

JIMMY CARPER: Yes. And now, and now, and now--

[MUSIC PLAYING]

Oh my, it's time for the *After Hours News and Views* with Chris and the non-working headphones. Oh, my, my, my, my, well, hey, you know life is tough.

CHRIS: Oh, yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes. Wait a minute. I don't even have you on. How's that?

CHRIS: I don't know.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, much better.

CHRIS: All of it. Much better. The hell with the headphones.

[LAUGHTER]

One doesn't work. And the other one I think Marconi used when he made the first radio.

JIMMY CARPER: Hey, hey, hey, hey, hey, hey. We have new security system. We can't afford headphones.

[LAUGHTER]

You've got a few things. I've got a few things, I don't know. Where are we going from here?

CHRIS: Oh, who knows where we'll head?

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, OK.

CHRIS: I'll put the bad ones on.

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

CHRIS: Gee, I thought I got distracted the first time I did the news, reviews by myself. These headphones are going to drive me even crazier.

JIMMY CARPER: Hey, as long as you get it in one ear, that's enough.

CHRIS: I'm not getting into any.

SPEAKER: Oh.

CHRIS: Story of my life.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, Bobby, would you go and stick it in his ear?

SPEAKER: Ah, no. No, no, no, no, no, no.

JIMMY CARPER: They're OK.

SPEAKER: I'm not volunteering for any extracurricular--

JIMMY CARPER: Insertions?

SPEAKER: Insertions.

CHRIS: Stick it in. I'm sorry, I had to channel the ghost [INAUDIBLE].

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, who by the way, in case I mentioned-- failed to mention on Valentine's Day turned 31.

CHRIS: Who?

JIMMY CARPER: Scott. Miss Scott Lewis.

CHRIS: Oh, I thought I heard a sobbing from the restroom of various clubs.

JIMMY CARPER: Ooh, ouch, ouch. God, I hate Valentine's Day. After the News and Views, what are we doing? Just hanging around being cool?

CHRIS: I thought we might try something different and do a little bit of music.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, OK. Well, that's fine because I've got some stuff about Sweet Mama Cotton. And I love doing her music. And she's going to be performing all around Houston. I mean, that woman gets around Houston and Galveston. Huh. And in addition, there's lots of music going on this month, seems. So, OK, hit it.

CHRIS: Oh, OK. Interesting news here with the prohibition of domestic partner benefits group out there. The Houstonians for Family Values--

JIMMY CARPER: Mhm.

CHRIS: --well they've put up their website with a waving American flags and links to the Harris County tax office record base saying, it's time to take a stand and to download the petition, which they've supposedly received boxes upon boxes upon boxes, which hopefully they're just all toy type boxes rather than rim boxes.

JIMMY CARPER: Wait a minute, what's the name of this group?

CHRIS: The Houstonians for Family Values.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, what does that mean?

CHRIS: Well, that's Dave Wilson's little organization.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, that one.

CHRIS: Yes, he's the wonderful conservative who is trying to put on the ballots, on the November ballot a charter amendment for the City of Houston, which will prohibit the mayor and the city council to accept where as required by state or federal law the City of Houston shall not provide employment benefits, including health care to persons other than employees, their legal spouses, and dependent children nor shall the city provide any privilege in promoting, hiring, or contracting to a person or group on the basis of sexual preference either by a vote of the city council or an executive order by the mayor.

JIMMY CARPER: Well, that doesn't make any sense to me because he's contradicting himself. We already are giving special privileges to sexual preference.

CHRIS: As long as it's straight.

SPEAKER: As long as it's--

JIMMY CARPER: Straight

CHRIS: But the interesting part is several conservatives are opposing the measure.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh.

CHRIS: Despite agreeing with the sentiment, a group of prominent political conservatives is asking its constituents not to take part in the petition drive to put same sex health benefits for city employees on the November ballot.

JIMMY CARPER: Well, they're afraid they're going to lose?

CHRIS: That's it.

JIMMY CARPER: Ah.

CHRIS: Saying--

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, it's not that they're-- oh, oh, such hypocrisy.

CHRIS: Saying that the timing is wrong and criticizing the tactics of petition leaders, 14 politicians and conservative activists signed a letter dated February 28 trying to quash the effort. The letter says the ballot language on the petitions is so legally flawed that it could be vulnerable to a court challenge. Among the signers who said they, quote, "have reluctantly concluded that we cannot support the signing of this petition" are Harris County Republican Party chairman Gary Pollard, Conservative Republicans of Harris County chairman Steven Hotze.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, Steven Hotze.

CHRIS: Hotzy.

JIMMY CARPER: Hotzy-totsy. Yeah.

