

**SARAH** Well, 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.

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

**SARAH** That's true.

**DEPALMA:**

**JACKIE** No, exactly.

**THORNE:**

**SARAH** Yeah, yeah, go ahead, Jackie.

**DEPALMA:**

**JACKIE** Well, the other thing I-- of course, you're talking about five years or 10 years ago, this September will be 20

**THORNE:** years for me being out in the Houston area here. And as far as pride is concerned, in my personal feeling on the matter is, like Jimmy said, you've got to like yourself first before you have any pride whatsoever. And that encompasses also the belief that you are a worthwhile individual, that you are an individual, and that you are entitled to live your life in a way that is comfortable for you and that's, of course, as you say, a great many strides have been taken.

The thing that I have noticed and I made the comment to somebody earlier today that not only is the transgender group making strides, but the entire GLBT community is making strides because here, this last time around in the elections, OK, we lost by what? 2%, or 3%, or something like that on that prop two. But I can remember back in 1985 when we lost four to one. So--

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah, it was a landslide then.

**JACKIE** Yeah.

**THORNE:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** In just 15 short years, we have really grown as a community.

**SARAH** What Jackie is not saying-- because she's modest about this-- what Jackie is not saying is that she personally has

**DEPALMA:** helped hundreds of transgender people--

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

**SARAH** --to find their way and to find their way up and out. And Jackie, I would say, right off the top, we're going to start

**DEPALMA:** naming people to be proud of, Jackie is pretty close to the top of that list.

**JIMMY CARPER:** You bet. In 1988 when I first started with the *Switchboard* and this show, Jackie's name was used as-- this is a person--

**SARAH** She was the trans-student. She was it.

**DEPALMA:**

[LAUGHTER]

**JIMMY CARPER:** She and Phyllis send me notes with the name-- those written names. So they were the people out there that have been doing-- fighting the good fight.

**JACKIE** Well, obviously, I was--

**THORNE:**

**SARAH** Honestly she doesn't not that large.

**DEPALMA:**

**JACKIE** I was not the--

**THORNE:**

**SARAH** She's old.

**DEPALMA:**

**JACKIE** --only one out there. Phyllis Frye has been out there much longer than I have, Renee Finner and some of the

**THORNE:** others. But I was very, very fortunate in this in the fact that I'm a single individual. My kids were grown and gone, so I didn't have to concern myself with that. I was self-employed, so I didn't have to worry about getting fired. My house was paid for. So basically, I could tell the world to go stick it.

[LAUGHTER]

And I was able to be out. And to my telephone number and so forth like that, people could call me.

**SARAH** And they did, didn't they, Jackie? Including the redhead sitting over here.

**DEPALMA:**

**JACKIE** Well, I think you and I met through the court more.

**THORNE:**

**SARAH** Actually, I answered one of your ads--

**DEPALMA:**

**JACKIE** Did you?

**THORNE:**

**SARAH** --that you had in twit. And that was how you and I met as you came up to my crummy, old apartment in the

**DEPALMA:** Heights.

**JACKIE** Yeah, I remember that.

**THORNE:**

[LAUGHTER]

And then you also got involved in the court and--

**SARAH** Well, a little bit. That's right. And you took me out to the Tri-S, and you introduced me to GCTC. That's right.

**DEPALMA:**

**JACKIE** Yeah, but the other thing too that a lot of people don't realize is the vast, vast network of support groups that are available. And, I mean, the people that are in East frog strangle or someplace like that--

[LAUGHTER]

--they don't have one. But by George, they can make use of the organizations that are in the larger towns, such as Houston, Fort Worth, Dallas. Austin has a group. San Antonio has a group. I think Corpus has even got a group now.

**SARAH** Well, I got to tell you, as long as we're going to talk about people to be proud of and as long as we're going to talk about inclusion, there's only one name that comes to mind.

**JIMMY CARPER:** What?

**SARAH** That name is Phyllis Frye.

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** You bet.

**JACKIE** Exactly.

**THORNE:**

**SARAH** When it comes to inclusion, there ain't nobody, anywhere, any time who fought longer, harder, louder, meaner,

**DEPALMA:** nastier, and more effectively than Phyllis did.

**JIMMY CARPER:** She is the Ray Hill of the transgender community.

**SARAH** She is absolutely right. She is the Ray Hill of the transgender community. And I tell you what, the Houston

**DEPALMA:** community owes her just about-- and I think she's received every award there is to receive.

**JIMMY CARPER:** I think so.

**SARAH** She's received every national award, every city-estate award, and well-deserved. Now, for the people-- for the

**DEPALMA:** young people that are out there, I was talking about, look, because you're being transgendered, you shouldn't be despairing. Let me suggest a web page here.

**JIMMY CARPER:** OK.

**SARAH** OK, I'm not going to give this particular web address because this goes on and on and on. So let me instead tell you that you can use the pointer on your computer. And if you will put in the words "TS women's successes," or if you will, put in the name Lynn, L-Y-N-N, Conway, C-O-N-W-A-Y. This was suggested to me by Beth Richards, and she was exactly right. Go to this page.

There is literally biography after biography after biography of successful transgender people. People who have come through some of the most difficult stories that you can imagine and have become tremendous successes, either personally, or through business, or through the political and you name it.

And so for the youth that are out there and they're saying, oh, well, G, this being transgendered is a curse and it makes my life so hard, it doesn't have to stay that way. And I really encourage you, go to this page, take your time, go through those biographies. Go through those links. There are links. I mean, it will keep you busy for hours. If you can still read all of that and still think that it's a curse, there may be no hope for you.

I mean, it's just incredible that the amount-- that the number of biographies and to see who these people are engineers, Air Force pilots, FAA personnel, you name it. You name a profession and these are successful transgendered people who have negotiated their way through life.

**JIMMY CARPER:** OK.

**SARAH** So there's one at the top of the list.

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** And let's play a song kind of rounding out this little section because this is kind of puts the icing on the cake.

**SARAH** Go for it.

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** It's a little number that I love to play from the *Queer as Folk* soundtrack. Yeah, *Proud* by Heather Small. That's from the *Queer as Folk* soundtrack.

**SARAH** What a great piece of music.

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Isn't that a great piece of music?

**SARAH** Yeah.

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Before we get into that, I wanted to talk to Jackie about the state show diva thing because this is a great fundraiser for the PWA charity fund.

**SARAH** Is she over there? I can't see her.

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** She's got her headphones on.

**JACKIE** Here we go.

**THORNE:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Stage door diva, now, this is kind of a trilogy thing, isn't it? That you've been doing three Sundays in a row?

**JACKIE** Just about. The stage door diva is basically a group that was formed, oh gosh, probably about seven years ago-

**THORNE:** -

**JIMMY CARPER:** Wait a minute.

**JACKIE** --at the Briar Patch and because, of course, the Briar Patch is a piano bar. Are we OK? There we go, OK. But the stage door divas is a group that was formed at the Briar Patch about seven years ago. The Briar Patch is a piano bar, but they also are very, very into the Broadway shows and production numbers and songs and so forth like that.

And every year, the stage door divas would put on a party in conjunction with the Tony Awards. And they would have sheet that you can mark off which one you thought was going to win, and then whoever had the most right got some kind of a little prize. And it kind of evolved into a fundraising organization because we have a couple of garage sales a year, usually one in the spring, one in the fall.

And in addition to that, they also had the Briar Patch follies, which kind of was wrapped into the stage door divas as a fundraising organization. And this year are two beneficiaries for this year that the money will go to are the PWA holiday charities and the Assisters. And-- anyhow, two weeks ago, we had our bar tour, and we were out selling raffle tickets and so forth at the different bars and letting people know about the shows coming up. On June the 2nd, of course, was the Tony's Award. And we had people there, and we gave out some of the raffle prizes.

**JIMMY CARPER:** I didn't win anything.

**JACKIE** Yeah, well, I did.

**THORNE:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** You sure did. You racked up.

**JACKIE** Yeah, but we also have a bunch of raffle prizes still left as well as the grand prize, which is a 25-inch colored television set. And you do not have to be there to win the thing. On the little stub is you put your name and your phone number. And if you win something, we will contact you and get whatever your prize is get it to you.

In addition to that, we also have several silent auction items, one of which is a full-sized, handmade quilt that in the rainbow colors that

**JIMMY CARPER:** I saw it. It is--

**JACKIE** --was by Marc Christian. It is absolutely gorgeous.

**THORNE:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** It is the most magnificent thing.

**JACKIE** I mean, if you were to try and go out and buy this at one of these bed and beyond or whatever, you'd pay several dollars for it.

**JIMMY CARPER:** It a square set about 5 inch 4 to 5 inches--

**JACKIE** 5 inches.

**THORNE:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** --squares.

**JACKIE** And each one of them has all six colors in.

**THORNE:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** All six colors, yeah. And then it's a kind of--

**JACKIE** Yeah, it's kind of a--

**THORNE:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** This way that way OK, yeah. OK a fair.

**JACKIE** Effect.

**THORNE:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** It's just beautiful.

**JACKIE** Absolutely gorgeous thing. And then like I said, they've got a couple of other items also on the silent auction. And

**THORNE:** then the show, this coming-- well, this evening--

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes.

**JACKIE** --at 8:00 tonight, it's Sunday night, at the Briar Patch, will be an all Broadway production show. And some of

**THORNE:** them will be-- I hesitate to use the word straight but as opposed to comic, there will be--

**SARAH** Oh, OK, we follow that one.

**DEPALMA:**

**JACKIE** There will be a number of camp comic type productions by the-- because some of us, myself included, kind of

**THORNE:** sick and twisted in what we do. But it should be an excellent show. We've got a couple of people that sing live as well.

**JIMMY CARPER:** And you know there's going to be those serious diva numbers that you get--

**JACKIE** Oh, yeah.

**THORNE:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** --from *Dreamgirls*. And I'm telling you I'm not going and all that.

**JACKIE** Well, no no no.

**THORNE:**

**SARAH** All the standards.

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah, all the things you can be dramatic there.

**JACKIE** Actually not really. A lot of the numbers are--

**THORNE:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Are current?

**JACKIE** Yeah, are current numbers. For instance, one of the numbers I'm planning on doing is *that You've Got it, Flaunt it* from Producers.

**SARAH** If you knew Jackie, you'd know how appropriate that song is.

**DEPALMA:**

[LAUGHTER]

**JACKIE** And I'll wait till you see my costume, girl.

**THORNE:**

**SARAH** Oh my god.

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh my.

**JACKIE** Hula lives again.

**THORNE:**

[LAUGHTER]

But and then--

**JIMMY CARPER:** But there was one Broadway show that is just so bizarre. I mean, I had never even heard of it. It's called *Urinetown*.

**JACKIE** Yeah, *Urinetown*. Yeah, and well--

**THORNE:**

**SARAH** Wasn't that a pre-Springsteen?

**DEPALMA:**

[LAUGHTER]

**JACKIE** Yeah. The--

**THORNE:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** It sounds like something that goes on over at the ripcord.

**JACKIE** Yeah.

**THORNE:**

**SARAH** Yeah, OK, I'm not going there.

**DEPALMA:**

**JACKIE** The premise behind that was-- and surprisingly enough, it is a musical.

**THORNE:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes.

**JACKIE** But the premise behind it was is that somewhere in the future, like about 10 years down the road, water became  
**THORNE:** so precious that people were taxed to go to the bathroom.

**SARAH** Hey, Jackie.

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Wow.

**SARAH** Jackie Lurie wants to know if this is going to be performed by the performance artist Annie Sprinkle.

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh.

**JACKIE** Oh, oh, you are sick.

**THORNE:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** The mistress of bad pun.

[LAUGHTER]

**SARAH** I'm sorry, that was sitting out there. It was too easy. Thank you, Laurie.

**DEPALMA:**

**JACKIE** But anyhow, there will be several other things that will be done from some of the current shows and so forth as

**THORNE:** well as some of the older shows.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Well, I will be disappointed that no one does it and that *Dreamgirls* song because I look forward to it.

**JACKIE** Talk to--

**THORNE:**

**SARAH** Take any song you ever got by Ethel Merman--

**DEPALMA:**

**JACKIE** --Porcelana about that one.

**THORNE:**

**SARAH** --the drag queen has done it.

**DEPALMA:**

**JACKIE** Yeah, talk to Porcelana. Well, that's the problem is in a Broadway show like that, of course, there's such a variety  
**THORNE:** to choose from. And things like from *Dreamgirls* and so forth like that, I mean, they've been done to death.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah, well, what about the new revival of *Oklahoma*?

**JACKIE** No, exactly.

**THORNE:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** If you're gay and you don't know every song from *Oklahoma*, you need to turn in your car.

**SARAH** Is there anyone who actually admits to being from Oklahoma?

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Well, you can admit being from there. You just can't admit being there now.

**JACKIE** Surprisingly enough, there is a--

**THORNE:**

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

**SARAH** Folks on the internet, I apologize if you're listening in Oklahoma.

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** I know what I know what I know.

**DAVID:** Nowadays I hear the word Oklahoma and I don't think of the Broadway thing. I think of a movie called *Oklahoma*, but that's a whole another--

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

**JIMMY CARPER:** And then since David has lost his card--

**DAVID:** There's a line--

**JIMMY CARPER:** Get out.

[LAUGHTER]

**JACKIE** But the Oklahoma City actually has a sizable GLBT community there.

**THORNE:**

**DAVID:** Yes, they do.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes. Oh, yes.

**JACKIE** Yeah.

**THORNE:**

**SARAH** I'm just--

**DEPALMA:**

**JACKIE** The Havana.

**THORNE:**

**SARAH** I'm just picking at them. Listen, I'm an Aggie. I'm an easy target.

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** This is a great, great fundraiser that has grown over the years and for two great organizations, the PWA charity--

**JACKIE** Holiday charity.

**THORNE:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** --holiday charities, and assist hers, which is my personal favorite, because this is a group of lesbians who come and help out other women in their time of need.

**JACKIE** Yeah.

**THORNE:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** And it may be a temporary thing like you broke your leg and you live alone and you need somebody to cut your grass. There's someone in this organization that will come and do that.

**SARAH** Cool.

**DEPALMA:**

**JACKIE** Well, the thing--

**THORNE:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Women helping women.

**JACKIE** I have always, always had a warm place in my heart, aside from the fact that I'm heterosexual, but for women

**THORNE:** because when I first came out, I would go to Bacchus, which was right down the street here, and around the corner on Stanford was Twins, and then over off of Buffalo Speedway was Kindred Spirits and so forth. But the thing that just struck me was that back in the early '80s before we really knew what the hell AIDS was and the Red Cross and all the hospitals and so forth like that wouldn't touch gay men's blood with a 10-foot pole or a 6-foot Frenchman either--

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah.

[CHUCKLES]

**JACKIE** --but here were the lesbian women that were lining up to give blood to provide to these AID wards for the gay

**THORNE:** men.

**JIMMY CARPER:** I will never forget how the lesbians came forth first--

**JACKIE** I mean, they really came through for us.

**THORNE:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** --to help us out. I will never forget that. And that's why I really promote anything for breast cancer or--

**JACKIE** Cervical cancer, I mean, is a growing thing now. I mean, they say that because of the fact that the lesbians are

**THORNE:** less likely to have children that they are at a higher risk for cervical cancer as well.

**DAVID:** My sister is also-- just accepts volunteers for men who would like to help.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh, I didn't know that.

**DAVID:** Yes, they came to HATCH, and they explained everything. And they're like, we specialize in women, but if a man wants to volunteer and help out and sometimes--

**JIMMY CARPER:** He can do the decorating or pick out colors for repainting and so--

[LAUGHTER]

**DAVID:** Interior design.

**JACKIE** So it was kind of a-- many of our women are getting to their age where they're at risk and some of them are  
**THORNE:** getting breast cancer and cervical cancer, and we kind of need the men to help out now.

**SARAH** You were also telling me about HATCH and transgender.

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** I didn't know that.

**DAVID:** Oh, we get-- I was?

**SARAH** Yeah, wasn't you that was telling me--

**DEPALMA:**

**DAVID:** That was me?

**SARAH** I'm sorry.

**DEPALMA:**

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

**DAVID:** It was one of us.

**STEVEN:** I don't remember. Yeah, we have quite a few transgendered kids come to HATCH. And they're a lot of fun. I mean, sometimes for the new kids, it's like, how do I refer to them and everything? It's just like, yeah, well--

**SARAH** The real super rule--

**DEPALMA:**

**STEVEN:** If we know beforehand--

**SARAH** --you refer to them as the way they're dressed.

**DEPALMA:**

**STEVEN:** Yes, yes.

**SARAH** That's simple.

**DEPALMA:**

**JACKIE** Yeah, that's the easiest thing.

**THORNE:**

**SARAH** Yeah.

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah.

**STEVEN:** But, yeah, we have a lot of fun there. I just here recently aged out and I dearly miss it and I miss a bunch of friends. But we've had learned a whole bunch from that place. And, yeah, it's been great.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh my god, you're 21.

**STEVEN:** Yes, I'm legal.

[LAUGHTER]

**DAVID:** Oh, you've been legal for quite a bit, for quite a while.

**SARAH** I want to be 21 again.

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh, never, never.

**JACKIE** And knowing what I know now. And knowing what I--

**THORNE:**

**SARAH** And knowing what we know now.

**DEPALMA:**

**DAVID:** Yeah, you're right.

**JIMMY CARPER:** I was bored.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

**JACKIE** Oh, trust me, I'd be dangerous.

**THORNE:**

**DAVID:** You couldn't pay me enough to be 21 again. No thank you.

**JIMMY CARPER:** I was 21 at the best time ever.

**STEVEN:** I'm still 19.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Let me tell you.

**SARAH** Yeah, I was 21 through the '60s--

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah.

**SARAH** --and I was a happy kid.

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh, boy, Howdy.

**SARAH** What I remember the '60s was excellent.

**DEPALMA:**

[LAUGHTER]

**JIMMY CARPER:** That's right, 1969.

**DAVID:** I don't remember anything of the '60s.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh, shut up.

**DAVID:** I was only to an end. Anywho--

**SARAH** Just go ahead, rub it in. But we old hippies never die. We just get greyer hair.

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** That's right. You're listening to KPFT, Houston in KEO West College Station. This is *After Hours Queer Radio with Attitude*. Tonight is transgender night. We've got Sarah DePalma here and a whole bevy of beauties in there starting with Jackie Thorne and Bobby Pagano.

**BOBBY** Hello.

**PAGANO:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** And we've got David and Steven also.

**STEVEN:** Hi.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah.

**DAVID:** Hello, don't sound too enthusiastic. Honey, it's 1 o'clock in the morning.

**JIMMY CARPER:** I like having a lot of folks around because you get a lot of different--

**SARAH** You get energy.

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** --energy, energy and lots of different opinions on whatever we're talking about.

**SARAH** I don't agree with that.

**DEPALMA:**

[LAUGHTER]

**JIMMY CARPER:** Whatever we're talking about is what Sarah is going to talk about next.

**SARAH** Well, again, I want to go back to talking about the transgender youth for a minute. Here's something to be proud

**DEPALMA:** of, it's called PFLAG.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes.

**DAVID:** Yes.

**SARAH** PFLAG. And PFLAG has done an outstanding job of becoming transgender inclusive. They are just loaded down

**DEPALMA:** with all kinds of good information. And one of the biggest issues for transgenders is always, oh my god, I'm going to have to deal with parents.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah.

**SARAH** I'm going to have to deal with grandparents, gets deal with aunts and uncles. Let me tell you something, PFLAG is the place to go. And their website is real easy to remember. How about this? [www.pflag.org](http://www.pflag.org).

**JIMMY CARPER:** That'll do it.

**SARAH** OK, real easy. You go to their website, it is just chock-full of good information, links all over the place. You want to know what to tell your parents? PFLAG's the place to go. You want to know when is the best time to tell them? PFLAG is the place to go. There is no reason--

**JIMMY CARPER:** Or even if

**SARAH** Or even if, yeah-- and once again, I get these emails. People say, oh, I could never tell my parents. I felt that way too. But I'm at the stage where I can tell anybody anything. If they don't like it, they can piss off.

**JACKIE** Well, the thing about--

**THORNE:**

**SARAH** Trust me, you'll learn to change that--

**DEPALMA:**

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

**DAVID:** You really have to be nice about it sometimes.

**SARAH** I'm nice when it's for-- I'm nice when most of the time but when other measures are required, I have very good things.

**JACKIE** Well, the thing about parents and so forth like that is that invariably, they're going to find way or the other.

**THORNE:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh, yeah. If they don't already know.

**JACKIE** Yeah, at some point-- yeah, right, exactly if they already know.

**THORNE:**

**SARAH** You can tell them voluntarily or you can get caught.

**DEPALMA:**

**JACKIE** Yeah. And, yeah, and, of course, the--

**THORNE:**

**SARAH** Voluntarily is better.

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** The problem is always better.

**JACKIE** Yeah, the problem with that is that you need to be prepared to answer their questions because the amount of misinformation that's out there-- I mean, just because you wear a dress, well, you're a flaming faggot. Well, that ain't necessarily so.

**JIMMY CARPER:** No, no.

**SARAH** Well, let me tell you how not to tell your parents.

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh.

**SARAH** This is how not to tell your parents. I was involved with a lawsuit with Texas A&M that we went to the Fifth Circuit

**DEPALMA:** court of Appeals. For some reason, it didn't occur to me that the network television stations were going to cover it. So I walked out arm in arm and realized that all three networks were filming and I had to call my parents and say, before you watch Dan Rather tonight, there's something I really need to tell you.

[LAUGHTER]

So as an example of what not to do and how not to do it, in that spirit, I would say go to the PFLAG web page and learn a better way.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah. You're kidding.

**JACKIE** Boy, that's called really coming out.

**THORNE:**

**SARAH** And my parents lived in this real small town in Connecticut where everybody knew everybody. And it was not a

**DEPALMA:** good time in the household. So I don't recommend it. But seriously, if you're a teenager or if you're a parent and you want information about your transgendered kids or your transgender people around you, go to PFLAG.

In the same vein, there's another organization I want to recommend to you, and this organization is called COLAGE. This is Children Of Lesbians And Gays Everywhere. If you've not heard of them, you should. We had Diane Cicatello's daughter on the show.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes. That was a terrific, terrific interview.

**SARAH** And she spent a good deal of time talking about COLAGE. This again, a very easy thing to find on the web [www.COLAGE.org](http://www.COLAGE.org).

**DEPALMA:** That's [www.COLAGE.org](http://www.COLAGE.org). They are loaded with good information and it's just exactly what it says. It's a web page for the children of lesbians and gays and it might add transgenders. It is in there by the way.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes.

**SARAH** And I really recommend it. This is one of the big things that we have that we should really be proud of, Jimmy,

**DEPALMA:** and that is the resources that we are making available now to teenagers.

**DAVID:** I can't help but remember as we're talking about bad ways to come out that my parents found out from the dean of students of my high school.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Ooh.

**SARAH** Oh, no, that's not a good way.

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** No.

**SARAH** And what year was this?

**DEPALMA:**

**DAVID:** Let's see, I was a freshman sophomore in high school. I was--

**JACKIE** Probably about 15.

**THORNE:**

**SARAH** 52.

**DEPALMA:**

[CHUCKLES]

**DAVID:** This is somewhere-- this is the mid '80s. This is like '85, '86.

**SARAH** Well, one of the things that has really changed, when I was growing up, any kid that looks gay, acted gay, which

**DEPALMA:** and to be gay didn't require much. All I had to do is drink something with your pinkie in the air.

**JIMMY CARPER:** There you go.

**SARAH** They were faggots.

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah.

**SARAH** Today, schools, most schools won't tolerate that kind of harassment.

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Because they know they'll get sued.

**JACKIE** Yeah, yeah, there have been enough suits where they've gotten nailed for it.

**THORNE:**

**SARAH** But something to be proud of that the teenagers now have some place that they can go with this instead of just

**DEPALMA:** getting beat up behind the high school.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah.

**SARAH** Times are changing. And there is legal recourse. And there are resources for teenagers today that were beyond

**DEPALMA:** my wildest imaginings when I grew up in the '50s. And so that is something that I think we have a good right to be proud of.

And for those of you who are young and are just trying to learn, let me tell you, I don't think anybody, any of the transgendered people who went before you are just screaming saying, you must respect us, you must respect us. What we want from you is to take advantage of the resources we've laid out there for you.

**JACKIE** Well, one other thing also that-- one other resource that I would strongly recommend to them, in fact, I do when people call me, is the public library at the city or the county level. If you have a library available to you of any kind or, and particularly if you've got one at a college or university, go in there and whip up their computer and look under transgendered, transsexual, transvestite, cross-dresser and I guarantee you, you'll have-- the amount of literature is absolutely incredible. And it is not BS.

There has been a lot of-- in the last 10 to 15 years, there has been an incredible amount of research and publication on the subject by people who literally know what they're talking about. My problem was, in one respect, I was very, very fortunate in when I was in junior high and high school, I had a job feeding the research animals at the local hospital at the research lab there. And as a consequence, I had access to the medical library. And I was able to look up-- this was-- giving my age away-- but this was back before Christine Jorgenson.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Wow.

**JACKIE** So I was able to look up the transsexual, transgender, cross-dresser. And the problem that we had back then was,

**THORNE:** first of all, there was a extreme scarcity of anything on the subject to start with. And secondly, the authors of what was there were people who were not transgender themselves had a bias against it in most cases were male medical doctors and thought that they could not understand why in the hell any male would want to be a female. And so essentially, I was having to read between the lines and through the biases of the authors there.

**SARAH** One of the things that we have most to be proud of, Jackie, is that today transgendered people are speaking for  
**DEPALMA:** themselves.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes.

**JACKIE** Yes.

**THORNE:**

**SARAH** That's a big thing.

**DEPALMA:**

**JACKIE** No, exactly.

**THORNE:**

**SARAH** No longer do we have medical doctors telling us what we're about. We're telling them what it's about.

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** That's a huge step.

**SARAH** It is a big step.

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Very huge step we learned that when we had to spend all of those years having straight people speak for us in politics. And once we started having GLBT people on city council and then higher up, we actually had a real voice.

**SARAH** And that's exactly what it takes. And Jackie is exactly right in that we were being defined by people who really knew very little about us.

**JACKIE** Exactly.

**THORNE:**

**SARAH** Today the transgender community, both locally and nationally, is defining itself. And they're not allowing people

**DEPALMA:** to tell them what-- tell us what we are. We're telling them what we are. And it's a big change.

**JIMMY CARPER:** That's the way it should be.

**SARAH** And it's true, both at the political level and in more importantly, it's now true with our therapists and in with-- and

**DEPALMA:** no longer are we letting the therapist define us. There was a time not that long ago when a therapist told you, get your surgery, move to a new town, change your name, and start your life over. Leave everything behind you and start over. Today if a therapist gives you that advice, you walk the heck out of their office.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Absolutely.

**SARAH** Because it's a totally different world. And it wasn't that long ago. We're talking 5 to 10 years ago that doctors

**DEPALMA:** were telling us that.

**JIMMY CARPER:** If you've been on the show--

**SARAH** Transgenders won't allow that.

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** You've been on this show since 1994.

**SARAH** 1994, that's right

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** And the changes that have occurred just since I've been doing the show.

**SARAH** Jimmy, when we started we were-- this was the only transgender radio show in the entire world.

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah.

**SARAH** Today, there are lots of them. And they're springing up all over the country. And that's fabulous.

**DEPALMA:**

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

**SARAH** And it's something that we should be proud of and it's something we should take pride in. And it's another

**DEPALMA:** example of how we're no longer letting other people define us. We're getting access to the media now. And I don't mean talking-- I'm not talking about Jerry Springer.

**JIMMY CARPER:** No.

**SARAH** But we're getting access to the media to present our own voices in our own terms. And it's something we learned

**DEPALMA:** from the gay community. The gay community taught us that that's something we had to do if we want it to be understood.

**DAVID:** It seems-- oh--

**JIMMY CARPER:** David, go ahead.

**JACKIE** Well, one other thing also is with regard to the therapist and the counselors, I can remember as short a time ago  
**THORNE:** as five years ago, talking with transgendered people who were in counseling in therapy saying that I'm spending all my time explaining to this therapist--

**SARAH** G, how many times did I say that in this show?

**DEPALMA:**

**JACKIE** --who I am and what I am. They're learning on my buck.

**THORNE:**

**SARAH** Yeah, why am I paying them \$110 an hour to educate them? Yes.

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** David.

**DAVID:** I was speaking of the media. I was just thinking of all the-- how it's moved from no longer a punchline or a, oh my god, it's a man in that dress, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, to movies like *Flawless* with De Niro and movies that have the protagonist is a transgendered man or woman. You're not changing the opinion of the people around them.

**SARAH** We should be proud of GLAD for that, for Gay and Lesbian Anti-Defamation. They have done a terrific job for the

**DEPALMA:** transgender community because they stood up and fought for us when no one else would in the media. And it was no easy thing for them. They took a lot of criticism from within the gay community that after all, their title said gay and lesbian, what are they doing out there protecting transgender people in the media? And they hung in there, and they deserve a lot of credit for that.

**JIMMY CARPER:** It took a lot for the gay community to be educated also. Something that you just said, David, reminded me of the very first time that I met Sarah.

**SARAH** Oh, yeah.

**DEPALMA:**

[CHUCKLES]

**JIMMY CARPER:** On this show, Sarah was a guess for someone else who was a co-host on the show who did not show up that night

**SARAH** Yeah, the co-host didn't show.

**DEPALMA:**

**DAVID:** Oops.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Now Sarah showed up-- it had been a riotous night, and one of the folks that hang around here, not anymore, but had put a hula skirt on me because she had been to a luau thing. And she said, oh, I brought this skirt for you. So Sarah walks in to meet me in. I'm standing there in a hula skirt.

**SARAH** And I thought, oh, I'm going to like this three of you.

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** However, the first thing I said to her when I opened up the mics was-- go ahead.

**SARAH** G, you don't look like a transsexual?

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** No, no, no, that's not what I said.

**SARAH** Well, what was it?

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** G, you don't look like a man in a dress.

**SARAH** Don't looks like a man in the dress, yeah.

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** I said that on the air.

**SARAH** Yeah.

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** 1994.

**DAVID:** However, you did. You, Jimmy, did.

**JIMMY CARPER:** I did.

**SARAH** But Jimmy learned.

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** That's right. That's right. And that's where you go from. And so when somebody comes up to you and says that, try to think that this person needs to be educated.

**SARAH** I get that. I still get from legislators. And I should probably shouldn't tell this on the air but it's late at night, so no

**DEPALMA:** legislator would ever dare to listen to this. I have learned--

**JACKIE** Unless they're transgendered.

**THORNE:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah.

**SARAH** I have learned to use my-- how can I put this politely? My dumpiness. I've learned to use this as is a effective

**DEPALMA:** tactic when lobbying. I don't fit any stereotype they have ever had of a transgendered person.

**JIMMY CARPER:** No.

**SARAH** I'm short. I'm overweight. I look like a Jewish grandma.

**DEPALMA:**

[LAUGHTER]

**JIMMY CARPER:** You look like a little Italian lady.

**SARAH** A little Italian ladies fine.

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah.

**SARAH** And so I look really harmless.

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh, and she ain't.

**DAVID:** A little Italian mother.

**SARAH** I like to tell people--

**DEPALMA:**

**JACKIE** Mom jar, mom jar.

**THORNE:**

**SARAH** --I'm little and I'm harmless just like a piranha.

**DEPALMA:**

[LAUGHTER]

And the legislators they like to put their arm around me and they'd like this gee--

**DAVID:** Be careful they don't draw back a knob.

**SARAH** --until I sit down and tell them what it is I want from them in really plain English.

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah.

**SARAH** And then they kind of think, where the hell did this bitch come from? Well, the point is you use what you got. And

**DEPALMA:** if that's what you got, you learn to be good at it. And so, yeah, Jimmy said that. And I've heard some-- I've gone back and listen-- over the years, I've listened to some of the other tapes and other people who said things on the show and shook my head and went, what? But it's all right. Everybody learned.

**JIMMY CARPER:** It came from a point of ignorance. I thought I was being nice by trying to say that you look real.

**SARAH** Yeah. My favorite story about people saying things they don't mean is D McKellar went to a class-- went to speak

**DEPALMA:** to a class one time. And the class was-- D McKellar didn't fit any stereotype either. And somebody said to her, oh, you mean you used to be a guy? Can you do something in guy? And so she looked at him and she burped.

[LAUGHTER]

**JACKIE** Well, the other--

**THORNE:**

**SARAH** It's just that.

**DEPALMA:**

**JACKIE** You mentioned interacting with the legislators and so forth like that. And this is one of the things that the

**THORNE:** transgender community has done and, of course, Sarah has been at the forefront of this. And that has been the last four or five legislative sessions TGAIN, of which Sarah is one of the founders, I believe, or at least the movers and shakers

**SARAH** Still I'm.

**DEPALMA:**

**JACKIE** TGAIN has had lobby days up there in the Texas legislature in Austin. And as far as being proud and being out

**THORNE:** and really getting a feeling of power as to come clipping through the halls of the Capitol up there in Austin with your high heels clicking on that marble on there and here, there is nothing like it. And we've been doing this for-- what? We had about 100 people this last time.

**SARAH** We had 54 this last time.

**DEPALMA:**

**JACKIE** I thought we had--

**THORNE:**

**SARAH** But you have to remember the first time that we went, Jackie, we had five.

**DEPALMA:**

**JACKIE** Five, yeah.

**THORNE:**

**SARAH** We had five people the first time. And I think we had 15 seconds, something along those lines. Something that I

**DEPALMA:** am really proud of is not so much the fact how much TGAIN has or hasn't achieved, it's the fact that we got people involved that never would have.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah.

