can get you tickets us that way, if you're just not able to get up. Because of some problems we had with personal checks last year, we're not accepting personal checks for payment on the tickets.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh.

**MEL:** Yeah.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oops.

**HOST 1:** Oops, there it is.

**MEL:** Yeah, we kind of got burned by some people last year so--

**JIMMY CARPER:** That is so tacky.

**MEL:** Yeah, and, you know, it was kind of a rough decision to make because a lot of people really prefer sending checks.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Sure.

**MEL:** It's the old the one bad apple spoils the barrel kind of thing. You know, we had that. Yeah, we decided it was a lot easier just to not accept checks than to have to go through all the loops of everything.

**JIMMY CARPER:** That is so tacky, I mean, it's in your own community.

**MEL:** Yeah, yeah, we were--

**JIMMY CARPER:** It's not like you're not going to see these people again.

**MEL:** Yeah, but I'm not-- yeah, I wasn't the accountant that year or anything. I was--

**HOST 1:** Yeah, well.

**MEL:** I was going to--

**JIMMY CARPER:** So it's cash or--

**MEL:** Yeah, cash or money--

**HOST 1:** Cash or money order.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh, OK. And how much are the tickets?

**MEL:** The tickets are \$35.

**JIMMY CARPER:** OK.

**MEL:** And then--

**JIMMY CARPER:** Little pricey but it's, you know-- it's for a fundraiser and--

**MEL:** Yeah, it keeps us going.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah.

**MEL:** That helps funds things like the float and everything. Like, if you remember the--

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes.

**MEL:** Did you see our float for the Pride Parade [INAUDIBLE]?

**JIMMY CARPER:** No, I did not, but I've got the film.

**MEL:** Yeah.

**JIMMY CARPER:** [INAUDIBLE]

**MEL:** Yeah. We strung that thing together for about \$200.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Wow.

**MEL:** That was our budget, we-- I found out that-- oh, one of the people that won some awards and stuff last year for their floats and everything, I said, well-- yeah, I was like, "Wow, you must have spent some money." And they said, "Oh, yeah, we spent like \$25,000 on our float."

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh my god! You're kidding.

**MEL:** Yeah, they came in about \$20,000 under budget. They could of went up to, like, 45 or something.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh.

**MEL:** I don't even remember which organization this was, but I'm like-- ah! You know?

**JIMMY CARPER:** I just-- I can't believe it.

**MEL:** It's like wow, you know?

**JIMMY CARPER:** Who's got that much money?

**MEL:** I think it was--

**HOST 1:** HRC.

[LAUGHTER]

**MEL:** But-- but spend it on--

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah, and they're keeping it, too.

**HOST 1:** Yeah, especially with all that money from the Millennium [INAUDIBLE].

**MEL:** You know, that's-- now this is what I-- I didn't hear--

**JIMMY CARPER:** Wow.

**MEL:** I didn't hear this from an official spokesperson or anything, so that the figure could-- somebody might have been, you know, shining me on or whatever, but the-- I was just like--

**JIMMY CARPER:** No, a lot of those professional floats, they cost.

**HOST 1:** Mm-hmm.

**MEL:** Well, believe me, it was really interesting trying to figure out how to generate a float with the \$200 I had in my pocket.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah.

**MEL:** Actually, with all the donations-- because, as you know, transgender community is, like, the poorest group on the planet, and a great percentage of all this money came out of our own pockets. It was, you know--

**JIMMY CARPER:** Sure.

**MEL:** --reaching deep in there.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah, most of the floats from an organization are that way.

**MEL:** Yeah, and a matter of fact, a big chunk of-- I got to mention this. Jessica Redman cut me a check-- a big check--

**JIMMY CARPER:** Wow.

**MEL:** --for a big chunk of that money. And without her we would have been just, like, walking down the street waving at people or hanging all over a pickup truck, like the year before.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah, well.

**MEL:** And--

**JIMMY CARPER:** If that's all you can do, that's all you can do, you know. There have been years--

**MEL:** Yeah, it was nice for the year 2000 to have a float in there. It was really nice.

**HOST 1:** Yeah.

**JIMMY CARPER:** That is nice. That is nice.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

**JIMMY CARPER:** You are listening to *After Hours* queer radio with attitude on KPFT Houston and KEOS College Station.

**HOST 1:** Yes.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah.

**HOST 1:** But getting back to the Unity Banquet, oh, that was a lot of fun because last year was my first one that I've had a chance to attend, and I had a blast. So I'm really looking forward to this one this year and hopefully getting up on the stage and making a short speech.

