

JIMMY CARPER: That's kind of halfway between Austin--

ROSEMARIE Oh, yes, I'm very well-versed with where it is.

CROLL:

JIMMY CARPER: So she can play both places, and she really works it. But just knowing her and talking to her, it's a tough business.

ROSEMARIE It's very, very tough and very fickle, and you have to just keep at it. You have to love it and make it part of your

CROLL: life.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, you do. So how are the sales on the CD going?

ROSEMARIE Well, they're coming along. I have had some sales. I've also had to give a lot away, of course, as promotion. And

CROLL: it's so far, I've given more away as promotion instead of sales, but I'm hoping to tip the scales in the other direction in time.

JIMMY CARPER: Well, I know giving them to DJs like me, and you did give me my copy, that means it gets some airplay, and that's maybe how you get an audience. People will hear the song and either buy it from your website or remember the name, and the next time you're playing, like, in Houston at the Dyke Show or something, they'll come and see you.

ROSEMARIE Yes, and I sang. I didn't even sing one of the songs from the CD because I was still in the middle of producing it.

CROLL: When I went on Nancy Ford's show, and I sang, actually, a silly song just for fun, and nothing that I'd even written so-- because I was singing a cappella. And without a band to support me, I wanted to sing something really silly and fun, keep people's interest. Now, Jimmy, if you don't mind my asking, I would like to do something just for you for your show.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes?

ROSEMARIE I have a little ditty here I wanted to sing a cappella It's just really short and sweet. And this, I wrote years ago and

CROLL: never really brought it to completion, but your show in Houston is where I composed this. I wanted to share it right now. And try to visualize and think about people who look at the *TWT* or look at any of the other gay publications in Houston and realize that there's all these different ads in the back of the magazine.

And I saw this one continuously for years in Houston in the *TWT*, and I felt very compelled to do this. So here it goes.

ROSEMARIE (SINGING)

CROLL:

JIMMY CARPER: If you do that any longer, there's going to be a conga line.

[LAUGHTER]

ROSEMARIE That's the whole idea of the song. I thought you'd enjoy that.

CROLL:

JIMMY CARPER: I did. Thank you very much.

ROSEMARIE Of course, it would sound better if I had some men in the background helping me out. You could just see the men
CROLL: all behind me, all in their little g-strings--

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, I sure can.

ROSEMARIE --in their cowboy boots, hopping along. I just thought I'd bring a little late-night entertainment here.
CROLL:

JIMMY CARPER: Thank you. So it sounds like if you could get some instrumentation, even recorded, you can use that.

ROSEMARIE Unfortunately, my dear brother has been so pressed for time, and he had only so much space on his memory that
CROLL: he recorded over my tracks

JIMMY CARPER: Ouch, Ouch.

ROSEMARIE Oh, I don't blame him. He worked very hard to help me, so I was very grateful for what he did.
CROLL:

JIMMY CARPER: I'm glad you got the CD out.

ROSEMARIE Exactly, it's been a life dream.
CROLL:

JIMMY CARPER: How can people get it?

ROSEMARIE How can they get? It's on sale at BookWoman in Austin. It's also on sale at Waterloo Records in Austin. And in
CROLL: Houston, it's on sale at Cactus Music and Video on Shepherd and Alabama.

JIMMY CARPER: KPFT listeners know that place very well because we have a lot of live entertainment that goes on there.

ROSEMARIE Yes, and unfortunately, they misspelled my name. They have it down as Rose-may-ree Croll instead of Rose-
CROLL: mah-rie Croll. But it's in their local section, I believe, just so the listeners know.

JIMMY CARPER: And can they get it online too?

ROSEMARIE Online? They would probably have to email me directly, more than likely through the website.
CROLL:

JIMMY CARPER: And that's www.rosemariecroll.com.

ROSEMARIE That's correct.
CROLL:

JIMMY CARPER: And that's Rose-M-A-R-I-E C-R-O-L-L? That works.

