

[BED CREAKING AND HEAVY BREATHING]

JIMMY CARPER: The following program contains language or images of a frank or sensitive nature which may be considered objectionable by some. Listener discretion is advised.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

(SINGING) After Hours. After Hours.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, yes. You've tuned in to *After Hours*, a continuing tradition on KPFT Houston, 90.1 FM. The crew of *After Hours* is ready to bring you news, interviews, and music geared for gay and lesbian people.

Here at *After Hours*, we may be diverse, but we have one thing in common. We are 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]

[MUSIC - JOHN WILLIAMS, "STAR WARS"]

RUSH T. LIMBO: Hello, dittoheads. This is Rush T. Limbo with the corporate minute. We corporate bigwigs pride ourselves for staying on top of things. For example, with our PAC money, we've got the best Congress money can buy. And bigger and bigger corporations have bought the major TV and radio networks. That way we can spoon-feed America with what we want them to hear and think.

But there's one little thorn in our sides. Listener-sponsored radio, like KPFT here in Houston. We can't control them. So we must stamp them out. So I urge you, do not contribute to KPFT. Any money KPFT gets is money helping to give voices to the voiceless. Only us corporate bigwigs have earned the right to have voices. So again, do not contribute to KPFT. This has been the corporate minute. I'm Rush to Limbo, and Rush is right.

[MUSIC - JOHN WILLIAMS, "STAR WARS"]

DIANE WILLIAMS: Who was that? Who was that? This is Diane Williams. And you're listening to *After Hours* on KPFT Houston. It's Saturday night at midnight, actually a little after midnight. It's about 12, oh, 10, 12, something like that. It's *After Hours*. It's Saturday night. So no matter what you're doing, no matter where you are, get your stuff together, turn up the radio, and have a lovely, lovely time. I'm in here this evening--

[LAUGHTER]

Jewel, hi, Jewel. Jewel Gray's in--

JEWEL GRAY: [INAUDIBLE] Says, hey, you're on. I said, it's not my night.

DIANE But you're in front of a microphone.

WILLIAMS:

JEWEL GRAY: Yes.

DIANE You're here, you're ready to go.

WILLIAMS:

JEWEL GRAY: Yes.

DIANE We've got lots of help in the studio. We're going to be asking you for money all night long. So just prepare

WILLIAMS: yourself. What else?

JEWEL GRAY: 526-KPFT. Is that the number tonight?

DIANE Yes. I think so.

WILLIAMS:

CREW: That's the number every night.

JEWEL GRAY: Every night. Oh, no, I thought--

DIANE JAM-KPFT?

WILLIAMS:

CREW: Mm-hmm

JEWEL GRAY: Is that the number where we ask people to give us money?

CREW: JAM-KPFT.

DIANE We have some really interesting stuff for you, as usual. We have a special and lovely guest here in the studio this

WILLIAMS: evening, Diane Hardy Garcia from the Texas Lesbian Gay rights lobby is here. Yay!

JEWEL GRAY: Yay!

DIANE Yay!

WILLIAMS:

JEWEL GRAY: And Susan Perry is here, who's going to ask for some help from all you lesbians out there who will be considering taking this new lesbian health survey.

DIANE And lesbians in surveys, what a great mix.

WILLIAMS:

JEWEL GRAY: I know. And she'll be talking about that a little bit, you'll talk to her. I'm going to let you talk to her.

DIANE Yes.

WILLIAMS:

JEWEL GRAY: Because I know too much about it. And I figure you would do better questions.

DIANE Sure. Well, I will ask her, because I don't have a clue. I am totally clueless, which is not a first for me.

WILLIAMS:

JEWEL GRAY: And what are we going to play on the-- what'd you put?

DIANE I have a song right here for us. This is "Erasure" for the gay community. This will be on. We're going to also have

WILLIAMS: a couple of taped things happening tonight. We have a--

JEWEL GRAY: We got that on a real?

CREW: Not yet.

DIANE It's, we're working on it.

WILLIAMS:

[LAUGHTER]

The lovely Sarah.

CREW: Pushy, pushy, always the pusher.

JEWEL GRAY: Hey, listen, when I left last, it was on real real.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

CREW: Now she wants to be pushy.

JEWEL GRAY: Well, it's a gang bang hand-- handkerchief on your leg.

CREW: It's a fashion thing. I have a bandage around my leg. And I just wanted to cover it like a good fag. Thank you.

JEWEL GRAY: OK. So what did you put on it, Mary?

CREW: Red. A red bandanna.

DIANE A red bandanna. And we all know what that means, don't we.

WILLIAMS:

[LAUGHTER]

JEWEL GRAY: No, what does it mean?

DIANE It means she's cruising. It means she's in a gang.

WILLIAMS:

[LAUGHTER]

CREW: Look, I'm tired of the--

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

CREW: --on the Mexican. I'm tired of it.

JEWEL GRAY: I told you, I thought you-- I told you, I thought you were Greek.

CREW: Just working on my very last good gay nerve.

JEWEL GRAY: I thought you were Greek.

DIANE But see, no, what-- I never said the word Mexican. I said gang. You automatically assume that gang--

WILLIAMS:

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

JEWEL GRAY: I said gang.

