

JIMMY CARPER: Heather Small from the *Queer as Folk* soundtrack, American version.

SPEAKER 1: Yes.

JIMMY CARPER: "Proud." I love that song.

SPEAKER 1: I do too. It was either that or horny as my theme and figured this is a little classier. Just a little.

JIMMY CARPER: Just a little.

SPEAKER 1: Just a skosh.

JIMMY CARPER: Especially for what we're going to be talking about.

SPEAKER 1: Yes. We're going to be doing news and views a little bit later. We've got with us here Paul with ABBA. And we're not talking the singing group.

JIMMY CARPER: No.

PAUL: No. No.

JIMMY CARPER: No, that's later.

SPEAKER 1: Yeah, we'll be forcing ABBA upon us later on.

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

SPEAKER 1: But AABA-- Paul's with the board of AABA. And why don't you tell us what AABA is and what they're about?

PAUL: OK. AABA is the AIDS Alliance of the Bay Area. It's a support group for people that have found that they're HIV positive or have developed AIDS. Since mental health and as well as physical health is so important to long life, they provide a full support array: counseling, how to find resources. If you ever pick up the resource guide that is published from time to time, you can get lost just figuring out what all the names mean in the publication.

Lew Riggs, who's the director of AABA, is highly skilled in how to find the resources that you need to lead a full life. There's an old quote that I've always stuck in my heads from when I was doing a lot of heavy duty reading as a teen. Existence is not an acceptable substitute for life. You need a full life.

There was a time when you spoke of dying with AIDS. And today, you live with AIDS. And with the new medications, the cocktails, and good mental attitude, mental health, the development of actual AIDS after you are found or diagnosed to have HIV positive status, it's a long ways down the pike, as long as you keep your attitude up and the support of friends and family.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

PAUL: And one of the key things that AABA does is it provides outreach. They go to the people where they live. Unfortunately, there's a trend these days to centralize the resources, pull all the money into Houston, pull all the money into Galveston, severely limit who can use those resources, where they live. AABA is one of the few, if not the only, agencies left in the whole area that actually goes out to where the people live, where their homes are, where their lives are so that they provide the necessary support to keep things going.

And in terms of support, there's an additional feature that is what got me started with AABA. They have a support group for those that are affected by AIDS. There are a lot of support groups out there for those who are infected, but AABA has an open group for those that are affected: friends, lovers, mothers, wives, children, whoever it is. When someone has found that they have reached that stage in life that AIDS is taking over, they don't exist in a vacuum.

And the support, the information, the emotions, they run like a roller coaster. And the support group for the friends and the other families, their shared experience makes all the difference in the world on how you deal with the problems. Meds don't always go down smooth and easy. The adjustment to changing things so that you have a full life, sometimes a little traumatic. The meds have to be monitored, changed to meet your changing body. And it's not always smooth sailing.

You have questions about what happens? How do these things work? And having a support group that you can go to and share and deal with these problems openly makes all the difference in the world. If you don't have a support group where you live, there's one around somewhere. And doing it alone really doesn't work very well.

SPEAKER 1: Yeah. I mean when you're saying about the positive outlook on that, I mean that's-- you've always heard that comment, laughter is the best medicine. And there's a lot of studies going on nowadays of having that support system around you. And I mean it's why they started taking animals into hospitals to be with people because that relationship, that camaraderie with something helps out the immune system on a lot of people.

PAUL: Well, you still have the phenomenon that some people get the diagnosis and they start feeling almost immediately. Others-- we've had clients at AABA that due to their individual biology could not take the meds. 15 years later, they were still kicking. And I do mean kicking. That one was a live wire from hell and back. No meds simply because that body wouldn't take him.

So you can't say there is a simple cookbook formula. You go to page 2 and you read down and-- no, it doesn't work that way. There's too many questions, too many variables. You need to be able to share and get the support. When it comes time to get disability, to answer questions about what do I do about insurance? How do I apply for these things? Where do I get my teeth fixed? How do I get the medical support I need? The meds cost more money than I make in a year. What do I do now? That's where talking to someone with the skills and the knowledge, that like Lew Riggs has, makes all the difference in the world.

The government forms have a very specific dictionary that they use. And if you're not familiar with that dictionary and you fill out the forms freelance yourself and you don't use the right buzzwords, two years down the line, you're still trying to get your paperwork approved, as opposed to six weeks, two months, three months, it's back approved because you used the right words that the people recognized. And that's where the skills of a support counselor can make the difference between a constant battle that saps your strength and energy and getting on with being alive.