ROSEMARIE Yeah.

CROLL:

JIMMY CARPER: I want to end this with my favorite.

ROSEMARIE Thank you.

CROLL:

JIMMY CARPER: And it says here it's Miss Kathy's favorite too, a mutual friend of ours, Kathryn Stagg's.

ROSEMARIE Oh, so the photographer on the project?

CROLL:

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, and actually looking at it, I'd like the inside picture. I wish you had put that one on the front, the one with the orange stuff on your head.

ROSEMARIE Oh, feel the love?

CROLL:

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, I really like that picture.

ROSEMARIE Yeah, it's a fun picture. We had fun doing the whole thing.

CROLL:

JIMMY CARPER: I'll bet. I really enjoyed Kathryn's company.

ROSEMARIE Well, back to "Texas, Michigan," for a moment. My brother and I, that was the first song we did. Literally, each

CROLL: song was done in order. We never changed the order.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, you're kidding.

ROSEMARIE No, it's exactly recorded as we did it.

CROLL:

JIMMY CARPER: Wow.

ROSEMARIE And of course, it's been reedited and revamped, but not the order of the songs. They stayed the same

CROLL: consistently. And my brother and I laughed on the first song, saying this was going to be a cult hit or maybe a beer-drinking song.

JIMMY CARPER: I love it, yeah.

ROSEMARIE Just tonight, I was having visualizations of the big stadium full of people and people going, "Texas," and another

CROLL: stadium in Michigan, "Michigan."

[LAUGHTER]

JIMMY CARPER: To me, it's like if people knew you were from Michigan, they might have a bias, and this "Texas, Michigan" is a great song to open up to get them over that.

ROSEMARIE It doesn't matter where we're from. It's the truth. Everyone has to enjoy where they are, who they are, with everyone. This is our opportunity in life. There's my plug for living, and it's all about love, baby.

JIMMY CARPER: You bet, and there's a lot of love packed into this.

ROSEMARIE I hope the listeners take an opportunity to listen to it when they get a chance

CROLL:

JIMMY CARPER: And the name of the CD is *Spotty Sprinkles of Love* by Rosemarie Croll. And I want to thank you for being with *After Hours*, and we're going to close with that "Three Cake's" in the oven.

ROSEMARIE Thank you so much again for all your time.

CROLL:

JIMMY CARPER: You bet. Take care. Bye.

ROSEMARIE Bye, Bye.

CROLL:

[MUSIC PLAYING]

JIMMY CARPER: "Three Cake's" in the oven by Rosemary Croll, and you can pick that up at-- actually, Rosemarie Croll, but it is Rosemary Croll at Cactus in the local section. We've got the second half of the show coming up.

We've got Big Roy, and he's doing the *After Hours News* magazine. And he's got a couple of folks in there. It looks very military to me. So we'll be doing that. I Want to give a couple of mentions here. First, at the community center on Wednesday, January the 9th, the mayoral liaison community roundtable occurs at 5:00 to 6:30 PM.

I know it's a little early, but you get a chance to sit and speak with Janine Brunjes who has been a guest on this show, and talk about things that are on your mind because she's got the mayor's ear, and she can take your concerns to there. And let's see [? CAT's ?] meeting is coming up.

Wednesday, January the 16th, the CHT's Shelter Committee meeting is at that the Lesbian and Gay Community, Center 803 Hawthorne, 7:00. And Sunday, January the 20th, the STAG meets at the Lesbian and Gay Community. That's the guy group. That's at 803 Hawthorn. And some other meetings, we'll talk about them coming up.

I want to talk about the Laramie project that's coming up, and here's the email that I received on that. "In November of 1998, 10 New Yorkers traveled to Laramie, Wyoming. They were there to explore a crime in a town. Over the next year, they conducted more than 200 interviews with the people of Laramie. The result is a new play about hope, hate, fear, and courage, the story of an American town, a true story."

