

[MUSIC PLAYING]

JIMMY CARPER: 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 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 not everyone can do that because of age, job, or frame of mind. That's OK. We're here for you too. So sit back, relax, and enjoy this week's edition of *After Hours*.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

Hello, Houston and College Station, and welcome to *After Hours*, Queer Radio with Attitude. I'm Jimmy Carper. This is the Sunday, August 4, 2002 edition.

SPEAKER 2: August 11.

JIMMY CARPER: August what?

SPEAKER 2: 11.

JIMMY CARPER: August 11. This is the August 11 version.

[LAUGHTER]

SPEAKER 3: OK.

JIMMY CARPER: OK. So much for-- that was my calendar. OK.

[INAUDIBLE]

Yeah, [INAUDIBLE].

[LAUGHTER]

Boy this is the beginning of a good show, isn't it?

SPEAKER 2: Good morning, Jimmy.

JIMMY CARPER: Hello.

[LAUGHTER]

Hello.

JIMMY CARPER: First of all, the music you heard-- because both of it is new music to *After Hours*, the first one was from Freddie Freeman. And he sent his CD to me because JD Doyle told him to, actually. And [CHUCKLING] that was called "Strip Me Naked." He does really nice folk with a really nice voice.

The last one was Jeremy Gloff. Now he has put out quite a few CDs. He started out as a punk artist, and moved up to-- whatever he is now, kind of a Rock, folk, punk, all mixed up in one. And he's got a CD out called *America Is Lonely Tonight*. And there's-- I don't know, 19 songs on this or something. That was called, "Unlearned."

And if you want some more information about that, give us a call. 7135265738526 jam KPFK. I wanted to say hi to all my MBBs out there. Like for instance, Chet, Wilson, Paul, junior, and the Nubian Prince. I got the latest letter from the Nubian Prince, and he's telling me how much he listens. He did mention in his letter that-- last week, I read some of his poetry, and later on in the last second half of the show. And I hope he enjoyed that. And Paul, I got your letter and I understand everything that you're telling me. And yes, I'm going to send that stuff back to you.

But I still want people who want to have pen pals with men behind bars to give us a call. We can set you up with someone. The only problem is, do it for friendship, and when money enters the picture, then you have to stop it. And if it does, we have a lot of guys who write us every week, and I'm pretty sure that they're OK, guys, they would love to hear from you. And that number to talk to Roy is 7135265738526 KPFK. I had a couple of other things I wanted to talk about, but we have a special guest here tonight, Mr Bob Boulton.

Hello.

BOB BOULTON: Hello. I'm forced to follow that.

JIMMY CARPER: You're supposed to follow that. You're following men behind bars.

BOB BOULTON: Frequently, but I've never admitted though.

JIMMY CARPER: I see. [LAUGHTER] I see. I see.

[LAUGHTER]

Maybe--

[LAUGHTER]

SPEAKER 3: OK, I can see where this is going already.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

JIMMY CARPER: OK. OK. Bob Boulton [LAUGHTER] is-- you're working with Mr Don Gill--

BOB BOULTON: Yes.

JIMMY CARPER: --on Gill productions. And you're putting together a show coming up next week called--

SPEAKER 3: Right. Don Gill and I are coproducing a show called *Live 2002*.

JIMMY CARPER: Mm-hmm.

SPEAKER 3: We've done this for a number of years now. And the whole point of it being that the entire show is made up of nothing but live performers within the city of Houston. And we usually do this every year, this year as several of the past ones, to benefit the Gulf Coast Archives and Museum--

JIMMY CARPER: Tada.

BOB BOULTON: One of your organizations as it turns out.

JIMMY CARPER: Absolutely.

SPEAKER 3: And we're very proud of our efforts. And we've done this for a number of years. And I believe we've paid the rent quite frequently.

JIMMY CARPER: This show covers all of the operating expenses for the museum for an entire year.

SPEAKER 3: Don and I've been very proud of being able to do that for you guys because both of us are very seriously feel that we've lost just entirely too much of the history of the gay community as a whole, bot notwithstanding just Houston alone, of course. So it's very important for us to do entries to the Gulf Coast Archives and Museum to keep them going every year.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes. And the museum located at 1609 West Main, number four. In fact, I've set up with Deb Murphy that the HATCH group is going to be visiting the museum at the end of this month for one of their regular HATCH Meetings. They're going to meet at the museum.

SPEAKER 3: Sounds good. I'd like to see a lot of [INAUDIBLE].

JIMMY CARPER: And it's because they asked to go.

SPEAKER 3: That's even better.

JIMMY CARPER: That is even better.