CREW: But you know, she is from the East End or the East side or something. I said, don't talk about my people.

JEWEL GRAY: That's right.

CREW: Every time I have to come in here and talk for the Mexicans.

[LAUGHTER]

DIANE We're already getting racial. It is not even 12:30 and we're getting racial. Stop it.

WILLIAMS:

CREW: I'll have to read you, Blanche, like a cheap novel.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, Sarah, shut up and give me one of them--

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

DIANE The tape that we have--

WILLIAMS:

[KISSING SOUND]

[LAUGHTER]

They're kissing. They're kissing. It's gross.

JEWEL GRAY: And so, we're going to go to this music, which is--

DIANE Which is Erasure, "I Love Saturday."

WILLIAMS:

JEWEL GRAY: Do it.

[MUSIC - ERASURE, "I LOVE SATURDAY"]

(SINGING) Ah.

DIANE I love that song. I've never heard that. I don't think I've ever heard that. I must be living in a cave.

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: Well, that's because it's brand new. That's on the new Erasure CD, I say, I say, I say.

DIANE That's a cool song. Did you just pick that out or is that playing right now?

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: No, I picked that out, because it's got some words there for the gay community-- well, it's for gay guys, actually.

Because we have Andy Bell talking about--

DIANE For some special people.

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: --that knight in shining armor.

DIANE Oh yeah.

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

DIANE You know, I did meet them. I do have their autograph.

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: Oh!

DIANE Because Queer Nation as a group, which I was a member of, thank you very much, went to Bayou Mama's on one

WILLIAMS: Friday night and saw Erasure there.

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

DIANE And they came out in drag. And all the straight people love them. And we had a great time. It was a wonderful

WILLIAMS: experience. We thought we were going to be treated poorly, and it turned out to be great. Speaking of being treated poorly, I have something to tell you.

JIMMY CARPER: What?

DIANE This radio station has tried to help me in every possible way that we could get some really good productions

WILLIAMS: going and tape some things. But you know what?

JIMMY CARPER: What?

DIANE The material that we have to use here is so old.

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: I know.

DIANE It's so old. The equipment we have, I'm sorry. It's old.

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: I know.

DIANE It's below par.

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: Well, you know, when you don't got nothing, you know, whatever you got is better than nothing.

DIANE That's true. And I did use it. And we have been having a lovely time. But let me just tell you, if you have any

WILLIAMS: extra money whatsoever, send it in, please.

JIMMY CARPER: We need it, folks.

DIANE We need it.

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: Because this is our what, our quarterly, thirdly?

DIANE Quarterly?

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: I know, thirdly, I think we do it three times a-- three times a year.

DIANE Quarterly. OK, thirdly.

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: This is our beg-a-thon.

DIANE Beg-a-thon, we're begging.

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: Yep.

DIANE You got it. Me right here, begging.

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: HL&P has come knocking on the door and said, hey, pay me money for this electricity. You don't get it free. And so, we got to get it from somewhere. And you know it ain't from Coke.

DIANE Excuse me?

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: Coca-Cola.

DIANE Coke, I got it.

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

DIANE Got it.

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: No advertisement here on KPFT. This is listener-sponsored radio.

DIANE Well, you know what I think is pretty important to say too is that all the money that comes in to this radio station from any person is tagged as going to a particular show. Like this donor listened to this show and liked it so much they gave money.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

DIANE So that's the one way that the gay community can be recognized. If the gay community gets together, the gay, and lesbian, and queer, and dykes, and Republicans, and Democrats, and all those gay folks out there--

JIMMY CARPER: And transgender.

DIANE And homo-- transgenderals, thank you, thank you, transgenders and sexuals and transvestite--
WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: We play that kind of music here for--

DIANE --we're here for you, baby.

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: Yep.

DIANE If we get together and say it, and say, this is from us, it's making our pocketbooks count.
WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: Mm-hmm.

DIANE And you know that that's important to a lot of people out there is what you got to show for yourself.
WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: Unfortunately.

DIANE That's right. And it may be the wrong thing. But it's certainly what gets noticed in places of power a lot of times.
WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: The important thing is, there are a few shows here that really make a lot of money.

DIANE That's right.
WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: A lot of money. And there's a couple of shows here that don't make so much. But this is community, and we all share it. And we're all here doing the job. And still, HLNP is still at the front door. And if you call 526-5738.

DIANE JAM-KPFT.
WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: All right. And give your pledge of support. We've got some thank-you gifts too.

DIANE Ooh.
WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: For a \$35 pledge, we've got a mug, KPFT mug.

DIANE Which I have one at home. They're lovely.

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: \$60 bucks we've got the KPFT t-shirt. And this is a brand new one.

DIANE I do not have any of them.

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: This is one that-- well, the ones from-- oh, I want to tell you, the ones from last marathon just came in.

[LAUGHTER]

DIANE So they're here now.

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, they're here now. Anyway, this is a new one. This is like somebody playing a guitar. You know, and it's your head on top of it. It's just like--

DIANE Oh, I get it. Cool. Like my head or your head.

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: Anybody's head.

DIANE Oh.

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: Anybody who happened to put their head through that hole.

DIANE Through that t-shirt. Ah, ding, ding, ding.

WILLIAMS:

CREW: How about an Arnold Schwarzenegger T-shirt like that then?