CHRIS: In the back seat.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, they all-- right, yeah. The guy who likes to cruise around the park at 2:00 in the morning when he's drunk.

SPEAKER: Yeah.

CHRIS: City council member Rob Todd--

SPEAKER: It's like [INAUDIBLE].

CHRIS: --and Harris County tax assessor collector Paul Bettencourt, conservative businessman Dave Wilson is spearheading the petition said he was flabbergasted by the letter. Over half the people who signed this letter were working with me on the petition drive, and this letter comes as no surprise to me. I'm sorry, this letter comes as a surprise to me. Now, one of the signers had the decency to notify me about this letter. Well, honey that's what a letter is about. It's notifying.

SPEAKER: Nerd.

[LAUGHTER]

Liar.

CHRIS: It's called a letter. And showing that they're more progressive than the City of Houston, Southern Methodist University in Dallas, which is owned and operated by the United Methodist Church, will begin offering medical benefits and reduced tuition to same sex partners of employees next year. The policy was announced last week and is scheduled to be implemented January 1. SMU would apparently become the second Texas University to offer medical benefits to homosexual couples and only one of a small number of religious institutions in the country to do so.

Rice University started offering medical benefits but not reduced tuition to same sex and opposite sex domestic partnerships partners of employees back in July. The SMU policy which already offers medical benefits and reduced tuition to employees spouses will be expanded to include same sex domestic partners but not unmarried heterosexual partners. So once again, someone up in Dallas is a little more open and compassionate than what we have here in some of our Houstonian, quote unquote, "leaders."

JIMMY CARPER: Hard to believe.

CHRIS: Oh, yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, you want me to jump in there?

CHRIS: I thought you we're going to be jumping in, so--

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, OK. Well--

CHRIS: --I was trying to get my cords in position.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, sorry. OK, do you have anything on the lesbian health fair?

CHRIS: That was coming up later on.

JIMMY CARPER: OK, I'll let you do that one. No, that's OK.

CHRIS: I'm not [INAUDIBLE] going to hurt my feeling. You can plug it in now.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, well, I was hoping to hurt your feelings.

[LAUGHTER]

How about tomorrow being the AIDS Walk?

CHRIS: Really? No, I didn't do that because we were plugging it all in the weekend. [INAUDIBLE] it's too late.

JIMMY CARPER: OK. No, I'm plugging it because we got something on hand net this week from this guy who I saw at Kroger's. And he looked up like, this is the root. I'm over in the produce, fruit section, OK. And this really cute guy looks up to me and says, hi. And, of course, I say hi, and then I squeezed some fruit. And then he looks up and says, yo, Jimmy. I say, yeah, yeah. Yeah, how did you know? And, oh, blah, blah, blah. And he's Roger from Handed, and he's going to be involved in the walk. As are hundreds of other people, a straight woman in my complex will be walking tomorrow.

CHRIS: Oh, I've been privileged to be working with the past two of them with a support on the AIDS Walk. And it's just amazing seeing the diversity of people.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

CHRIS: I mean, the people coming in there with their baby strollers, the young kids that are out there walking for a cause.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

CHRIS: And it's amazing just seeing that throng of people who you wouldn't expect associated with AIDS. And--

JIMMY CARPER: That's right.

CHRIS: I mean, the dedication I saw-- I remember last year, the one grandmother who was dragging her grandson on. He wanted to get in the car because it was almost time to clear the streets, and he wanted to get off the street walk. And she said, no, we're going to walk this thing.

JIMMY CARPER: Aha.

CHRIS: And she dragged him all the way down to the George R. Brown.

SPEAKER 1: Well.

JIMMY CARPER: So where is it starting out? Are you going to be involved in that?

CHRIS: I wasn't asked.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, OK.

CHRIS: But it usually starts off with the George R. Brown, loops out towards Memorial to Wall.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

CHRIS: And then circles back to the George R. Brown. And it--

JIMMY CARPER: Still have time to volunteer? You can volunteer your time and services. I'm sure they need help doing this, that, and the other. And just show up. That's all you need to do.

CHRIS: I believe it starts at 8:00 AM.

JIMMY CARPER: Yep, that's why I'm not going to be there.

[LAUGHTER]

SPEAKER: I personally plan to still be unconscious at that hour.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, yeah, right.

SPEAKER: So-- but it's still a good, important thing to do.

JIMMY CARPER: It is. It's very important.

SPEAKER: Because it's still out there--

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

SPEAKER: --and it still needs to be--

JIMMY CARPER: You [INAUDIBLE]. You and I are living proof.

SPEAKER: Yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: Next.

