

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.

(SINGING) I am what I am.

MICHAEL OK, are we over that song yet? Anybody? Can we take a vote?

CRAWFORD:

[? SCOTT: ?] I'm over that song.

MICHAEL OK, I mean, Scott and I have been talking about months for like changing the theme song fo*After Hours*. And,

CRAWFORD: well, when you count on Scott for anything, you never get enough.

[? SCOTT: ?] Yeah, here's your new theme song, bitch.

[THEME MUSIC]

MICHAEL OK, that was from the film, I think. You weren't on.

CRAWFORD:

CHONG LEE: You're not on.

MICHAEL OK, now repeat that.

CRAWFORD:

CHONG LEE: Yes.

MICHAEL OK, great. This is *After Hours*, and I'm Michael Crawford. And it's what? January 8th, which is like the second

CRAWFORD: Saturday of the month, second show of the brand new year. And we're here with Jewel Gray.

JEWEL GRAY: Hi, I'm here.

MICHAEL You're queer.

CRAWFORD:

JEWEL GRAY: Yeah, and I hope to stay that way.

MICHAEL I hope you're not going to sit-in the corner for the entire evening. I mean, I don't mean to embarrass you or

CRAWFORD: anything.

JEWEL GRAY: That's OK. Nobody can see him.

MICHAEL OK.

CRAWFORD:

JEWEL GRAY: Just talk at him.

MICHAEL Let him get the mic and introduce himself.

CRAWFORD:

JEWEL GRAY: There you go. Say hi.

CHONG LEE: Hi.

JEWEL GRAY: There you go.

MICHAEL Wait, wait, wait. You don't just go up and say hi. Tell us who you are--

CRAWFORD:

CHONG LEE: I'm Chong Lee.

MICHAEL And why are you wearing a suit?

CRAWFORD:

JEWEL GRAY: Nice suit, very nice suit.

CHONG LEE: Why thank you. I just came back from a wedding.

MICHAEL A gay wedding?

CRAWFORD:

CHONG LEE: No, it wasn't. It was a Vietnamese wedding.

MICHAEL OK, that's--

CRAWFORD:

CHONG LEE: One kind of a minority wedding.

MICHAEL Excuse me.

CRAWFORD:

JEWEL GRAY: Late night wedding or--

CHONG LEE: No.

JEWEL GRAY: --a reception that went just a little bit--

CHONG LEE: No it was a dinner.

JEWEL GRAY: Oh, I'm sorry.

CHONG LEE: Yeah. A banquet.

MICHAEL OK, and are you queer?

CRAWFORD:

CHONG LEE: Yes.

MICHAEL Do you have a boyfriend?

CRAWFORD:

CHONG LEE: Yes.

MICHAEL Oh, OK.

CRAWFORD:

JEWEL GRAY: You want one? We'll take phone calls.

MICHAEL Yeah, we figured we'd try and help you. Actually, we also have another delicate young flower of the orient here.

CRAWFORD:

CHONG LEE: Hi.

MICHAEL Our special guest Aaron Dye.

CRAWFORD:

AARON DYE: I'm a faggot. And my name is Aaron Dye, thanks.

MICHAEL You're welcome. OK, and this is like the whole thing. We're in marathon right now, which basically means we're

CRAWFORD: not asking you for money because we're not fundraising instead this is a membership drive. Is that correct?

AARON DYE: That's exactly right.

MICHAEL OK.

CRAWFORD:

AARON DYE: We need new members.

MICHAEL OK, and how would anyone become a member?

CRAWFORD:

AARON DYE: All they have to do is pick up their phone and dial 526-5738.

MICHAEL And is anyone like up on the pledge amounts?

CRAWFORD:

AARON DYE: They're right above you. \$35 program guide, \$60 is a coffee mug. \$90, two coffee mugs and a guide, which I heard Garland say is going to be very special this year. It's not going to be the little fold out piece of paper newsprint. It's going to be a really high profile--

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, they're working on that, yes.

AARON DYE: --guide. So it's going to be worth the extra this year. And for \$120, the ever popular BBC briefcase and I.

JIMMY CARPER: And it's good. It's good.

AARON DYE: Yeah, that was real popular. He said the other night it was real popular.