Laramie, of course, is the town where Matthew Shepard was killed, and that's what this play is about. And please join HATCH in a very special fundraising event through the generous cooperation of Unhinged productions and Stages Repertory Theater.

This is Saturday, January the 19th. And for a very special price, the evening includes the first Saturday performance of the Laramie project and a private party with the cast following the show. Everything is included with the \$75 per ticket donation to HATCH.

For reservations, call 832-419-0240, or you may reply to Kevin via email, and that is K. Davidson D-A-V-I-D-S-O-N at W, T dot net. That's KDavidson@wt.net

And of course, HATCH-- what can we say about HATCH? They need the money. And it's a great organization, absolutely incredible.

So it's time now for the second half of the show, probably. I think I've gone over about a minute. But I've got some special music, and after that, you'll be hearing the sweet, dulcet tones of Big Roy.

[LAUGHS]

I can't even say that with a straight face. OK, here we go.

[MUSIC - JOHN FORSTER, "IN THE CLOSET"]

Oh, what a great, great song. Thank you, JD Doyle. He's the one who provided the music for tonight's show and--

BIG ROY: The name and artist?

JIMMY CARPER: That was called John Forster, and-- it was called "In the Closet," and it's from *Heelium* CD done in 1997.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

BIG ROY: That is magnificent.

GUEST: I love that.

BIG ROY: I liked it.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

JIMMY CARPER: Isn't that great?

GUEST: Yeah, it was good.

They've been doing that in the deserts of Afghanistan

[LAUGHTER]

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, I want to hear more about that special probe.

BIG ROY: Hey, I heard that.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

JIMMY CARPER: What kind of probe was it?

BIG ROY: Oh, boy, talk about a Big Bertha.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, my, my, my-- so Big Roy, what have you got going?

BIG ROY: Man, how am I going to follow up that one?

JIMMY CARPER: I don't know.

BIG ROY: Anyways, tonight's *News and Views* news magazine segment is special. It's, again, the gays in the military. And with me tonight, I have two very special guests, Ryan, who was in the Navy but left under the Don't Ask, Don't Tell, and our own resident straight cross-dresser, Jackie Thorne, who was also a commander in the United States Army.

JACKIE A major.

THORNE:

BIG ROY: A major.

JACKIE The equivalent of commander in the Navy.

THORNE:

BIG ROY: Whatever, he got the gold leaf. But Jackie Thorne had left active duty back in '64, and I asked Jackie--

JIMMY CARPER: Jackie is part of the transgendered community.

BIG ROY: Right, and I asked Jackie, specifically, to be here because I wanted a straight person's input from the old days compared to the new days and just this whole hodgepodge of everything. But I want to start off with Ryan. When did you enlist?

GUEST: I enlisted in-- let's see-- I did it in October of '98. I didn't leave until June of '99.

BIG ROY: When you enlisted, did you were gay?

GUEST: No.

BIG ROY: You did not know you were gay?

GUEST: I had an inkling that I was different. Let's just say that.

BIG ROY: You had an inkling?

GUEST: Mhm.

JIMMY CARPER: And now you know what it was.

BIG ROY: OK. Now, when did you discover that you really were one of us?

GUEST: Oh, geez, let's see. When I walked into that office where you sign the contract, you know, prick your finger, let the blood flow and sign, there was--

[LAUGHTER]

No, really, you would be amazed at the comparison. It really is like that. There was a little paper in one of the seats that they made read about the Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy. After I got done reading that, is when I first questioned if I should actually sign that paper, and I did it anyway.

BIG ROY: What did that paper state?

GUEST: It pretty much said that if you are gay, it's probably better off if you don't sign, if you don't enlist, because you had all the choices up until when you signed that paper. But if you signed anyway, you could stay in the closet, or you could choose not to. But you would get no protection if you got out of the closet.

JIMMY CARPER: But you were questioning your own sexuality at that point. You didn't know your sexuality.

