

JIMMY CARPER: You're listening to KPFT Houston and KEOS College Station. I'm Jimmy Carper, and we'll be bringing you *After Hours* very, very soon. But first, this is something I wanted to do last week. This is a song that I want to play to commemorate the Kerrville Folk Festival. It's a very important music festival that KPFT is involved with every year. This is the last weekend of it, which is--

I wanted to play it earlier but, hey, hey, hey, this is a song by Lacy J. Dalton, a woman that you may not have heard unless you're, oh, a person of a certain age. But it's a really great song commemorating songwriters. I heard her do this live at the BRB back-- ooh, almost 20 years ago. But this is for all those folks at the Kerrville Folk Festival.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

Lacy J. Dalton, 16th Avenue. That's for the folks in Kerrville this weekend. *After Hours* is a show about queers. It always has been, it always will be. But there's one thing that you may not realize out there, you may not think about or you may forget, that we're Americans too.

And with that in mind, I want to read something that came across my email desk this week. And it was said to have been written by a dentist in Australia. It goes like this, you probably missed it in the rush of news last week, but there was actually a report that someone in Pakistan had published in a newspaper an offer of a reward to anyone who killed an American, any American.

So I just thought that I would write and let them know what an American is, so that they would when they found one. An American is English or French or Italian, Irish, German, Spanish, Polish, Russian, or Greek. An American may also be Canadian, Mexican, African, Indian, Chinese, Japanese, Australian, Iranian, Asian, or Arab, or Pakistani, or Afghan.

An American may also be a Cherokee, Osage, Blackfoot, Navajo, Apache, or one of the many other tribes known as Native Americans. An American is Christian, or he could be Jewish, or Buddhist, or Muslim. In fact, there are more Muslims in America than in Afghanistan. The only difference is that in America, they are free to worship as each of them chooses.

An American is also free to believe in no religion. For that, he will answer only to God, not to the government or to armed thugs claiming to speak for the government and for God. An American is from the most prosperous land in the history of the world. The root of that prosperity can be found in the Declaration of Independence, which recognizes the God-given right of each man and woman to the pursuit of happiness.

An American is generous. Americans have helped out just about every other nation in the world in their time of need. When Afghanistan was overrun by the Soviet Army 20 years ago, Americans came with arms and supplies to enable the people to win back their country. As of the morning of September 11, Americans had given more than any other nation to the poor in Afghanistan.

Americans welcome the best, the best products, the best books, the best music, the best food, the best athletes, but they also welcome the least. The national symbol of America, the Statue of Liberty, welcomes your tired and your poor, your wretched refuse of your teeming shores, the homeless tempest tossed.

These in fact are the people who built America. Some of them were working in the Twin Towers the morning of September 11, earning a better life for their families. I've been told that the World Trade Center victims were from at least 30 different countries, cultures, and first languages, including those that aided and abetted the terrorists.

So you can try to kill an American if you must, Hitler did, so did General Tojo and Stalin, and Mao Tse-tung, and every bloodthirsty tyrant in the history of the world. But in doing so, you would just be killing yourself. This is because Americans are not a particular people from a particular place. They are the embodiment of the human spirit of freedom. Everyone who holds to that spirit everywhere is an American.

[THEME MUSIC]

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

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

[MUSIC PLAYING]

JIMMY CARPER: Hello, Houston and College Station, and the world. And welcome to the June 8 edition of *After Hours*. And this will be the last *After Hours* that you hear in this time frame. Starting next week, *After Hours* will come on an hour later, and we will also stay on an hour later. So as of next week, we are officially on Sunday morning, 1:00 to 4:00 AM.

There's been some controversy about that, but there's controversy about a lot of things any time there's a change in the schedule at the station. And I want to remind people that, remember that *After Hours* originally started as a two-hour program coming on Sunday mornings, 2:00 to 4:00 AM. So we've enjoyed a wonderful time slot for a very long time, and we're going to make the 1:00 to 4:00 AM a wonderful slot in the future.

