

**GLEN MAXEY:** March on Austin on the 17th of March. It's my firmest hope that somewhere out there in West Texas, there's that 14 or 15-year-old gay man or young lesbian who saw that news story and said, hey, I'm not alone. There are other people out there.

It's that-- as a teenager in Baytown Texas, I listened to radio shows like this late at night thinking, there are other people out there, I'm not alone. And looked for those news headlines in the newspaper about Gay Pride in San Francisco or what the community was doing here in Houston, but I was too afraid and too scared to drive on down the freeway to check it out.

20 years later, I sit in this position, and I hope that by being someone who's open and out and in the public eye that I can be a role model for young people and for that matter, for the rest of the community, people who may be in their 50s and still have never come out.

**BUDDY:** That's what we enjoy about our little show because when we first started doing this, they said, what do you want to do? And I said, well, I want to talk to our community after they get home from the bars on Sunday morning, and say, there is hope. There is life after the bars and the bars and the bookstores and all that stuff. But we found out that they weren't listening. They were too busy going to the bars and the bars and the bookstores. But what we found was a tremendous audience of young people and people past Jimmy's age, I know that's hard to believe that--

**JIMMY CARPER:** There are some who exist.

**BUDDY:** --that are out there. People who live out in outlying areas of the city that don't get into the Montrose. We found that the gay and lesbian community doesn't see *This Week In Texas* and *The Montrose Voice* that they read the *Chronicle* and the *Post* and they listen to the radio. And we go into their home and into their office.

And we also find out that things happen like a young man listening to us one morning and he won an album, and the next day he was fired from his job for promoting homosexuality in the workplace. And then he goes to court and wins a huge loss settlement when he stands up for himself. And we just we know that, and we're so lucky to have you here this morning and to be in Austin for us. What about this sodomy thing now?

**GLEN MAXEY:** What about this sodomy--

**BUDDY:** Let's get down to--

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah.

**BUDDY:** --nuts and bolts.

**GLEN MAXEY:** Yeah. Yeah.

**JIMMY CARPER:** So to speak.

**BUDDY:** What are we going to do about that? Because-- and I work for the police department, people are never arrested, not in Houston anyway or haven't been that I know of. I had a story police officer told me one night that as a dispatcher, kids, that he was watching two men down here on Allen Parkway somewhere along the Bayou doing it. And they did it to completion and they were arrested for public lewdness and drug off to jail. And I said, how come they weren't arrested for sodomy?

And he said, well, the DA said it didn't count in this case. And I said that's what they were doing. Public lewdness is if you do it out in public. I said the only person they were lewd to was you, and you were hiding in the bushes watching them. So Dan Morales has challenged this law, right? So or he's appealed the ruling?

**GLEN MAXEY:** At our request. And--

**BUDDY:** So where do we go from here?

**GLEN MAXEY:** --this is sort of a strange kind of thing to explain.

**BUDDY:** What can we do to help?

**GLEN MAXEY:** We are in a situation that we have this archaic law on the books. More often than not, it's not that people are charged with homosexual conduct. The real problem with 2106, having the statute on the books is that it's used as the onus or the nexus for discrimination.

It's the lesbian mother or the gay father who can't get custody of their children because they may be violating the law. Or that you get thrown out of your apartment and the landlord says, I have a right to do that because this person may be violating the law in my property. Those kinds of excuses are given by this law. We have a real uphill battle to repeal it in the legislature. My rival there does not change the homophobic nature of--

**BUDDY:** That's true.

**GLEN MAXEY:** --the legislature.

**JIMMY CARPER:** No. Even if I want.

**BUDDY:** As did the passage of civil rights legislation make people not hate Blacks as much as they did.

**GLEN MAXEY:** So one of the ways you deal with these kinds of laws is to challenge them in the courts and challenge them under our constitutional protections of right to privacy. We did that through the light '70s and early '80s in a case called *Baker versus Wade* through the Federal Constitution.