[LAUGHTER]

**MEL:** Oh, yeah.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh, short speech, huh?

**MEL:** Yeah, one other thing we got to mention, as a matter of fact, it totally blew my mind-- slipped my mind because like I-- as again, I'm reading off of the draft that wasn't finished. We have a emcee this year, as opposed to trying to do this all ourselves-- Nancy Ford.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh, no kidding. Oh, wonderful. Now I really have to go.

**MEL:** Nancy Ford's going to be our emcee. Yeah.

**HOST 2:** Of the Texas Triangle and the Dyke Show.

**MEL:** Yeah the--

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes.

**MEL:** Yeah, the Texas Triangle and the Dyke Show. And--

**JIMMY CARPER:** You mean, no Heckle and Jeckle this year?

[LAUGHTER]

**MEL:** Oh, no. No, if there's any Heckle, Nancy will just put the smack down on it, you know.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh, she's good.

**HOST 2:** I remember when I had my first beer.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah, she can handle that. She's so good--

**MEL:** Yeah, she is great. I am--

**JIMMY CARPER:** --and a lot of fun.

**MEL:** Unless I'm just dead to the world, I'm at that Dyke Show every Thursday. So you can catch me there.

**JIMMY CARPER:** OK. This Thursday night, the Dyke Show at the in-between. It used to be the old Charlie's.

**MEL:** Yeah.

**JIMMY CARPER:** 9 o'clock. In fact, Nancy's name is up in lights.

**HOST 1:** Oh, cool.

**MEL:** Yeah, right. Yeah, right there under the non-existent Charlie's diner sign. Yeah, the--

**JIMMY CARPER:** Mm-hmm

**MEL:** That was right. I just love the people walking in there looking for a turkey sandwich and--

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah, really. And then--

**HOST 1:** I miss Charlie's, now that you've mention it.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Well, there's a lot I don't miss about Charlie's, like the food,

[LAUGHTER]

**JIMMY CARPER:** God, that--

**HOST 2:** Maybe there's a reason it went out of business.

**JIMMY CARPER:** It just got awful.

**MEL:** Yeah, I mean, jeez, they put Kevorkian in the [INAUDIBLE].

[LAUGHTER]

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah, he was the chef.

**MEL:** It was just assisted suicide.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah, it really was. And as much as I like Katz's, I don't think it's going to replace Charlie's.

**MEL:** Yeah, I've been to Katz's. Yeah, the food--

**JIMMY CARPER:** I like it, but it's a little pricey. But it's just not got that queer ambiance.

**HOST 1:** Yeah, especially when you have the wide-eyed kids from the suburbs looking in.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah.

[LAUGHTER]

**HOST 1:** These people are a wild. Look at that. Say, oh, there's some there's transsexuals.

**JIMMY CARPER:** There's two boys holding hands. Oh my god.

**MEL:** Oh my goodness, yeah.

[LAUGHTER]

**HOST 1:** Them men transsexuals.

**JIMMY CARPER:** I have an announcement to make.

**MEL:** Oh, yeah.

**JIMMY CARPER:** It just came out February 8, 2001, from our general manager, Garland Ganter. "I am very pleased to announce that Mary Ramirez has been hired to be KPFT's program director."

**HOST 1:** Hey.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes.

**MEL:** Congratulations.

**JIMMY CARPER:** "Mary brings a wealth of experience to the position, and is excited to begin working to make the station sound even better than it does now. We have all had the pleasure of working with Mary in her previous position of music director, and I'm sure we can look forward to her contributions as program director. Please join me in congratulating Mary on her new position." Yes.

[APPLAUSE]

That's the one you hear every morning, Mary in the morning, right here on KPFT. She is now the program director.

**HOST 1:** All right, congratulations.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes. And very deserving too. Just a really nice lady to work with.

**MEL:** That's great.

**JIMMY CARPER:** I've just-- she and I have fun all the time.

**MEL:** Yeah, I finally am able to actually listen to the station in the vehicle. I replaced my radio, and I still couldn't pick it up. And I had to replace my antenna, too. It was in pretty bad shape.

**HOST 1:** Yeah, cool. Yeah, but I'd be remiss if I didn't take some of this time to mention the fact that we do have Lobby Days coming up.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh, yes.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

**HOST 1:** Hi, Sarah. She's still up.

[LAUGHTER]

Probably getting all the last minute details together.