**JACKIE** Not only that but we've--

**THORNE:**

**SARAH** And so many of them came back to me afterwards and said, this has really been an empowering experience

**DEPALMA:** because I didn't think my government worked for me. It worked for everyone else.

**JACKIE** And it has been an--

**THORNE:**

**SARAH** And if that's all you get out of it, it was worth going.

**DEPALMA:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes, it was.

**JACKIE** And it's been an educational experience for the legislators because they realized that we have a different-- and I hesitate to use the word agenda. But we have a different need for them to minister to us from a legal standpoint.

**SARAH** Our presentation is different than gays and lesbians.

**DEPALMA:**

**JACKIE** Yeah, exactly.

**THORNE:**

**SARAH** And they don't know what to make of us.

**DEPALMA:**

**JACKIE** Yeah, exactly.

**THORNE:**

**SARAH** Which is good. It actually works in our favor. Let me talk about another group. As long as we're talking about this,

**DEPALMA:** let me talk about another group that we should be proud of. This is called the Transgender Law and Policy Institute.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Boy, you bet.

**SARAH** This is an organization that-- what they do is they document different legal proceedings all around the country

**DEPALMA:** and put them in one central website. And I really want to recommend this website because this group, they really do a great job. And I know that there are a lot of people out there who might be surprised to find that transgenders have gone to court and the transgenders have won in court.

And I would say to you, honey, this is another example where we have a right to be proud, whether it has been with people like Phyllis, or it's been with Paisley Currah, or with Alyson Meiselman, or I could go on and on and on. There are in any number of transgendered lawyers today, out, proud, effective transgendered lawyers that didn't exist 10 years ago, five years ago and today they are educated. They can take cases to the Supreme Court. They know what they're talking about. This is a huge change.

And again, it's something we learned from the transgender community. And that-- from the gay and lesbian community. And that is if you want to make a presentation, there's nothing like making the presentation for yourself.

**JACKIE** The other thing too is that Phyllis Frye was-- and when she was vice president of Gulf Coast Transgender

**THORNE:** community, initiated the International Conference on Transgender Law and Employment Policy, ICLAP, that ran for about six years. And basically, the first couple of years the lawyers were almost, with the exception of Phyllis, were almost exclusively gay or lesbian lawyers. But they came together-- and there were some straight lawyers as well.

But they came together to bring together the various laws that affected-- They did a study of the various laws that affected, both positively and negatively, transgendered individuals. And then they went beyond that in that they established what needed to be changed and--

**SARAH** They set the agenda for change.

**DEPALMA:**

**JACKIE** Yeah. Yeah, they pushed for legislation to correct these wrongs. And a lot of the legislation that you were reading about now, where this city or that county or this state has incorporated gender identity into its non-discrimination policies, is specifically because of the work that was done initially at ICLAP. And I do not know what the address is, but Phyllis has a legal group in the, or not a group, but a legal website that has a lot of this information in there also.

**DAVID:** Do you-- just pardon my naivete. But do you get a lot of, in the courts, is there a lot of opposition based on religious methodology?

**JACKIE** Yes.

**THORNE:**

**DAVID:** Or I just didn't know if it was-- you got this the same amount, or less, or more quotations from the Bible than gay.

**JACKIE** We get some of it. It's basically the religious-- the ones who have religious objections don't differentiate between transgendered and gay and lesbians. As far as they're concerned, we're all queer.

**JIMMY CARPER:** OK, we need to hold up here a minute because we have our regular feature, 130, every Sunday morning. I don't know what that's going to do in the future. We've got Dean Becker--

**JACKIE** Drink an extra cup of coffee.

**THORNE:**

**JIMMY CARPER:** --with *Cultural Baggage*. And if you will press Air and press that green, blinking light till it turns red and Dean Becker should be on the air.

**DEAN BECKER:** Hello.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Hey, Dean Becker. How are you doing?

**DEAN BECKER:** Well, hey, Jim, how are you doing?

**JIMMY CARPER:** Fine, fine. You probably haven't heard, but *After Hours* is changing time. Instead of midnight to 3:00 it's going to be 1:00 to 4:00. So--

**DEAN BECKER:** Moved an hour.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah. Yeah, I'll have to call you and we can see what we're doing. But I--

**JACKIE** Is this queer savings time?

**THORNE:**

[CHUCKLES]

**JIMMY CARPER:** I see on the schedule that you are going to be doing a show every other week on--

**DEAN BECKER:** Every other Friday at midnight.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes, Friday, midnight to 1:00. And it's called?

**DEAN BECKER:** *Cultural Baggage, the Unvarnished Drug War News.*

**JIMMY CARPER:** I love that. I love that. So I'll be seeing you because I also-- I'm the co-host for *Esoteric Adventures*.

**DEAN BECKER:** Well, wonderful.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah, we follow that. So--

**DEAN BECKER:** Well, that's great.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Great. So are you going to be here like this Friday?