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SPEAKERS

Jimmy Carper, LuJack Tyler

J Jimmy Carper 00:02

You smile very well. Happy to have gifts Oh, yeah. So what are you doing this Christmas?

L LuJack Tyler 00:16

Well, I don't quite know you I say I've tried to develop a schedule as to where I'm going to be on what particular days. I went to, oh, I went to the EPA Christmas party, how was that? There was somebody, I get there. And, and I meet one person whose name I could not remember. And then about an hour later, I'm like, surrounded by Republicans. And they're like, taller. So then they start shaking my hand and telling me that they're not all bad. So I'm just like, What do you think about those cowboy? Your own Tirpitz.

J Jimmy Carper 00:55

I have, you know, EPA does a lot of good fundraising really does. And you know, and I have to say, I have to say this first. But, you know, they can be a little on the pissy side. Yeah.

L LuJack Tyler 01:07

Yeah. And I can appreciate busyness. Yeah, because at least they're being real. That that's true. Yeah.

J Jimmy Carper 01:14

I love truth. You know, you become a member of EPA, by members asking you to become an elite group. Yeah. It's very elite. Yeah. Because we've had people call the switchboard and say, How can I become a member? I said, Well, you can't. No, no, no, no. You know, my lover is a

dyed in the wool. Republican Yes. Sign I know. Yes. Yes. And he was asked to join EPA. He turned them down. Oh, wow. Because he didn't want to sit around with a bunch of Queens drinking. Yeah. Yeah. I mean, it wasn't his thing. He turned them down. So I don't know sometimes I feel holier than thou like, Well, yes. No, that's, you know, it's, it's just the Queen thing. Yeah. Because EPA does do a lot of good work and raises incredible amounts of money for wonderful organizations.

L LuJack Tyler 02:03

And, you know, every once in a while, it just feels good to kind of sort of like, you know, kick the door down one of the parties and say, I'm here. I know, what do you want me to be here?

J Jimmy Carper 02:12

And I bought, I buy raffle tickets and things. And in fact, one year, I won this lovely basket of Mary Kay. Yes. Great. Yeah.

L LuJack Tyler 02:26

Speaking up ahead. Have you heard about the huge about the new Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce?

J Jimmy Carper 02:32

Somebody mentioned it to me, but no, tell me. Do you know, I told you I didn't read the voices. Wait, I don't know what's going on. I heard that there was an organization meeting for a new community center group. But I didn't I didn't hear about the heat. So much happening. Yeah. What's the deal? Can we do? I mean, it's like, game has been Chamber of Commerce. Yes, we could use it. But do we have the wherewithal to do it

L LuJack Tyler 03:02

100 members have just joined, it's been kept very, very quiet until they had a certain percentage of people who were willing to say, Okay, I'm going to do this, we're all going to do this, or we're going to do it the right way. And it's to my understanding that from one of the boards of directors that they have 100 members, and they're going to, after the holidays, they're gonna have this big press release campaign and stuff. So I don't know if I'm gonna get into get in trouble for airing this out. So so no, I think it's so exciting.

J Jimmy Carper 03:32

This is very exciting. You know, because this is where we are a big queer community. Yeah, we really, really are. We have a huge, huge pride parade. And it really does not get the publicity that it should know. And a group like a queer. Well, I don't know what they're gonna call it. A

chamber of commerce or something, you know, can be a good pivot group to get that publicity. I mean, we pitch every year. I mean, we've got this incredible pride parade. It's the second largest parade in Houston. And it gets maybe 15 seconds on the news. If that buzz I know. most ridiculous thing ever. Yeah.

L LuJack Tyler 04:13

So I'm gonna support them. 100% Yeah, courage to folks that also support them. 100% Hey, folks, by the way, it seems a little dead. I really can't we call in. I know it's Christmas time and we love being Yeah. snuggled up with our loved ones in front of the fireplace. Yeah.

J Jimmy Carper 04:35

Maybe that's what they're doing. Yes. Okay. Now well, let's say no. See? Rainbows here. So

L LuJack Tyler 04:49

what is Rambo doing? Are you being naughty or nice? In your Santa Claus? Yeah, I know that you're Monet masa.