**JIMMY CARPER:** I'm sure. I'm sure because that's coming up, like, when? The 20th?

**HOST 1:** On the 19th and 20th.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes.

**HOST 1:** Well, the 19th will be the training session.

**JIMMY CARPER:** OK.

**HOST 1:** Then after that-- so our first time lobbyist can get a little feel for what they may be-- what they may experience that actual day.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Mm-hmm.

**HOST 1:** We'll also go over a few bills that we are supporting and not supporting and a few other things. But the main Lobby Day will be February the 20th. So if you're interested, we still could use all the help we can get, transgendered and non-transgender.

**JIMMY CARPER:** OK, I'm a little confused here because you said 19th and 20th of February?

**HOST 1:** Yeah.

**JIMMY CARPER:** OK, that's a Monday and Tuesday.

**HOST 1:** That's correct.

**JIMMY CARPER:** That's a little tough for people to--

**HOST 1:** Yeah.

**JIMMY CARPER:** They got to take off work, huh?

**HOST 1:** Yeah, the legislature kind of does their work during the week.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah. Be kind of silly to go there late on Saturday and Sunday. Nobody's there.

**HOST 1:** Especially since they don't like work on the week. They like their weekends off--

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

**JIMMY CARPER:** Bet they like their Mondays and Fridays off.

**HOST 1:** Yeah, no kidding.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Anyway.

**HOST 1:** Anyway. But, yeah, like I said, the Lobby Day itself is February 20th, so those of us in the Houston area, we want to beat our participation that we had last year. I think it was about 25 of us on the 99-- on the 99 Lobby Day. There we're at least 20 of us-- out of the 54, I think half of us were from the Houston area. So although we are kind of proud of that, we'd still like to see some folks from the Dallas-Fort Worth area, the rest of the metro area here.

**JIMMY CARPER:** [INAUDIBLE] I bet you're going to see a whole lot more people this year.

**HOST 1:** Yeah-- Even Christie Littleton is heading up there this year.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes.

**HOST 1:** So--

**JIMMY CARPER:** And she's going to be able to-- just her name alone, she's going to be able to bring in a lot of people. And what a nice lady she is too.

**HOST 1:** Yeah, she's a sweetheart. She really is.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes.

**HOST 1:** I'm hearing some stories-- I've been checking on the net, and we've been getting some confirmed-- confirmations that we have some folks from the Dallas-Fort Worth area coming down so.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Good. I hope so.

**HOST 1:** I have one friend that actually-- that was born in, I say, in Midland, that was thinking about coming back down here to Texas for that, but I hadn't heard from her yet, so-- and we'd love to have somebody from West Texas. We can understand if they can't make it. But for the most part-- we need some other parts of the state to jump in here.

**JIMMY CARPER:** And the whole idea is to show the Texas legislature that, "Hey, this state has transgenders and a lot of them, and they vote."

**HOST 1:** And supporters of those transgendered folks--

**JIMMY CARPER:** That's right.

**HOST 1:** --their significant others--

**JIMMY CARPER:** That's right. That's right.

**HOST 1:** --allies within the gay community, and say, PFLAG, the bi community, the allies so--

**JIMMY CARPER:** I wonder just on the-- you know, when you have Lobby Days for any group, I wonder how that translates to a legislator. Do they-- every person that shows up, is that to them, like, five votes, or 10 votes, or--

**HOST 1:** Matter of fact, the way they look at it-- if you just send a letter in, for every letter that they get, they equate that with about 10 constituents.

**JIMMY CARPER:** OK.

**HOST 1:** And probably the same formula in terms of constituents that--

**JIMMY CARPER:** No, that's a letter that you write.

**HOST 1:** Yeah, that you write in to your legislator--

**JIMMY CARPER:** Not just adding your name to some--

**HOST 1:** No, a letter that you actually physically write--

**JIMMY CARPER:** OK.

**HOST 1:** --that about a certain issue, this figure that maybe 10 to 20 other people in the district feel the same way. When you actually take the time, as a constituent, to walk into an office, oh, they appreciate that more than the professional lobbyist they get every day because, the first thing, they see a professional lobbyist every day. But somebody coming from their district-- first, they look at the fact that that person has taken time out of their work schedule to come up there--

**JIMMY CARPER:** That's true. They have to take off their work, normally.

**HOST 1:** Yeah, they're passionate about-- so they're maybe very passionate about this issue in order to take that time, and they will make time. In some cases, on 99 session, there are times I didn't have appointments with a lot of them. But I got in there and, in some cases, got to talk to a-- I actually got to talk to the legislator 15, 20 minutes in some cases.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Hey, that's nice.