And that case went all the way to the US Supreme Court, and was there at the same time a case out of Georgia called *Hardwick versus Bowers*. There the Supreme Court ruled in a 5 to 4 decision that there was not a right to privacy in the Federal Constitution.

About that same point in time, a strange thing happened here in Texas. And that was the case that was decided about polygraph tests of state employees where the Texas Supreme Court ruled in a unanimous decision, 9 to 0, that the Texas Constitution, which was written back in reconstruction days when we wanted government out of our lives for other reasons, strong language was written in the Texas Constitution about the right to privacy, about-- I mean, actually the right to individual liberty. And the Supreme Court ruled in this polygraph test that there was a fundamental right to privacy in the Texas Constitution.

Now following that, the Texas Human Rights Foundation, which is the public litigating group in this state recruited five plaintiffs from across the state, the lead plaintiff being Linda Morales from here in Houston. And they challenged the 2106 law as impinging upon their fundamental right to liberty in this state, and used this court case as the basis of that challenge.

The case was heard before a district judge, Paul Davis in Austin, and he ruled right before Christmas that section 2106 is in fact unconstitutional. So we won, and everybody sort of celebrated that a district judge said it's unconstitutional. Now in the ensuing months--

**JIMMY CARPER:** But, the but there is it only applies--

**GLEN MAXEY:** To Travis County.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah.

**GLEN MAXEY:** It's a district court ruling. Which means that a district court in Houston could rule opposite or one in Dallas could run opposite. So what we need is statewide effect. We need a court of record which a Court of Appeals or the Supreme Court would be to make this ruling.

So when the homophobes are out there saying attorney general Morales appeal this because we want to overturn it, here are all of us good little queer boys and girls also saying, Mr. Attorney General, we would like for you to appeal this. So Dan Morales is in a schizophrenic mode here that both sides, even the people who won the district court ruling want it appealed. So he has filed the appeal as of yesterday.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh good.

**GLEN MAXEY:** And it will begin going up the court system. It'll go to the Third Court of Appeals in Travis County where we have a tremendously good-- we expect to get a strong ruling in our favor yet again. And then from there to the Texas Supreme Court.

It's an iffy situation at the Supreme Court, the court's more conservative now. There are a few new members on it. I'm hopeful that we have the votes on the Supreme Court to win. Some people say, why take the risk? Well, now we basically only have a moral victory in the district court ruling. And if we take it all the way through the Supreme Court and we lose, we know that we have to go back to the legislature and that's our battleground.

But if we win, then that fights over and we can move on to dealing with civil rights legislation and the more fundamental questions about fighting discrimination and changing attitudes in this state.

**SPEAKER 1:** Well, we were talking earlier about the House Bill 2509, and how that is a very bad piece of legislation. If the Supreme Court rules that 2106 is unconstitutional, then all the exceptions that they're putting into the legislation which excludes homosexuals, would that be legal and would that stand or would that affect this bill?

**GLEN MAXEY:** Well, House Bill 2509 and the legislation that passed last session is all legislation dealing with the AIDS epidemic. And what happened last session, for instance, is some of us were a little crafty-- and I'll take part credit for it-- when the homophobes in the House of Representatives, for instance, were trying to say that you can't spend money educating people who participate in homosexual conduct. We rewrote that because we knew this court case was coming through.

Even that statute now doesn't say you can't spend money to educate people about homosexual conduct, it says you can't spend money to educate people or to promote illegal behavior. If the Supreme Court strikes down 2106, it will no longer be illegal behavior.

**SPEAKER 1:** Beautiful.

**GLEN MAXEY:** So then all of the anti-gay kinds of stuff in the AIDS law becomes moot. And the only thing that's left there is you can't promote IV drug use, which is probably the correct thing that we would do in this society as far as telling people to use drugs.