J Jimmy Carper 04:58

I almost didn't recognize him. He didn't have anything Make up on

L LuJack Tyler 05:02

a sad day when you don't recognize.

J Jimmy Carper 05:05

No I do I recognize you're doing a stamp Santa shit stick. Let me get those teeth in. Yeah. With it with it.

05:17

You were saying that we have like the second largest grade? We do. Well, I mean we Yes largest. great if we could have all the school bands and all these other.

J Jimmy Carper 05:25

Oh yeah, that's right. Yeah. If we had school bands like That's right. And there's lots of families watching it

L

LuJack Tyler 05:33

yes yes we operate is bigger than the one downtown and one people come to it. Yeah, God the follies are the Christmas great. Yeah. Yeah, you took the school bands out of that parade are afraid to be a lot bigger. That's true. And, and last year, I noticed more of you that just passed I noticed more frequently than any year I've ever experienced with the gay parade. Is that more families

J

Jimmy Carper 05:58

attended the bet? You bet lots of children. Yes. Yeah. Lots of children just having a ball just having fun and it's very showy and colorful and I mean after all, we do have the rainbow flag. So there's lots of color

L

LuJack Tyler 06:12

lots of color sequence BEAT IT guy.

J

Jimmy Carper 06:15

That's right big hair. I know leather you know I just have all the respect for you know drag queens and leather folks in June doing that pride day. I mean because to wear a wig or to wear leather pantyhose rainbow gets usually carried around either in the shopping cart or wheelbarrow.

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06:43

I did that one.

J

Jimmy Carper 06:45

He did it one year and now everybody Yeah.

L

LuJack Tyler 06:51

Well, you do it again as a special like because my birthday is is on the same week as Pride Week. June

J

Jimmy Carper 07:00

we're a little pride baby second

L

LuJack Tyler 07:02

quarter from the start. Parents did good. But but so I will usually have a party and then it's just like the whole week is like gay. Wonderful birthday and being born on

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07:19

Christmas. Yeah.

J

Jimmy Carper 07:22

That's great. I mean, lots of celebrations all around your birthday.

L

LuJack Tyler 07:26

Oh, that is cool. I love it. More Jeff.

J

Jimmy Carper 07:29

You are listening to after hours career radio with attitude right here on KPFT Houston and ke O 's College Station. Brian there is a new CD out I got a copy of it. It's called Winter Moon and it's a celebration of gay and lesbian singers and songwriters dot dot dot and friends. Which means you know there's there's some gay people and some straight people doing kind of, you know no deer I do not want to see your Winter Moon. You know, it's it's kind of nice if you there's like Chris Williamson is on here. And Lea de Leiria and read. Let's see Bill McKinley Michael Callen people. Well, Lucy blue Tremblay. These are queers. Okay. Okay. Michael Callen is dead. Yes. And this. Well, not this song. No, not this one. No, in my opinion. Yeah. My opinion is actually in my opinion. Winter Moon is kind of lame.

L

LuJack Tyler 08:48

makes much of a difference from summer boat.

J

Jimmy Carper 08:52

It's called now, but Leah de Leiria does a song she's not. She's not really a singer. She's a comic. I know. I know. But she's kind of a cabaret type singer. She has that cabaret type voice. And she does this. Now she does this really good song about Christmas because Oh, she is obnoxious. But she does this good song. It's called The Truth About Christmas. And I'm gonna play it now. Here we go. We'll be back in just a few minutes Leah de Leiria their truth about

Christmas? pletely ensue. Venus envy. I'll be a homo for Christmas. And before that are one of our favorite queers. Elton John doing stuff into Christmas. And we started that with Lia de Leiria in a brand new song on a new compilation called Winter Moon and the truth about Christmas.

L LuJack Tyler 09:57

Is you just love games. Yes, I do love being here. I do too, you know, like, a couple of months ago after I had a traumatizing experience. I thought, well, I'm well, maybe I'm not happy being gay. But, but but when you think about it, I mean, we have great lives. We do. I mean, we're so just like, where I think that gay people are more than are more themselves than any other group of people. Because we have to be ourselves. We that's

J Jimmy Carper 10:25

why we fight so much. Because we are ourselves. We're not nice. No, when we were supposed to be nice, you know, we're really Yes. Great. Yes. For like, you know, it's not that we have to get along. It's it just we respect. Yeah. Everybody else's opinion. Yeah, that's it.