SPEAKER 3: It's Very important for-- especially groups like HATCH and the young folks to get an idea from where they come from and what we all had to go through to get them there. So it's really important for us.

JIMMY CARPER: No Kidding. We have a lot of stuff at the museum. What we could use is, of course, money and volunteers.

[CHUCKLING]

BOB BOULTON: What?

JIMMY CARPER: 501(c)(3) organization. [LAUGHTER] That doesn't need either one.

SPEAKER 3: But we're doing the money part. You have to do the rest of it, I thought, so that's not a problem.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

JIMMY CARPER: That's right. And you and Don have been very gracious over the past three years to do this for the Gulf Coast Archives and Museum. And I understand that this will be your last year.

SPEAKER 3: This is my last year of codirecting the live show, basically because I'm old. Therefore, I'm trying to retire. But the other people will have an argument with that. But that's the way I feel.

JIMMY CARPER: Folks, I'm sitting here--

SPEAKER 3: Don't do that.

JIMMY CARPER: And I've got a page and a half of stuff that-- it's just things that Bob has done in volunteerism in this town since he's been here, from the Texas renegades, Denim Party, President Of Houston Council of Clubs. You've ran the "Let Us Entertain You Weekend" more than once. You're a member--

SPEAKER 3: More than once. Yeah, I like that.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, it's true. [LAUGHTER] You're a member in good standing of The Royal Sovereign and Imperial Court of the Single Star. You were an emperor with Renee Monroe.

SPEAKER 3: Yes.

JIMMY CARPER: And now you've been getting awards and you're working in-- here we go, Texas Gay radio Association.

SPEAKER 3: Oh, god. That's so many years ago

JIMMY CARPER: [INAUDIBLE]. And [? LA, ?] Houston, Texas Ride, Sundance [? Cattle ?] Company, Houston Area Bears. What don't you do?

[LAUGHTER]

SPEAKER 3: What don't I do? Rest, I guess, would be the biggest thing I don't do.

JIMMY CARPER: I mean--

SPEAKER 3: Sleep would be another thing I don't do very often.

JIMMY CARPER: To say nothing of the [? PWA ?] holiday charities and the wishful thinking fund.

SPEAKER 3: Yes. And then--

JIMMY CARPER: It's just incredible.

SPEAKER 3: Well, but that's actually part of it. I'm attempting to get something called a personal life, which I haven't seen much of lately, [LAUGHTER] back a little bit again.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah. [INAUDIBLE].

SPEAKER 3: And so yes, this is going to be one of my last as codirector of "Live." But that doesn't mean that my heart isn't into it or that I won't continue to support the community as a whole, of course. So we're just going to keep on going the way we've been going.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes. I understand that the live shows are now going to be every other year.

SPEAKER 3: I gather Don's going every other year, and that's fine, he's younger than I am. So he can continue to do that.

JIMMY CARPER: So the museum is looking for other venues for next year. But let's talk about "Live 2002."

SPEAKER 3: Well. "Live 2002" is going to be Sunday, August 18.

JIMMY CARPER: Sunday, Sunday, Sunday. Next Sunday, as a matter of fact, right?

SPEAKER 2: I know he was going to do that.

SPEAKER 3: I don't know how we knew he was going to do that, but I'd rather hit him next time if he does it again.

[LAUGHTER]

JIMMY CARPER: At least close enough he can do it.

SPEAKER 3: I am close enough actually. [LAUGHTER] But it's Sunday, August 18 at Keys West. It's the first time that we've actually done a live show over there.

JIMMY CARPER: Mm-hmm.

SPEAKER 3: And also, Keys West also gives us a couple of extra events that we can host, which we're kind of actually looking forward to.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh.

SPEAKER 3: Keys West has, of course, a grand piano in the middle of it. And so this year we actually have two classical pianists that have worked up a duet that they're going to do together.

JIMMY CARPER: No kidding.

SPEAKER 3: So I think we're going to have a lot of fun in addition to a lot of the--

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, my God. I had no idea.

SPEAKER 3: Oh, yeah. In addition to a lot of the standard groups are organizations or people that we have singing live like David Barron, and Andy Clements, and Andrew Flores, Shawn Carter, Nancy Ford, Clint Harwell, a few others to mention.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, yeah, Clint. Oh, yeah.

SPEAKER 3: Clint's been one of our supporters every year. Glenda McGinnis, truly a wonderful voice to listen to. Johnny Montgomery, Jessica [? Zamudio, ?] lots of people that have just volunteered their time and efforts to come and sing and entertain. I mean, it's really wonderful to have them all here.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, it is. And it's--

SPEAKER 3: But that'll be at Keys West next Sunday the 18. We're going to start it at 6:30. We figure the show will last about 2 and 1/2 hours. Anybody who knows Don Gill and I knows that the show will start on time.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, yes.