**HOST 1:** Yeah. So--

**JIMMY CARPER:** Because once they see you, the mystery is gone.

**HOST 1:** Yeah, you can't hate what you-- you can't hate what you know.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah.

**HOST 1:** It's much harder to hate somebody, or pass legislation, or vote one way or the other when you've got, say, a legislator that has an issue. Say, for example-- say, benefits protect-- say, discrimination protection for-- and if he has to think about it, oh, OK, I have transgender-- I say, gay, lesbian, transgender people in my district.

**JIMMY CARPER:** That's right.

**HOST 1:** They do vote.

**JIMMY CARPER:** They do vote.

**HOST 1:** Or information that he may not have been aware of, that you have brought in terms of the Lobby Day. You may have brought him information that he wasn't aware of, in terms of, OK, these trans-- say, for example, transgender people do this, da, da, da, da. They face these issues They face these types of issues. GLBT people face certain types of discrimination in the job workplaces.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah, and that-- it's going to be pretty basic stuff, like jobs and housing.

**HOST 1:** Yeah.

**JIMMY CARPER:** It's the discrimination that we face.

**HOST 1:** Yeah, period.

**JIMMY CARPER:** And transgenders more than gay people usually.

**HOST 1:** Yeah, there's a saying by John F. Kennedy which I kind of like. And this was from a speech that he made back in 1962. He said, "In giving rights to others which belong to them, we give rights to ourselves and to our country." I think some people in our social conservative wing need to remember that. I said, we are American citizens. We have just as much right to petition our government as they do.

**MEL:** These are not special rights--

**JIMMY CARPER:** No.

**MEL:** These are human--

**JIMMY CARPER:** Those are the--

**MEL:** --Constitutional rights.

**JIMMY CARPER:** That's the thing that we have to get-- nothing that we ask for is special. Nothing. It's just equal rights with everyone else.

**MEL:** Yeah.

**HOST 1:** And say-- we have-- all that, say, GLBT people want are the same rights that everybody else is guaranteed under the Constitution. All right. Unfortunately, that has been spun by our friends as "special rights."

**JIMMY CARPER:** What special-- I'm trying to figure out what's special about it.

**HOST 1:** The only thing that's special, as far as they're concerned, is we're trying to get them.

**MEL:** It's de-specialization. Right now we have a special situation with a 70% unemployment rate, I do understand. It's something like a 16--

**JIMMY CARPER:** In the transgender community?

**MEL:** 16-- Yeah, that's what I've heard. It's out on the internet somewhere. There's like a 16-- the murder rate for transgender people is something like 16 times the national average. It's outrageous.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes.

**MEL:** So actually, we're taking some-- an extraordinary special situation, and we're normalizing it here. What's so special about that?

**HOST 2:** Yeah, it's special in a way that we're doing it.

**JIMMY CARPER:** And you see, it's vicious circle. Transgenders are demonized because they are looked at as prostitutes. Then, on the other hand, they are discriminated against-- you are discriminated against, heavily, in the job market.

**HOST 1:** Yeah.

**JIMMY CARPER:** I mean, so many people cannot transition on the job. I mean, they lose their job, and they and they can't get another one.

**HOST 1:** I'm one of those rare ones that-- I'm one of those rare ones that have actually kept the same job I had, prior to transition. And I have this--

**JIMMY CARPER:** Now, I think it's-- congratulations to your company for that.

**HOST 1:** Yeah, because I have this saying, and it's fairly accurate. "No job equals no money, equals no roof over your head, equals no transition. And equals a heightened-- a heightened chance of a hate crime being performed against you."

**JIMMY CARPER:** You bet. You bet.

**HOST 1:** So, you know, jobs-- so those people that wonder why are we're focusing on jobs, jobs is the basic, most basic key to getting-- to at least tackling some of the problems that we face in the community. Somebody has a job and they can count on getting a regular pay check every two weeks at a living wage, at a decent wage--

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes.

**HOST 1:** --all right, then they can do the things that they do, including paying taxes.

[LAUGHTER]

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes. Hello.

[LAUGHTER]

**MEL:** And believe me, I pay.

**HOST 1:** Yeah, so do I. But--

**JIMMY CARPER:** So does my lover.

**HOST 1:** Yeah. You know, which is-- which we are willing to pay as members of this society, folks.

**JIMMY CARPER:** That's right. And want to.

**HOST 1:** And want to.

**JIMMY CARPER:** They want to pay as much tax as they can because that means you're getting more money. And-- what does-- what does any of this have to do with how you perform your job?