L LuJack Tyler 10:44

That's it. That's all she wrote. Yeah. Okay. I was gonna say get?

J Jimmy Carper 10:52

Well, you know, there's a pretty good psychology that goes along with that, because we're talking about how happy we are being gay. And actually what that translates in into that we're proud of ourselves. But there are so many queers out there, who are ashamed of what they are. And it shows through in their in their daily lives. So you know, they're always apologizing for their actions. And you know, when when you cross that border, when you jump that bridge, and you decide, I'm proud of who I am, I'm glad I'm gay. I'm glad I'm bisexual, or transgendered, or whatever I am. That that really puts you look in the mirror, you see a different person there puts a whole new perspective on it.

L LuJack Tyler 11:42

And that No, I mean, and not. And you get to a point where you don't care what people think about you. Yeah, yeah. In my work environment, I work with a large number of diverse people. When I first got there, you know, I'm the shy, modest country boy type, you know? Okay,

J Jimmy Carper 12:02

I've no problem I have swallowing that line.

L

LuJack Tyler 12:08

I'll never do you have a problem with swallowing. But I don't think we want to talk about that right now. Okay. I work with a large, diverse group of people. And sometimes I don't feel comfortable with coming out. But eventually, if I know you, yeah, for more than two weeks, I'm going to come out. Sure. And so now, now that I've been there, a few months, you know, people people have gotten used to me, and they've started to ask questions, and they're just like, I want to go party with you. I'm just like, Are you sure about that? So me and some of my female friends who work with me and some of my straight guy friends who work with me, we all went,

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12:48

we're gonna go to heaven. Whoa,

L

LuJack Tyler 12:50

to riches. And the girls freak freaked out, but the guys had so much fun. I've never been exposed to young heterosexual guys that that that that you know, you know, had that gang kind of kind of sort of refusing to go to a gay gay bar and have fun. And just say, you know, hallelujah, this Whoa, and they want to go back.

J

Jimmy Carper 13:12

Cool. Cool, Cuz usually with guys straight guys, you see this macho defense mechanism Muslim coming up? You know, like, Oh, don't touch me, or I'm afraid somebody's gonna think I'm attractive. Brother.

L

LuJack Tyler 13:25

Yeah. And so I'm just, I'm, I'm so happy about my life. That's cool. That's cool. Yeah. Life couldn't be better. You know, I don't know if I've said this, but I think this is going to be my best Chris Christmas I've ever had in my entire life. Jim,

J

Jimmy Carper 13:42

you really think so? Yeah. And what's what is it that's gonna make it your best Christmas? I think

L

LuJack Tyler 13:49

that I'm finally come coming to a stronger sense of self. I think that as gay people we go through different phases. And you know, when we first come out, we party we plugged we had sex with all the men. Yeah.

J Jimmy Carper 14:03

Do that. Some of us never get out of that. Yes. Yeah.

L LuJack Tyler 14:07

Yeah. And then once you get out of that, that phase, you've discovered that that there were other aspects of being gay.

J Jimmy Carper 14:12

There's a real life. Yeah. You know, it's not just something you do on the side, it is your life being. I mean, it's the way you look at things. You are different from straight people. Because you look at things differently. You react differently, you have different likes.

L LuJack Tyler 14:30

And then once you get in that, get in that that phase of your life, a brand new oasis of things just open up to to you. And you start seeing life in a full picture. I think that was that will alert someone straight people miss out on is the full picture. Yeah, they only get half.

J Jimmy Carper 14:49

Yeah. Well, you know, you have to think that the difference with straight people is that a lot most straight people are busy raising family. Yeah. Oh yeah. And so a lot Have all of their energies are focused into them not focused into themselves or, or what's going on around them. So, that's, that is a big difference. Now, I wonder, as more and more queers start having children, you know, either by, you know, by adoption or or by just having them. Oh, there, I wonder, how's that? Yeah, I wonder how that's going to change?

L LuJack Tyler 15:27

I don't think it's going to because I think that, that gay people are special people. First of all, I think that we're more into our feelings second, then that other groups of people think so too. And I think that that because we are more genuine than other groups of people. I don't think that that's gonna gonna change because you can't change the realness of people. And I think that, that when gay people start to enter, start, start start to have families that's going to create a whole judgmental generation of real people.

J Jimmy Carper 16:00

Do you think that I think so? Do you think that instead of, you know, slapping the kid and

saying don't do that again, you know, queer parent was gonna say now. Now, now, how do you feel about this? So, you know, do do all of that kind of

L LuJack Tyler 16:16

some, some Ah, my grandma, you know, smack the hell out of me, everyone. Yes, yeah.

J Jimmy Carper 16:24

There are a lot of kids that really need it. Yeah. Yeah, I'm sorry. And

L LuJack Tyler 16:27

I tend to respond to things like I think that my grandmother, what, what response, I'm not going to totally dis discard you? No,

J Jimmy Carper 16:36

no, funny, I wonder. I'm not gonna give any names. But I ran into some friends that I hadn't seen in a long time just recently. And it's two men who have been in a relationship for a very long time. And now they have a third man in the relationship with them. Goodie, this is just the beginning of it. Now, one of the original members of the group has been married before, okay, and has two sons, okay. And now the sons are living with them. So there's three guys as a group in the in the two sons. Now, the ex wife has fallen on hard times and is needed help. So she is now Yeah, so

L LuJack Tyler 17:26

have it's not amazing. Love.

J Jimmy Carper 17:29

That's exactly right. You know it. It's like love doesn't go away if it was there in the first place. And so, wow. Yeah, this is he was he was talking about, you know, Christmas dinner and, you know, all the people that are going to be there and all of this kind of thing. And it's just amazing. Yeah, it's

L LuJack Tyler 17:48

beautiful. Yeah. Once again, gay people. Yeah. I think that the 50s believe it to Beaver cleaver caught a woman, ya know, that that smelled and baked pastries. And when the show but beat? Exactly. You know, those days are over. And I'm so glad that I was born in a time period where people started coming out on all

J

Jimmy Carper 18:14

right, because the pressure of being June Cleaver, or a father's No Father Knows Best Are you know, that are the kids on those programs. I think that's the, you know, this is the way life is supposed to be. That's the impression we got. And nobody's life was that way. And so there's this pressure of like, what's wrong with that? Your reel?

L

LuJack Tyler 18:39

Yeah. Yeah. And, and so I'm just glad to see that A New Day is upon Yeah, I am, too. You know, people talk about, you know, all the talk shows and soap operas, and this and that, and the other but, but the reason why they're talking about is because it was never spoken about before. And there's a change and change upsets people and insights, folks. And people never know what's going to happen next. And so I posed personally, you know, you know, don't think that show should be censored. I don't think that soap opera should be censored. You know, Ed, because it goes my grandmother has something to do with eBay, because you're not I mean, it really educates people.

J

Jimmy Carper 19:20

Does Yeah, yeah. With gay characters and characters with having AIDS on soap operas. That does educate the average American

L

LuJack Tyler 19:31

because my grandmother is not going to it's not going to go to the library. No, no and finally about aged about homosexual. Everything that she has learned about gay people about homosexual sex sexuality and about AIDS has been because of soap opera.

J

Jimmy Carper 19:47

That's right. Or, or thank God for it like Oprah. Yeah, because you're gonna hear the real story from her rather than some of those other folks. Yeah,

L

LuJack Tyler 19:56

yeah. And so over the years As I've noticed a softness in her, I've noticed as a sensibility in her, because, you know, I mean, she's a tough, a tough kitty

J

Jimmy Carper 20:10

and more of us are coming out of the closet. So it's not, it's not the big, no big woowoo thing,

L LuJack Tyler 20:16

you know, no, no, no. And, and, and a lot of people that I know who won't come out, I asked them what do you vote? Well, yeah, I vote, you've already come up there. Hmm. You know, it's the little things it is that you think are low. But in reality, there are bigger things. And you never really have to come out by word of mouth. But if you do the things that you're supposed to do, like vote, like continue to live your life as a human being and that sense of yourself, you've already come up. Yeah, you know, we don't all have to

J Jimmy Carper 20:47

judge right. I mean, it doesn't take people long to realize that the two guys living down the street, or a gay couple. Yeah, you know, and if you act like a human being, you're you're doing more for your community than then. Really? Me coming out in the air and screaming about queer things every week. Yeah,

L LuJack Tyler 21:08

yeah. And you but but I mean, but But you do a very good job of it.