JIMMY CARPER: These are just thank you gifts for you becoming a member of *After Hours* and KPFT.

MICHAEL And a thank you gift as a way of saying that we're trying to bribe you into supporting the station.

CRAWFORD:

JIMMY CARPER: We need your support. You know it costs \$3,000 a month just for electricity?

JEWEL GRAY: Right. So if you--

JIMMY CARPER: And we don't have sponsors here. This is sponsorless radio.

MICHAEL And in summer--

CRAWFORD:

JIMMY CARPER: We're the PBS of radio.

MICHAEL Oh, wait a minute.

CRAWFORD:

JEWEL GRAY: There are only five of us in the country.

MICHAEL Wait. We're going to slam PBS later. So we don't want to be the PBS of radio.

CRAWFORD:

JIMMY CARPER: OK, we are community radio of Houston.

MICHAEL OK, and while we're sitting here waiting for you to call 526-5378, 526-KPFT, we're going to play a song. Except

CRAWFORD: that it didn't play.

JEWEL GRAY: Don't--

MICHAEL OK, that was Curve, and the song was "Lilies Dropping" from the album *Doppelganger*. I had actually had a friend

CRAWFORD: called up and ask what exactly was the whole membership thing about. And basically what it means is that you are supporting not only KPFT, but you're also supporting gay and lesbian radio.

If any of you were listeners of the old radio program *Breakthrough*, which was taken off the air in part because of this whole-- I don't know, the whole new scheduling thing. But one of the reasons we really needed to support KPFT, *After Hours*, gay and lesbian voices in particular, is the fact that there are no other outlets for queer media. We are pretty much it. And what we have in terms of gay and lesbian newspapers don't really amount to a hill of beans. So please call us at 526-5738, 526-KPFT, give us your money. Talk to them.

AARON DYE: Oh, yes, please please send us whatever you can spare since this type of programming is one of a kind in Houston. And we would appreciate your support.

MICHAEL Again, you can't sit back in the corner. Come up to the mic.

CRAWFORD:

[? SCOTT: ?] Step up to the mic.

MICHAEL Yeah. Get close. OK, now in your very best sincere voice, beg for money.

CRAWFORD:

AARON DYE: Please, this is a really, really good cause. Please, please, pretty please. Was that it? God. OK, well, I mean we have to have this new guy who's begging for money for us so it must be a really good cause. So call us up at 526-5738, 526-KPFT.

MICHAEL It's not working for me today. Well, Jimmy. Jimmy. There's like major technical difficulties.

CRAWFORD:

JIMMY CARPER: We're on. We're on.

MICHAEL Nothing's working for me.

CRAWFORD:

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, what did you want to work?

MICHAEL Well--

CRAWFORD:

JIMMY CARPER: Well, if you came in closer, maybe something would work.

AARON DYE: Yes.

MICHAEL Initially, I wanted the cassette player to work and it didn't.

CRAWFORD:

JIMMY CARPER: Well.

MICHAEL Well, I know that.

CRAWFORD:

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

MICHAEL But, I mean, see, it still doesn't work. And then I wanted the CD player to work, and it still hadn't worked. Is it

CRAWFORD: working?

JEWEL GRAY: This is exactly--

JIMMY CARPER: So first of all.

JEWEL GRAY: --why we need your money.

JIMMY CARPER: You have to.

JEWEL GRAY: This is why we need your money because things are put together with bubblegum and saliva here, bubblegum and hairpins down here, yeah. And somebody donated a chair. We are really desperate for community support. We want you to help us. We'd like you to call us now at 526-- what's that number? Hey, somebody's got that number.

MICHAEL 526--

CRAWFORD:

AARON DYE: 5738.

JEWEL GRAY: I know. Is it Cape Jam, KPFT, it's the same number, right? Because that's the only number we're getting that working out there in the phones. Everything else is down out there. So you can see why we desperately need you to participate tonight and help us raise some dollars to-- maybe we can buy a chair next year. Maybe we can get something that works for my career.

MICHAEL OK, we're going to try this again, and I think it should work this time. OK, that was U2, "Daddy's Going to Pay For **CRAWFORD:** Your Crashed Car" from the album Zooropa. And Jewel, you're begging again, right?