So this bill, however, is something we still have to fight. House Bill 2509 is filed by representative Billy Clemons from Lufkin, and it is the same kind of bashing it goes through and adds in even more places homophobic language in the AIDS policy. I'm hopeful that we can kill such legislation but we have to be very mindful of it, and people need to contact their legislators and say, make sure that they say that we need to defeat the bad legislation dealing with AIDS policy. It's been filed this session.

**BUDDY:** Hang on just a second, we'll be right back. This is KPFT Houston, 90.1 FM.

[THEME MUSIC]

**BUDDY:** Listen, what can we do to help you as Texans who are not part of the constituents you represent?

**GLEN MAXEY:** Well, I think that it's like we always do in these kinds of battles is get involved. The Lesbian and Gay Community has a lobby, Lesbian Gay Rights Lobby of Texas, very active. I still serve as its executive director.

And we have a lobbyist in place, Laurie Eiserloh. He's working on the gay and lesbian agenda, both civil rights and anti-discrimination things and repeal of 2106, and also on fighting for public, good public policy around AIDS and increased funding. Lesbian Gay Rights Lobby is funded by contributions from individuals, and I hope people would look in this week in Texas or *After Hours* and find the address and send a check.

**JIMMY CARPER:** You bet.

**GLEN MAXEY:** Come to our next major fundraiser in Houston coming up in a couple of months. During Gay Pride Week there will be a big fundraiser at Missouri Street Station on June the 20th, and you look for information about that.

And in the meantime, as an individual, pick up a pen, write your state representative and your State Senator here in Houston or in Conroe or wherever you live and tell them to support legislation that's been filed to overturn 2106 to support a gay and lesbian civil rights bill.

Talk to them about the problems of violence against gay men and lesbians and why passage of the hate crimes bill is important in this session. And most importantly, tell them to support increased funding for HIV medication and services and education.

**BUDDY:** Right now you can sit down with every young gay man and young lesbian that's listening and talk to them face to face without us in the room. The ones that are afraid or the guy that lives out on the outskirts of the city that drives through and says that's where Montrose is but never takes the exit to come in, the people that have never seen the voice of the Twit, and they want to come make that next step, but they just can't. And you have this opportunity to say something to them, what would you say?

**GLEN MAXEY:** I'd say the only thing standing in your way is your own fear. That you can be who you are. You don't have to be a Glen Maxey and walk out on the House floor of the Texas legislature and say, I'm here and I'm queer and I'm proud. But you can take the next step, and that's come out to a friend, be honest with yourself.

You don't have to quote, "be gay" in the public domain to understand that there is a lot of people out here that care. There's lots of support networks, find a support group. Call the hotlines if you have questions, talk to people. I lived that life for a long time.

**JIMMY CARPER:** I think we all have.

**GLEN MAXEY:** I grew up in Baytown, I went to school in East Texas. I taught elementary school, and I was very, very scared. But I found out that the fear was really in me. One of the strangest things that I tell people that I don't guess they really always believe me is that when I came out at the age of 34, in short, five years ago, nothing really changed in my life. My friends were still my friends, my family still cared. Nobody turned their back on me.

And those people who may have been on the fringe and they were on the fringe because already for other reasons. Your friends stick with you. So I would tell those people who are out there, be honest with yourself and come out.

**BUDDY:** We want to thank you for taking the time to come by. What? We're almost out of time.

**JIMMY CARPER:** OK.

**SPEAKER 1:** Is there another way like maybe through the--

**GLEN MAXEY:** Yeah, get involved in your political party. Come to your precinct convention next time around when we do get into the politic political time. Get involved in the Democratic Party, the Republican Party.

In 1992, the Democratic State Convention will be here in Houston, and we'll have an opportunity to get lots of gay men and lesbians involved in that process as we move through selecting nominees for office and for President. Get involved and all of those kinds of things. That's one way as sort of a closeted gay person. I spent 10 years working on civil rights issues for the gay community through political parties without ever being open because you can be there and support people in a quiet kind of way until you get to a comfort level about being out.