CHRIS: In California, they're planning on becoming the second state in the nation to allow gay and lesbian couples to enter civil unions under legislation introduced Thursday by freshman Democrat from West Hollywood.

JIMMY CARPER: What a surprise.

SPEAKER: What a surprise there, yeah.

CHRIS: I almost said we hoe and just-- be the private little joke to everybody. It's we hope. The bill duplicating Vermont's Landmark Law--

JIMMY CARPER: I've seen some of the boys there. They are hoes. What? I'm sorry.

CHRIS: I'm sorry, I was just running back through another joke on mine. We're like, if you're over 30 you're not allowed to live in West Hollywood--

[LAUGHTER]

JIMMY CARPER: Just about.

CHRIS: --a Logan's run light going off there, you got to move over to the other side of [INAUDIBLE].

JIMMY CARPER: It is the first place I have ever seen that has a gym two blocks long filled. It's like everybody-- that's one of the things, when you move to West Hollywood, you must join a gym.

SPEAKER: Oh, yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: And that's the other thing about LA in particular. If you gain weight, they make you move.

[LAUGHTER]

CHRIS: You've got that little Logan's run button that flashes pink right up until you hit 30 starts turning soda red.

JIMMY CARPER: Yep, yep. Time to move.

CHRIS: When that light goes black, you're history.

SPEAKER: You're done. [LAUGHTER]

CHRIS: You're done.

SPEAKER: I have to steal more--

CHRIS: They shoot a laser through your chest.

SPEAKER: I have to steal more jokes from him on that one there. [INAUDIBLE] West Hollywood. I think it was Mark Davis.

JIMMY CARPER: Actually, West Hollywood is a really neat neighborhood and it borders Russian neighborhood, which is really kind of bizarre because you have these folks from Russia who can barely speak English running wonderful bakeries right there on the border of West Hollywood. It's an incredible place. Anyway, I'm sure there's still a few Russian coins in there.

CHRIS: Oh, I'm sure.

JIMMY CARPER: Now that we've gone flying off on a tangent.

CHRIS: [INAUDIBLE] gone. Well, we're just telling people another reason why to go to California.

JIMMY CARPER: There you go.

CHRIS: The bill duplicating Vermont's Landmark Law in and providing same sex couples the same rights as marriage faces long odds. It comes a year after California voters affirmed support for keeping marriage a heterosexual only bond by overwhelmingly passing Prop 22, the so-called Protection of Marriage Act.

There's about 400,000 same-sex couples in California according to a report by Stanford University. And the legislation would allow those couples to file joint state tax returns, file wrongful death suit, and make decisions on behalf of sick partners in medical emergencies among other things. And you can expect old Pete Knight to pop his head up again.

JIMMY CARPER: Sweetheart that he is.

SPEAKER: Oh, yeah, sweet dear.

CHRIS: And then of course then we'll see his son again, who is openly gay, stealing from another comedian there. It seems like all the right wing Republicans have gay family members.

JIMMY CARPER: Doesn't it seem that way?

CHRIS: [INAUDIBLE]--

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

CHRIS: --happy birthday to her.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh.

CHRIS: I mean, her. I was--

JIMMY CARPER: Mary Cheney.

CHRIS: Yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: Mary Cheney.

[LAUGHTER]

CHRIS: Jeez, so that means it actually is my father's fault.

SPEAKER: Yeah. Well, well.

CHRIS: Yeah, I'll be glad to hear that one.

JIMMY CARPER: I'll bet he will.

CHRIS: The people with AIDS Coalition of Houston was bypassed by the Texas Department of Health grant, which was awarded to Houston Area Community Services.

JIMMY CARPER: Uh.

CHRIS: For the past eight years, PWA has been the beneficiary of a whopping \$221,000 HDT-- sorry about that. Dyslexia kicked in-- TDH grant to fund its case management services. This year however, the grant, which is never split, went to the Houston Area Community Services.

JIMMY CARPER: Ouch.

CHRIS: It's an all or nothing deal. Two agencies were accepted for the grant and only one got it and it wasn't us, was the statement out of the PWA Coalition.

JIMMY CARPER: Uh.

CHRIS: Ouch.

JIMMY CARPER: Boy, that's hard to make.

SPEAKER: [INAUDIBLE] smart.

JIMMY CARPER: That's hard to make up.

CHRIS: The coalition's own big fundraising event, the annual BoLA-thon is coming up in September.

JIMMY CARPER: That's not going to raise \$200,000. I've been to it.

[LAUGHTER]

CHRIS: Other fundraising sources include individual donations, the Houston Black tie, and the AIDS Walk. They do not expect this to affect their services though. They--

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

CHRIS: Do they rely too much on the grant? No, not really. They know the grant's not guaranteed, and there's a lot of competition out there. And they're going to be upping their fundraising goals this year. If you'd like to help out with the people with AIDS Coalition, you can contact them at 713-522-5428, or you can go to their website @www.pwach.org.