[LAUGHTER]

SPEAKER 3: Whether we're there or not, actually.

[LAUGHTER]

JIMMY CARPER: That's right.

SPEAKER 3: But that's when we're going to have it. It'll be 6:30 next week, Keys West.

JIMMY CARPER: Now that's next Sunday, 6:30. Now where is this located, Keys West.

SPEAKER 3: Keys West is on West Dallas. I'm actually, oddly enough, not sure of the street address, but it's right next door to the Days Inn, just outside of downtown.

JIMMY CARPER: It's 817 West Dallas.

SPEAKER 3: He's so much better than I am.

JIMMY CARPER: Next to the Best Western. Well, isn't that convenient?

[LAUGHTER]

SPEAKER 3: Sure. Get something started. Yeah, let's go.

JIMMY CARPER: Big Roy's got something to say.

SPEAKER 4: Yes, Jimmy, I have something to say to you. JD just called.

JIMMY CARPER: Uh-huh.

SPEAKER 4: And he said that he emailed Freddy in New York to tell him that you were playing his CD, and he said that he knew he was listening.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, cool. Cool. Because I had emailed Freddy to tell him that I was going to open the show with his song.

SPEAKER 3: Hi, Freddy.

JIMMY CARPER: Hi, Freddy. And thanks for sending me that music. I really liked it. There'll be more in the coming weeks. Huh. That's cool. That's good news. I like that. So back to Keys West. 817, West Dallas, next to the Best Western. And--let's see, let's see, let's see. Of course, they have many refreshing beverages there.

SPEAKER 3: Adult refreshing beverages.

JIMMY CARPER: That's right.

[LAUGHTER]

Or soft ones, if you're like me.

SPEAKER 3: If you prefer, yes, indeed.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, that's me. OK. That's 18th at 6:30.

SPEAKER 3: That's the 18th at 6:30. So we'd love to see as many people there as possible.

JIMMY CARPER: Do you know you and Don have very generous friends? Because I have already deposited into the Gulf Coast Archive and Museum bank account \$850 from people who have already sent in money for this affair.

SPEAKER 3: Do we do our best?

JIMMY CARPER: It's incredible. It's incredible. Telling you.

SPEAKER 3: We do our best. And I believe last year we did slightly over-- we did what? I know it was over \$4,000. I don't remember what the exact total was.

JIMMY CARPER: Well, you see, we had a computer donated and some time and stuff. So in-kind donations totaled a little over \$6,000.

SPEAKER 2: Mhm, wow.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

SPEAKER 3: It's a wonderful event. It was started a number of years ago, basically to prove a point that the Houston Gay community has a great many live performers, the singers, and dancers, and--

JIMMY CARPER: And every time I--

SPEAKER 3: --People Who perform at shows just out of their strict generosity to help the community out.

JIMMY CARPER: And every time I go to one of these shows, I keep thinking, why don't these people have something on tape I can play on the air?

SPEAKER 3: I guess you'll have to show up next week and ask them.

JIMMY CARPER: I know. It's just I don't--

SPEAKER 3: I know you'll be there, so it's OK.

JIMMY CARPER: You bet I'll be there. You bet I'll be there. Along with Bruce and Judy Reeves, and Rainbo de Klown, and Jewel Gray will be there. And--

[LAUGHTER]

And then--

SPEAKER 3: Don't look at me, I didn't cause that.

JIMMY CARPER: No. I know Bobby is doing something here and I don't even want to know what that is. I don't know. Anyway, anyway, Bob, I want to thank you for stopping by.

SPEAKER 3: Oh, you're more than welcome. Thank you for asking me.

JIMMY CARPER: I'm looking at this thing and I don't know how you can make it any less.

SPEAKER 3: I have to chop it to a page, OK.

JIMMY CARPER: Well, then you'll have to get either a larger page, or a smaller type. [LAUGHTER] Because you can't jump any of this.

SPEAKER 3: No.

JIMMY CARPER: I mean, I didn't even mention that you were the male grand Marshal in the 1998 Grand Gay Pride.

SPEAKER 3: 1998. Yes, it was one of the honors and highlights of my life to do that. And I guess grateful I don't have to do it again. But it's awfully fun and wonderful to do it once anyway.

SPEAKER 2: We can buy tickets? Tickets for the performance.

SPEAKER 3: No tickets. Just show up.

JIMMY CARPER: Show up, and yes.