GUEST: That's right. But when I signed, that was, for me, putting myself back in the closet.

JIMMY CARPER: Do you think that, subconsciously, you joined the Navy to straighten yourself out?

GUEST: Actually, I know I did. I think that is what it was. And when I originally joined, part of it was I was questioning my sexuality, and putting myself in the Navy was to hide it. I knew that because I knew that even after I read that paper. And I thought, well, if I haven't done anything gay, then I'm not. So I went into the Navy, where I knew the Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy was to get into the closet.

JIMMY CARPER: Jackie, did you join for the same reason? To get butch or to maybe throw off your cross-dressing or--

JACKIE No, not at all. Some background on this, I've been transgendered since I was about four or five years of age, **THORNE:** when I got into my mother's stuff and so forth like that. And my folks were, for the time at least, very, very progressive because they basically didn't make an issue of it. But no, I came from a military family.

My father was at West Point, the class of 1924. He spent 22 years in the Army-- regular Army, and retired in 1946. And both of my brothers were in the Army. Surprisingly enough, all three of us wound up in military intelligence. My dad was in the infantry.

My brother was in the Counterintelligence Corps, and I was an Intel staff officer. And although I only spent 26 months on active duty, I had a total of 28 years of service when I did retire in 1990 as a major in military intelligence.

And basically, they did ask me a couple of times, when I had various re-ups and so forth like that, was I gay, was I attracted to men, and so forth like that. And I was able to answer them honestly, no, I'm not, because I was heterosexual. They just never asked me if I like to wear a dress.

[LAUGHTER]

JIMMY CARPER: They probably would not have gone for that had they known.

JACKIE Well, it falls under that catch-all article of the Uniform Code of Military Justice of Conduct Unbecoming an Officer **THORNE:** and a Gentleman. And they can nail your ass on that for almost anything.

GUEST: Yeah, I know.

JACKIE Like, spitting on the sidewalk almost.

THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: I'm sure you would have looked just as stunning in the skirt

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

GUEST: Actually, I see one difference already. I was never outrightly asked by anyone if I was gay or had an attraction to men. I never was. I think that is one thing that has changed. They will not ask you. You read the paper, and you can decide for yourself.

Here's the thing. The times that I was asked was before they really began to enforce it all. It was prior to 1990, which was when I retired, and the Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy didn't come in until, what, '93, when Clinton was inaugurated.

BIG ROY: All right.

JIMMY CARPER: Now, I'm of the era. Since we're talking about this, about joining up, I was called to duty in 1967, and that was the Vietnam era.

JACKIE You were in the reserves, or what?

THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: No, I wasn't in the service at all. I had a lover at the time who-- and I was kind of thinking, should I go into the service or shouldn't I? And he said, if you go into the service, I'm going to tell them.

[LAUGHTER]

I did what a lot of people did, people who weren't even gay.

GUEST: You went to Canada?

JIMMY CARPER: You signed "the box," is what it's called, where it says, do you have homosexual tendencies? And I signed that box, and immediately upon signing it, everyone there was very nice, very formal, but I was just, OK, thank you very much. Get dressed. You can go, blah, blah, blah. But I was not treated badly but--

JACKIE You were no longer required.

THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: I was no longer-- yeah. But of course, they told me at that time that, OK, this is going to be on your record permanently, and you can never get a civil service job, and blah, blah, blah, blah, blah. That was 1967. I think things have changed.

BIG ROY: Well, I know that during the Vietnam era, like in New York a few years later, things were a bit different because I know that people would go down to the draft office in drag with boyfriends, and it just got to the point where the military just didn't care anymore, and they just wouldn't believe it. So

JIMMY CARPER: Many heterosexuals were signing the box because they didn't want to go to Vietnam. People were playing Klinger.

JACKIE Yeah, exactly, and that was the problem. And so as a consequence, they basically ignored that and said, OK, we don't give a shit whether you're gay or whether you wear a dress, we're going to make you a grunt with a rifle--

BIG ROY: And an honorary bullet stopper.