JIMMY CARPER: And coming up March the 24th, 2001 is the Unity Banquet for this year, that is the Houston transgender community's ninth annual unity banquet. This is for transgendered folks and their friends. I've been to a couple of them, and they are a lot of fun. Everybody gets kind of dressed up and glitzy and it's kind of a fun affair. It's \$35. It takes place at the West Chase Hilton Hotel that sat in the right at the 10,000 block of Westheimer at the Carillon Shopping Center.

SPEAKER: That's way out there?

JIMMY CARPER: That's way out there, yes, 7:00 PM until whenever. And how do I get my tickets? Easy. Through any transgender group, torque, HTGA, Tats, Cats, GCTC, or even Kristen at the unity committee, or buy them at Joules over at 2404 Taft St-- That's right-- next to TNT T-shirts.

SPEAKER: I need to go visit her. I haven't seen her in ages.

JIMMY CARPER: Taft and Fairview. Right in there. I'm going to be there. I'll be there. That's March the 24th, Westchase Hilton Hotel. Cool. And you can even spend the night there if you'd like.

CHRIS: Yeah, with all those big events like that, they have reduced room rates.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, yes, because that's kind of the jazzy little place.

CHRIS: In an effort to get the word out about the alarming HIV/AIDS infection rate in the African-American communities, Friendship Missionary Baptist Church in Northeast Houston will be holding a candlelight vigil on March 7 for those infected and affected by the disease. Sponsored by the Friendship Spiritual HIV/AIDS support group, the date of the vigil is significant because it is being held during Black Church Week of prayer for the healing of AIDS, a nationally recognized week.

Cliff Macklin, a facilitator for the group, says the support group meets once a week and usually about 20 people show up. But they are mostly people who are affected by AIDS, not those who with the virus. They are people who have lost loved ones to the disease. For more information on this organization, the Friendship Spiritual HIV/AIDS support group, contact Cliff Macklin or Marie Sampson at 713-631-0329 or 713-631-8424.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah. The Gay Men's Chorus of Houston has their next big due coming up on Saturday, March the 24th and Sunday, March the 25th. Sunday, Sunday, Sunday.

CHRIS: I'm sorry, was, I supposed to do that?

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, when I do it, you're supposed to do it. OK. So Saturday night at 8 o'clock and Sunday--

CHRIS: Sunday, Sunday, Sunday

JIMMY CARPER: --hey, at 3:00 PM in the afternoon at Resurrection NCC. It's called All That Jazz and it--

CHRIS: It sounds like fun.

JIMMY CARPER: It is. And it's going to-- joining them will be the Rob Landes Trio, which is a Jazz trio that's been in Houston performing for, I want to say, 30 years because I've got a record, Vinyl record of theirs that I picked up. Yeah, good.

SPEAKER: Vinyl.

JIMMY CARPER: Remember vinyl?

CHRIS: Only as clothing.

[CHUCKLES]

SPEAKER: And furniture. I have been hanging around this show too long.

CHRIS: I see, I see. OK.

JIMMY CARPER: Tickets are available at Box Office tickets at 800-494-8497 or through the website @wwwgmch-- that's Gay Men's Chorus Houston-- gmch.org. And I'm surprised that usually Tony comes on the show this night to talk about what's going on with gay men's health. Gay Men's--

CHRIS: Chorus

[LAUGHTER]

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, sorry. Excuse me. I'm going to

CHRIS: [INAUDIBLE] is showing in there.

JIMMY CARPER: I'll be going on the Sunday afternoon show because I'm going to be at the Unity Banquet that Saturday night. So-

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CHRIS: My, my, my, your dance card is full.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, well, you know how it is.

SPEAKER: I love those concerts.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, they are good. Aren't they good? Yes, you've taken me to a few of them.

CHRIS: That's right.

JIMMY CARPER: We usually give tickets out too, don't we?

SPEAKER: And you usually take-- and lately you've been taking-- since I started--

CHRIS: OK, that's a subtle hint. They want their freebies Annie Oakleys.

SPEAKER: I need to email Tony this week.

CHRIS: The Bexar County Sheriff said Tuesday that one of his top deputies will become the first police officer in the state to undergo a sex change operation.

JIMMY CARPER: Is that that Bexar?