**HOST 1:** Nothing.

**JIMMY CARPER:** That's right.

**HOST 1:** Absolutely nothing.

**HOST 2:** Except that in the bigoted society we often have, transgender people have to work twice as hard just to show that they're competent.

**HOST 1:** Something I'm used to.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah.

**MEL:** So far, actually, my transsexualism is affecting my job. As you know, I'm a technician. I do field service. So, yeah, it's been interesting as I haven't went full time at work. I'm still theoretically working as a guy.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah.

**MEL:** But every time they send me somewhere that I haven't been for the last, like, five years every month and if it's a new client, I'm the repair lady.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oops.

**MEL:** Yeah. I just walk right in and, "Yes, ma'am, there's the thing over there, go fix it." I'm like, "Oh, OK, I'm just glad my boss isn't with me"--

[LAUGHTER]

--who has came out with me a few times at work and--

**JIMMY CARPER:** Actually, it might work out to your advantage for when you decide to do transition.

**MEL:** It would just be very uncomfortable trying to explain to them why that-- I've been called the repair lady and I don't mind.

**JIMMY CARPER:** No.

**MEL:** And, yeah, as a matter of fact, just about two weeks ago, I was at a place that I had been to before and had to order some things for it. And when I-- was having some difficulty with it, so I had to call in my supervisor to help me figure out what exactly the problems were. And he's like, "Oh, yeah, yeah, I'll come right out there with you."

I'm thinking, oh, no, because they've been calling me ma'am, and repair lady, and everything. And I'm like, "Oh, no." But fortunately, they left us alone. They didn't really say anything much to us, so that worked out. But, yeah, I can just see that as-- everybody knows, in the state, they can pretty much fire you for whatever they want to. And--

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes, that's right.

**MEL:** And they don't have to say why it is. But--

**HOST 2:** But they can make up lies.

**MEL:** Yeah, well--

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah.

**MEL:** --we have a task member right now, that-- if she's listening, I hope you're doing OK. But she had been transitioning on her own. She wasn't really in the community, wasn't really much aware of the support groups and everything that were out there. And she had been working through her transition and everything. She had got to a point, and she really wasn't aware of all the discrimination and everything. She thought she had just as much rights as anybody else, and she went in--

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh, no.

**MEL:** --and told her boss, "Hey, you've heard of transsexuals, haven't you?" And he says, "yeah." She's like, well, you know, "I'm transsexual. I'm going to-- I want to transition and work as a female." And they were like, "Oh, well, that's great. Yeah, yeah, that's pretty good." And about two weeks later, they called her in-- "The company is just not doing well. We just can't afford to pay you anymore. So we're going to have to let you go." It just-- the company just suddenly did a nosedive, like, right after that.

**HOST 1:** Sort of like what happened after His Fraudulency got in office. A lot of people experienced it.

**MEL:** Oh, yeah.

[LAUGHTER]

**HOST 2:** That's really to the Republicans' advantage to have a recession hit now because that way, they can turn around and blame Bill Clinton for it.

**JIMMY CARPER:** And then whatever they do, they look good.

**HOST 1:** I won't let them on that one.

**HOST 2:** We don't have central planning, so you're going to have business cycles with business accelerating and business decelerating. So that way, the Republicans can blame Bill Clinton, and they don't have to take the heat later.

**HOST 1:** No, I'm not going to let him get away with that because the biggest argument that I heard during the Clinton years was, "Presidential policies don't take effect until seven years after." Well, if that's the case, what happened? Why didn't I hear the Republicans taking the blame during the Carter administration when we had double digit inflation and gas prices going up?

**JIMMY CARPER:** Are you kidding?

**HOST 1:** Let's see--

**JIMMY CARPER:** Because it was a different story then.

**HOST 1:** Yeah. Let's see, during Gerald Ford's administration, why didn't Nixon get the blame for that inflationary period? Or why did Jimmy Carter not get the credit for the buildup that happened under Ronny baby's administration?

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah, well.

**HOST 1:** So, yeah, that argument can cut both ways. I'm not going to let them get away with that.

**JIMMY CARPER:** I know you won't. I know you won't, Monica.

**HOST 2:** My conservative, Republican dad would swear up and down--

**JIMMY CARPER:** Put them in their place.

**HOST 2:** --that what happened-- the Clinton prosperity, that's all because of Ronald Reagan and George Herbert Walker Bush.