SPEAKER 1: Oh, yeah. And you hear a lot about the statistics lately, especially in the minority communities. Just this past week, the Centers for Disease Control released some of their new statistics. It's their semiannual HIV/AIDS surveillance report. And here's some things to point out on this.

Texas is number four on the 10 states and territories reporting the highest number of cumulative AIDS cases. We had 53,987. Texas was beat out only by New York, California, and Florida. Rounding out the 10 was New Jersey, Illinois, Puerto Rico, Pennsylvania, Georgia, and Maryland. When you look at those statistics, they're with the Metropolitan areas. Houston itself was number 8 with over a third of the cases in Texas coming just from Houston.

PAUL: And see, that's one of the deceptive things. When you say the Houston Metropolitan area, that's such a big piece of the map.

SPEAKER 1: Oh, yeah. I mean, Houston--

PAUL: You start talking Matagorda Bay, Galveston, way up North, and the things shift. For instance, AABA is primarily dealing with Angleton, Alvin, and all those surrounding territories down there that really aren't part of the support network in Houston. They're not part of the support network in Galveston, and yet the resources have to be shared.

The contacts and the resources that are available, you've got to know who to call, how to call them, and what to say. And giving up everything that you have built your life around to move into a strange place is a trauma that most people really don't need. And that's where AABA is such a help.

SPEAKER 1: Yeah, basically-- I mean, the numbers we have here for Metropolitan Houston include the people that AABA covers. But the downside is that when the money comes in, counting those AABA people, that money comes in and sits directly in Harris County and doesn't hit the extended-- it trickles out a little bit, but you don't see it proportional to the number of people who are out in the--

PAUL: The trickle has really--

SPEAKER 1: The dam has been built and it's--

PAUL: They've centralized the funds. AABA just recently moved into spaces provided by one of the local churches in Alvin. They're now located at 1212 South Durant in Alvin. Their offices are open from 9:00 to 5:00. And for those of you with concerns or questions, you want information, they can be contacted at 281-388-2339.

The phone is monitored 24 hours a day, seven days a week. And in emergencies, when you call that number, if someone isn't physically at the office, they will provide you with other numbers to call so that you can get the help that you need.

And so those that live in the Angleton, Alvin area and all those side roads and everything else that's down there, down Matagorda Bay, you're not alone. You're not forgotten. But for those of you that are looking for projects to help with, places to do contributions of time, money, materials, AABA is a good place to put some of those to good use. We have fundraisers fairly regularly. But due to funding limitations, the staffing at AABA has been reduced. So like a lot of other areas, things are getting tight.

SPEAKER 1: Yeah. Well let's give that phone number out again. The AIDS Alliance of the Bay Area--

PAUL: 281-388-2339.

SPEAKER 1: And it's available 24 hours a day. And if you can contribute either financially, physically, even emotionally, give them a call. Probably during business hours would be best for that. But if you're in need of support and you're in the outside areas, give them a call because this is something-- I mean we're just now-- we're talking the 20th anniversary of AIDS. And the numbers are scary sometimes when you look at them.

I guess I consider myself the exception in this community. I don't-- I have not gone through the AIDS funerals that I hear so many people have gone through of burying hundreds of friends. I've been to one person that I know who died of AIDS in the five years that I've been out. And--

JIMMY CARPER: Some of us old timers have been through scores of funerals.

PAUL: One of the concerns is that the demographics are starting to shift again.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes. And I don't like it.

PAUL: Far too many young people have decided that the new meds are magic bullets and that--

SPEAKER 1: And that they can live forever.

PAUL: Yes.

JIMMY CARPER: I am living proof that that's not true. And while my life has been extended, it's because of the drugs that I'm alive today. The side effects are horrid. They are disfiguring. They are painful. And you just don't want to have to go through that if you don't have to. Trust me.

PAUL: You can only go so long before you have to start taking the meds.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

PAUL: Well, you don't have to. But most--

JIMMY CARPER: If you're going to survive, you have to take the meds.

PAUL: Most of the people need the meds and take them. There are a few who can't. Their bodies will not take them.

JIMMY CARPER: That's true. I take around 50 pills each and every day.

SPEAKER 1: I mean, the amount of medicine-- I mean, I've seen-- I've gone out to lunch there with Jimmy and it's like, let's take this before I eat. And then I got to take this while I eat. And it's like, why are you even ordering a meal? I mean, it's-- just again, that's one of the ways of-- the appetizer will be pills.