SPEAKER 3: Walk on in, buy yourself an adult refreshing beverage, and they'll be more than happy to see you there.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, and people will be there to-- if you want to make a donation on credit card, I think--

SPEAKER 3: Oh, you're 21? You are of age?

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

SPEAKER 3: Thank God, I found out he's legal.

[LAUGHTER]

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, my-- OK, that's [INAUDIBLE] end the show. Yes.

[LAUGHTER]

Bob, thanks for being here.

SPEAKER 3: Oh, you're more than welcome. Thank you much for asking.

JIMMY CARPER: OK. And I didn't mention, but it is transgender night, and we have-- oh, and today's Greenwich's birthday. He's in the lobby. And. He is no longer chicken he was far from it. He's turned the big 25-- 25.

SPEAKER 3: Woo.

JIMMY CARPER: Remember those days.

BETH RICHARD: Yeah, well, I can hardly remember those days.

JIMMY CARPER: Beth Richard is here.

BETH RICHARD: Yes, I am.

JIMMY CARPER: And you don't look any different, but there's been a huge difference in your life lately.

BETH RICHARD: Well, yes and no. It's really strange. In a lot of ways, it's not different at all, and in some ways it's extremely different.

JIMMY CARPER: OK. Tell me about it.

BETH RICHARD: So I think there's something that we've talked about on this show dozens and dozens of times in passing, but we've never really gotten into the details.

JIMMY CARPER: No, you're right. Because we never had anybody who would come on and talk about the details.

BETH RICHARD: And the details are, Sex Reassignment Surgery.

JIMMY CARPER: Uh-huh, SRS, the big SRS.

BETH RICHARD: Yeah. So for a person who's transsexual, that-- I don't know if I could claim it's the last step on the road, but it's certainly one of the later ones because there's been a whole lot of steps before this point.

JIMMY CARPER: No, I'm sure there has been.

BETH RICHARD: And there's going to be a whole lot of steps after this point. But they are involved in living life, not in coming to this goal. And I had some financial problems that were solved unexpectedly last fall, and was able to schedule surgery for this summer. I probably could have gotten it scheduled a little bit earlier than that. I didn't have to wait quite that long based on their scheduling. It was a matter of, I wanted to do that once the schools were out and my kids were out of school. All the things that--

JIMMY CARPER: Because you were married and you have two children.

BETH RICHARD: That's right. And my spouse is also involved in the school system, so that's when her time off was. So it made it really nice to have some-- after surgery, yeah, I need a lot of help getting around and that kind of thing. And so having somebody that was at home really made a big difference. So that's part of the reason why I waited that long.

But I flew up to Neenah, Wisconsin, which is where Dr. Eugene Schrang works. And he has been doing Sex Reassignment Surgery now for-- I guess it's about 12 years. So there's people who've been doing it longer. But one of the things that I liked a lot about his work is that he's always looking to improve. And so when I saw of his work, when I first met him in '93, versus when I saw him again in '95, saw him again. In '98, and then at various functions where he was presenting what it was he was doing, each of those times, they were very similar, but slightly different improvements along the way.

So I was very happy with that. There's a couple of doctors out there who are really the top of the top in terms of their quality and their reliability. But there's got to be 50 surgeons out there who do SRS just in the United States.

JIMMY CARPER: Really?

BETH RICHARD: Oh, yeah. It's a huge list. For instance, there's somebody down in Galveston.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, yes. Yeah, I know about him.

BETH RICHARD: Dr. Ted Huang. He does not do very many of them. As I understand it, he does a pretty good job, but he just doesn't do very many of them. And would you rather go to somebody who does it once or twice a day and has that level of proficiency, or once or twice a month and has that level of proficiency?

JIMMY CARPER: You want to go to the best one you can afford.

BETH RICHARD: Yeah. And so Schrang's prices, they change each year. And this year, for me, it was about \$16,500.

JIMMY CARPER: OK. What does that include?

BETH RICHARD: OK, now it's time for the details.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

[LAUGHTER]

You see, Beth, I've only known Beth.

BETH RICHARD: Yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: And so you come here and there's been a big change in your life, but I can't see it because you're the same Beth I've always known.

BETH RICHARD: OK. So we probably covered this back when we were doing the transgender 101 show way back when. But there's something called sex, and there's something called gender.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

BETH RICHARD: And they are two completely different things. Sex is what your body is. It's your anatomy, your chromosomes, your hormones, those kind of things. Gender is how you present yourself to the world, how you feel about yourself, your roles. So to put it in the most succinct and somewhat humorous fashion, the usual line is, gender's between your ears and sex is between your legs.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

BETH RICHARD: So since you haven't been seeing what's inside my jeans, you don't have any access to any of that, right?