Right now I want to say hello to my MBBS out there, Wilson and Gilbert and Paul and Terry, and especially the Tea Man, who is downtown at 1301 Franklin. And I got a letter this week from Randy. A brand new Randy that was looking for a pen pal, and I think that you might want to. He's a guy in his 40s, early 40s, and he's very tall, and he's looking for a pen pal. He's going to be out soon next year.

And Junior has finally sent a card. I know that Tara will be very happy. But he didn't send a picture. See Steven's, Steven's there-- no picture, no picture of Junior, but a really nice card. And thank you very much for that.

A couple of things before we get into it. Tonight is the second Saturday of the month, so we've got Transgender Night with Sarah DePalma, oh my god. And she's got it for us, she's been busy. And she's a redhead, so you know what that means. She's kind of in that same kind of ilk as [INAUDIBLE] Glass, if you've ever listened to the *Prison* program. Yes.

But a few things first, the parade volunteer meeting, June the 11th. Now this is very important. This is from the Pride committee that they need help with pulling off the largest Pride parade in the Southwest. The Pride community of Houston will host the Pride Parade volunteer interest session, oh brother just-- if you want to volunteer to help with the parade, Tuesday, June the 11th.

And of course, the Pride Parade is Saturday, June the 29th. Pride committee members who organized the annual nighttime GLBT Pride Parade and other events said that there are a variety of jobs available during the parade and throughout the day. So everyone's interest and schedules can be accommodated. That will be June the 11th 7:00 PM at the Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center, 803 Hawthorn.

The Stage Door Divas is holding the third of their trilogy for fundraising events that will help the PWA Holiday Charities. This happens on Sunday, Sunday, Sunday, June the 9th, that's officially today. And that will be at 8:30 at the Briarpatch. It's the annual Broadway drag show, and the tips will all be donated to charities. There's a grand prize raffle drawing of a 25 inch color TV if you buy raffle tickets there. And they've got some silent auctions also.

The Gay Men's Chorus of Houston proudly presents their pride concert celebration, and that's happening right now this weekend, Saturday, Sunday, Monday and Tuesday. Let's see. Now the Sunday, the one that you can catch is at 3:00 PM at the Heinen Theater, 3517 Austin street. Also Monday and Tuesday at 8:00 PM at the same location. And you can get tickets there at the door.

Theater Suburbia is doing a special pride performance on Wednesday, June 26 at 8:00 PM. It's a Pride Week event, and the performance will benefit both the Pride committee in the Gulf Coast Archive and Museum. The show is called *Comfort And Joy*. And it's the story of people and their relationships. Included in the confusion, I mean cast, are the man and his new lover trying desperately to share their first Christmas together. But the new lover has a brother intruding, and oh no, the mother is on her way from Houston.

Ooh, I'm out of breath. A delightful refreshing beverage will help. Of course, the popping in and out of the ferry only-- well, you'll just have to see for yourself. It's yeah, it's going to be really quite funny. Tickets are 20 bucks, and like I said, it's a fundraiser for the Pride committee in the Gulf Coast Archive and Museum. And you can get tickets at 713-227-5973 number 1.

And Men of all Shades are meeting at the Community Center the second Sunday of the month, which would be this Sunday? Would it?

SARAH This Sunday.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: This Sunday, Sunday, Sunday. That's right at 2:00 PM at the Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center 803 Hawthorn. MASH, Men of All Shades.

[LAUGHS]

MASH has been designed to meet the educational, social supportive, and networking needs of those men in the GLBT community, who are inclined to interracial dating and coupling, said MASH leader, Steven Jerome.

[LAUGHS]

Is there something you want to say, dear?

SARAH I just-- I want to go back to the MASH part for a minute.

DEPALMA:

[LAUGHTER]

I think it's a rather interesting name.

JIMMY CARPER: Isn't that?