**HOST 1:** Yeah, so is that one trillion dollar deficit.

[LAUGHTER]

**JIMMY CARPER:** I have heard that so many times myself.

**HOST 1:** Yes, I know.

**HOST 2:** I don't believe that, of course.

**HOST 1:** Aye, aye, aye, aye, aye.

**MEL:** So what else is going on, Monica?

**HOST 1:** Oh.

**HOST 2:** Nothing wrong with George W. that a 2 by 4 upside the head--

[LAUGHTER]

**HOST 1:** Oh, speaking of that, what about our friends-- he's already very popular, somebody took potshots at him.

**JIMMY CARPER:** What's-- oh, yes. Oh, yes.

**MEL:** Who's that?

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes.

**HOST 1:** Junior.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Already, huh?

**HOST 1:** Yeah, already.

**MEL:** I haven't heard that one.

**HOST 1:** You know the zero factor, you've never heard of that?

**MEL:** Oh, yeah.

**HOST 1:** Since 1840, every president that's been elected--

**MEL:** Oh, somebody's already tried [INAUDIBLE]?

**HOST 1:** Well, you remember the guy that was sitting out there last week that had the problem with the IRS? Well, he was fired by the IRS for mental problems.

**MEL:** Oh, yeah?

**HOST 1:** The one just a couple of days ago.

**MEL:** Yeah, that--

**HOST 1:** Showing up, taking shots at-- yeah, the Secret Service took out his leg on that one.

**MEL:** Oh, God. That tells you how informed I am. That's what I need to have you around, so I actually find out what's going on.

**HOST 2:** Yeah, the guy drove into town from Indiana, parked at the Vienna metro station, which is like the farthest point out on one of the metro lines. And he-- apparently, he rode it into the city. And we were talking earlier about how easy it is to ride the Washington metro. Apparently, he parked out in northern Virginia, and rode the metro on in, and went down to Pennsylvania Avenue with his gun, and blam, blam, blam, blam, blam, or something.

**MEL:** Hey, something else in favor of installing light rail on--

**JIMMY CARPER:** What? Ooh, but--

**HOST 1:** In Texas you can carry an AK-47 down the street.

**HOST 3:** Yes. They found out during the Republican convention.

[LAUGHTER]

Yeah, but they had a-- yeah, they had a--

**HOST 1:** That was right outside the convention hall.

**HOST 3:** Yeah, they had a problem with it because it was the new Black Panthers carrying the guns this time.

[LAUGHTER]

Yeah, now they want gun control on that one. Sort of like Junior being in favor of, I say, of now-- I say, not doing any more DWB or racial profiling stops, except on election day.

[LAUGHTER]

**MEL:** Oh, yeah.

[LAUGHTER]

**HOST 3:** But, yeah, surely, pick on George a little bit more. Yeah.

[LAUGHTER]

**MEL:** Well, it's such easy target.

**HOST 2:** I'm waiting-- I'm waiting for all the little religious groups to get their money, like the Wiccans and stuff.

**HOST 3:** Yeah.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah. That's right.

**HOST 1:** Yeah, faith-based institutions.

**HOST 2:** I seriously think that the Council for Magickal Arts, which is a pagan organization in Texas--

**HOST 1:** There we go.

**HOST 2:** --that the Council for Magickal Arts sought to set up faith-based charity and try to get federal money for that.

**JIMMY CARPER:** I wonder how much money the Resurrection MCC would be able to get.

**MEL:** I can probably take--

**HOST 1:** Yeah, for our nursing homes for us older people.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah.

**HOST 3:** Oh, yeah, how much money are they going to get?

[LAUGHTER]

I can tell you how much they're going to get.

**MEL:** Yeah I'm just waiting-- yeah-- you're going to have a-- yeah, if they wise up-- yeah, just see how much they're going to shell to, oh-- I don't know-- the Scientologist and the other ones like that.

**HOST 1:** Yeah. Hare Krishna.

**MEL:** Yeah.

**JIMMY CARPER:** There you go.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

**MEL:** Unification Church Everybody-- all those faith-based organizations and things like that.

**HOST 1:** Let's see. What about the atheist, American Atheist?

**MEL:** Oh, yeah, Atheism is a religion.

[LAUGHTER]

**JIMMY CARPER:** It is. They have faith-- they have faith that there is no God.

**HOST 1:** OK.

**MEL:** That's it.

**HOST 1:** It really don't have to be a faith-based is what I understand also. It could be other groups, too.

**HOST 3:** An anti-Christian Coalition?

**HOST 1:** Sure, go ahead.

[LAUGHTER]

**HOST 2:** You know, I bet George W. Bush is actually giving money to the Moonies right now, and he doesn't know. This isn't fair because I used to read this paper too, but the Moonies actually own the big conservative newspaper in Washington DC, *The Washington Times*.