JIMMY CARPER: It's a hell of a way to live.

SPEAKER 1: Yeah. And some people have-- I've heard some stories of, especially it's in the youth community where they're going to high schools and talking about AIDS. And people-- and some of the kids are going, well, there's the drugs out there. They're helping people.

And what has been the biggest attention-getter is some of these people with AIDS have pulled out a bag and gone, this is morning. And sits there and show the bottles, show the medicine, show the dosage, the warning labels. I mean, when we look at it, AZT was designed for cancer.

PAUL: And when you start taking the meds, you're looking at labels on bottles that say, it may take 90 days for your body to adjust.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

PAUL: That's 90 days of screwed up stomachs, diarrhea, nausea. It starts messing with your food assimilation. So suddenly you're looking at recipes for high protein, high vitamin, high calorie count foods so that you can keep your body running like it should be.

JIMMY CARPER: And some of these side effects don't go away. They're there as long as you take the meds. Yes.

SPEAKER 2: But there's no guarantee that when the medicine started-- when this group of medicines or that group of medicine starts to fail, that you won't be doing the same stuff.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

SPEAKER 2: All those complications will be back the way they were when you started the meds.

JIMMY CARPER: And it's bad enough having AIDS and living in the Montrose. It's got to be 10 times scarier having AIDS and living in a rural area.

SPEAKER 1: Where it's not Walgreens and it's not Eckerd.

JIMMY CARPER: That's right.

SPEAKER 1: It's Joe's pharmacy who's standing in the back there with the old fashioned white jacket whose father was giving pills out to your father.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah. And you have to think of if you run into any emergencies, health emergencies, you're not that close to a hospital maybe or maybe you don't have the means to get there. The work that AABA does is phenomenal.

PAUL: And just the simple thing of support drivers--

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

PAUL: --can make such a difference in the performance of the staff, their ability to provide the necessary outreach, getting someone from their home to the medical facilities that they need on a monthly basis, a biweekly basis, whatever the needs are.

SPEAKER 1: Oh, I'm sorry. I hand him a note and I've realized he doesn't have his glasses on.

JIMMY CARPER: It's live radio, folks. Yes, indeed.

SPEAKER 1: Yeah. I was commenting-- I was going to say earlier that when Buddy was talking about how nervous he was the first time coming in there. He was jumbling the records. And it was like, OK, it's 14 years later. Jimmy's not nervous and he still fumbles with the CDs.

JIMMY CARPER: Thank you so much.

SPEAKER 1: Hey, it could have been worse. I could have said, what's a record?

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

SPEAKER 1: Are they 501(c)(3)?

PAUL: Yes.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, you bet.

PAUL: They're fully tax deductible.

SPEAKER 1: So that means if you go out and you're doing driving for them, you can take that money and-- you can take your mileage and that's write off. That's a write off on your taxes. So it's one of these organizations that's out there in the suburbs. And we've always talked about the fact that with the radio we can reach out that far. I mean, we reach out to Brian. We reach out to the suburbs and Huntsville hears us, and a lot of people in the outer regions who may not get the help that they need. So let's plug it one more time. The AIDS Alliance of the Bay Area--

PAUL: 281-388-2339 from 9:00 to 5:00 at 1212 South Durant street in Alvin.

SPEAKER 2: Great.

SPEAKER 1: So we're going to do a little music then we'll come back in with news and views.

JIMMY CARPER: Actually, I have a-- it's not the music you think I'm going to play.

SPEAKER 1: We were going to play ABBA for AABA.

JIMMY CARPER: I know. I know, but we've had a music request that has been in for quite a while. And we are going to play the ABBA for AABA as a matter of fact. But DJ Tinkerbell and DJ Gay boy out at Meyerland who have been on the phone with Big Roy--

SPEAKER 1: My condolences.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes. Had a music request. They wanted something from the '80s. Well, for some reason, I don't have my Boy George with me, but I have something else that's definitely from the '80s, definitely queer. It's by Josie Cotton.

PAUL: Who?

JIMMY CARPER: You'll know it as soon as you hear it. And you're hearing it on *After Hours*, Queer Radio with Attitude, on KPFT Houston and KEOS College Station.

Now there's ABBA.

SPEAKER 1: Oh, yes. The running joke is I was hoping we had a Gay Men's Chorus singing an ABBA song.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, that would--

SPEAKER 1: So that we could have tied everything together and maybe include a song about a cucumber and really just brought the whole show together in one song.

JIMMY CARPER: I don't want to play any songs about cucumbers. No, thank you.