JACKIE Yeah, in the right body.

THORNE:

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

JACKIE You had no other choice. If you wanted to be in some specialized area, you could forget about that. But they
THORNE: needed cannon fodder out there in the boondocks.

BIG ROY: I remember-- I'm not sure if it was General Westmoreland or Chesty Puller or what general it was who said this, but he says, we don't give a damn if they're gay. After it's over, we'll take care of it.

I'm reminded of the same thing in World War II, in the European theater when Hitler had all but lost the war. We were just on the outskirts of Berlin, and then General Eisenhower gave his secretary, a female--

JACKIE Yeah, yeah.

THORNE:

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

BIG ROY: Now that the war was over--

JACKIE Sergeant major in the WAX--

THORNE:

BIG ROY: And he was getting ready to give-- the war was just about over, and now he wants to get rid of the lesbians.

JACKIE He said, I want a list of all the lesbians in your battalion. And she came into Eisenhower's office, closed the door behind her, and told Eisenhower, she said, I'll prepare this list for you, but she said, I want you to know that my name will be at the top of that list. And Eisenhower said, forget it.

GUEST: Belay lay that last order.

[LAUGHTER]

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, and I'm sorry we don't have a woman here because I know that the women would have had it a lot worse than the men.

BIG ROY: I would love to have had a woman. And it's really amazing how in times of war, Vietnam,

JACKIE World War II.

THORNE:

BIG ROY: Jackie was active during the Cuban Missile Crisis. We have Ryan with us now. And even though he was only in for a short time, if he had stayed in-- the problem what we're having out there in Afghanistan in the war on terrorism.

With some branches, there's, I believe that they call it a stop for-- it's some sort of stopping of the discharging of people on the Don't Ask. They're not eliminating it. I forget what the wording is.

JACKIE The stop-loss.

THORNE:

BIG ROY: Stop-loss, that's it. A stop-loss.

JACKIE Stop-loss orders, yeah. They said, discontinue any proceedings to discharge people.

THORNE:

BIG ROY: Under the Don't Ask, Don't Tell?

GUEST: No, anything.

JACKIE Well, not only under Don't Ask, Don't Tell, under anything. Now, we just stop loss. Do not discharge anybody for

THORNE: anything short of criminal conduct.

GUEST 1: When I was in my school, actually, it was a very difficult school to get through, not just because of academics. You were expected to be a model sailor. And one of the things that they did is if you screwed up for even the smallest thing, as say-- I don't know-- not doing your homework.

It was a standing order that you did your homework every night in my school. If you didn't do it, you could be--

BIG ROY: Picked on?

GUEST: --put on you could be put up to captain's mast.

BIG ROY: Which is?

GUEST: Captain's mast is the--

JACKIE Article 15 in the Army. It's a nonjudicial punishment.

THORNE:

GUEST: Right, NJP, Nonjudicial Punishment. And if you did it too many times or if they thought that you--

JACKIE --were doing it intentionally.

THORNE:

GUEST: Right, you could actually be discharged.

JACKIE Well, not so much discharge, but they just kick you out of the school and send you someplace else.

THORNE:

GUEST: No, actually, we had people who were discharged. What they do is they could take you out of the school. Or they would put you in a detention facility and bring you back to the school for evaluation and put you back in. If you did it again, they could discharge you, or ship you out or whatever.

BIG ROY: OK, Jimmy has a question here.

JIMMY CARPER: No, we need to take a quick break and let everybody know that they are listening to *After Hours*, Queer Radio With Attitude on KPFT Houston and KEOS College Station. We'll be right back.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

JOAN DEVLIN: Hi, this is Joan Devlin. You're listening to KPFT's *Lesbian and Gay Voices*.

JACK VALINSKI: We Want to create the political climate for same-sex marriages. Let's just talk about some of this stuff.

WOMAN 1: The Neutron Lesbian strikes again.

JOAN DEVLIN: We're going to be doing some radical radio right now.

MAN 1: Legal changes decriminalizing gay sex.

JIMMY CARPER: We celebrate the diversity.

JACK VALINSKI: Welcome to another edition of *Lesbian and Gay Voices*. This is Jack Valinski.

WOMAN 1: It wasn't until I had lived with a woman for a year that it even occurred to me to ask, do you think we're lesbians?

JOAN DEVLIN: Civil rights for gays. The ending of Don't Ask, Don't Tell.

JACK VALINSKI: Listen to *Lesbian and Gay Voices*. My prediction-- Al Gore 276 electoral votes, George W Bush, 262.

MAN 1: That's *Lesbian and Gay Voices*, Mondays at 8:00 PM.

MAN: I hear gay people.

JIMMY CARPER: And don't forget, the new name for *Lesbian and Gay Voices* is *Queer Voices*, every Monday night at 8:00. And now, something new that Chris did just last week.

CHRIS: You know about Elton.

[MUSIC - ELTON JOHN, "CAN YOU FEEL THE LOVE TONIGHT"]

And you know about Melissa.

[MUSIC - MELISSA ETHERIDGE, "I WANT TO COME OVER"]

But do you know about Doug?

[MUSIC - DOUG STEVENS, "OUT IN THE COUNTRY"]

And how about Candy?

[MUSIC - CANDYE KANE, "(HEY MISTER!) SHE WAS MY BABY LAST NIGHT"]

You can discover these artists and more like them on *After Hours*, Saturday midnight to Sunday 3:00 AM, only on KPFT Houston.

JIMMY CARPER: And I have been told that it is Danny Pintauro's birthday. Happy birthday, queen.

I'm sorry, I knew that boy was going to be gay when I saw him or *Who's the Boss* when he was this tall.

Oh, I know.

That haircut, for crying out--

Before the skunk-style hairstyle?

Before-- I so knew that child was going to grow up to be a fab.

Well, thank you for the new promo, Chris.

CHRIS: No, problem.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, that was fun. I like that.

CHRIS: Now, if we just get it on during the daylight hours.

JIMMY CARPER: It has been on during the daylight hours. [? Rourke ?] has played it in the afternoons. Yes, already your game is spreading. See? OK--

CHRIS: Please let me have a second fan coming to me soon.

JIMMY CARPER: Hey, we're back with--

BIG ROY: Come on, Chris. More people listen to you than that.

JIMMY CARPER: We're back with Big Roy and folks in the military.

BIG ROY: Now, Ryan, when you were in the. Navy, when exactly did you know that you were gay?

GUEST 1: Let's see. It would probably be-- Oh, gee, I can almost pinpoint the exact date.

BIG ROY: I'm not saying that-- when did you lose your virginity?

GUEST: No, I never did that. I still haven't done that. I haven't either. I haven't lost my virginity. I know right where I left it at.

[LAUGHTER]

OK, anyway, moving on.

[? JACKIE ?] Please do.

THORNE:

JIMMY CARPER: It's amazing he can even remember that far back.

GUEST: It was like in the springtime, actually, of 2000. And I actually got out later that year, so--

BIG ROY: When you knew that you were gay, did you go to your CO and tell him that you were gay? Or how did how did the military find out that you were gay?

GUEST: I eventually did go to them because I was about to move to the third and final phase of my schooling. And I didn't know whether I wanted to waste the military's time because I didn't know whether I wanted to stay in under the Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy.

I knew it was-- I'm not a military person. I'm not really that kind of person, one, but I could have done with that because of the program I was in. That was fine. Really, what it was is, did I want to stay in the closet?

And when I was even talking to the CO, he said, look, you can tell anybody you want who you think you can trust. You can go out, have fun, as long as you don't bring it back with you. And that was the problem. I couldn't do that. I had to be who I was 24 Hours in the day and not put it back. So that's why I got out.

BIG ROY: And personally, I myself, I see nothing wrong with that attitude for the simple reason that straight folks, heteros, can be hetero 24/7 onboard ship, land. Whether they're onshore, onboard ship, whether they are a grunt in a foxhole, whether they are piloting an F-15, it doesn't matter. They can be as hetero and talk about all the women they want 24/7.

GUEST: Actually, that's the question I presented to the CEO. When he told me all that, I said, OK, so all these guys in this school I hear all the time talking about the women they had last night, and I can't talk about the great man I had? And he said, nope. And I said, that's why I want to leave.

And that is also why I got an honorable discharge because I never presented that I actually did anything because that's another article. That's the sodomy article.

JACKIE Yeah, that falls under a different article.

THORNE:

GUEST: Yes, but that's also the reason I got an honorable discharge-- was because I was completely honest, and I said, I'm not doing this to get out of the military. I'm doing this to get out of the closet. And unfortunately, the two conflict. Now,

BIG ROY: I want our listeners to understand something here. There really is not a double standard in the military as far as sexual-- relations that you may have, especially if you are an officer with an enlisted person, it doesn't matter, gay, straight.

GUEST: Nobody is supposed to even talk about the sex that they had last night. You're supposed to be professional.

BIG ROY: If you are a sergeant or a yeoman, and you have sexual relations with a private or whatever they call it, a seaman first--

JACKIE A subordinate.

THORNE:

BIG ROY: A subordinate. The higher ranker--

JACKIE Yeah, I mean any noncommissioned officer. Petty officer in the Navy or Sergeant and above in the Army, if you have any sort of sexual relations, even heterosexual sexual relations--

BIG ROY: You're out.

JACKIE --with someone who is a subordinate-- and they do not necessarily have to be someone who is immediately

THORNE: serving under you. I know a couple of years back, there was a big scandal about the drill sergeants that were being prosecuted because they had sexual relations with some of the trainees, male drill sergeants with female trainees, but no.

The nonfraternization, of course, obviously relates to an officer having any sort of relationship with an enlisted person, but the same thing also applies to the noncommissioned officers who are in a position of authority over an enlisted individual.

GUEST: One of the reasons is because any noncommissioned officer can be given a commissioned officer's position in a pinch.

JACKIE As far as the authority is concerned, yeah, exactly.

THORNE:

BIG ROY: And also they quite rightly look at it as the subordinate will feel that they have to obey the higher rank.

GUEST: Or even that they have an advantage, and sometimes they would. And in fact, sometimes I wonder if that might not be one of the main threats of the Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy because it is a sexual relation within the military. It's not always, but I was even told even having a sexual relation outside the military, I still couldn't do it if it would get passed around. And thankfully, it wasn't ever that blatant--

BIG ROY: OK, so you went to your commanding officer, and you told him that you, basically, were gay. You didn't say anything about having sexual relations, but you just wanted to live openly, and that got you a discharge.

GUEST: Actually, let me go through the whole process because it's a little bit more complicated than that. See, the way you have to do it is you have to arrange a meeting with a legal officer. For us, it was the judge advocate general.

JACKIE A JAG.

THORNE:

GUEST: JAG officer, yes, and we had to talk to one of the law officers there. And they had to explain to us our rights concerning it, and they actually told us, don't say anything about you having sex with another man. Don't do it because that's an article that you just don't want to get into. And they also explained that it does play on your DD214, that's your discharge papers, that you are homosexual.

And actually, I started the process off a little bit wrong. I told my direct superior, and he's the one who told me to go and see the legal officer. You're not supposed to do that. You're not supposed to tell anybody but a legal officer. However, I didn't know how to get things done, so-- and then, that legal officer will arrange a meeting.

BIG ROY: What is a legal officer?

GUEST: The legal officer is the lawyer. He's actually a lawyer as an officer in the military. In the Navy, you can actually become an officer based on your college experience, and the JAG officer's office actually will recruit lawyers as officers.