CHRIS: Bexar Bayha bear out in San Antonio.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, oh, up there. OK, gotcha

CHRIS: The little mission place to the left of us. Sheriff Ralph Lopez said he has given a male deputy permission to start wearing a women's uniform and ordered the other deputies not to razz him about it.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, we can order all he wants but-- well, it depends. If he has to put out the order, then you're in trouble. But I think if somebody knows you that long, they kind of know you and they can deal with it.

CHRIS: Well, I mean, they should have should be knowing ahead of time of the deputy who Lopez identified only as a top lieutenant in the patrol division has begun receiving counseling and hormone treatments ahead of the surgery.

JIMMY CARPER: Well, that ought to tell them something.

CHRIS: Oh. Lopez said the deputy will begin wearing women's clothing when his counselors say it's appropriate, and the other officers have been warned to mind their manners.

[CHUCKLES]

Also transgender news, a bill that will make it easier for transgender people to get their name and gender legally changed with one court action and that would require judges to perform the change if a letter from a doctor is provided was introduced in the Texas Senate this week by a senator with family ties to a well-known transgender activist.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh.

CHRIS: Senator Leticia Van de Putte of San Antonio mirrors a bill introduced in the House of Representatives by representative Deborah Dannenberg.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, good, old Debra Dannenberg. You know she's pulling for us.

CHRIS: Senator Van de Putte is-- let's see, her--

JIMMY CARPER: Uncle

CHRIS: --her uncle is married to Christy Lee Littleton.

JIMMY CARPER: Just-- they just got mad.

CHRIS: Oh, hey.

JIMMY CARPER: Christy remarried, yes.

CHRIS: Yeah, Christy Lee Littleton is a transgender woman who lost a court battle to sue her deceased husband's doctor for malpractice because the Texas courts ruled that she was a man and because of that ruling, we were able to have the first lesbian marriage.

JIMMY CARPER: That's right because it was based on chromosomes, which I don't know.

CHRIS: Do they even take a blood test in Texas?

JIMMY CARPER: They don't even do chromosome testing, so I don't know how you can tell who's got what chromosomes.

CHRIS: Yeah, it's so great that when you wear that black, satin robe there you have the ability to get the microscope implanted in your eye [INAUDIBLE] spot chromosomes from across the wardrobe.

JIMMY CARPER: Well, the thing with this that it's only in certain parts of Texas that that's the ruling. So depending on where you live in Texas, you can have a same sex marriage or an opposite sex marriage.

SPEAKER: Of course. Well, it's--

JIMMY CARPER: Bizarre.

SPEAKER: Because two people who benefited from that ruling and got married, no longer actually live here.

JIMMY CARPER: That's true. But there were a couple-- there are several couples who have been married, trans people who have transitioned into the other sex and because legally from this ruling that they are legally still a male.

CHRIS: Well, I mean when you talk about--

JIMMY CARPER: Really kind of weird.

CHRIS: --it that it is different in certain areas.

JIMMY CARPER: But they can come back to Houston and still be married.

CHRIS: That it's-- we also consider, I think, the sodomy law or the homosexual conduct law. It's still illegal in the northern part of Texas because of the way the court rulings have gone so far.

Continuing on, mayoral liaison will begin holding public meetings at the Houston lesbian and gay community center. Janine Brunjes recently appointed mayoral liaison to the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender community has announced plans to hold monthly public meetings at the Center located at 803 Hawthorne.

The first meeting will take place on Monday, March 12 from 5:00 to 6:30 PM, and future meetings will be held on the second Monday of the month. Meetings are open to the public and at no charge. Once again, that's going to be at the Houston lesbian and gay community center located at 803 Hawthorne at Stanford. For more information, the phone number is 713-524-3818.

The grand marshals for the June 23 Houston Gay and Lesbian Pride parade will be announced at a special press event on Thursday, March 8. The announcement event, which will be open to the public, will be held from 7:00 to 9:00 PM at the Art League of Houston gallery 1953 Montrose. Pride parade grand marshal positions are among the highest honors bestowed each year by the Houston's gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender community. So once again, join the Pride committee Houston at the Art League of Houston on June-- on March 8-- Thursday, March 8 from 7:00 to 9:00 for the presentation of the Pride--

JIMMY CARPER: You had that--

CHRIS: --grand marshals.

SPEAKER: You had that gig on you, didn't you?

JIMMY CARPER: Sure did. It's your day.

SPEAKER: Nice work if you can get it.

[CHUCKLES]

CHRIS: And it's cause is still glowing from the shirt.

[LAUGHTER]

Do you know what's greater than anything about that?

JIMMY CARPER: What?

CHRIS: With that being on Thursday, that means we can get a hold of the grand marshals in here before Valencia can get him on his own show.

[LAUGHTER]

JIMMY CARPER: I don't think we're in competition with Jack's show. *Lesbian and Gay Voices*, which is heard every Monday night on this very station from 8:00 till 10:00 PM. Let's see. A new opening-- and you know how we love openings.

[CHUCKLES]

CHRIS: Or positions to be filled.

JIMMY CARPER: There you go. The club Houston, the brand new club Houston has opened. I thought it was going to take another couple of months. But I got an email this week from Scott telling us that he called Thursday night and they told me that the new building would be open yesterday at 4:00 PM. And last night, he drove by there. This is from today. Last night I drove by there, and the parking lots were full.

CHRIS: Well.

JIMMY CARPER: Cars were parked down the streets. So the brand new building, \$1.9 million building for the club bath is open. I've been there. I went to the preview. It's absolutely spectacular, more equipment than any gym I have ever seen, except for West Hollywood.

[LAUGHTER]

It's fully, fully equipped. And they've got great rates, and it's just a whole brand new place.

CHRIS: A nice, clean place to eat your lunch off of.

JIMMY CARPER: Let me tell you, let me tell you something.

CHRIS: Oh, well.

JIMMY CARPER: How it affected me. I took Stanley. Stanley is very conservative. Very, very conservative. I was surprised. I was surprised that he would even go to the opening, the pre-opening.

CHRIS: Well, he remembers the original Greek and Roman baths.

JIMMY CARPER: Hey, hey, hey, hey.

[LAUGHTER]

Anyway, I mean, he took it to-- he was with me, took a tour. He wants to join. He was that impressed. And it's the face of the baths are changing. And so we're probably both going to end up with memberships there. Incredible as it may seem. Yeah.

CHRIS: Well, I mean, I remember the one time I commented, they were actually listed in the phone book as baths.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, really.

CHRIS: They're still in the yellow pages.

JIMMY CARPER: Well, that's what it is.

CHRIS: Yeah. But considering--

SPEAKER: Why lie?

CHRIS: --the negative connotation behind that word over the recent--

JIMMY CARPER: Well, that's true.

CHRIS: --few decades.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, yes, yes, you're right. But everywhere but here so it seems.

CHRIS: Oh, yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: This is like one of the few cities in the nation that did not close the baths.

CHRIS: Yeah, we're not having to call them completely spas or gentlemen's health resorts or--

JIMMY CARPER: Well, actually the name of the group is the Athletic Ventures Incorporated, located at 2205 Fannin Street.

SPEAKER: Oh, I imagine you could get athletic there.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah. Oh, yeah, you bet.

CHRIS: You can physical one way or another there.

JIMMY CARPER: You are going to see the steam room and the hot tub, and that's just magnificent, just magnificent.

CHRIS: Jimmy, you're drilling.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, it's just--

CHRIS: Pick your job at the [INAUDIBLE].

JIMMY CARPER: --incredible, just incredible.

CHRIS: A few little PFLAG notes here. Don't forget on Sunday--

JIMMY CARPER: Sunday, Sunday, Sunday.

CHRIS: --March 4 from 2:00 to 4:30 PM at Christ Church Cathedral, their monthly meeting will be on hate crimes legislation due to match from the anti-defamation league, which is in charge of publicity for the Southwest Regional office, will give a presentation on hate crimes legislation. For more information on PFLAG, you can go to their website pflaghouston.org.

Also get ready for the Spring Fling, the PFLAG HATCH youth scholarship foundation fundraiser, which will be occurring on Friday, March 30. Spring Fling 2001 will be at the Warwick Hotel. A few of their scholarship winners will update on their progress in college, and there will be a main speaker. This is not a black tie event. Tables for eight people are available, and tickets are \$75. For more information, contact George Nevers at 713-526-0471.

JIMMY CARPER: And don't forget the gay and lesbian breakfast club. And I'm sure if you're bisexual transgender, you would be welcome also. Every Saturday at 8:00 AM, the gay and lesbian breakfast club will be meeting in the Memorial Park in front of the tentis-- dent--

[LAUGHTER]

Tennis Center. A dentist center getting--

CHRIS: I figured your bridge again.

JIMMY CARPER: I guess I am. The group will walk around the park, which--

SPEAKER: No polygraph would do wonders for that.

JIMMY CARPER: Tell me. The group will walk around the park, which is approximately 3 miles. It takes about an hour, and then they go to breakfast. So that's kind of a cool, neat thing to do. It's different.

CHRIS: [INAUDIBLE]

JIMMY CARPER: There you go.

CHRIS: There you go.

JIMMY CARPER: Hey. If you have any questions, talk to Jimmy Brown at 713-880-8282. Let's go, yeah. What if it rains, consider canceled.

CHRIS: Yeah, like you'll be able to attend that.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, no.

CHRIS: Breakfast for you is noon.

JIMMY CARPER: Well, that's why I'm announcing it now because I'm not up at that hour.

CHRIS: 11 o'clock on Saturday.

JIMMY CARPER: But, hell, a lot of people are.

CHRIS: By the way, you're listening to *After Hours Queer Radio with Attitude* on KPFT Houston KEOS College Station.

JIMMY CARPER: You are so right.

CHRIS: And continuing on, I only have a few more things. I had to put in JD. JD Doyle--

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

CHRIS: --submitted something to us for a press release--

JIMMY CARPER: Really?

CHRIS: --that very interesting about our old friend Fredy Phelps coming up here.

JIMMY CARPER: Really?

CHRIS: Yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: Really, how did I miss out on that?

CHRIS: Well, because he sent it to our email address.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh.

CHRIS: And I get to screen all news and dirty pictures that come in.

JIMMY CARPER: Dirty pictures.

CHRIS: But before that, the Texas lesbian conference--

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

CHRIS: --2001 will be held at the AmeriSuites Riverwalk in San Antonio March 23 and through the 25th. TLC 01 will offer lesbians opportunities for empowerment through sharing information, experiences, and strength. For more information, you can send an email to tlcsanantoni@aol.com. And that's the easiest way to do that rather than trying to get on their website, which is about three pages long.

JIMMY CARPER: Ouch.

CHRIS: Just go to-- you can just go to hometownaol.com and just put in TLC San Antonio and it should take it to you.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, OK, OK. Were you going to do something on the Lesbian Health Initiative thing?

CHRIS: Oh, I moved that because you said you did.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, no, no, no, no. I thought you were going to do it. You probably--

CHRIS: Go ahead and do it.

JIMMY CARPER: OK, I have-- what I have here is the lesbian health fair. This is very important, folks, because it's coming up next week, March the 10th. The Lesbian Health Initiative of Houston will be offering health screenings at no cost. Can we hear that one more time? No cost. It's anonymous

CHRIS: Free.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

SPEAKER: Free.

CHRIS: Gratis.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

SPEAKER: Gratis.

JIMMY CARPER: This includes mammograms, pap smears, pelvic exams, and HIV/STD testing, just to name a few. The MD Anderson mammogram mobile--

[LAUGHTER]

I screwed up on this last week too. The MD Anderson mammogram mobile van will be on site. The health fair, as always, will be staffed by lesbian-friendly health care practitioners, and its locate will be hosted at the Montrose Clinic, which is 215 Westheimer.

Now, that's Saturday from 8:00 AM till 4:00 PM. Now, there is a catch because if you want a mammogram or a pap smear, you must schedule the appointment ahead of time. So give Barbara Walker a call at 713-830-3075. That's Barbara Walker at the Montrose Clinic. 713-830-3075. Marlborough being the new empress of the royal sovereign and imperial court of the single star.

CHRIS: The first empress who is actually female.

JIMMY CARPER: First empress that was actually female.

CHRIS: That's right. Oh, my we love a--

JIMMY CARPER: We do

CHRIS: --little milestones in our community.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

CHRIS: And now for the Fredy Phelps update.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, I want to hear this. Thank you, JD.

SPEAKER: That was the little shirt.

CHRIS: Ann Arbor Michigan, when the Reverend Fred Phelps came to town, the gay community here decided not to get mad, they decided to get rich.

JIMMY CARPER: Ooh.

CHRIS: Among the Ann Arbor locals, the Kansas based Phelps and his band elected to picket was the lot bar, a gay owned restaurant, bar, and community place.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

CHRIS: When co-owner Keith Orr heard that his establishment was being targeted, he wanted to respond constructively. He and his partner, Martin Contreras, didn't want to promote a counter demonstration, feeling that Phelps gains the most attention and hence is most effective when he provokes anger and outrage from his opponents, rather/or decided to use Phelps' visit to the community's advantage, or use the internet to organize a unique fundraising scheme.

In an email message to customer, supporters, and friends, he proposed that people pledge money to the Washtenaw Rainbow Action Project, WRAP, a local gay advocacy group and community center for every minute that Phelps picketed the bar. In this way or explained, the longer Phelps stayed to spew hate, the more money that would be raised for WRAP.

JIMMY CARPER: Wow, what a great idea.

SPEAKER: Hello.

CHRIS: He and Contreras kicked off the drive by pledging \$1 a minute. The pledge drive gains such momentum that by the day of the Fred Phelps demonstration, only 48 hours after they kicked off the drive, friends and supporters of Ann Arbor's gay community had promised to contribute a total of \$107 for every minute Fred was pigetting.