SARAH Yeah. It certainly connotes a certain image in my mind, but OK.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: Yes. Yes. Interested individuals may contact Steven Jerome at 832-455-2032, or just show up tomorrow at 2:00 PM at the Lesbian and Gay Community Center. And there are a whole bunch of things in the Community Center that are coming up this month--

SARAH Including they really need money, and they need it right now. No joke. Meaning, folks, they are like on the verge of really seriously going under. So let me put it to you this way, if you have anything at all to do with the Lesbian Gay Community Center, get your buns down there and write them a check pronto. They need it. It's just that simple. It's a long involved story about how they got into this situation, but it ain't their fault.

JIMMY CARPER: No, it isn't.

SARAH They need money right now, or they're liable to get their butts evicted. Write them a check, they need it.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: You bet. You bet, OK. And now it's time for-- let me have that back, we may talk about that later on in the show.

SARAH Yeah, we might. We might talk about a lot of things later in the show.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, we will because we normally have Francisco Sanchez on the second half, but now that he's Mr. Dianne Hardy Garcia, without all the prejudices--

SARAH We hope.

DEPALMA:

[LAUGHS]

JIMMY CARPER: Oh yes, oh come on. Francisco has been with this show long enough, and worked with transgendered and bisexual people.

SARAH I must tell you, he's 100% improvement as much over Dianne.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, that's what I said last week. Yes. Absolutely. I feel like-- now I know that there is a voice in Austin speaking for me.

SARAH He's a great choice.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, he is.

SARAH Yeah.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah. And I am so sorry--

SARAH Besides I really like Francisco.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: I know. I'm so sorry to lose him. Do you know I was just shocked, and of course it made me feel like a grandfather, which I could be, but Francisco Sanchez is one of those who listened to this show with the radio under the pillow.

SARAH It's funny, I'm getting more and more of that. The longer am with the show, the more I'm hearing from people

DEPALMA: who say that they transitioned because they heard this show. Or they discussed it with their parents because of something that we said. And it's one of the really neat things about doing this show.

JIMMY CARPER: And it's amazing that someone young or even old can find this show but they-- word gets around.

SARAH We have a big internet audience, you mean.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, we do.

SARAH You would really be shocked. And I'm getting emails from all over the country, and people are listening to us on

DEPALMA: the net from literally all over the world. I tried very hard, for this show, I really wanted to do a show about Arab transgendered people.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, I know, you told me.

SARAH And I worked at it and worked at it and worked at it, and at the last minute, all three of them backed out.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: Ooh, ouch.

SARAH So well it was not totally unexpected, I had a backup show in mind. And it's understandable that they would be

DEPALMA: so afraid.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

SARAH But at the same time as one of them said to me, you realize, of course, that we do listen to you on the internet

DEPALMA: even in Europe. So it's an interesting thing, yeah, we're a small station in a little neighborhood, and you think, well, gee, this show doesn't really amount to much. Wrong.

JIMMY CARPER: Wrong, yes.

SARAH Wrong. There's no telling who listens to us, and what they're doing, and how they hear us, or even what language they understand it.

JIMMY CARPER: People know about this show from so many different sources that I couldn't even keep track of them all because people tell people tell people tell people.

SARAH That's what's happened in this case, transgender people have sent emails to here, there, and everywhere. I've gotten emails from Sweden, and I've done interviews with the Australian Broadcast System and the BBC, and it's incredible.

JIMMY CARPER: So if you're--

SARAH --for a little bitty station.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: --if you're out there and you have friends who are not in the KPFT listening audience in the area--

SARAH Where have you been, and why aren't you listening?

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: --well, tell your friends who aren't in this listening area that they can listen in on www.kpft.org.

SARAH And they are listening in.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

SARAH They really are. Tonight's topic is going to be, actually, two different things. Lately, I have been doing a lot of writing for some national newspapers. And I'm now writing for a newspaper that is being read in all of New England, and into parts of New York and New Jersey. I'm also writing for the largest gay and lesbian newspaper in the state of Florida.