JIMMY CARPER: Oh.

DIANE Body.

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: For \$90 bucks, a mug and a t-shirt. And for \$120, you get that BBC canvas tote bag.

CREW: Yay.

DIANE That's very cool that everybody wants.

WILLIAMS:

CREW: That's real popular.

DIANE It doesn't sound that hot, just oh, it's a BBC tote bag. But no, it's way cool. It is way cool. People fight for that.

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: And there's some things. Yeah.

DIANE So please do.

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: Please call. We've got people--

DIANE Call us. Tell us you are a lesbo that wants to show her support for the community. And you're giving money.

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: You're a queer.

DIANE Or you are a transgendered person and you want to show your support for the community. Right here.

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: Or you may be a homosexual. Oh!

DIANE That's right. Oh!

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: Homosexual. Or you may even be a straight person.

DIANE A log cabin Republican. That's right.

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: Jamie and his wife is out there. You know?

DIANE Hi, Jamie and his wife.

WILLIAMS:

CREW: Jamie and his wife, both want to lay in bed and with a--

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

JIMMY CARPER: That's the couple. Yeah. Yeah.

DIANE That sounds odd to me. Plays toesy in the bed while they're listening to--

WILLIAMS:

CREW: Yeah, while they're listening to this.

DIANE I don't do that to *After Hours*. And I do listen to *After Hours*.

WILLIAMS:

[LAUGHTER]

And I don't do that. I guess I should.

JIMMY CARPER: Well, hey. Anyway.

DIANE OK, that's the money speech. You got it.

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: That's 526-5738. We're waiting for your call.

CREW: Show us how much you appreciate us. Call now with your Mastercard.

DIANE Tell me you love me.

WILLIAMS:

[LAUGHTER]

JIMMY CARPER: Oh. Oh, oh, oh.

DIANE Tell me you love me.

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: For \$90, this is an *After Hours* exclusive.

DIANE Tradition? What?

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: For \$90 bucks on plastic, you can have a poster of femme to femme autographed by each member.

CREW: Whoa! There's a big one. Big seller.

JIMMY CARPER: And I've got it in my apartment right now waiting for somebody.

CREW: How many people?

JIMMY CARPER: How many people?

CREW: How many posters.

JIMMY CARPER: One.

DIANE One autograph.

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: Only one poster. That's it.

CREW: You be the next caller to call with plastic.

DIANE A limited edition. Uno, one.

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: \$90 bucks on plastic, you get it.

DIANE So there's that. There's the money speech. It was wonderful.

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: OK, Diane.

DIANE It's-- we'll do it again.

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, OK.

DIANE We'll do it again. And like I said, that's very important. Because we're poor, the equipment is actually fairly serviceable, but there's some lacking in the production room. We have some guests in the studio tonight. Like I said, we've got some guests. We've got a taped interview with Janet Cohen coming up who is--

JIMMY CARPER: Good interview.

DIANE --a co-chair of the Board of the Lesbian and Gay Rights lobby. I think that's correct. And we also have Diane

WILLIAMS: Hardy Garcia, which is here-- which-- who is here, which is here? Who's here in from Austin, correct, correct.

And she's got lots and lots o' interesting information for us. I can't wait to talk to her. And right here sitting in front of me is a lovely woman that I have never ever met before in my life. And I'm so glad that you are here.

JIMMY CARPER: Diane, Susan, Susan, Diane.

DIANE Hi. Nice to meet you.

WILLIAMS:

SUSAN PERRY: Nice to meet you.

DIANE Everybody out there, this is Susan. Susan Perry. Susan, you're from-- you are studying at the psychology

WILLIAMS: department at University of Houston.

SUSAN PERRY: That's right, yeah.

DIANE And you're getting your doctorate, is that correct?

WILLIAMS:

SUSAN PERRY: Yeah. In social science.

DIANE Say that again?

WILLIAMS:

JEWEL GRAY: Hey, a smart lesbian.

DIANE Say that-- there's lots of us out there.

WILLIAMS:

JEWEL GRAY: Yeah, but this one's right here on our show. [LAUGHS]

DIANE And she could be on the phone with you shortly talking about what she's here to talk about, and that is a lesbian

WILLIAMS: health survey.

SUSAN PERRY: Right. I'm doing my dissertation. And the subject is lesbian health and risky sexual behaviors.

DIANE Ooh.

WILLIAMS:

SUSAN PERRY: There's not much research out there on lesbians at all, especially when it comes to health or sexual behavior. So I'm trying to get some research out there and get the research community to recognize our community and the needs of our community.

DIANE That's great. I know we've been called. And we call ourselves the invisible people. And whenever I'm slighted in any way, or a car gets in front of me on the highway, I'm like, well, there we go, lesbians being invisible again.

SUSAN PERRY: Right.

DIANE I like trying to make us not invisible. And this is a good way to do it.

WILLIAMS:

SUSAN PERRY: Right. It's a first step in that direction.

DIANE I know that you probably can't talk about what's in your survey. But what can you tell us about your studies?

WILLIAMS: You've gotten your master's?

SUSAN PERRY: Right.

DIANE And you're working on your doctorate.

WILLIAMS:

SUSAN PERRY: Right.