JEWEL GRAY: Yes, you can see now after our difficulty a little while ago why we need to do this. Was it twice a year, three times a year we do this?

JIMMY CARPER: Three times a year we have to do this.

JEWEL GRAY: Beg for money?

JIMMY CARPER: Mm-hmm.

JEWEL GRAY: Actually, we're not begging. We're pointing out to you that we offer a variety of things, not only this program but a lot of programs. There are programs I listen to. My lover listens to the Celtic program, the Irish--

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, really?

JEWEL GRAY: Whatever that program is. I don't listen to it.

JIMMY CARPER: Irish Heirs.

JEWEL GRAY: Yeah, Irish Heirs. That's what it is. And I've listened to the Cajun program and a couple of the other programs. I listen sometimes in the drive time. If you listen at all, any time, and you found value in it at some point where it helped you or your well said he called it dial surfing the other night.

JIMMY CARPER: Dial surfing, yes, exactly.

JEWEL GRAY: I thought that was neat. If you're dial surfing and land on KPFT because you know there's nothing better out there, this is where you can hear people really discuss things that you won't hear public-- I mean, on commercial stations because they have commercial backers who say, no you can't talk about this. No you can't talk about that. Well, you can talk about it here. And this is the only place--

JIMMY CARPER: That's right

JEWEL GRAY: --for, what is it? I think I said five states that you can get this kind of programming. There are only five stations like this in the country that does this kind of programming, one in New York, two in California, this one--

JIMMY CARPER: And one in Washington.

JEWEL GRAY: --and one in Washington. That's five places in the country you get this kind of programming.

JIMMY CARPER: Something else that I that I've heard bantered around here lately is that of gay and lesbian radio programs, there are only five in the country. Two of them are right here in Houston.

JEWEL GRAY: So you can see how important it is to keep us going by participating in our membership drive. We're not really begging for money. What we're begging for are people to join and be a member of KPFT. And to do that it costs you a few dollars.

JIMMY CARPER: This is listener supported radio.

JEWEL GRAY: That's right. So if you're listening now, you're listening for a reason. You're listening to Michael. You're listening to music. You listen to the debates that go on here. You listen to Jimmy and the QMZ. You listen to myself or Diane or Scott.

You're listening for a reason. And what we're asking you to look at is that reason is it. Is it important enough to you to hear this that you might pick up the phone right now with your visa Mastercard?

JIMMY CARPER: Or American express.

JEWEL GRAY: American express, that's right. And give us a call.

JIMMY CARPER: At 526-5738.

JEWEL GRAY: And pledge your membership. And with that membership there are several premiums that we offer. And we went through those a little while ago. I'll go quickly through them again. For \$35, you get a program guide. It's going to be a different program guide. It's not going to be this paper thing that we've been sending out for years and years.

They really have hyped it up, made it very professional and very attractive. You can have for \$35-- and \$60 gets the coffee mug or t-shirt. I really like the t-shirt. And they promise that next year we're going to get a new logo on the t-shirt.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, I really love that t-shirt. It's my favorite color, purple.

JEWEL GRAY: Yep. And it's got it's got triangles on it, which is really--

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

JEWEL GRAY: Yes.

JIMMY CARPER: In yellow blue and pink.

JEWEL GRAY: That's right. And I think that they did that on purpose because we are one of the few gay and lesbian programming in the country. And we have a very special thing here. So if you're a lesbian or gay person out there who's listening, you're getting something special that other people in our country-- a lot of other people in our country do not get.

And what we're asking you to do is participate in this membership drive. For \$90 you get two coffee mugs and the guide. The guide comes with just about everything. And for \$120 I understand that the BBC briefcase was real popular last time.

JIMMY CARPER: It is really nice.

JEWEL GRAY: You have yet to see it.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, Garland had one.

JEWEL GRAY: I saw people drooling at the meeting the other night wanting one. So there are some premiums you can get for participating in this. But the premium that we won't send you is the one you're hearing right now. Michael Crawford on the air, you won't get that anywhere else.

JIMMY CARPER: OK, some people say, thank God.

JEWEL GRAY: But you won't get it on the air. You won't get the truth. You won't get the honesty. You won't get the grit.

JIMMY CARPER: That's right.