And I thought perhaps it would be interesting to share some of these editorials and articles. So for the early part of the show tonight, I'm going to read one of the editorials. Some of them will be about transgendered issues, some won't. This one is not. It's about a more generalized subject, about paranoia.

And then later, the second part, we're going to be talking about transgender pride, the people, the places, the events, the things that we should feel proud of during Pride Month, including the incredible change in the way the gay community has reacted to us in the last few years, everybody ought to be proud.

JIMMY CARPER: I think so.

SARAH Yeah.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: Go.

SARAH OK. I love it when he does that to me. He's reading a note, and I have no idea what he's reading, but he'll tell me shortly.

JIMMY CARPER: A man liked your opening, and this man happens to be a conservative, and owns a gun shop in the Heights.

PRESENTER 1: No, no, your--

SARAH Oh that scares me.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, I wasn't supposed to say that, huh?

[LAUGHS]

Why did you write it if I'm not supposed to say it?

PRESENTER 1: Your opening.

JIMMY CARPER: My opening? My opening.

SARAH Yeah.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: Oh the--

SARAH The opening that you did about America, Jimmy.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, yes.

SARAH Yeah.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: That, yeah. I like that too. I--

SARAH I hope he likes--

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: I wish I wasn't so out of breath.

SARAH I hope he likes the article I'm going to say next.

DEPALMA:

[LAUGHTER]

Maybe he will, maybe he won't.

JIMMY CARPER: Well, that's the kind of station this is, you'll like something we say one minute, and you'll really hate what we say the next, but--

SARAH Well, that ain't nothing new around here as they say.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah. It's a matter of different opinions.

SARAH And I want to say hello to the Transgendered Aggies.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: Oh and there's a lot of them.

SARAH Well, I've joined the Transgender Aggie list. And there are quite a few Transgendered Aggies, and much more

DEPALMA: than I would have guessed. And I sort of have been acting as a sort of de facto counselor to some of these folks.

They're young, very bright, finishing up their degrees in some cases, and others, they're not so far along yet. But these people are way ahead of any curve that I ever heard of when I was starting out the transition. So good for them.

JIMMY CARPER: Good for them.

SARAH You bet you.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: And I want to interject here that the man in the Heights who was a Conservative, my lover of 24 years is also a Conservative, so.

SARAH Yes, he is. We've had him to a couple of barbecues, and we've had him out. And yes, he is a Conservative.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: Very much a Conservative, and--

SARAH Well, but he's not nuts, he's just a Conservative. There's a difference.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: No, he's very conservative. And it's because of his Conservative fiscal ideas that I'm able to do this show.

SARAH Well, that counts for something, yeah.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: That counts for a lot, yes.

SARAH Oh truth is, he's a softy.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: He is a softy. And my liberalism kind of takes the edge off his conservatism, and vice versa.

SARAH Yeah, you balance each other out.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah. And when I start spouting something way off the top, I try to think about him and maybe I soften.

SARAH He votes for Bush and you vote for anybody but Bush. It's a real easy setup.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, kind of is.

[LAUGHTER]

OK, let's not get too far into that. I think you better get on your editorial.

SARAH I'm sorry, that was just sitting there waiting for me.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: I think Bobby has something to add here.

BOBBY: I have only one thing to say, not to interrupt, but my best friend of eight years is straight, white, almost 50, and a Republican.

SARAH Oh my god, do these people really exist? I thought they all lived down in Sugar Land.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, they do. No, they-- no.

BOBBY: No, she lives by the Galleria.

SARAH All right. I thought all the straight white people live in Sugar Land or Katy, and they--

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: No.

SARAH --and they didn't like gay kids who wrote things in the yearbooks.

DEPALMA:

[LAUGHTER]

That's not true?

BOBBY: Not entirely.

SARAH Oh god, we're going to be sued by the Katy ISD, I can see it now.

DEPALMA:

[LAUGHS]

BOBBY: You better go.

JIMMY CARPER: You better go, girl.