DIANE I'm excited for you.

WILLIAMS:

SUSAN PERRY: Thank you.

DIANE How far along are you into it?

WILLIAMS:

SUSAN PERRY: I graduate in August.

DIANE In August? Whoa.

WILLIAMS:

SUSAN PERRY: Yeah. As soon as I do this.

DIANE As soon as this is done. And with the information, what do you think you're going to be able to do with the

WILLIAMS: information?

SUSAN PERRY: Oh, what I want to do is disseminate it, get it out to the research community. Make them aware that lesbians do have needs in this area. And see if we can in the future develop educational programs that can be targeted just specifically for lesbians.

DIANE Lesbian health issues?

WILLIAMS:

SUSAN PERRY: Right. Whether it be general health issues, like how comfortable you are with your doctor and talking about your orientation with your doctor.

DIANE Yeah.

WILLIAMS:

SUSAN PERRY: All the way up to risky sexual behaviors. There's a lot of myths about lesbians, that we don't have sex, or we don't do anything risky. And there's just no research out there to tell us what we do do.

DIANE Yeah.

WILLIAMS:

SUSAN PERRY: We all know. But the scientific community doesn't.

DIANE We have to document it.

WILLIAMS:

JEWEL GRAY: I'm the only one who talks about it.

DIANE I talk about it. I talk about it.

WILLIAMS:

JEWEL GRAY: You talk about what you do? Oh yeah. Yeah, we had the risky sex-- no, Becky was here that night we had the risky sex.

DIANE I've had the show-- I've had the lesbian safe sex show. And we had the lesbians and S&Ms.

WILLIAMS:

JEWEL GRAY: Oh, that's it. I was just talking about the opposite, not safe sex.

DIANE Yes.

WILLIAMS:

JEWEL GRAY: We had that show up here one night, where people had decided whether they chose to practice safe sex or not. I can-- you can hear that.

DIANE OK.

WILLIAMS:

JEWEL GRAY: And that was pretty interesting show. Because a couple of the women that were here that night had chosen not to practice safe sex and discussed their reasons why. And how they had decided to make that decision. So we've had-- what are you hunting for something?

DIANE I'm just looking at monitors. OK.

WILLIAMS:

JEWEL GRAY: I can hear me. I can hear me just fine.

[LAUGHTER]

OK, so the show back to you.

DIANE So that's good.

WILLIAMS:

[LAUGHTER]

No, I think that's great. I think that it's important to recognize women, lesbians in particular, because just as you were saying, for people out there who don't know what happens to this information, let me just tell you. I was in a college library. I was in a couple of college libraries. I went to the library at U of H.

And I also went to the library at Saint Thomas helping a friend study for her master's in education. And there was a computer there that you get on. You just go up to the computer, punch in a word. And then, this computer will give you a cross reference of this word or grouping of words for everything, everything in the world that exists period as far as journalistic documentation of facts.

SUSAN PERRY: Right.

DIANE And we looked up every-- I mean there's millions of references to homosexuals. There's millions of references to **WILLIAMS:** sexual behavior. And as far as lesbians go, there's not that many as compared to homosexuals.

SUSAN PERRY: Right.

DIANE There is a good amount, but it's small. And some of it is from-- I would say most of it is from other countries. **WILLIAMS:**

SUSAN PERRY: Right. And in my field in psychology, there's very little related to health or even sexual behavior. And that's surprising.

JEWEL GRAY: Do you think lesbians or gay people in general are a little suspicious of those kind of surveys?

DIANE Well, yeah. I mean, how can we be-- how can we document ourselves if a lot of us can't even come out of the **WILLIAMS:** closet?

SUSAN PERRY: Right.

JEWEL GRAY: That's what's nice about your surveys. You don't have to come out of the closet.

SUSAN PERRY: Right. You don't have to. You don't have to be out to take it.

JEWEL GRAY: It's totally anonymous. You won't even know who they are.

SUSAN PERRY: Right. It's strictly confidential. What I do is send out a packet which has an informed consent form, which has to be signed with any name. And I get that back. I get one of those back. And then the survey itself, which has no place on it for a name or anything, and the two documents are separated as soon as I get them. So the name that you have signed, whether it be your own or not.

DIANE And how legible it is.

WILLIAMS:

SUSAN PERRY: Right.

JEWEL GRAY: I'm going to sign mine, Katie Laing.

SUSAN PERRY: Right.

DIANE Cool.

WILLIAMS:

SUSAN PERRY: As long as I get one of those signed, I don't care what the name says.

DIANE Susan B Anthony. I like that.

WILLIAMS:

SUSAN PERRY: Yeah.

DIANE That works.

WILLIAMS:

SUSAN PERRY: There's no way I can trace who fills them out. And if I can't trace it, nobody can.

DIANE Right.

WILLIAMS:

SUSAN PERRY: And the research, the findings are reported in group form. So that I don't say, well, this individual age so-and-so said this. I don't do that. It's just looking at lesbians as a group.

DIANE Right. You are looking for people to help you complete this survey, right?

WILLIAMS:

SUSAN PERRY: Right. I'm looking for people who are willing to take the survey.

JEWEL GRAY: Lesbians.

DIANE Lesbians.