**BUDDY:** So.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Great.

**BUDDY:** Listen, thanks--

**JIMMY CARPER:** I'm still so excited for him to be here.

**BUDDY:** Yeah, especially, we have this thing about politicians, they say they won't come. But Craig Washington sat in that seat for two hours one Sunday morning from 2:00 in the morning until 4:00. We couldn't get him out of here. We elected him and sent him to Washington, that's the only way we got rid of him.

**GLEN MAXEY:** Well, I hope to do a lot more of this. Yeah. Let's do it by phone, we'll pick up the phone and--

**JIMMY CARPER:** Good.

**BUDDY:** If there's anything we can ever do, please just ask. And then any time you're in town and you want to come by and there's something just pulling at your heart and you want to come in and say something, you just come here and you're welcome.

**JIMMY CARPER:** You bet you.

**BUDDY:** OK?

**GLEN MAXEY:** Love to do it.

**BUDDY:** Because the folks that listen, they're just waiting to hear what folks like you and the rest of us have to say. I know. They switch those radios on every midnight on Saturday and we go, OK, kids, now what? Oh, Glen Maxey is coming, great, we got something to tell you. Anyway, we've got-- what else is coming on tonight, girl?

**JIMMY CARPER:** We've got Montrose Softball and the Houston Thursday Night Bowling people here.

**BUDDY:** Sports.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Talk about some bar alternatives.

**BUDDY:** It's Sports Night on *After Hours*. Anyway, thanks, Glen--

**GLEN MAXEY:** Thank you.

**BUDDY:** --for coming by and sharing time with us. Would you read this for us? Like we'll all shut up and be real quiet, and then you read this nice little part. We're giving him work to do now, and then later we'll edit it all together, and we won't even have to do it off mic and then you can go dance the night away or wherever you're going. Jimmy, wanted to ask about your love life but he didn't.

**JIMMY CARPER:** I did. I did.

**GLEN MAXEY:** Oh, it's exciting.

**BUDDY:** I told him to be nice.

**JIMMY CARPER:** How has your personal life changed since you're a star now?

**GLEN MAXEY:** Well, you can't work in Austin anyway. I can't walk to a bar anymore without everybody stopping me. And beforehand I thought, I am sort of getting to be middle aged and nobody really cares, and now everybody loves me.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Now you're getting some action, is that it?

**GLEN MAXEY:** Yeah.

[LAUGHTER]

**BUDDY:** That's one--

**GLEN MAXEY:** Go in to politics, it's great.

**BUDDY:** That's one nice thing about doing radio, they don't know who we are. We can still sneak around out there until we say something then they go, oh, watch out for that guy.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Uh-huh.

**BUDDY:** Anyway, thanks for coming by. And if you read this, we'll go right into this and then we'll get into sports.

**GLEN MAXEY:** Well, this is State Representative, Glen Maxey, and you're listening to *After Hours* on KPFT Houston, 90.1 FM.

**BUDDY:** Thanks, Glen.

**REPORTER:** The disorders began with a routine police raid on a homosexual bar, the Stonewall on Christopher Street in the heart of the West Village.

[CROWD ROARS]

**SPEAKER 2:** Come out and say it so they can hear you in the Capitol. For love and for life, we're not going back. For love and for life, we're not going back. For love and for life, we're not going back. For love and for life, we're not going back.

**SPEAKER 3:** I want you to savor this next moment. I have the proud task of telling you that the official count of the Lesbian and Gay Rights March, the official count is over 500,000 strong.

**SPEAKER 4:** We must destroy the myths once and for all, shatter them. We must continue to speak out. And most importantly, most importantly, every gay person must come out.