SPEAKER 1: Well, Delie Boe with a pickle is close enough.

JIMMY CARPER: That's true. Yeah.

SPEAKER 1: So we're going to do some news and views here real quick thing. Some stuff coming up. Fortunately, there's nothing heavy going on this week outside of the political referendum's. A local clinic is offering hepatitis vaccinations. Gay and bisexual men are at high risk for hepatitis A and B, which are both highly contagious and preventable.

The Montrose Clinic is offering vaccinations at a reduced cost to try and get that message across to gay and bisexual men who are at high risk. Now increase in these infectious liver diseases has been seen in the Houston area's gay community. However, the Clinic is publicizing the fact that men who have sex with men have a greater chance of contracting hepatitis A or B than the population at large.

The vaccines are available at the Montrose Clinic Monday through Thursday from 1:00 to 7:00 PM and Friday from 1:00 to 5:00 PM. The cost is \$45 per shot. Those who are interested are asked to make an appointment. Montrose Clinic is at 215 Westheimer. For more information, you can call them at 713-830-3000 or check them out on the web at montroseclinic.org.

JIMMY CARPER: OK. Weekly gig in Houston. This is coming from Christy Claxton, one of our favorite Texas musicians. She is going to have some shows at the Outpost, which is located in the 1,400 block of Richmond. That she and her band, the Dirty Blondes, starting in September will be performing a Happy Hour show at the Outpost.

Michael, who is the owner, sends his greetings and wants to remind everybody that they are going to be there from 6:30 to 8:30 every Monday in September. This is something new the bar is doing. And Christy's been on the show a couple of times. I play her music often. Great, great music. And I'm going to be there to see her. 6:30 to 8:30 every Monday in September, which means like this Monday.

SPEAKER 1: In a couple of--

JIMMY CARPER: Couple of days.

SPEAKER 1: Pride 2002. How fabulous was your pride this year?

JIMMY CARPER: It was fabulous.

SPEAKER 1: No matter how great pride 2001 was, we know with your help, 2002 can be even better. The Pride Committee of Houston is a year round non-profit organization that produces and promotes a series of events to celebrate the Houston gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender community's history, unity, and diversity each June. Come out and join them and learn the structure of the organization and the variety of ways you can become involved.

There will be two volunteer interest sessions in September. There is no obligation. Just attend and learn about their exciting activities. Your first shot will be on Thursday, September 6 at 7:00 PM at Houston's Lesbian and Gay Community Center at 803 Hawthorne. The second session will be on Tuesday, September 11 at 7:00 PM at Lobo Bookstore and Cafe 3939 Montrose. For more information, call the Pride line at 713-529-6979 or check it out on the web at pridehouston.org.

JIMMY CARPER: The Houston Women's Festival is pleased to announce the lineup for the 7th annual event, which will be held Saturday, October 27, 2001 at Garden in the Heights, a wonderful place to have a music festival. On the courtyard stage, in order of appearance, we have Elizabeth White, Jennifer Marks, and Eddie Carey, Ruthie Foster. Ruthie's great she played with Christy Claxton in a couple of the Lavender Lounge shows. Cafe Mocha, Sean Wiggins, who is a favorite of Gabrielle from Hatch, Ann Reid, which is--

Ann Reid is an older woman so that's going to bring in the older lesbian crowd, I think. Ann Reid is a wonderful artist. Susan Gibson, Patrick-- Patrice. Excuse me. Patrice Pike, and Cowboys Nightmare. Also at this cafe stage, that's the one that's inside the building, will be Jean Kaufman, Yvonne Perea, and Sarah Golden, who I opened the show with and who was here last week with the Hatch group, and Miss Money. I played her music tonight and last week also. Those two women are local artists.

Again this year, the Visual and Performing Art Show in the Main Hall will exhibit the work of emerging and established artists. And the marketplace will feature a variety of unique and interesting vendors. Please check out our newly redesigned website at w-cubed.hwfestival.org. Houston Women's Festival, hwfestival.org.

And please join us on Saturday, October 27, 1:00 PM till midnight. JT Doyle and I will be there for the celebration of music, art, and community. As always, the festival is open to all. Yes, that's-- it's the Houston Women's Festival, but men are greatly encouraged to go. That's October 27.

SPEAKER 1: The Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus monthly general meeting will be on Wednesday, September 5 at 7:30 at the Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center at 803 Hawthorne. That's the general meeting. The board meetings are the second Wednesday of each month, which will be the following Wednesday, also at the community center. For more information on the caucus, check them out at hglpc.com.

Also at the community center on September 6, Funny Girls, to encourage local aspiring comics, including writers and stand up talent. The Women's Comedy Collective debuts on Thursday September 6 at 7:00 at the Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center. This new group will meet on the first Thursday of the month. Deb Murphy, the force behind Lesbian Coming Out Group and Lesbian Power Dating, leads the Women's Comedy Collective as a facilitator.

Also on September 6, the Lesbian Workshop at the center gets erotic. What Lesbians Do, the monthly lesbian sex workshop, welcomes Gemma Shelton of Dynamite Fabulous feminist porn series on Thursday, September 6. The event takes place from 7:00 to 9:00 PM. The community center is located at 803 Hawthorne. For more information, call the Center at 713-524-3818.

SPEAKER 2: And also at the community center on the first and third Saturdays of the month at 7 o'clock, there is a queer poetry night. Anybody who is a poet or simply enjoys listening to poetry is welcome to join us. There's a small group that meets there. It's based in a low-- the Library Association. And it's a fun thing. If you are a poet and you're the kind of person who wants to hear your stuff, wants other people to hear what you've got to say in your words, come join us. It's at 7 o'clock, the first and third Saturdays of every month.

JIMMY CARPER: So we just missed it.

SPEAKER 2: And we would have, but there was none for the holiday weekend.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, OK. OK.

SPEAKER 2: Yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: So it's just going to be the third--

SPEAKER 2: So the third-- for this month, it'll just be the third Saturday.

SPEAKER 1: PFLAG Houston presents Dr. Cherry Will who will discuss the biological basis of sexual orientation on Sunday.

JIMMY CARPER: Sunday, Sunday, Sunday.

SPEAKER 1: September 9 at 2:00 PM at Christ Church Cathedral, 1117 Texas at San Jacinto. For more information, call 713-46-PFLAG. And PFLAG Houston is one of the newest members of the Houston Lesbian Gay Community Center.

Let's do with a few fundraisers here before we wrap it up. The Montrose Clinic Dining Out for Life will be on Thursday, September 13, 2001. A fundraising event where participating restaurants donate a portion of the day's proceeds to benefit the effort of HIV/AIDS primary and preventative health care services to the underserved communities.

If you eat it at the following restaurants on Thursday, September 13, they'll be making donations to the Montrose Clinic. The Rainbow Lodge, Rivas Restaurant, the River Cafe, Farrago World Cuisine, both of Barnaby Cafes, Niko Niko's, Fusion Cafe in the village and the other Fusion Cafe, Tia's Restaurant on Sheppard, Mo Mong, Boulevard Bistro, El Tiempo Cantina, Kam's Fine Chinese Cuisine.

JIMMY CARPER: Kam's, huh?

SPEAKER 1: For more information, you can contact the Montrose Clinic and ask for Sona Alton at 713-830-3015 or check them out on the web at montroseclinic.org.

The 33rd Annual Miss Camp America pageant is on September 22. For more information, call 713-267-STAR or go to mcaf.org. Larry's Labor of Love show is on Sunday.

JIMMY CARPER: Sunday, Sunday, Sunday.

SPEAKER 1: September 2 at 8:00 PM benefiting the Colt 45s. It is hosted by Larry Vitek. And that's of course at the BRB, at 2400 Brazos.

JIMMY CARPER: Great place.

SPEAKER 1: That's coming up later. We can do that later. That's coming up later.

JIMMY CARPER: We've got 45 seconds.

SPEAKER 1: That's it for news and views, *After Hours*, and the whole shebang. We cut out everything, but nothing that's pertinent. If you want to send us news information, love mail, hate mail--

JIMMY CARPER: Dirty pictures.

SPEAKER 1: --you can email us at afterhourskpft@hotmail.com.

JIMMY CARPER: That's right. And coming up in 30 seconds is the *Early Morning Groove*, Rob love and Governor Good Grief even this year. Both of them. Whoa.

SPEAKER 1: But he's hiding in the background until Jimmy leaves the booth.

JIMMY CARPER: I know. I know. The boy is just too afraid of me.

SPEAKER 1: Yeah. Fortunately for-- see, he's very happy because none of us won the Powerball. So he knows that he's safe for a while.

JIMMY CARPER: He's safe for a while. But when I win that lottery, he's the first one I'm calling. OK. Thanks for listening. And we want you to remember that when decorum becomes repression, the only dignity free people have is to speak out. Good night, everybody. This is KPFT Houston and KEOS College Station.