J Jimmy Carper 21:14

Let's not pat each other on the back here. Yeah.

⌚ 21:16

Your goddamn flop.

J Jimmy Carper 21:20

You know, the real me.

L LuJack Tyler 21:22

Yeah. But can we talk about sex for a minute?

J Jimmy Carper 21:24

Sure. It's my favorite subject when I first came out Yes,

L

LuJack Tyler 21:29

I noticed in the front page of Twitch that that there weren't as many you know, you know, guys that I would like to have a sizable so I started a pretty boy file guys who I thought were pretty ah, and five years ago, I think I have five from from that time period. But but but I just really have been noticing lately. Yes, we're all these cute guys on the cover of twit coming from and where can I meet them? So if any of y'all are listening, call me and give me your numbers.

J

Jimmy Carper 21:59

You know, a lot of them are dancers. You know, I know. But you can. They can all be legit. I have been noticing though that more and more of the dancers and clubs are gay man. Oh, Merry Christmas to you, baby. It used to be Yeah, they were they were Yeah, kind of straight guys. Or are gay for pay? Yeah. Or, well, what used to really chat me is have these guys taking the clothes off in a gay bar. And they had their girlfriend. Yeah, right there. Yeah. And it's like, Oh, please, at least give me the fantasy. You're available?

L

LuJack Tyler 22:38

Yeah, yeah. Oh, well go. I can hit the circuit again.

J

Jimmy Carper 22:41

But more and more. I'm saying gay man. And dancing and bars. And I really like that. I do too. Not that any of them are available to me. But you know, just it's just I'm proud to say gay men and gay bars.

L

LuJack Tyler 22:58

I'm too I'm too and more so their stuff. Yeah, yeah, yeah. Yeah. So I don't know. Uh, speaking. Of course, what do you think about this this reorganization or the gay activist type groups like quote, I read this recent recently

J

Jimmy Carper 23:16

about this now? What is this? Houston is not an activist town. Let's face it.

L

LuJack Tyler 23:21

No, no, and the days of coordination and act up folks are over Well,

J

Jimmy Carper 23:29

I think it's on hold. This is the type of town that reacts when something happens and they react right away and they do pretty good for a while yeah. But it takes a Broussard and killing I hate to say it but to get Queer Nation or act up really charged up again there's gonna take something more something like that. And again, yeah,

L LuJack Tyler 23:51

yeah. ACT UP I'm glad existed as long as it did because because act up was a wee bit different from Coordination Act Up was more of the AIDS activism. Yeah,

J Jimmy Carper 24:04

I was I was an original member of that.

L LuJack Tyler 24:07

And when we finally had to throw the head and I was I was I was hurt. Well, one nation and the

J Jimmy Carper 24:14

other just kind of petered out, so to speak. Yeah.

L LuJack Tyler 24:17

I guess there are still a large number of things that occur to people with AIDS that I wish acted for,

J Jimmy Carper 24:23

ya know, being a person with AIDS as a matter of fact, this this is December and I'm celebrating one year of having an official diagnosis of AIDS that means that your T cell count is under 200. Now people like you, LuJack, who are HIV negative, your T cell count runs over 1000 1200 Mine is 130. Right now, I get the new tests done. I've been on three TC and AC T which is really, really good. And the first two months I was on it, my T cells doubled. Oh, They weren't 65. And they went to 130. So, you know, I'd look at it this way because of backed up and people like Brian Bradley and act up, folks. I'm alive today. Whereas five years ago, in my condition, I'd be dead. Yeah.

L LuJack Tyler 25:17

Yeah. Yeah. And so, you know, I'm just really honored that I've had the opportunity to to meet the the arch angels. Yeah. And I was very proud to be a member I backed up. And I and it's an it's a nice thought.

J Jimmy Carper 25:36

It's something you think about Christmas, the Christmas season. You think of happier times, you also think of people who aren't here anymore.