[CHEERING AND APPLAUSE]

[MUSIC - PAMALA STANLEY, "COMING OUT OF HIDING"]

Difficult as it is, you must tell your immediate family, you must tell your relatives. You must tell your friends if indeed they are your friends. You must tell your neighbors, you must tell the people you work with. You must tell the people in the stores you shop in.

[CHEERING]

Once they realize that we are indeed their children and we are indeed everywhere, every myth, every lie, every innuendo will be destroyed once and for all.

**SPEAKER 5:** And I ask, I ask people all over this country to do one thing, come out! Come out, America. Come out!

[CHEERING]

[MUSIC PLAYING]

**BUDDY:** Wow, wasn't that nice?

**JIMMY CARPER:** That really was neat. And I got to hear some dirt too.

**BUDDY:** Yeah, *After Hours*.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

On 90.1 FM.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

90.1 FM KPFT Houston, *After Hours* radio, celebrating live from the heart of Montrose. We're here.

**JIMMY CARPER:** And we're queer.

**BUDDY:** And I'm that faggot that works for the Houston Police Department.

**JIMMY CARPER:** And I'm that faggot who doesn't work at all.

**BUDDY:** I'm that civilian dispatcher.

**JIMMY CARPER:** That's right, civilian dispatcher.

**BUDDY:** Not the police I'm still fucking.

**JIMMY CARPER:** No, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no. No, he's the other one.

[LAUGHTER]

**BUDDY:** Wasn't that nice having Glen Maxey here?

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah.

**BUDDY:** And we're going to be talking sports in just a little bit.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah, we got the guys with their balls and bats.

**BUDDY:** Stay with us.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

Girl, I'm not going to touch that.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh, I bet you would.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

**BUDDY:** Well, the time is going to change, Mary.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh.

**BUDDY:** Oh god.

**JIMMY CARPER:** No, we've got the bowlers and the guys who play softball here tonight.

**BUDDY:** Oh, is that it?

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah.

**BUDDY:** I have one little message for a certain supervisor at HPD.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

**BUDDY:** And this isn't it.

[LAUGHTER]

**JIMMY CARPER:** It's been that kind of night, folks.

**BUDDY:** Well, no. It's a long story. I got called in on the rug tonight, and I'll tell you about that when the time is right.

**JIMMY CARPER:** OK.

**BUDDY:** Because right now the time isn't right.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh.

**BUDDY:** But someday soon, I'll tell you that story when it's OK, when the chief says it's OK.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Got you.

**BUDDY:** A long story.

**JIMMY CARPER:** I'll bet.

**BUDDY:** All I can say is, this is a little can of worms they don't want to open at HPD. And I would like to remind you, this is not a job.

**JIMMY CARPER:** No.

**BUDDY:** This is volunteer work.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Volunteer.

**BUDDY:** OK?

**JIMMY CARPER:** Saturday nights for four hours.

**BUDDY:** So Sarge this is just for you.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

Oh yeah, that's one can of worms. Broadcasting from the city of the future that wants to continue to live in the past. Those Republicans are coming, but we're going to keep it a nice clean city till they get here. So stand your ground, Mary. I'll tell you later. *After Hours* radio celebrating life in the heart of Montrose, 98.1 FM. We're here.

**JIMMY CARPER:** And we're queer.

**SPEAKER 6:** Hello, do you know me? I've appeared in hundreds of Warner Brothers cartoons--

**SPEAKER 7:** --the little pink pill, it does it all.

**BUDDY:** And it's available at the drugstore just down the street across from the disco Kroger, right?

**JIMMY CARPER:** That one, yeah.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

**BUDDY:** Girl. 90.1 FM, *After Hours* radio, celebrating live from the heart of Montrose. We're here.

**JIMMY CARPER:** And we're queer.

**BUDDY:** Yeah.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

90.1 FM.

**JIMMY CARPER:** We're going to have our guests as soon as they get up off the floor laughing.

**BUDDY:** After Hours on KPFT Houston, coming at you live and in color.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah.