WILLIAMS:

SUSAN PERRY: Women, I'd like to get a diverse group of women with regard to ethnicity, age, social class, educational level. As diverse of a group of women.

DIANE Out status.

WILLIAMS:

SUSAN PERRY: Right. Out status. Women who are not out, women who have been out for a long time, women who are just coming out. Whatever their status may be.

JEWEL GRAY: So you women out there in the suburbs, and I've talked to a few of you, this would be a way to participate without ever having to drive down to Montrose or to be out by showing up at a bar. This is a way to participate.

DIANE Nobody has to see you.

WILLIAMS:

JEWEL GRAY: That's right. And I've talked to a few of you out there. And I expect to hear from you tonight. Those few of you out there in Aileaf, and the Woodlands, and areas like that who've listened to our show and who called down here and say how valuable we are. Here's a way you can count. So take this opportunity now and participate in this health survey.

DIANE Anonymous.

WILLIAMS:

JEWEL GRAY: Anonymous.

DIANE Anonymous, anonymous, anonymous, anonymous.

WILLIAMS:

SUSAN PERRY: And strictly confidential.

DIANE So how can they get in touch with you? How can they do the survey?

WILLIAMS:

SUSAN PERRY: Right. All they have to do is call me. I work at U of H. Phone number is 743-8562. And I'll mail out a survey. I'll mail out a survey if they call my office. 743-8562 at U of H. And ask for the lesbian health survey. I'm the only one doing that kind of research in the department.

[LAUGHTER]

DIANE Can I speak to the lesbian please? Where's the lesbian?

WILLIAMS:

SUSAN PERRY: I'm pretty out. So it's fine. And I will mail it. I'll send it in a stamped self-addressed envelope. So all you have to do is put it back in the envelope when you're done. And it does take about 45 minutes. So it is a little long. But it can be fun, especially if you do it with your partner.

DIANE Mm.

WILLIAMS:

JEWEL GRAY: Yeah, I thought it was pretty fun.

DIANE Sounds good. And one more time, those phone numbers are?

WILLIAMS:

SUSAN PERRY: 743-8562. Or 743-8555.

DIANE Great. Well, listen, I really appreciate you coming on. I hope that we get lots of folks calling about this. If you **WILLIAMS:** have any more information for us here at the radio station, you can call us all night long and JAM-KPFT. Thank you, Susan.

SUSAN PERRY: Well, thank you, Diane.

DIANE I appreciate it.

WILLIAMS:

SUSAN PERRY: I appreciate it. And thank you.

DIANE Great. Well, we've got some more stuff coming up for you. We're going to be talking with Diane Hardy Garcia.

WILLIAMS: And we've got, like I said, a taped interview with Janet Cohen. Jewel.

JEWEL GRAY: I'm going to get the man.

DIANE OK, get the man. We're working on this tape right now. I want to say hi to folks out there listening. Thanks for

WILLIAMS: listening tonight. Thanks for taking time out of your schedule. Please remember that we're here at *After Hours* for you, no matter who you are, no matter what your affiliations, your age, your race, anything, economic status. We're here to talk to you.

And if you have anything that you need or-- hi, Jimmy. [LAUGHS] If you have anything that you'd like to say to us here at *After Hours*, 526-KPFT. We are doing a marathon. So please do send us any extra pocket money you might have. And we're going to be getting on with those interviews just right after this.

[CHEERING AND APPLAUSE]

[MUSIC PLAYING]

[CHEERING AND APPLAUSE]

The version. That is--

JEWEL GRAY: My favorite version.

DIANE --the version. It is Jewel's version. And I imagine that it's Jimmy's favorite version too.

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: You betcha.

DIANE From the-- who was that? Who was that?

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: Kate Robbins, actually, Kate Robbins is the woman who sang it. And that was the version that Jaye Davidson pantomimed.

CREW: Right.

DIANE OK.

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

DIANE Cool. That was good.

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: OK?

DIANE I like that.

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: \$5 bucks a month.

DIANE \$5 bucks a month, folks. \$5 bucks a month. That's what it adds up to. What's that, \$60?

WILLIAMS:

JIMMY CARPER: \$60 t-shirt.

DIANE That's a t-shirt which I do not even have because I am poor.

WILLIAMS:

CREW: Is that automatically taken out of your credit card?

DIANE \$5 bucks a month?

WILLIAMS:

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

DIANE No, if your credit card, no. All at one time. But you could give us \$5 bucks a month. Just come in the studio.

WILLIAMS: Here's my \$5.

JEWEL GRAY: Don't give it to me.

DIANE Yeah. I'd probably take it and have lunch at McDonald's. Yeah. Eat it.

WILLIAMS:

JEWEL GRAY: No, we couldn't spend that much at McDonald's. I mean, we couldn't-- it wouldn't be that cheap at McDonald's.

DIANE I don't know. Maybe the way I eat. OK, folks, guess what, we've got more fun happening important stuff. I really

WILLIAMS: appreciate you being here, Diane Hardy Garcia.

DIANE HARDY- Hi.

GARCIA:

DIANE Hi.

WILLIAMS:

DIANE HARDY- How are you?

GARCIA:

DIANE I'm so glad you can stay.

WILLIAMS:

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

[LAUGHTER]

DIANE Joanne?