BOBBY: And she reads tarot cards.

[LAUGHS]

SARAH I'll have you know I do not read tarot cards, terror cards.

DEPALMA:

BOBBY: My best friend reads tarot.

SARAH Oh your best friend reads tarot? OK, I buy that.

DEPALMA:

BOBBY: She's a Republican, who reads tarot cards.

SARAH Yeah, well. You know, if she can read tea leaves, she'd be smart enough not to be a Republican, but that's all

DEPALMA: right. That's all right, I didn't really say that.

OK. As I said in the early part of the show, I've been doing some writing for several newspapers around the country. And some of my writing is transgendered-related, and some of it isn't. Tonight, this particular editorial is not. This is about a more generalized subject. It's really about paranoia of sorts, but it's titled, Learn From Our History Or Repeat It.

Like millions of aging baby boomers, I grew up in the '50s and '60s. Actually, the so-called Cold War era wasn't really a lot different than today. Our technology has improved, but our level of paranoia is very much the same. I was in third grade at the time of the Cuban Missile Crisis when President Kennedy came on television and told us that nuclear war with the Russians was imminent.

I didn't quite grasp what an embargo was, but I sure as hell understood what bend over and kiss your butt goodbye meant. We really were ignorant about what a nuclear weapon might do. My father threw dirt over our basement door and put up aluminum foil on the basement windows to hold out the radiation.

Now I know that in retrospect, this really sounds stupid, but you have to understand that our government was busily withholding information from us at every opportunity. I clearly remember a film we saw in school titled, *Nuclear Power Is Our Friend*. The film explained that in case we were in school at the time of an attack, we should duck under our desks and cover our heads. Never mind that we had a wall full of windows to our left, just duck and cover.

My favorite piece of advice suggested that if I happen to see a nuclear mushroom cloud while walking home, I should pull a newspaper over my head and throw myself next to the gutter. Many years later, I visited Hiroshima, Japan and viewed their museum. Dr. Carl Sagan was right when he said that the United States and Russia were like two children in a room full of gasoline while one said to the other, I have more matches than you do.

In a nuclear exchange, duck and cover meant evaporation while in an uncomfortable position. The Cold War is gone, but we have replaced the Russians with a new enemy, he almost certainly wears a beard. He wants to blow up tall buildings in a single attempt, his religion is violent, and he kills women and children. Of course, I'm talking about the dreaded Arab. I say Arab instead of Arab terrorists because after all, how can we tell the difference?

Unfortunately, hate is an easily transferable trait for us. During World War II, we hated the Japs, the Cold War had the Russkies. Remember the only good red is a dead red? And now we hate the Arabs. There is a small problem with all of this, the Japanese-Americans were just as appalled at Pearl Harbor as anyone was. The Russian people were just as afraid of nuclear war as we were, and of course, the Arab-American community was utterly shocked by the events at the World Trade Center.

There is a saying suggesting that just because you're paranoid, doesn't mean they are not out to get you. But is all of this paranoia necessary? Should we start teaching kids to duck and cover again? Some people have suggested that this era is different because an actual attack took place on American soil, and the threats of attacks are aimed at civilians.

I understand this thinking, but I must ask, how is this different from going to bed every night wondering if we would face a nuclear attack while we slept? How many tens of millions of women and children would have died then?

In the early '50s, we went through a phase called the Red Scare. Senator Joseph McCarthy built a career by demanding to know, are you now or have you ever been a member of the Communist party? Lives were ruined and careers were destroyed. Homosexuals or as the transcribed tapes called them, perverts, were ruthlessly sought out and ruined. We saw communists under every rock.

Today, we see a terrorist under every rock. We refuse to ride on planes with Arab-Americans. Many Americans openly say they are willing to trade some freedom for perceived safety. Congress proposes enormous budgets for counter-terrorism strategies, we need Homeland Security. But I have to ask the question that everyone else seems frightened to ask, does any of this make us safer, or does it simply play to our ever increasing sense of paranoia? And do we know which is which?

We lived under an umbrella of nuclear weapons that could have destroyed the world many times over, but in the end, we went about our lives doing everyday things. And in the end, that is also what we will do now. We will buy groceries, do laundry and hug our partners before we leave for work each day. We will learn to live with our anxiety and separate the real issues from imagined fears. We can only hope that we will soon understand that trading rights for perceived safety is a slippery slope with no bottom in sight.

Let us be careful not to confuse stereotypes with realities. A communist was not hiding under every rock. People who opposed the Vietnam War in the '60s were not traitors, and nuclear weapon never was a peacekeeper, and every person of perceived Arab descent is not a terrorist. We must learn to understand that Homeland Security makes sense, but instilling fear into our every waking moment is senseless.

Like many of you, I have lived through the past eras, and they were not so much fun that I would care to repeat them. One item we should never forget, however, is that there have been numerous instances in the past where our government has misled us in order to achieve its own agenda.

Let's use our knowledge of history in such a manner that we will not be doomed to repeat it. Let's stay aware of the real dangers, but remain vigilant against ideologues. Our freedom depends on knowing the difference.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

JIMMY CARPER: Ah yes. And Whitney called to say, great editorial, Sarah. It really needed to be said, and I agree.

SARAH Well, thank you. Thank you. It's one of those things-- you watch the news, and I think it's easy to sit back as you
DEPALMA: watch television and just let the news come to you, and never really think about what it means. And it's worried me more and more. I've been listening to a radio show, I guess I can say it, it's a Sam Donaldson show, it's on KTA--

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, before we get to that, though, I wanted to expand on the promo I just did for Jennifer Wagner's show. She's doing *Reach Out Into The Darkness*. She does that-- well, she does it every week at 3:00 to 6:00 AM. And that's going to be live music from three different women, Tacy Smyth, Kerry Ann Buchanan, and Christie Claxton.

Christie Claxton-- that's background music, I think. Christy Claxton, who has been on this show many, many times, I play her. I'll probably be ending the show with one of the first songs tonight, but this is going to be very, very special because it's going to be taped, and it has plans to be a CD.

SARAH Oh, cool.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: So it's called Ladies Night Volume 3, and it's ladies live on the air featuring our community's own, Christy Claxton. OK, June 11, 3:00 to 6:00 AM. Now maybe we can go ahead and turn on some folks in there.

SARAH Uh-huh.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

STEPHEN: Would you care to rephrase that?

[LAUGHTER]

JIMMY CARPER: Oh this has not been a good night, has it? OK. Jackie Thorn is joining us along with our regulars. We've got Bobby, we've got David.

BOBBY: Hello.

JIMMY CARPER: We've got Stephen. Hi, Stephen.

STEPHEN: Hi.

JIMMY CARPER: Hey, David.

DAVID: Hi.

JIMMY CARPER: Hey.

SARAH Oh, lots of different voices this time.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: Oh David's got the dick car.

SARAH Yeah, he's got the radiating voice, yeah.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, yes.

SARAH The great--

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: No, no, not the voice. He's got the car.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

BOBBY: Because he gives the most look.

JIMMY CARPER: He's looking at me with that look. Oh come on, that car, I mean, you can pick up any--

BOBBY: Featuring as an aircraft carrier. I think I just-- I have a small little thing. It gets good gas mileage, it's cute, but in a butch way.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, right. Guess what? Mine don't.

STEPHEN: The only thing butch about this spoon.

JIMMY CARPER: And Stephen has this truck that's bigger than my first apartment.

[LAUGHTER]

And it's got two television sets.

STEPHEN: Yeah, we watch Ricki Lake in it after eating at Denny's like seven of us just all get set aside for an hour.

SARAH Why would you watch Ricki Lake ever for any reason?

DEPALMA:

STEPHEN: I don't know There was nothing else on.

SARAH It looks funny. No, it was one of those ones like--

DEPALMA:

DAVID: Because she was in shampoo, or hairspray or whatever it was.

SARAH OK.

DEPALMA:

STEPHEN: No, no. It's because you know the guy behind the door is going to say that he slept with the guy on stage not the girl.

JIMMY CARPER: OK, whatever.

SARAH OK.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: It's just-- I don't know. It's just this huge thing, but both of them, I mean, they can--

SARAH Why thank you. Or you mean the truck.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: David's is the dick car but you could pick up a whole herd of them.

[LAUGHTER]

STEPHEN: And has.

SARAH And have a party.

DEPALMA:

[LAUGHTER]

JIMMY CARPER: Ooh.

SARAH Well, before we leave that editorial altogether, I just wanted to make one comment about that, about the

DEPALMA: editorial itself.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, that's-- we were serious, weren't we?

SARAH Yeah, I was completely serious.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: OK, yes.

SARAH And that is, it bothers me that I'm hearing more and more Americans say that they're willing to trade some rights

DEPALMA: for safety.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, I know, that drives me crazy.

SARAH That's making me insane.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

SARAH As Lori likes to say, people who give up rights usually don't get them back.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, it's so easy to give them up, but it's not so easy to get them back. That's right.

SARAH Well, and the thing is, it's perceived safety. Will any of this really stops somebody from blowing up the San

DEPALMA: Francisco bridge if they want to? No.

JIMMY CARPER: Probably not.

SARAH Yeah So I just think we need to think about this and look at it from perhaps a longer perspective. And it's easy to

DEPALMA: watch television and let the news come to you, it's much harder to think about it and reach your own independent conclusion.

STEPHEN: There was someone who made the comment one time, and the name escapes me, but they said, those who are willing to give up their rights for safety deserve neither.

SARAH Well, to paraphrase it, Benjamin Franklin actually. But generally, I think that's true. I think it's a real dangerous

DEPALMA: idea to decide this concept of we're giving what we will trade rights for security. The last country I knew of that did that was called the Soviet Union.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

SARAH Yeah. And so it worries me--

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: We know how well that worked out for them.

SARAH Yeah, I can see how well it's worked out in Iran too, so.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

STEPHEN: Yeah, and Germany in the '30s also.

SARAH Germany in the '30s, yeah, exactly right. It was the saying about if you don't know your history, you're doomed to

DEPALMA: repeat it. Yeah, I think there's a lot of wisdom in that, so.

JIMMY CARPER: So how about those trannies?

SARAH Yes, so let's get the transgender portion of the show.

DEPALMA:

[LAUGHTER]

JIMMY CARPER: Why not?

SARAH As we're sitting here in Pride Month, I wanted to talk about Transgender Pride. The kind of things, the events, the

DEPALMA: people, the places. The things that have happened that should make us proud about being transgendered. And I want to start out as I always do by talking to some of the transgendered youth out there right out of the chute here tonight.

JIMMY CARPER: Good idea.

SARAH I know I've been getting your emails, and I know some of you have suggested to me that there's nothing about

DEPALMA: being transgendered that would bring about pride. To which I say-- to which I say, get into our world.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes. What world are they in?

SARAH There's a--

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: Don't they ever hear the beginning of this show?

SARAH Well, there's a certain group in our community who talks about transgendered, and they like to call the phrase

DEPALMA: being gender gifted. And for a long time, I thought that was the most absurd idea I'd ever heard. What do you mean being transgendered is gender gifted?

Well, actually, it turns out there's a lot to that. Having lived on both sides of the world, male and female, so to speak, you're really a wise person in many, many ways. And it truly is a gift. The trick is learning how to make it productive. And that's the hard part.

But to say that being transgender-- there's nothing about being transgender that should bring about pride, oh, you're living in a different world than the rest of us.

JIMMY CARPER: No.

SARAH I mean, they're living in a different world.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: They are. Yes, they are, yes.