**BUDDY:** Yeah.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

Mary, another great moment in sports. I have to tell you, I played that back 100 years ago when I did radio at KFDF when I was in high school, and did a program called the *School Out*.

**JIMMY CARPER:** In Arkansas and you played that?

**BUDDY:** We did our show on a gospel radio station, and I did the show and got in a lot of trouble because they didn't like the Bradford Beavers and--

**JIMMY CARPER:** I'll bet not.

**BUDDY:** Anyway, this is *After Hours* on KPFT Houston, 90.1 FM. We're here. Oh shut up, serious, you've had your moment in the sun.

**JIMMY CARPER:** And we're queer. And we've got a couple of guys

**BUDDY:** We do?

**JIMMY CARPER:** Here.

**BUDDY:** Hang on a minute.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah, I think so.

[THEME MUSIC]

**BUDDY:** She does it all the time.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Well, she just pushes these stupid buttons.

**BUDDY:** The guy holds up the cue cards and she looks down at his-- wow.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Well. Now well, for all you girls who want to have fun and you men who want to have some fun, we've got a couple of guys to tell you how to do it.

**BUDDY:** We do? Who do we got? Introduce these folks.

**JIMMY CARPER:** No, let them introduce themselves as that. We have--

[LAUGHTER]

**BUDDY:** Now you guys bowl with his queen?

[LAUGHTER]

First, I want to tell you that I know you bowl like in the evening or like after midnight because she doesn't get up before noon.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Now Steve is the bowling goddess, and Bill, I've just met.

**BILL:** Yes, softball.

**BUDDY:** Well, introduce yourselves.

**BILL:** Ex bowler.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah. Now you got to get, I think, a little bit closer to that mic there.

**BUDDY:** OK, who have we got? Steve?

**STEVE:** I'm Steve Stipolin, yes.

**BUDDY:** With--

**STEVE:** Monday and Thursday Night Bowling.

**BUDDY:** And?

**BILL:** Bill Sansom with the Montrose Softball League, Men's Softball. Actually, it's open softball could be men and women. We have a women's softball league that's strictly women but our softball league is co-ed.

**BUDDY:** But it's nothing like Bruiser LaRue and those guys, right?

**BILL:** Well, something.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Actually, it's really kind of fun.

**BILL:** Yeah.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Because I remember years ago, in fact, while I was still working and somewhat in the closet if you can imagine thinking about, I'd like to see some softball. And going to the field and kind of driving around about three or four times, kind of looking around to see who was there and who wasn't before parking. And then going and sitting in the stands and having a great time.

**BUDDY:** I can't imagine you working, Mary.

[LAUGHTER]

**JIMMY CARPER:** Well, I used to.

**BUDDY:** The softball and the bowling leagues are nothing like our friend Bruiser LaRue from the '70s, right?

**JIMMY CARPER:** Well--

[LAUGHTER]

**STEVE:** Well, maybe just a little.

**BUDDY:** There went that, kids.

[LAUGHTER]

**JIMMY CARPER:** It's gay and lesbian people being themselves.

**BUDDY:** Well then it's a lot of fun.

**STEVE:** Much so.

**BUDDY:** Really? How long has the bowling league been around?

**STEVE:** They started in 1979, and they've been-- well, we're in our 13th year now. Thursday Night League started about a year and a half after that. And the Thursday Night League is a mixed league, the Monday Night League is men's league.

**BUDDY:** So anybody that's interested that's gay or lesbian can come and get on the league and--

**STEVE:** Sure.

**BUDDY:** --bowl their little hearts out.

**STEVE:** Or sympathetic.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah.

**BUDDY:** OK.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah. And in fact, the Summer League, is that what you call it? It's just--

**STEVE:** Yeah, our Summer League will be starting. Monday night, will start on April the 15th, and Thursday night will start on April the 18th.

**JIMMY CARPER:** And all you have to do is just kind of show up.

**STEVE:** Just show up at 7:30 those nights.

**JIMMY CARPER:** And where?

**STEVE:** At Stadium Bowl.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Aha.

**BUDDY:** So this queen actually like--

**JIMMY CARPER:** I always thought bowling was for people who lived in Detroit.

**STEVE:** Liza Minnelli type, so.

**JIMMY CARPER:** It is a whole lot of fun. I mean, you kind of get a group together, you don't even have to know the people.

**BUDDY:** Does he like actually pick up a ball and throw it? Or it is--

**STEVE:** Well, it's not a real ball, it's kind of like pink and red.

[LAUGHTER]

**JIMMY CARPER:** I have a red one.

**STEVE:** But I have flaming pink, so.

**JIMMY CARPER:** He does, it's great.

**STEVE:** And pink shoelaces too.

[LAUGHTER]

**JIMMY CARPER:** It's a lot of fun. You don't have to be good, you just have to want to have a lot of fun.

**BUDDY:** It sounds like a lot of fun.

**JIMMY CARPER:** You can do your own bowling shirts if you like,

**BUDDY:** Oh, are there team shirts and the like and stuff?

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah, well.

**STEVE:** Well, his team has one.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Girls are ass!

[LAUGHTER]

**STEVE:** And boy are they.

[LAUGHTER]

**BUDDY:** So.

**JIMMY CARPER:** There are a lot of very, very good bowlers as a matter of fact on that Thursday Night.

**BUDDY:** Go ahead, Mary, this is your interview.

**JIMMY CARPER:** No.

**BUDDY:** You've got yourself into this. Yeah, I'm trying to be serious and talk about how we're all men and--

**JIMMY CARPER:** This is for fun. That's what it's all about.

**STEVE:** Well, we have averages from 80 to 200. And it's competitive, I mean, that's why you do any sport. But we all work hard at work and we like to go out and have fun too. And it's not a cutthroat kind of a league, it's handicapped at 90%, which anybody that bowls knows what I'm talking about. But that kind of evens everybody out.

**BUDDY:** Do you always bowl on Thursday evenings and Monday evenings?

**STEVE:** Yes, and I bowl on Friday evening too.

**BUDDY:** What about the queens at work evenings like me, evening shift? Is there anything for us yet?

**STEVE:** Not yet.

**BUDDY:** Well, yet. Maybe we should get something going.

**STEVE:** You should. And I know the Stadium would love to have you.

**BUDDY:** Roy.

**STEVE:** Yeah, we have a very good relationship with Stadium.

**BUDDY:** It sounds like a lot of fun.

**JIMMY CARPER:** And there's an international group, isn't there?

**STEVE:** Yes, IGBO, the International Gay Bowling Organization.

**JIMMY CARPER:** And there's--

**STEVE:** We have about 40 tournaments a year all over this country and Canada. Our annual tournament is coming up in May over Memorial weekend in Toronto this year. We currently have three countries involved in IGBO, and that's United States, Canada, and Australia.

**JIMMY CARPER:** There we go.

**BUDDY:** That does sound like a lot of fun.

**JIMMY CARPER:** And Bill, tell us about your fun.

**BILL:** Well, the Montrose Softball League started in 1980, so we're fixing to start our 12th season. And it is a-- we play on Sundays at Tim Hearne field, which is off of Jackson Hill and Memorial, which is about a block West of Wall Drive. We start around 11 o'clock in the morning, play till about 6 o'clock at night. And--

**BUDDY:** Child!

**JIMMY CARPER:** Well, there's a lot of teams.

**BILL:** Well, we have some teams and--

**BUDDY:** Are you serious?

**BILL:** --games take about an hour a piece. Sometimes we play doubleheaders, so it gets pretty involved.

**BUDDY:** That's like a whole day thing.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah.

**BILL:** Yeah, definitely.

**BUDDY:** And this is on Sunday, I can go on Sundays.

**BILL:** Yeah, that's the nice thing. On Sundays, you don't have--

**BUDDY:** Not to play though.

**BILL:** What else do you have to do at 1 o'clock on Sunday afternoon. If you're not doing brunch?

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

**BILL:** Come watch softball. Eat brunch at the field.

**JIMMY CARPER:** And it's so much fun--

**BILL:** It is.

**JIMMY CARPER:** --just to watch. I like the song you play by R&P a little bit before being in the outfield.

**BILL:** In the outfield.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah. And it kind of takes away a lot of that feeling if you go out and watch these softball games because it's just so much fun.

**BILL:** Yeah, I think we have a little something for every level of competition in the softball league because we definitely have people that played ball all throughout school and we have people that have yet to buy a glove.

**JIMMY CARPER:** I have up to five gloves.

**BILL:** Yes.

[LAUGHTER]

**BUDDY:** So--

**BILL:** Left ones.

**BUDDY:** --it's be like me in the outfield when the ball comes, I just kind of like think, what am I doing here?

**BILL:** Yeah, you can scream if you want or whatever, holler for help.

**BUDDY:** Because when we were kids, my grandfather had a baseball team. He wanted just enough grandkids to put a baseball team together, I swear. And he built a little field off to the side of the pasture there and we used to get out on Sundays. But I was the one who built the little stands instead of the concession area.

**BILL:** Well, that helps too.

**JIMMY CARPER:** You bet, and they've got that, right?

**BILL:** Yes, indeed. We have two separate divisions, what we refer to as a competitive division and a recreational division. The competitive division is for the people that are generally a little more serious about the competition involved and take their work statistics and things like that into account.

**JIMMY CARPER:** The Butch ones.

**BILL:** Yes. Well, not always. Some of the Butch ones is probably competitive.

**JIMMY CARPER:** I see.

**BILL:** Some of the Nellie ones is probably competitive.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Uh-huh.

**BILL:** And we have a recreational league for people who either maybe their skill levels aren't quite up to where they want to step on the field against some of these--

**JIMMY CARPER:** what a nice way of putting it.

**BILL:** They might not want to step on the field to against some of the better ball players, or it could be just for people who don't want to spend a lot of time with things. A lot of the recreational teams, they don't practice, they just show up on Sunday one hour a week. They play ball, go party with each other, and are out there strictly for recreation. And it's a lot of fun. It's a lot of fun to play, it's a lot of fun to come watch and get involved in.

**BUDDY:** Are there fees that-- I mean, does this like cost money or? I mean I know you have to pay when you bowl for shoes and lanes and stuff. Do you pay like an organizational fee or something to keep the group together? Because that cost money too, right?

**STEVE:** Our bowling fees are \$10 a week. \$7.25 of that goes to the bowling alley for the games themselves. And then you have your secretary and treasurer salary because they have to do a lot of work. And then we have a prize fund for our end of the season party and awards and things like that. There's a once a year sanctioning fee.

**BUDDY:** Well, if 7.25 goes to the court, then I'm sure there are a lot of people fighting to get that high paying job.

**STEVE:** You'd be surprised.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Actually, a lot of the money goes back to the people who bowl in the form of prizes, and it's not like the three top teams get all the money. It's like you get a certain amount of money for each game you've won.

**STEVE:** Yeah, everybody in both our leagues, everybody gets something.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yeah. Yeah.

**STEVE:** It may be a booby prize but everybody gets something.

**BUDDY:** Is that the same way in the baseball league?

**BILL:** Well, the softball league we have-- all our teams are sponsored by some type of organization.

**BUDDY:** Which is traditional with baseball, right?

**BILL:** Yes, yes. And the sponsor fees for our league are \$400 from the sponsor. This is just to join the league, this doesn't include uniform prices, which can be as elaborate as you want them to be. Anywhere from \$150 for T-shirts.

**BUDDY:** I'm thinking of ball counts.