JIMMY CARPER: Whoa, we can make some money here.

CHRIS: Pledges came in from as far away as New Hampshire, Texas, and California.

JIMMY CARPER: Good.

SPEAKER: Hello.

CHRIS: Normally, a fundraising event of this magnitude takes months of planning and upfront costs. In 48 hours, they raised over \$6,000 without spending a dime. On February 17, the day of the protest, Phelps' band numbered only four adults and two small children. Instead of confronting the hate mongers and giving them attention, they craved over 100 community members and supporters gathered in the bar on a Saturday afternoon celebrating while they counted the minutes that Phelps' cronies stood outside raising money for Ann Arbor's gay community.

JIMMY CARPER: Now, that is wonderful.

CHRIS: That afternoon, WRAP received a one notable pledge. A father and his young son were driving by the bar and saw the protesters out front, they explained. The son asked his father who they were and what they were doing there. The father stopped the car and brought his son into the restaurant to demonstrate to him that gay people are no different than anyone else. When he realized they were holding a fundraiser, he handed his son a \$10 bill to donate to WRAP.

[LAUGHTER]

SPEAKER: Yaay.

JIMMY CARPER: Good. We make progress.

CHRIS: On behalf of Ann Arbor's--

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, we do make progress. Oh, that's nice.

CHRIS: --thank you Fred for \$6,000. And one other little fundraiser here I want to throw in here.

JIMMY CARPER: Sure.

CHRIS: Legendary 1940s child star Margaret O'Brien has given her Oscar to an AIDS Foundation. Officials from the Sacramento, California AIDS Foundation said they will auction the statuette over the internet. O'Brien won the Oscar for her role as Tootie in the 1944 movie musical *Meet Me in St. Louis* with Judy Garland.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh.

CHRIS: A special achievement Oscar awarded to O'Brien as a screen juvenile has a storied history. It was stolen from O'Brien in '54 and didn't surface until 31 years later when two sports memorabilia collectors found it as a swap meet and return it to her.

JIMMY CARPER: Wow.

CHRIS: A spokeswoman for the foundation says the money raised in the auction will pay for prevention commercials and perhaps an after-school special. The auction is being run by an associate of the well-known auction house Sotheby's and will be running through March 25. Unfortunately I tried to find out some more on the auction from the link that I got this on and I couldn't find it on their website.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh.

CHRIS: And I forgot to write down that web address there. I believe we procured this one from either ABC or Channel 13.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh.

CHRIS: Their website.

JIMMY CARPER: Well, what do you know?

CHRIS: So, I guess, what that will say that we like to thank whoever I stole that last bit of article from *The Triangle, The Voice*, Harnett.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, especially Harnett.

CHRIS: For an unusual moment, the Houston Chronicle--

JIMMY CARPER: Taraa.

SPEAKER: Taraa.

CHRIS: --surprised us all by pulling out a few articles-- well, I have referred to them more often than *Triangle*

JIMMY CARPER: Probably the back page of the *Metropolitan* section.

CHRIS: No, no, no, no, no. This was the *Metropolitan* section. But we're talking front page.

JIMMY CARPER: Well, something gay on the front page? I'm impressed.

CHRIS: The transgendered deputy was on the bottom half of the front of the *Metropolitan* section. Of course, the same sex benefits and SMU was on the other side of the obit page, which is where we usually get buried.

SPEAKER: Yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: No surprise there.

CHRIS: You know how [INAUDIBLE] on that one.

SPEAKER: Yeah.

CHRIS: But if you want to send us news, information, stories, love mail, hate mail--

JIMMY CARPER: Dirty pictures.

CHRIS: --you can email us @afterhourskpft@hotmail.com.

JIMMY CARPER: Mhm, that'll do it.

CHRIS: And now it's time for music.

JIMMY CARPER: Actually, something that I've got a little note here I think from you from someone in College Station.

CHRIS: Oh, yes, I almost fell over when they said we had a caller from College Station.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, we get them all the time. And they wanted something from Romanovsky and Phillips.

CHRIS: And I'm going to sneak in the story about it there.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, please do.

CHRIS: He has a female friend who does not believe this song exists.

JIMMY CARPER: What?

[LAUGHTER]

CHRIS: He sings it to her and she thinks the guy is nuts.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, I hope she's still listening then.

CHRIS: We hope so because, honey, it ain't crazy.

JIMMY CARPER: No, and we're going to give it to you right now. Romanovsky and Phillips from two different albums and this is called *Give Me a Homosexual*.

CHRIS: Yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: And you're listening to it on *After Hours Queer Radio with Attitude* on KPFT Houston and KEOS College Station.

[MUSIC PLAYING]