SARAH They are. And that's what this show tonight is for you. So if you're one of those transgendered youth who's been

DEPALMA: sending me emails and saying, this is just awful, and gee, I feel like I should jump off a bridge or this is a curse that's been put upon me, pay attention. By the time this show is through tonight, yeah, I don't think you'll feel that way.

JIMMY CARPER: You know GLB or T, pride has to come from inside. And you have to be happy with what you see in the mirror. You may not always like it, all of it, but you have to look in the mirror and say, that's me.

SARAH Well, in the early stages of transition, nobody likes what they see.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: There you go.

SARAH I mean to be fair, no one does. I didn't.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: And when you're--

SARAH I've hidden virtually every picture except one. Lori found one, but I've gotten rid of every other picture from that

DEPALMA: time period.

JIMMY CARPER: And let me tell you when you're on radio, you never like your voice over the air.

SARAH That's true. That's true.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: You never like it.

SARAH What's the saying? Oh, that's not me, is it? I don't sound like that.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: Why do I sound so-- why do I sound so funky?

JACKIE THORN: Oh god, yeah. That's the truth.

SARAH But it's true. In the early stages of transition, you're neither here nor there. You're neither male or female, and in

DEPALMA: some cases, you're really-- you may be off to a really rough start. You look in the mirror, you want to find Marilyn Monroe, but what you see is a black swan.

And it's hard to get started. But you have to keep a perspective about it to realize that if you stay at it, it does get better. So in some sense I understand it when young transgendered people say, well, gee, this is kind of a curse. And if you're 16 and you're trapped at home, it is a curse of sorts. And not be the first one to admit that.

Having said that, it doesn't stay that way forever and ever. Get your education, get your independence, and then you can do whatever the hell you want.

JIMMY CARPER: Being a teenager is a curse, because you are trapped at home. It doesn't matter what you are, gay, GLBT or straight or questioning. You're trying to break free, you're trying to be more than you're allowed to be. It's just a--

SARAH You want to be--

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: --just a crummy time.

SARAH You want to be popular. You want to be popular, you want to be an individual, but you want to be part of the

DEPALMA: crowd.

JIMMY CARPER: Yup.

[LAUGHTER]

SARAH That's a little conflicting.

DEPALMA:

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, it is. Yes. We want you to be your own individual but not too individual.

BOBBY: You want to be unique, just like everybody else.

SARAH Just like everyone else. That's right. They used to say about the hippies that it was non-conforming conformity.

DEPALMA:

[LAUGHTER]

And there was a certain amount of truth to that. And being a teenager, that's certainly the case. And it's especially hard if you've got parents that are leaning all over you, or if you have been a victim of violence, or you fear that you will be a victim of violence. Let's face it, it's not easy.

We can joke about this incident of the young man out in Katy who wrote this article. And that may or may not have actually turned out to have been a case of homophobia, but we certainly see cases around the country where teenagers in high schools, transgender teenagers in high schools or freshman and sophomore year of college run into some terrible, terrible roadblocks.

The thing that's different though, and I wanted to get this across. The thing that's different now than it was five years ago is today there are allies on your side. When we started to fight this five or six years ago, there was nobody helping us. We had to take every case to court. And if we could find a lawyer that could even spell transgendered, we were doing pretty good.

And so it was a really, really hard. It's a much different world for transgender teenagers today in that more and more people are getting on the wagon. They're coming to understand what transgendered is, they're recognizing it in teenagers at an earlier age than they ever have.

Counselors at both the school setting and in other professional settings have a much better grasp on the subject now than they did five years ago. And there's really no reason any longer for young transgendered people to despair and say, oh, gee, golly poor me. You can go to the internet, put in the word transgender and my god, you get 1,300 hits.

I mean, this sounds like I'm so old and I'm really not, I'm only talking about here five or six years ago. But it wasn't that long ago that we were getting phone calls here at the station, oh my god, I'm so glad to find this show, I thought I was the only one.

DAVID:

Well, it wasn't that long ago that the T wasn't even added to the GLBT, wasn't it?