**HOST 1:** *Washington Times*. There you go.

**HOST 2:** I bet the--

**JIMMY CARPER:** *Times* or *Post*?

**HOST 2:** I thought it was *Post*.

**HOST 1:** *Times*.

**HOST 3:** Oh, *The Washington Times*?

**HOST 2:** They're a rival to *The Post*.

**HOST 3:** Yeah.

**HOST 2:** It's why all the newspaper machines in Washington are only \$0.25. They have competition.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh.

**HOST 2:** Ooh.

**HOST 1:** All those Moonies that get married, they all buy that paper now.

[LAUGHTER]

And other people use it to line their bird cages.

**JIMMY CARPER:** You got it.

[LAUGHTER]

**HOST 1:** And then they only can have all the Hare Krishnas getting the-- they give us that free food out at the street festivals and stuff like that. There's government money now they can get. How about government [? tees ?]?

**MEL:** Oh, yeah. Well, that would work, you know. They can get the government money to go feed the homeless transgenders that are out there that don't have jobs.

**JIMMY CARPER:** There you go. How about another newspaper for competition to the Houston Comical?

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

**MEL:** Yeah, I'd really like that.

**HOST 1:** Oh, Houston's right wing news source. Houston leading right wing news source.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Unless you're talking to a right winger, then they insist that the Comical is left wing.

**HOST 1:** Well, that's all right this is like--

**JIMMY CARPER:** How do you figure that?

**MEL:** Yeah, because they heard they heard that on a rush.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh, on, say, a super talk? On a--

**HOST 1:** No, we got a new one now, Jimmy. Channel 55, the two--

**JIMMY CARPER:** That's right, the two.

**HOST 1:** Dan Patrick report. Oh my god.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes. Yes.

**HOST 2:** The what report?

**HOST 1:** Dan Patrick. Oh my god.

**HOST 3:** Dan Patrick is now on TV.

**JIMMY CARPER:** You know, we've had people call in, and complain, and say, "All you left wing things, you ought to give more balanced reporting." And to those people I say--

**HOST 1:** Kiss.

**JIMMY CARPER:** No, no, this is what I say.

[LAUGHTER]

**HOST 1:** Go to the right.

**JIMMY CARPER:** I will give the right as much time on this show as I could get on Rush Limbaugh's show--

**HOST 1:** Or Dan Patrick's show.

**MEL:** Yeah, really.

**HOST 2:** G. Gordon Liddy.

**MEL:** And I think we've already heard it, right?

**HOST 1:** Dan Patrick's new news is his opinion news. It's very--

**JIMMY CARPER:** There you go.

**HOST 1:** It's what it is.

**JIMMY CARPER:** At least on this show, we say it's news and views.

**HOST 2:** [INAUDIBLE]

**HOST 3:** Oh, and let's not even-- let's not leave the Fox right wing News Channel out of this mix.

**JIMMY CARPER:** It's getting that way, isn't it?

**HOST 3:** It's been that way. Rupert Murdoch was the one that financed all the-- Prop 209 battle in California. He's been putting money in the right wing causes for years.

**JIMMY CARPER:** You know, long ago, when ACT UP was first getting started, it was Fox who was out there.

**HOST 1:** Yes, that's why I couldn't believe what was going on with Fox.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah, Fox was there all the time.

**HOST 1:** I gave up cable, so I don't know much about Fox news network.

**HOST 3:** But Fox News Channel--

**HOST 1:** And every once in a while, I will go into a building where they do have the Fox News network on. I'm like, "Oh my god."

[LAUGHTER]

**HOST 3:** Yeah, I know. It's incredible. We're talking about the network-- the Fox News Channel, not KRIV.

**HOST 1:** No, I'm not talking about the cable one.

**HOST 3:** Yeah, the station here is very balanced, for the most part, in terms of their reporting. But as far as the Fox News Channel itself, uh-uh. Yeah, they were the ones on terms of impeach-- when the impeachment battle was going on. It was so slanted, it wasn't funny.

**HOST 1:** And MSNBC wasn't too far behind there.

**HOST 3:** Yeah.

**HOST 2:** That is true.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Well, we need to close up this segment, unfortunately.

**HOST 1:** Darn.

**JIMMY CARPER:** I know.

**HOST 2:** Drats.

**JIMMY CARPER:** I'm having fun.

**HOST 2:** Yes, I've loved it.

[LAUGHTER]

**HOST 3:** Yeah.

**HOST 1:** Oh, by the way, if you do happen to watch the Dan Patrick report, he does read the emails after the show.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh.

**HOST 1:** So you can comment about his hair, which has been the topic this week because it looks so '70s.

[LAUGHTER]

**JIMMY CARPER:** Well, duh.

**HOST 1:** Or he could talk about-- they did talk about domestic partnerships--

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh, I'll bet they did.

**HOST 1:** They had a roundtable Friday-- Friday evening--

**JIMMY CARPER:** A roundtable with a bunch of squares at it.

**HOST 1:** Rob Todd and then--

[LAUGHTER]

**HOST 1:** There was--

**HOST 3:** Rob Todd and Orlando Sanchez.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah, that was a very balanced--

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

**HOST 1:** [INAUDIBLE] right side.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah, I'm sure of that.

**HOST 2:** Pink triangles.

**HOST 3:** He had four guests. One of them was John Matthews, and you know how he talks.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh, boy. [INAUDIBLE]

[LAUGHTER]

**[? HOST 1:** ?] You can send him emails. It's called-- what's the-- patrickreport@thetube.net.

**JIMMY CARPER:** And I'm sure you have, Rainbow.

**[? HOST 1:** ?] Oh, yes I do.

**HOST 3:** Thank you, Rainbow, I'm going to have to send some comments in.

**HOST 1:** I think it's time that we monitor these people. We've monitored Dr. Laura. I'm waiting for him to get Dr. Laura on 55. You can bet he'll try.

**MEL:** Oh, yeah.

**HOST 2:** Every now and then, channel surfing, I stumble upon Pat Robertson and *The 700 Club*.

**HOST 3:** Oh, they're still alive and well, too. That's some-- yeah, that's one thing we do need to do on the progressive, I say, liberal side, ladies and gentlemen. We do need to take time to keep these people in check because Tavis-- as Tavis Smiley says, he calls the right wing the half right because they give you half the story, half the facts, and tell you-- and say, give you half the truth.

[LAUGHTER]

**HOST 1:** Check out the message boards and--

**HOST 2:** Focus on the thimbles.

**HOST 1:** --forums in the different news groups, like the *Houston Chronicle* and your different TV stations, and join in. Jewel did a fantastic one.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Jewel is wonderful. Yeah, she'll be here next week, and so I'm sure that she will have a lot to say.

**HOST 3:** More than me? OK.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh, boy, did she do a rant last month. Oh, she is she did a rant last month, I'll tell you.

**HOST 3:** Too bad I couldn't get a loose on this one.

**JIMMY CARPER:** It was great.

**HOST 3:** You ever want to know what's going on with Jewel, just get-- join Han-Net.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Han-Net, that's right. Han-Net. Check your e-groups and go to Han-Net.

**HOST 2:** Monica just joined on Han-Net.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes. Yes. You put a lot of stuff on Han-Net.

**HOST 2:** Oh, yeah. I see interesting news articles on the internet, I'll put them on Han-Net.

**JIMMY CARPER:** I'm pretty much a lurker, but I pulled a lot of stuff off. A lot of stuff on Han-Net, you'll hear on the news and views segment.

**HOST 1:** Mm-hmm.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Anyway, thank you, Monica.

**HOST 3:** It's always a pleasure, Jim.

**JIMMY CARPER:** You bet. You bet. Alyssa, Melanie.

**MEL:** Thanks.

**HOST 1:** Rainbow and the rest of the gang.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Rainbow, Bobby. Yeah. Well, Bobby's still here.

**HOST 1:** Chris.

**HOST 2:** I don't know-- I haven't met Rainbow. I've seen him on Han-Net.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Here he is.

**HOST 2:** Hi, Rainbow.

**JIMMY CARPER:** And for the next half hour, you can still call in for a free CD of Daniel Link, who is going to be at the Sidecar Pub Saturday night, 17th, out there on 11202 Huffmeister. And that number is 713-526-5738. For CD, tickets, and/or both, call right now because our telephones are going to be going down at 2 o'clock.

**HOST 3:** So you got 30 minutes.

**JIMMY CARPER:** You got 30 minutes, that's it. And we're closing out with a song of yours.

**HOST 3:** Yeah, it's on-- that's a Meshell Ndegeocello song. It was actually on the *Love and Basketball* soundtrack.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Mm-hmm.

**HOST 3:** This one in honor of Valentine's Day, which is four days away.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh, that's right.

**HOST 3:** So this one's called Fool of-- I say, "Fool Of Me."

**JIMMY CARPER:** And you're hearing it on *After Hours*, queer radio with attitude, on KPFT Houston and KEOS College Station.