JEWEL GRAY: And that's important. That's why I listen to KPFT because the truth is we're able to speak the truth here because we don't have someone standing over our shoulder saying no, no, no, We're going to give you money to be on the air.

So we don't want you to say this. So what we want to do is encourage you to participate in our membership drive by calling right now, not tomorrow, not next week but right now with your credit card and call us at 526-5738. And there'll be somebody in the lobby talk to you, maybe flirt with you a little bit.

She's going to kill me. And take your take your pledge right now. So we're waiting. I'm waiting for the phone to light up. And what we're going to do is let Michael have the mic back. And we'll talk to you a little more about this in a little while. Ta-da.

MICHAEL Thank you. OK, since this is a brand new year, and I guess lots of exciting things are going to happen this year,

CRAWFORD: we're going to talk a little bit about the exciting things that happened last year. Kind of a year in review here at *After Hours* because, well, we're a bunch of opinionated bastards. And we have opinions on everything. So we're going to talk a little bit about what went on last year. I guess the first thing that happened that is considered an important event for the queer communities was the inauguration of bill Clinton as president.

JEWEL GRAY: Yay.

AARON DYE: Yay.

MICHAEL Yeah, well.

CRAWFORD:

JEWEL GRAY: Well, it had its moment. It had its moment in the sun. There was a moment when everybody was standing tall, expecting a lot. And then reality slapped us in the face, and he was unable or unwilling take the extra inch, the extra couple of inches, and do what he really should have done.

And I know that you feel a lot more strongly about that than I do. But I was disappointed that they didn't do something. They promised, they told us, they specifically came to us. We didn't ask them to come to us. They came to us and offered this. And then were unable to do it, unwilling to or unable. And that was a big disappointment.

MICHAEL Well, I must admit. I mean, I never thought Clinton was ever going to be the great hetero savior. I mean, even before we all went to the polls and voted for him-- and I did vote for him-- I said specifically at point blank that he was going to disappoint us. He was not going to give us what he said he was going to give us and that we should be as insistent and protesting and demanding and yelling and screaming with Clinton as we were with George Bush and Ronald Reagan.

And a lot of people ended up saying, oh, get over it. Queen, there comes a time when you just have to stop yelling. He's going to do all these wonderful things for us. We're going to be loved by America because Bill Clinton was elected president. He's going to spend all this money on AIDS and so on and so forth. And it hasn't happened.

And I think one thing that did happen in '93 or that hasn't or that is in the process of happening and is, I guess, you could say the maturation of the queer community's politically-- and I don't mean that in the same way that a lot of people in the mainstream organizations like national gay and lesbian task force and the human rights campaign fund mean when they say it. Because what they mean is that we that we are assimilating, we are becoming-- that we're getting to a point where it's really difficult to distinguish between a heterosexual and a homo.

What I mean when I say that is some parts of the community are beginning to realize that it's not about assimilating into the mainstream or about going into and fitting into mainstream America because of the people who are sitting here-- and there are four of us-- there are two Asians and one African-American, a woman. And there is no way in hell we can assimilate into middle class heterosexual white male America. It just won't happen no matter how much we want it. And I think that there are some elements of the community that are realizing the goal should be not to assimilate but instead to transform the American society into a world in which we can live as we are without being discriminated against.

JEWEL GRAY: Acceptance, not assimilation.

MICHAEL Yeah, although I'm not big on that acceptance thing either. I mean, it's like--

CRAWFORD:

JEWEL GRAY: Well, if you had been elected president? Michael Crawford, yay, first American black president, what would you have done this year? And how would you have done it?

MICHAEL I would not have lifted the ban on queers in the military.

CRAWFORD:

JEWEL GRAY: You wouldn't made that promise in the first place.

MICHAEL Well, yeah, that's true. I wouldn't have made that promise in the first place.

CRAWFORD:

JEWEL GRAY: Why would you not have lifted it? That surprised me when you said that.

MICHAEL Because to be perfectly honest, I would not take any pride in being able to say, I can kill maim and destroy just as well as my heterosexual sisters and brothers can. I mean, out of all the things that we need and want, being in the military just isn't at the top of my list.

I mean, because all you're going to do is go and be given this really big gun and go off and learn how to kill people. Then they're going to send you to countries in Asia, Latin America, or on the African continent. And all these people are going to be shot up for no reason.