And I spoke to a nice major in that office, and what they do is they tell you all your rights and everything how everything works, and then they'll arrange meetings with certain officers in your command as the command policy dictates.

JACKIE In your chain of command.

THORNE:

GUEST: Right. Well, not always. Actually, it's as command policy dictates. But the final stop is going to be your CO. One of the people that I had to meet with was the director of my school. He was a lieutenant commander, and I had to talk to him. And he asked me why I was doing everything. He just wanted to for his own information because he was gathering statistics.

And I told him everything. And he said, OK, well, now that I know, I'm going to tell the captain. You're going to be talking to him in a couple of days after you finish your graduation. Then I told the CEO the same exact things. I never mentioned anything about having sex.

He asked me why I wanted to do this. He also said, you don't have to. You can express that you want to stay in the military, and you can. You just have to understand what the Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy is. So all the way up until this point that I said, I want to leave the military, I had the choice of staying in, and that's the whole thing. I could tell anybody I wanted as long as it didn't get spread around. That was the whole point.

And when I said, I want to leave, and he knew my reasons and that it wasn't because I wanted to leave the Navy. It was because I wanted to be "out." He said, OK, well, I'm going to make a recommendation that you receive an honorable discharge. It doesn't have to be that way, but it probably will be. And that's because there's actually a congressional committee that reviews all discharges under The Don't Ask, Don't tell policy.

BIG ROY: A congressional committee? Who makes up this congressional committee? These are actual US Congress--

JACKIE Mhm

THORNE:

GUEST: Mhm, Yes, Actually, all discharges are reviewed by a congressional committee. It might be as simple as saying, CO wants him to be an honorable discharge, OK, honorable discharge. But all discharges are handled by Congress, believe it or not, and they have-- I have a hard time believing that a congressional-- considering how many people are discharged under honorable, general, or whatever--

JACKIE Trust me, it's pretty much a rubber stamp.

THORNE:

GUEST: Yeah, it is. It really is.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

it's got to be, like, a congressional aide who actually does it.

JACKIE No, the only time that the congressmen actually come in to play on this thing would be if there's a gripe of some kind. If somebody does not want to be discharged, and the CO is trying to get rid of them.

GUEST: They have audits, I'm sure. But my commanding officer told me it doesn't have to be what I recommend. That committee has the authority to overthrow any commanding officer's recommendation. But I happened to receive an honorable discharge, and I've been happy with it. I would have loved to stay in the Navy. The program I was in was--

BIG ROY: What were you studying?

GUEST: Nuclear propulsion.

BIG ROY: Oh.

GUEST: Yes, very difficult school.

BIG ROY: Definitely elitist.

GUEST: Yes.

BIG ROY: Now, did your other classmates know what was happening?

GUEST: A few of them, and it was mainly kind of like a-- my closest friends.

JACKIE THORNE: Just out of curiosity, had you graduated from the school and gone on to the third section of the school that you're talking about, would you wound up in the submarine service or where?

GUEST: Actually, I did graduate from that school. The third section was a completely different school. But I did graduate from the first two sections, and I had the choice of being on a nuclear-powered carrier or a nuclear-powered submarine.

BIG ROY: And the military is not charging you for school tuition?

GUEST: No, no, no.

BIG ROY: Because I know that they have gone after other--

JACKIE THORNE: That has been mostly in situations at West Point, Annapolis, and so--

GUEST: [INTERPOSING VOICES]

JACKIE THORNE: Well, to a lesser extent in the ROTC. If you're the ROTC program really is kind of funded and handled by the college that has the ROTC program. And whether you've got 50 or 51 people in the thing is really making a hell of a lot of difference in the cost.

GUEST: It's when you're in the Naval Academy--

BIG ROY: Annapolis

GUEST: --studying to be an Officer, yeah, that's really expensive. It's much more expensive than one person in my program. I will guarantee you that. I was very--