WILLIAMS:

JEWEL GRAY: That's what I call her on it.

DIANE OK. I want to know about the name. First of all, did you choose to hyphenate, or is it a maiden married, or is it handed down from a relative, or.

DIANE HARDY- It's both my parents' names.

GARCIA:

DIANE Great. Cool.

WILLIAMS:

DIANE HARDY- That's-- it's hyphenated. My dad's name is Hardy, and my mom's is Garcia.

GARCIA:

DIANE That's great. Well, I'm so glad that you can come down here. I know that you said you were going to be coming down on some other business. And tell us, let me get this. Tell us exactly what your position is with the Lesbian and Gay Rights Lobby of Texas. Because I'm so happy to be able to have you working for us in Austin right now with all the stuff that's happening.

DIANE HARDY- Thanks.

GARCIA:

DIANE I'm so glad you're there.

WILLIAMS:

DIANE HARDY- Thank you.

GARCIA:

DIANE Tell us what you do.

WILLIAMS:

DIANE HARDY- I appreciate it. I'm the Executive Director of the Lesbian and Gay Rights Lobby of Texas. And what we do is lobby statewide for lesbian and gay rights. We primarily lobby the legislature and also state agencies in general.

DIANE So basically, are our voice in Austin.

WILLIAMS:

DIANE HARDY- That's it.

GARCIA:

DIANE The voice in Austin.

WILLIAMS:

DIANE HARDY- That's what we say on our brochure.

GARCIA:

DIANE The voice of Austin.

WILLIAMS:

DIANE HARDY- The voice.

GARCIA:

DIANE Well, I'm not even going to begin to ask you what you say yet. [LAUGHS] Let me ask you what you hear. I know
WILLIAMS: that you work for the entire state. So I'm not going to talk about Houston specifically right now. I want to ask a little about the mainstream coalition and that vote in Austin.

Let me ask you the first question that we always ask everybody that comes from the Lesbian and Gay Rights Lobby or anything. Give us the story, once again, for the millionth time on 2106. 2106 is the Penal Code of the state of Texas that makes sodomy illegal. Tell us what happened and why it's still on the books and how that fight is going.

DIANE HARDY- In the last legislative session, we came very close to passing a repeal of 2106. Which would have taken 2106 out
GARCIA: of the Penal Code. We won in the Senate and we lost in the House. And when you win in the Senate and lose in the House, it goes to Conference Committee. And in Conference Committee, we lost by one vote. And it's closer than we've ever gotten before, which is pretty amazing.

DIANE Yeah.

WILLIAMS:

DIANE HARDY- But then we had a recent ruling over the summer, a Supreme Court case, *Morales versus the State of Texas*. And
GARCIA: in that case, the Supreme Court chose not to rule in a five to four decision. So in our mind, when we read the interpretations of that. They're choosing to rule leaves in place good law which is *England versus the City of Dallas*. That case, you probably are familiar with--

DIANE Micah England?

WILLIAMS:

DIANE HARDY- Yeah, Micah England sued the city of Dallas because they denied her a job because they classified her as a
GARCIA: criminal as a result of 2106. She won that case in the third court of appeals. And that is the only case which we would call a case of standing in the state of Texas regarding the sodomy law. And in that case, 2106 was declared unconstitutional.

What does that mean in English? What that means to us is that 2106 is unconstitutional. It would have been better had the Supreme Court ruled. But since they decided not to, both-sided, *England* is the law of the land.

DIANE So what does that mean by they decided not to rule? I mean, normally your choices are not deciding not to rule.
WILLIAMS: Your choices are guilty or not guilty.

DIANE HARDY- They threw it out saying that they had no jurisdiction over it. And there was a lot of reasons they cited for not having jurisdiction. But what this means now is that if somebody uses 2106 against you to deny you a job, or deny you housing, or deny funding to maybe an AIDS program that serves gay men or lesbians, you can sue them. And you will probably win. And you know, that's better than we've been before. But it's not good enough.

DIANE I want you to say that again.

WILLIAMS:

DIANE HARDY- OK.

GARCIA:

DIANE I want you to say that one more time. That seems very, very important to me. If you are a lesbian or gay man or
WILLIAMS: possibly even a transgenderal person acting in a sexual way.

DIANE HARDY- You can sue.

GARCIA:

DIANE And someone says you're a criminal.

WILLIAMS:

DIANE HARDY- Yeah, and denies you something, like deny you housing, or they deny you a job, or they deny you a promotion, or
GARCIA: maybe funding for a program that explicitly supports lesbians and gays because of their criminal status, they cite 2106. We can sue. And we will probably win. The problem with that is that for lesbians and gays, contrary to that public myth that we all make \$55,000 a year--

[LAUGHS]

DIANE Yeah.

WILLIAMS:

DIANE HARDY- Most of us are not rich enough to keep going to court and many of us are not out enough to keep going to court.
GARCIA: So we still need to work on 2106. But if those cases come up, it's a good legal challenge.

DIANE And I think that that pushes-- when you push the legal challenges like that and you win, I mean, you can't help
WILLIAMS: but get--

DIANE HARDY- Strengthen understanding.

GARCIA:

DIANE Strengthen the cause, strengthen the standing, strengthen the way gay and lesbian people are looked at, I
WILLIAMS: believe.