L LuJack Tyler 25:46

But, and it makes those of us that are left for a little sad. But you know, when you think about it, well, it's not

J Jimmy Carper 25:52

just people who have died of AIDS, but it's like you're at your grandmother, you know, people

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who are lucky. Oh, yeah, people. Yeah. People who

J Jimmy Carper 26:01

were really a part of your life and growing up. Yeah. Who aren't here. Yeah.

L LuJack Tyler 26:06

But yeah. You know, like, like the mother of Forrest Gump says life. Death is a part of life and you just have to live with it.

J Jimmy Carper 26:16

It sure is. It sure is. And I have a song that I'm going to dig out just because we've been talking about that. So you've got to do a little talking while I take that out.

L LuJack Tyler 26:29

Okay. Well, what am I gonna talk about? My goodness, man, Jim. Jimmy, you just keep on putting me on the spot. All right. Well, what I can talk about is, is my new awareness of, of what it's what, what it means to me now to be a gay activist. I was talking earlier to some folks about you know, you know, coordination and my experience with that, but what I

have discovered is that one thing that gay people, or gay organizations that ask for a lot need to do is to start doing things in the realm of public service. Yes, we wait, we need at least what time of year to do a huge food drive to do a huge children's clothing, clothing drug toy,

J

Jimmy Carper 27:25

you know, really NLA has been doing this toy drive for casa. Esperanza, I believe, and the lamda rollerskating group just did the same thing. lady victoria last. I mean, we put out Oh, okay, we really do.

L

LuJack Tyler 27:45

I think I'm probably talk talking about from my, okay. Okay. Because I had, you know, thank you for educating me. But, but but my goal for 1996. So as a member, I was a board member of any organization that I'm a member of, we're going to get our hands dirty, because it's all right for us to say, All right, we're this or that or the other, and, and we need you as your support and your help. But at the same time, we we we're not just gay people, we're also human beings, there are a large sum of human beings that we can help. Sure, you know, and I'm a strong believer in whatever you do to somebody else, it will always come come back. tenfold over, you know, and that's a little bit of a biblical thing that I learned growing up, but

J

Jimmy Carper 28:37

I honestly, if more people believe that, it would be a different world. Yeah.

L

LuJack Tyler 28:41

Yes. And it really would, what would be because, because, you know, I think that the end result of going up the street to Fourth Ward and painting houses, you know, once a year, whatever, those it will build a coalition. So whenever something happens to us here, those PP people people over there Well, that's a good

J

Jimmy Carper 29:05

point. That's a real good point. And it creates a bridge it goes along with the kind of random act of kindness Yeah,

L

LuJack Tyler 29:11

yeah. And then I think about what Jack Kennedy said once you don't do things for any type type of vote or any type of award or any type of but but you do things because they're right and so my account campaign for 1996 will be that everything that I do politically or non politically I'm not gonna gonna do because of any type type type type of grudge or any type type of hostility to way but in my community with with the exception of my update on Uncle Tom,

J Jimmy Carper 29:48

yes, please do that you started something now you have to keep going with

L LuJack Tyler 29:54

it. But, but I'm gonna start doing things and encouraging other gay gay people to do things because it is right. Also.

J Jimmy Carper 30:04

Pride in your own neighborhood. Yeah, no, yeah. Not. You don't have to live in the TROs for that, you know, wherever you are the Houston

L LuJack Tyler 30:12

food drive. That's right is about empty. And I think

J Jimmy Carper 30:17

and we've got lots of homeless. Yeah. Yeah. And a lot of those people are queers. Yeah.

L LuJack Tyler 30:22

And I think that, that as a gay community, we, we, we should and we should have, you know, had a big huge drive. Sure. You know, you know, and if we don't get on the news, so

J Jimmy Carper 30:33

what exactly that's not why you do photos. No, it shouldn't be

L LuJack Tyler 30:37

No, no. And so that's kind of sort of where I'm at right now and has nothing to do with the Christmas season. Okay, but it has a lot to do with growing up.

J Jimmy Carper 30:47

Okay. And with that, I want you to out there to take some time right now and think about past Christmases people who you shared them with and who may not be here now. And because

this is a Christmas is a time for reflection. We're going to be playing a lot of campy Christmas carols later on in the show, but for right now, this is an an old goodie from May Christian. It's called the ones who aren't here.