JIMMY CARPER: No. See?

BETH RICHARD: And so in that way, to you, there's no change, right?

JIMMY CARPER: No, that's right. It's the presentation that's always been you.

BETH RICHARD: And so that's the part I was saying about how there's no change that's going on. Because the emotional person who I am, the way I think of myself, and the way I feel about myself, didn't change in any of this. What did change was my body and the way that-- to give you one example of how that has changed me in terms of emotion and the way I view myself-- today I was invited to a pool party.

JIMMY CARPER: Ooh.

BETH RICHARD: So I didn't have to wear shorts over my bathing suit. And I changed in the women's room just like everybody else instead of waiting until there was nobody there, and you go to the bathroom, and close the stall door. No, I didn't even bother. Because all the coping mechanisms and workarounds that I'd had to develop over the years are gone.

JIMMY CARPER: You see, I don't even think of that. Yes. And there's all of that that's unsaid, and people don't--

BETH RICHARD: Frankly, that's not a huge part of my life, having to deal with locker rooms.

JIMMY CARPER: Every time you have to deal with it--

BETH RICHARD: For every time I have to deal with it, it was a major pain in the butt.

JIMMY CARPER: And it was another remembrance of--

BETH RICHARD: And every morning, getting up and going to the bathroom, and standing in front of the mirror, or getting changed, or whatever. And so on June 27-- OK, let's get to the details.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

BETH RICHARD: OK. A lot of people--

JIMMY CARPER: On parade night.

[LAUGHTER]

BETH RICHARD: Yeah, it was. Well, actually, it was Thursday night, and parade was this Saturday.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

BETH RICHARD: And actually, the way Jimmy found out that I was in Wisconsin is because, I had been-- Jimmy in Gulf Coast Archives Museum came out to a presentation, a program that was being done by the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, And transgendered. Employee Organization where I work.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

BETH RICHARD: And it was originally scheduled for two weeks before, but we had a scheduling change. And so Jimmy's like, hey, where's Beth?

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

[LAUGHTER]

Oh, really? That's not [? you. ?]

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

[LAUGHTER]

BETH RICHARD: So I got on the plane on the 25th, which was a Tuesday. I got on on a Tuesday. I had my doctor's appointment, where I went in and saw the doctor on Wednesday afternoon. And basically, he explained the procedure to me in great detail and had me fill out the informed consent report stuff and all that. And then we did the exam. And he needed to just basically how much raw material he had to work with.

JIMMY CARPER: So to speak, yeah.

BETH RICHARD: Yeah. [CHUCKLING] And what's involved is that-- a lot of people think, oh, my God, you're getting your penis whacked off. No, it doesn't quite work that way. What really happens is, the penile skin is used to form the vagina.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

BETH RICHARD: And some people have more raw material to work with, and some people have less.

JIMMY CARPER: So yeah. Whatever you have on the outside, you now have on the inside.

BETH RICHARD: And so if you don't have a whole lot to work with, there's skin grafts that can be used to improve that situation.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, I see.

BETH RICHARD: For instance, some of the things that I've seen improvements in this guy's technique over the years is that, he used to take a rectangular section from below the belly button above the hairline and use that for a graft, which left a big old rectangular scar.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

BETH RICHARD: And that was hard to-- some people had a lot of trouble healing that, and leave a red and bumpy area. And then later on, he went to-- two crescent shapes on either side, which were easier to heal. And if you really did have it bad and needed scar reduction like plastic surgery, that was much easier to cope with than a big rectangular area.

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

BETH RICHARD: About five years ago, somebody came to him and said, how about if you use the scrotal skin? And he said, no, no, no, it's all full of hair, you don't want to put hair inside of there, that would be bad.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, yeah.

BETH RICHARD: And she said, well, what if I have electrolysis there?

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, my God.

[LAUGHTER]

BETH RICHARD: And his response was, Aw, [LAUGHTER] but if that's what you want to do, we can do that. And so for several years, he's been doing that. And he--

JIMMY CARPER: Hey, that would work because it's nice and stretchy.

BETH RICHARD: Yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: I have to ask a question because of something that I've heard.

BETH RICHARD: OK.

JIMMY CARPER: That when you take hormones, that the penis turns dark and shrinks.

BETH RICHARD: I don't know about the, "turns dark" part. Yeah, I guess it did get a little bit darker. And yeah, there's certain amount of shrinkage.

JIMMY CARPER: So how does that affect the surgery?

BETH RICHARD: That's what the skin grafts are for.

JIMMY CARPER: I see. I see. OK. OK.

BETH RICHARD: And so anyway, what he was doing was, he was taking portions of the testicle skin off, and he was setting them aside until later on the operation. He would use those to make the vaginal depth better.

JIMMY CARPER: Sure.

BETH RICHARD: And he's sitting there looking at the back of the scrotal skin saying, I can see all those hair follicles just sitting there. So he came up with the idea, well, what if he takes the scissors and the electrocautery pen and nips off all those hair follicles from the back side in his hand during surgery. You're already knocked out, you're not going to feel the pain of getting jacked by a needle. So he started doing that. And that's exactly the technique that I had done.

JIMMY CARPER: Uh.

BETH RICHARD: And it's not 100% guaranteed to kill every single hair, but neither is electrolysis.

JIMMY CARPER: True.

BETH RICHARD: So if something that you're really, really, really concerned about, go to electrolysis. Do it early. And if your hair grows back go, back to electrolysis and get it dealt with until it's really, really all gone. If it's something that you're just concerned with but not hyper concerned with, then the electrocautery method works pretty good.

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

BETH RICHARD: I did want to mention that of all those doctors that I mentioned at the [? 50 ?] or so, the two that really topped my list were Toby Meltzer, in Portland Oregon, and Dr. 'Gene Schrang here in Neenah. And it was almost a coin toss between the two of them in terms of their quality, their reliability, the aesthetic value, how good it looks, how well it works, and everything.

And mostly my reason for going to Schrang was because of my familiarity with them. Like I said. I first met him in '93. so I'd been following him a while.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, yeah, yeah. Well, you have to. You have to know these guys. I mean, you're putting your life in their hands.

BETH RICHARD: I absolutely am. And it's something that's important to me. I mean, there's guys out there--

JIMMY CARPER: Plus you're paying for it.

BETH RICHARD: Oh, you know I'm paying for it. I'll be paying for it for a long time to come too. There's surgeons out there who, on their good days, are absolute artists, and on their bad days, are absolute butchers.

JIMMY CARPER: Ooh.

BETH RICHARD: OK. So you take your chances, you throw the dice, those people usually come in less expensive and people go to them.

JIMMY CARPER: Hoping.

BETH RICHARD: Hoping.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

BETH RICHARD: And I just wasn't willing to take those kind of risks.

JIMMY CARPER: No, I don't blame you.

BETH RICHARD: So the difference in price is probably like somebody doing a \$10,000 job or a \$15,000 job, OK. So it's a lot of money either way you slice it.

JIMMY CARPER: Sure.

BETH RICHARD: So for a lot of money or a lot of money, OK. So it's more a lot of money, but it's still--

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, money.

BETH RICHARD: Uh, money.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, it is.

BETH RICHARD: But I'll go to the guy that does-- he's set up to do as many as nine a week. He usually does between 3 and 5.

JIMMY CARPER: Wow, that's a lot.

BETH RICHARD: I know the week I was there, there was a least five other people that were there. Now of course, he doesn't do that 52 weeks a year. He takes some time off to travel, other things, but that is a lot.

JIMMY CARPER: Going back to what you were talking about. He used the scrotal skin.

BETH RICHARD: Yes, it's is scrotal skin.

JIMMY CARPER: Did he also use skin grafts?

BETH RICHARD: So he's using the scrotal skin as skin grafts.

JIMMY CARPER: OK. OK.

BETH RICHARD: So I don't have any of those abdominal scars or anything.

JIMMY CARPER: OK. Great. I mean, what was he going to do with the scrotal skin anyway?

BETH RICHARD: Heave it.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

BETH RICHARD: Basically, pretty much true in any surgery, anything that doesn't get reused goes down to pathology. They check it all out and dispose of it as biohazard waste.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

BETH RICHARD: So that's what was happening for years with all that stuff that was perfectly usable.

JIMMY CARPER: Bobby has a question.

SPEAKER 6: So my next question, how long does this take to do?

BETH RICHARD: How long does the surgery itself takes?

SPEAKER 6: Yeah, the surgery itself, from beginning--

BETH RICHARD: So let me just finish about what actually gets done.

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

BETH RICHARD: If you're familiar with male anatomy, there's a big old muscle that runs right down the bottom side.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

BETH RICHARD: Yeah. OK. So that muscle has to get divided in two. And basically, the vaginal cavity will go up right through there. It's right where it is on a woman.

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

BETH RICHARD: And then the skin tube that's made from the penile outsides is used for that, along with the graft. The nerves that actually run through the penis and the part of the interiors is used for the clitoris.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh. No, wait a minute, let's go through that again.

BETH RICHARD: So the sensitive bits that were on my male anatomy are still there. They're just now moved to be the sensitive bits on my female anatomy.

JIMMY CARPER: Like the head of your penis?

BETH RICHARD: I couldn't tell you exactly which pieces are where. But he knows. He says that-- the way he explained it to me was, there's these two nerves that are the real main nerves that transmit the sensation. He knows right where they are, and he relocates them along with sufficient sensitive tissue to be the clitoris.

JIMMY CARPER: Wow.

SPEAKER 2: Well, Actually--

JIMMY CARPER: I had no idea.

SPEAKER 2: In child birth, that's exactly where the clitoris, as a female, when it gets the male hormone, that's what grows into the penis.

BETH RICHARD: Pre-natal.

SPEAKER 2: Yeah.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

BETH RICHARD: And that's what he did. Years ago, somebody came to him and said, hey, you're the plastic surgeon in town, and I want to have this operation. And he's like, pfft, I don't know anything about this. So he went and studied anatomy books and physiology books and figured out that, for every male part, there's an equivalent female part, and vice versa, with few exceptions.

And the exceptions are, the uterus, when in prenatal development, either you form testicles or you form a uterus. And if you don't form a uterus because you've got-- basically, it's the testosterone. It's not even the XY chromosome. It's the testosterone.

JIMMY CARPER: Wow.

BETH RICHARD: The XY chromosome tells the testosterone to kick off. But it's the testosterone that actually does the work. And inside of you right now, Jimmy, is a tiny little pocket that had you not had testosterone flowing through you in prenatal, you'd have had a uterus.

JIMMY CARPER: Wow.

BETH RICHARD: But it's like a 1/16 of an inch across because it never grew from the size it was before you were born.

JIMMY CARPER: Sure.

BETH RICHARD: So there's no way to replace a uterus. There's no way. Because you had the testosterone flow, those organs became testes that otherwise would have been ovaries.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

BETH RICHARD: So you can't back up. You can't turn those testes into ovaries.

JIMMY CARPER: Right.

BETH RICHARD: Too late all done.

JIMMY CARPER: All done.

BETH RICHARD: You can't back up. You can't take that tiny little 1/16 of an inch pocket and make it back into a full grown uterus. So I'm never going to have kids.

JIMMY CARPER: Well, you already did.

BETH RICHARD: So I already did. [LAUGHTER] And I'm never going to be able to bear children as a female. Actually, that's one of the reasons that I delayed as long as I did. Because my original plans were to have surgery sometime around the 87 to 90 time frame.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

BETH RICHARD: But the whole idea of not being able to be a parent really delayed things for me.

JIMMY CARPER: I can understand that.

BETH RICHARD: And it was around that same time that the opportunity to become a parent arrived, but not as a mother.

JIMMY CARPER: But not as a mother, right.

BETH RICHARD: At least biologically. In any case-- so I have a completely sensitive clitoris. I have a vagina. I have a urinary opening exactly like a female's would. I have outer labia. I have inner labia.

JIMMY CARPER: Really?

BETH RICHARD: Oh, yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: I thought there was another--

SPEAKER 2: [INAUDIBLE]

JIMMY CARPER: --another operation to do that.

BETH RICHARD: OK. So right now, the inner labia meet at the top. It's not very easy to describe. it's not closed.

JIMMY CARPER: Especially to gay men who are not familiar with this.

[LAUGHTER]

BETH RICHARD: The outer labia are come together at the bottom and are slightly separated at the top.

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

BETH RICHARD: And the reason for that is, if you take a fairly large graft, which is what we're talking about, that is, you would actually like cut off that piece of skin, it's very difficult for that to re-establish blood flow and take in the new position. So instead of taking it completely off, they open it out flat, and then roll it back up the other way to put the outside on the inside and use that for a lining. But they never actually cut off the blood supply. That's called a flap, as compared to a graft.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh.

BETH RICHARD: So that place where the blood supply was coming, that's at the top of the labia.

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

BETH RICHARD: So he couldn't cut that up because he didn't want to lose that blood supply. So what ends up happening is, there's a second surgery, which is completely cosmetic and optional, and not as many people go in for it. It's called, The labiaplasty.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

BETH RICHARD: And basically, at that point, he's going to take the inner labia that are connected at the top and split them apart and make them open again.

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

BETH RICHARD: Because what that is, if you look at a female labia, the inner labia-- the name of that kind of tissue is epithelial. It's got-- it makes mucus. It's slippery. It's wet.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes. Mucous membrane.

BETH RICHARD: And you don't have a lot of that to deal with in the external male anatomy.

JIMMY CARPER: You're right.

BETH RICHARD: So where do you get it from?

JIMMY CARPER: Where do you get mucous membrane from?

BETH RICHARD: How about the lining of urethra?

JIMMY CARPER: Whoa.

SPEAKER 2: Hello. So he's using urethra to make the inner lips. But again, he can't cut it all the way off at first, or he'll lose the blood supply. So he lays it inside, and it stays as a tube.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

BETH RICHARD: And then later at the labiaplasty stage, he'll open that tube up, and it'll be lips at that point-- the inner labia. And that's when he'll take after-- you have to wait a minimum of three months. For me it'll probably be a lot longer than because finances and all.

JIMMY CARPER: Sure.

BETH RICHARD: And that'll bring the top of the labia together.

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

BETH RICHARD: And the whole operation takes-- well, I wasn't very awake for it, so I can't really tell you personally. But I do know that mine was scheduled for 7:30 in the morning. And the person following me would have been scheduled for 11:00 if he'd had done two that day. So he gets somebody in there at 7:30 in the morning. He gets the next person in at 11:00. It can't be any longer than 3 and 1/2 hours.

JIMMY CARPER: Wow, that's a lot of work for 3 and 1/2 hours.

BETH RICHARD: Yes. And apparently, he says that the hardest part, in terms of the amount of work he has to do, is to open up that muscle, and to-- basically, he calls it, dissect out the vaginal cavity. That takes a while. It's pretty rough to do.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

BETH RICHARD: So that's the real time consumer right there.

JIMMY CARPER: OK. What happens to the testes?

BETH RICHARD: They're not used.

JIMMY CARPER: They go away or?

BETH RICHARD: Yeah, they go away. They go down to pathology. And if there's everything fine, they go in the biohazard waste.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah. OK. OK. So that's about the only part that went away.

BETH RICHARD: Some of the extra scrotal skin that it was beyond what he was going to use, and some of the erectile tissue he used for the base of the clitoris and the rest of it, also went away.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

BETH RICHARD: I'm trying to remember the medical names. It's like corpus spongiosum, and corpus cavernosum, and-- he uses a little bit of the spongiosum and the rest of that, and all the cavernosum is not used. But for the most part, all I can say is, it's a freaking miracle, Jimmy.

[LAUGHTER]

JIMMY CARPER: Now I want you to know that-- well, first of all, we have a whole lot of straight people who listen. And there are a whole lot of men out there right now who are going, oh, my God. No. Oh.

BETH RICHARD: They're sitting there crossing their legs. The weirdest thing about it, Jimmy, is-- I was saying, they take the sensitive bits and they keep them and they move them. And those sensitive bits don't hurt. They don't hurt at all. I mean, it's just-- in fact, they're very sensitive still, and they're just doing their job in their new location.

JIMMY CARPER: Good.

BETH RICHARD: But have you ever heard the phrase, "pulled a groin muscle?"

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

BETH RICHARD: I swear to God, that doctor pulled every groin muscle I got.

[LAUGHTER]

JIMMY CARPER: You are walking funny.

BETH RICHARD: The soreness is muscle soreness.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

BETH RICHARD: And I've got my little--

JIMMY CARPER: You got your little donut pillow.

BETH RICHARD: I Got my donut pillow here.

[LAUGHTER]

JIMMY CARPER: And now this has been six weeks.

BETH RICHARD: Yeah, six weeks and three days. It was six weeks as of last Thursday.

JIMMY CARPER: And she is wearing jeans.

BETH RICHARD: And I am wearing jeans.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

BETH RICHARD: They're relatively tight. I mean, they're not super tight.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, and there's no bulge.

BETH RICHARD: No bulge.

[LAUGHTER]

And so after the surgery, I remember waking up around 1:00, or 2:00, or so, for a second, literally. As my roommate was leaving and trying to say goodbye to me, and it's just like, one of these snapshot memories.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, yes, yes. I've had some surgery, yeah.

BETH RICHARD: Then the next thing I know it's 4:30 in the afternoon. And my nurse comes walking in my room and he's got his phone in his hand. And he says, let me see if she's awake. And I kind of blink at him. And he says, would you like to talk to Theresa. Theresa's my spouse.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh.

BETH RICHARD: And it was, oh, yeah. So he transferred her over to my phone at my bedside. And the first real memory I have after waking up from surgery is talking with my spouse.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, how nice.

BETH RICHARD: So that was just-- that really made it. That just great.

JIMMY CARPER: No kidding.

BETH RICHARD: We figured that I wasn't going to be any kind of great conversationalist for--