DIANE HARDY- Yeah, absolutely.

GARCIA:

DIANE So tell us a little bit about what's happening right now in Austin and what's that, Travis County?
WILLIAMS:

DIANE HARDY- Yeah. After the vote on domestic partnership--
GARCIA:

DIANE Tell us from the beginning what happened. I know it's a very back and forth kind of thing.
WILLIAMS:

DIANE HARDY- Long and sordid story.
GARCIA:

DIANE Yes, it's a terrible long and sordid story. But there's a lot of different stories about exactly what's happening. And
WILLIAMS: I know there's a group out there called the Mainstream Coalition, which sounds very scary to me. But in fact, it's a friendly group.

DIANE HARDY- Yeah.

GARCIA:

DIANE So tell us what's happening in Austin or what just happened.

WILLIAMS:

DIANE HARDY- We in September of 1993, we passed a domestic partnership initiative which gave lesbians and gays in addition
GARCIA: to straight people domestic partnership benefits, gave city of Austin employees health benefits, leave benefits, and benefits that other couples usually traditionally get.

And it was very important to us, because domestic partnership having access to those kind of benefits makes us paid equally. A third of what people make nowadays is in benefits. And when lesbians and gays don't have access to those kinds of benefits, they're just simply not paid the same. So we were really proud of that effort. And we got those healthcare benefits. We established a registry. And we got the leave benefits.

DIANE So basically, that means to someone that is the spouse or domestic partner of a lesbian and gay person that is
WILLIAMS: receiving insurance from his or her job, that that person would also be eligible for that insurance and covered under that insurance.

DIANE HARDY- Yes. You have to go down and register your partnership. But it meant that you could cover your lover. And that is
GARCIA: so crucial to us. When even when both of us work, like a perfect example of how important it was, there was a woman who was working as a firefighter. And her partner is a lawyer who's employed but would like to go into private practice someday.

If they were straight, they could always come under the firefighter's insurance. But since they are gay, we never have had those options. And so, although they signed up as domestic partners, they didn't want the insurance yet. But they wanted the option. That's another reason these things are so important. They provide us with the economic advantages we need.

DIANE Right. And if you have kids, or your spouse has kids, or you have kids together, that would be almost a necessity
WILLIAMS: to be covered under insurance. And I know that insurance isn't the only benefit to get as being registered by domestic partners. Hopefully in the future, you'd be able to file joint income tax. Is that correct?

DIANE HARDY- Well, not under this. This was Canada's income. So and in the city of Boston employees, this applied to City of
GARCIA: Boston employees. They paid 50% of the coverage just like straight people do. So it wasn't a complete freebie.

DIANE Right.

WILLIAMS:

DIANE HARDY- But it also gave something that's pretty important to us, which was sick leave and bereavement leave.

GARCIA:

DIANE Right.

WILLIAMS:

DIANE HARDY- And so, prior to the passage of that, if your lover was sick you couldn't come under the Family Leave Act. And--

GARCIA:

DIANE Which is especially important in the days of AIDS.

WILLIAMS:

DIANE HARDY- Absolutely.

GARCIA:

DIANE It's very important to be able to do that for your loved one. I know I have a friend that's a teacher who teaches in

WILLIAMS: a college system. And she cannot leave on even one day to go to one funeral of anyone that is not related to her by marriage or by birth.

So she could go for her parents, her immediate aunts and uncles, her sisters and brothers, children, and marriage-- married spouse. Not even the spouse's parents or family. But only the spouse. And since she's a lesbian, if anything happens to her lover or her lover's family--

DIANE HARDY- She can't do anything.

GARCIA:

DIANE She can't even leave to go to the funeral.

WILLIAMS:

DIANE HARDY- Yeah. And that's really hard.

GARCIA:

DIANE Legally.

WILLIAMS:

[LAUGHS]

DIANE HARDY- Because it's again, an attempt to deny us families. And we have them. I mean, the person you share your life

GARCIA: with, you should be able to stay home and take care of them.

DIANE Right. So what happened? This passed and everybody in Austin lived happily ever after? Tell us what happened.

WILLIAMS:

DIANE HARDY- Well, what happened was, for many of us, it was a very powerful thing. Because for the first time, we

GARCIA: outnumbered the radical right. And in the testimony that evening that it passed was so powerful. Because people came that had never spoken before before a committee and before the city council. And they came to talk about how they had real families. It was very personal.

And when it passed, the whole city council chamber just jumped up and screamed and cheered because it was so wonderful to us. And we really had a very public show of support. But immediately after it passed, the radical right--

DIANE Those pseudo-Christians.

WILLIAMS:

DIANE HARDY- Yeah. Joined forces and took full page ads out in the paper that said, shame on the sodomites. And they were

GARCIA: furious with this whole process. Well, shame on the sodomites doesn't work. And banging your Bible doesn't really work in Austin. I mean, that wasn't a very palatable message.

DIANE Right.

WILLIAMS:

DIANE HARDY- Immediately, Kevin Thibodeau from the Colorado for Family Values came into town and helped advise this group.

GARCIA:

DIANE So what this is, is a network of people working nationwide with deep pockets to overrule any positive decisions

WILLIAMS: that might come down.