JEWEL GRAY: Yeah, what was it? I heard a comedian say, let's join the army, learn how to kill brown people, learn how to kill brown people.

MICHAEL CRAWFORD: Yeah, so I wouldn't have done that. I mean, I'm much more interested in, for example, advocating for the rights of queer childcare workers and queer teachers because that's a lot more important than being able to pick up a gun and shoot somebody.

JEWEL GRAY: I agree, I agree. I agree. But I think the reason they chose this, the reason that this is the thing that was so big and the reason they chose it was because it was so national. And if we can get the army, the military, the services to accept us in their open and out, then how can they deny us locally? How can they deny us if the national government accepts and allows?

But you're right. The fact is we are not going to assimilate. We cannot assimilate because we are different. And we want to be different just like the guy who came over here from Poland, the polish guy who came over here. He does not want to assimilate. He doesn't want to lose that cultural heritage.

He doesn't have to blend himself out to fit in. He wants to stay within his community. He wants to enjoy the cultural benefits of his community. And that's what we want. We just want to live comfortably. What was it? The life, liberty, pursuit of happiness within our communities where we work where we enjoy our spare time.

And assimilation is not what I'm looking for either. And you're right. I like the way you put that about there's just no way the four of us are going to fit in to white heterosexual middle America. I don't think I want to.

As a matter of fact it would be detrimental to us to do that. Then we become a homogenized country, and that gives us no strength, this homogenized country. The diversity in our country is where our strength lies. The differences that we are makes our country what we are, what it could be. What else would you do if you had been elected?

MICHAEL CRAWFORD: I guess we can do that federal gay and lesbian civil rights bill thing. I mean, more money for AIDS. And not just in-- I mean, in all areas, in preventive education, everybody's hailing the new campaign that has condom ads and so on and so forth. I would have been a lot cushier with it, a lot more aggressive and not just done them all in English. I mean, we need them in Spanish. We need them in Asian languages. We need them in Native American languages.

We need to reach everybody in every way possible. National health care, single payer, I mean probably would be extremely difficult to do that here in America. But it's something I would push for. Let's bring all the troops out of Europe, yeah. I don't know. I mean, I have no desire to be president. I have no desire to be a politician, period.

JEWEL GRAY: But aren't we all politicians. I mean, if we're out there-- I mean, if we're out there espousing a particular view, and we want changes in our country, doesn't that make us all in a way unelected politicians that we're out there dealing--

I mean, I know you've had to accept some compromises. And being an activist you can't go here. No we don't have enough people to go there. There are compromises. in everything we do. But I think we're all politicians in a way, un-voted.

MICHAEL Well, I think that makes us all citizens. I mean, you should be doing that kind of stuff anyway. I think just as a matter, of course, people should be out in the streets advocating for their beliefs. And, I mean, the right wing is doing it. Why can't we?

JEWEL GRAY: The right wing is really doing it very well. And that's really frightening. I've been noticing they're doing it very well, and they're slowly but surely scooping up all the school districts. And if you don't pay attention, it's going to be your school district. And after your school district-- they recently did something in Fort Bend where a couple of right wing religious nuts have managed to take in the school district out in Fort Bend. Oh, God. I can't think of the name of it but WACH went out there and protested. You know the name of it, the school district? Aldine, or one of the school--

MICHAEL Lamar Consolidated.

CRAWFORD:

JEWEL GRAY: That's it. That's it.

MICHAEL And basically what they did was they changed from the really simplistic, very basic, entry level HIV education campaign that they had to one where--

JEWEL GRAY: Which was already insufficient.

MICHAEL Yeah, already insufficient and made it worse by deciding that they're going to emphasize abstinence and the **CRAWFORD:** failure rate of condoms.

JEWEL GRAY: And fidelity in the marriage once you're there.

MICHAEL And it's like, well, wait a minute. Some of us can't get married. A lot of us don't want to get married. And the **CRAWFORD:** whole thing-- and I don't know reading that and seeing what the state board of education-- I mean, yes, the board of education did where they are also talking about emphasizing abstinence and so on and so forth. I mean, I just keep wondering where the hell are all the queer activists? Where the hell was Act Up Gulf Coast?

JEWEL GRAY: WACH was there.

MICHAEL Yeah, WACH was there.

CRAWFORD:

JEWEL GRAY: That's because one of the schools-- one of the teachers out there is a participant of the WACH and got them roused out there had she not been there WACH wouldn't have been there either we're not watching closely enough. And if we don't keep watching, they're going to start taking over.

It's really insidious what I've been watching around the country, how the religious right-- they're writing books on how to take over your school districts. They're writing books out of win political races by lying to you, by telling you they're for reform and change and less government.

And the truth is they want to put collars on us literally and control what we do, what we see, what we say. And they're writing books and passing these books out free at conventions of collections of these people. So that's what's going on this year. And last year especially it was big. And the push is going to be even worse this year.

MICHAEL And they're developing videotapes, which, I mean, I think their strategy is just totally great. I mean, I think their **CRAWFORD:** strategy is fabulous. They're doing what I mean--

JEWEL GRAY: Have you seen the Gay Agenda?

MICHAEL No, I haven't.

CRAWFORD:

JEWEL GRAY: I didn't see anything in there I didn't like. I mean, other than the people speaking, they didn't say anything that I didn't agree with. The thing is they want to make what they're saying ugly. And they use that tone and they use other things to make what they're saying ugly that personally I'm one of these people who says, well, I don't have a problem with abstinence.

But I don't want it to be the only thing we offer because that's not reality. There are people out there who can control safe sex by being abstinent. And they might want to or sex only within the marriage. And they might want to. But the point is there's a whole big country out here who doesn't, who don't want to.

And what are they going to tell those people, those people who are not going to practice abstinence? Nothing, which is going to leave a great hole in the education. In 15 years, these children who are not getting this education are going to be of age out there to separate from their parents and go out there and have sex all they want or even before that. And they're not learning safe sex.

And I think this is something in 10 years should be automatic without question. Every child should know it. Every person in the world should know it, safe sex. And it's not going to happen because there are so many of these people out there saying, no, the only answer is marriage and abstinence.

Well, I bet you money Jimmy Swaggart would have said that. But when was he being abstinent? I bet Pat Robertson says that. But when is he being abstinent? Oh, within the marriage. Oh, well, maybe they're doing things outside the marriage.

We've seen a couple of the biggest names in our religious communities doing things outside there. So how can they be speaking and being the leaders of these religious fanatics and justifying it with the bible, who says nothing about it actually and then expecting us to buy it, to buy into it? I'm just baffled by that.

Here are the big leaders in the country, in the religious right, are screwing everything that doesn't walk-- I mean, doesn't run from them. And they're telling us to be abstinent, to control the spread of a of a of a major problem in our country, AIDS and HIV. And not only that, but there's an upsurge in STDs in this country, sexually transmitted diseases.

The other day I read a report that says gonorrhea and syphilis are at their all time high in this country. Why? Because there are too many people telling people, just don't have sex. That don't work. That don't cut it. You're going to have sex. People are going to have sex.

And when they have sex, they need to know what to do to protect themselves, not only themselves but other people. You don't know if you're HIV positive unless you've been tested. And even then you can't be sure. And you don't know that person you're with has been tested. And even then they don't know for sure.

So you need to protect yourself as well as other people. And we're just not teaching that. We're not teaching it at all. And that would have been my big thing I would have agreed with you about that. If I'd have been elected the first woman president, that's what I would have done.

This year my big kick would have been preventive and educational things and health care. And those things were more important to me than the-- and frankly I've caught all kinds of hell for not being a big-- because I spent two years in the service and I was put out because I was caught and not caught literally. I didn't do anything. I just was a name on a list. I promise, I didn't do anything.

But that was so close and personal to me. And then I really backed away from that because I agree with you, Michael. I don't want anybody in the army. I don't want anybody in the military. I don't want anybody going overseas and shooting little brown people. I don't want anybody shooting anybody. I want to take the guns away from everybody. I just want to put them in an airplane, a shuttle and ship them to the moon.

But I've caught all kinds of hell because I've been intimately affected by this policy and the policy in the military. And why don't I get out there and scream and yell some more? Because bottom line is, I really had a very unpleasant experience with service. And I think that most people do.