DIANE HARDY- And take away, like they did in Colorado, anti-discrimination clauses. They organize across the country. And

GARCIA: they're very good at it now. They're becoming quite sophisticated.

And what they did immediately in Austin was they removed the people that were seen as the crazy radical right people and they put them behind the scenes. They weren't in front of the cameras banging the bibles anymore. And they changed their name to Concerned Texans. And who the hell isn't a concerned Texan?

DIANE Yeah.

WILLIAMS:

DIANE HARDY- I mean, that's kind of a name that seemed sort of benign. And so, people started to listen to this group. And they

GARCIA: changed their tactics. They didn't scream about the sodomites anymore. They talked about how this was going to bankrupt the city and cost so much money.

DIANE Yeah.

WILLIAMS:

DIANE HARDY- So what they did is they garnered about-- they garnered enough signatures to put it on the ballot in May of this

GARCIA: year.

DIANE So that the actual people of the county had to vote on something that the--

WILLIAMS:

DIANE HARDY- It was the city of Austin that voted.

GARCIA:

DIANE So this is something that the city of Austin had to vote on, something that the city council had already decided,

WILLIAMS: correct?

DIANE HARDY- Yes. They made a repeal of it.

GARCIA:

DIANE And-- right. And the repeal of it is, they used money. This is going to bankrupt our city. This is going to turn our

WILLIAMS: city into whatever. It's a manipulation of the way people view us.

DIANE HARDY- It was. Plus they misguided the voters in quite a few ways. They repeatedly lied about the costs. Everybody **GARCIA:** knows, and every bit of data that there is regarding domestic partners and all the big companies that are now offering those benefits do that because it's cost-effective.

Not just because it's fair. Because insuring domestic partners is good business. And it costs very little money. Domestic partners use much fewer benefits than do heterosexual couples. Because heterosexuals tend to have more children. And children are the real people who use healthcare benefits.

DIANE Right.

WILLIAMS:

DIANE HARDY- So all the data shows that insuring domestic partners is very cost-efficient and in the long run saves money.

GARCIA: Because all the people that came under the plan would now have access to preventative care as opposed to emergency care. And Austin has a public city-funded hospital. So these people when they get injured end up at the City Hospital and we pay for it anyway.

DIANE Yeah.

WILLIAMS:

DIANE HARDY- But and we know that preventative care saves dollars. But they lied about that. They repeatedly inflated the cost,

GARCIA: that the real cost for the program was about \$104,000. They said it cost \$750,000. And then they said it would cost \$36 million over the next five years. Well--

DIANE How do you project figures like that, number one?

WILLIAMS:

DIANE HARDY- They lied.

GARCIA:

DIANE Exactly.

WILLIAMS:

DIANE HARDY- They basically lied. And they--

GARCIA:

DIANE They lied.

WILLIAMS:

DIANE HARDY- And they repeatedly said it. And people vote their pocketbooks, they'll often-- the people just paid their property

GARCIA: taxes in Austin on April 15. The vote was on May 7.

DIANE 7, yeah.

WILLIAMS:

DIANE HARDY- And so, that message really hit hard, hit home. And in addition, they turned out 20,000 extra voters. So we lost.

GARCIA: We lost the benefits effective almost two weeks ago. And they were-- and it was a pretty big loss. It was a 38 to 62 vote. Pretty unexpected in Austin.

So it was a hard thing to go through as a community. I think many lesbians and gays didn't think it was possible to lose an election in Austin. Maybe didn't take the threat seriously enough. And there's a real effort-- belief that the radical right isn't really out to get us. People don't want to hear about that.

DIANE Right.

WILLIAMS:

DIANE HARDY- And they are. And they're sophisticated. And they have national connections. And they have consultants that

GARCIA: come down and help these people. Your local folks must network.

DIANE Consultants.

WILLIAMS:

DIANE HARDY- Yeah. They must-- you may think your local crazies are not capable of this. But the people they bring in are very

GARCIA: knowledgeable.

DIANE There's connections everywhere. I want to hit on a touchy subject.

WILLIAMS:

DIANE HARDY- Sure.

GARCIA:

DIANE What do you think about the Lesbian Avengers stunt that happened? There was a-- do you want to talk about

WILLIAMS: that?

DIANE HARDY- Sure.

GARCIA:

DIANE What do you know about that incident and how do you feel about it personally?

WILLIAMS:

DIANE HARDY- Well, I know several Avengers. And I myself have been in Avenger. The Lesbian Avengers, during the campaign

GARCIA: did an action that was unrelated to the domestic partnership issue.

There was a church that had had a horrible sign up that said, lesbians and gays commit the most heinous crimes in America. And the Avengers were mad about that. So they planned an action. And they did an action where they dumped I think it was--

DIANE Animal.

WILLIAMS:

DIANE HARDY- --three tons of manure on the church lawn or something.

GARCIA:

DIANE That's a lot. That's a lot.

WILLIAMS:

DIANE HARDY- It was a lot of work. They dumped this on a church lawn of the church that had done this. Well, the media
GARCIA: manipulated that in some ways. Because they immediately connected it to domestic partners when the Avengers clearly said it wasn't. They said, all the TV stations started talking about how the domestic partnership debate was heating up, and--

DIANE Do you think that was--

WILLIAMS: