

RAY HILL: But the projections are that it's going to plateau out in the mid-30s, because the people that do the statistics, they're working on some changes. That's going to affect things. But we're not going to go back to the era when 60% and 70% of the people being considered are released on parole. That was in the '70s, the early '70s and mid-'70s.

So we're headed for probably a plateau of in the mid-30s. At least that's what the statisticians doing projections for the [INAUDIBLE] I watch prison things very closely because that's my business, *The Prison Show* on radio station KPFT in Houston on Friday nights. I've been doing--

JIMMY CARPER: 9 to 11.

RAY HILL: I've been doing that show for 22 years. And I started doing that show whenever I was general manager of the radio station, which was the first paying job I got after I got out of prison. And I came back to Houston. I got out in '75. How I got out of the 160-year sentence-- we haven't finished that business-- is that I filed a writ. I became a jailhouse lawyer, and I filed a writ saying 160 years was cruel and unusual punishment for nonviolent crimes against property. And I found a sucker judge.

JIMMY CARPER: Getting back to something you said earlier, I've got-- there's a man who writes to us here. And he went into prison in his teens, early 20s. And he's going to be out soon. And he's in his 40s. And you said something about him-- about people going in and coming out emotionally the same age.

RAY HILL: Probably more sexually than emotionally because prison is a very sobering experience. And you can get certain kinds of maturity in prison that you might not get as fast in the free world. And you certainly learn how to control your emotions. I even got to the point where I could control my dreams.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, god.

RAY HILL: I could change the channel on my dreams. And if I didn't like what I was dreaming, I'd dream about something else.

JIMMY CARPER: Well, you see, I'm thinking about this guy coming out. And his sexuality is--

RAY HILL: Confused.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

JIMMY CARPER: Yes. He thinks he's bisexual. But I think he has a strange tilt on what he thinks bisexuality means.

RAY HILL: I would imagine that would not be unrealistic.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

RAY HILL: I think that there's an interesting kind of outlaw culture compatibility of gay people and people that have spent much time on the lam running from the law, because these-- those kinds of people find places in society where cops are less welcome than in other places. So a lot of people that get close to the gay community and shop where we shop and live in the apartments where we live are people that are trying to escape the scrutiny of the law. And they may not be gay, but they live with us.

And so I found a lot of the old outlaws in Texas. There's one really colorful old outlaw. I'm fascinated by prison culture and outlaw culture and hobo culture, because they're all the same kind of dynamic. And I'm a sociologist, so, I mean, I'm--

JIMMY CARPER: OK. Well, I find that quite a few guys more than I would think, have the feeling that when they get out, what they're looking to pair up with is a cross-dresser.

RAY HILL: Sure. A lot of people would do that. Why? Because in their environment, going to bed with a male is somewhat more acceptable if the male appears to be an acceptable gender for them, and so the male, the man in the dress. Now it's like the big bruiser that I was talking about earlier. Then you go in and say, well, I'm going to get this big daddy to take care of me. Well, the hills have helium in them.

JIMMY CARPER: That's right.

RAY HILL: And nobody really knows what goes on under the sheet. Of course, everybody knows, because, I mean, you can see who's on top right through the blanket. And so that goes under who's doing all the groaning. I've got a brief love story. I mean, when I was in prison, I just-- I was there for 4 years, 4 months, and 10 days.

And I didn't touch another human body. I just didn't. I just did without. I couldn't trust. I didn't know anybody or trust anybody well enough to form any kind of relationship with them. I had an idea of what-- but then before I went to prison, I had two companions. Tiffany Jones, the famous drag queen in Houston, was my lover for five years. And then I was married to Bob Oliphant for five years. And Bob was a famous hairdresser for the Garden Party and Miss Kemp America.

JIMMY CARPER: The A Crowd.

RAY HILL: The A Crowd. The A Crowd hairdress-- A Crowd drag queen hairdresser. He was into large hair. And so--

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

He did well, yeah. And he did--

JIMMY CARPER: Texas hair--

RAY HILL: Yeah. And so I had good, solid, equitable relationships with wonderful people, including a person that we would now call transgendered. We just called Tiffany a drag queen in those days. And so I went to prison, didn't mess with anybody. And then I got out.

And my first companion after I got out was a little country boy from Lufkin, Texas, Dale Sweat. But in the interim period, I seriously gave some consideration to Mario Garza. I mean, Mario Garza was one of these little bubble-butted-- when he walked in prison whites down the hall, it looked like two cantaloupes were having a quarrel--

JIMMY CARPER: Whoa.

RAY HILL: --in the back of his pants. And he was a real kid, had little tattoos on his face, a little tear over here and a little cross up here. And he was just a real kid. And Mario would have gone for that. I just never could get the privacy thing worked out and all that.

But people even knew that I was thinking about that. I mean, they know everything in prison. It's a very tight, contiguous society, where even your thoughts are known. And so they could tell by the way I looked at Mario in the shower and all of that, that Mario was subject to that. And so the warden even, trying to put more-- then moved me into the Mexican wing.

I went to a prison that was segregated. I mean, Blacks were in one wing, whites were in another wing, the Mexicans were in still a third group of us. We were very segregated. And so they moved me into the Mexican wing. And so it was very convenient for them to do that.

And so I asked the major to move me out back into the construction wing because there's too much temptation and all that. And Mario, if you're out there, I'd still go for it under these circumstances. And then when I moved back into the Anglo tank, Paul Seaman-- and interestingly named.

Paul just came up and said, you don't have to do a thing. I'll take care of this. All we got to do is go catch under the bunk. Well, and so the bunks were already low to the floor. And I'm big. I was more athletic then, I mean, like muscles and things.

JIMMY CARPER: I remember.

RAY HILL: And Paul was kind of hard-bodied, too. And I just didn't think there was room under there for us. I didn't think there was room under there. But Paul was very willing. And Paul, if you're out there still doing time somewhere, shoot me a kind. I'd love to hear from you.

But we didn't really get it together. And then one of the building tenders, a lady, decided that he would help-- set his cap for me. And he was very-- he looked like a golden retriever. He had long, red hair. And it looked like-- and kind of lanky. And he moved in a kind of erotic way.

But I was scared of the building tender. I didn't want to get off into that because--

JIMMY CARPER: Good point.

RAY HILL: Right, it wouldn't be--

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

RAY HILL: And when I got out of prison, I came back to Houston. And I was really scared. The thing about your friend that has done so much time is he will be-- only 4 years for me, 4 years. I was more afraid to get out than I had been to go in, because, see, I went in expecting this is-- I'm going to be here for the rest of my life. I'm going to have to adapt to this, and I'm going to have to make it if I'm going to live at all.

So I'd adapted and made it. But when I was going to get out of prison, what scared me is that I was going to be nobody for the rest of my life. I mean, I come from an old political family, and Frankie and Raymond had high hopes in their only son. And I went home and told Frankie that I was gay. That didn't bother her. I mean, she wasn't too interested in-- she was just glad I wasn't going to grow up to be a Republican. And I never told her about gay Republicans.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

JIMMY CARPER: No, she didn't need to know that.

RAY HILL: And so that's a sad tale. And so I was really more afraid. So I run down, and I enlisted at the University of Houston so that I had a caseload-- I mean class load. The class load would structure my life around that. I couldn't get a job, so I became a bounty hunter for undercover police officers. I was-- hung around the vice squad offices, which is in a little house behind the police station, kind of like an outhouse, and deservedly so.

And so I walked over there and met those guys going in there where the crap was. And so I recognized them. Then I'd drive around and stop at the topless club and go in and look around. And these guys are cops. Everybody would leave except me and them.

And then they could arrest me. But when you've been sentenced to 160 years in Texas penitentiary, the chance of spending a night in jail just ain't no big deal. Lock my ass up. I ain't got nothing to worry about.

JIMMY CARPER And I'm sure that Big Roy has several more questions. I know I've been hogging his time.
1:

RAY HILL: I'm lost. Here we go. We got quite a bit--

BIG ROY Yeah, let me change directions here. So what do you do about the closet in prison?
MCCARTHY:

RAY HILL: Well, that-- OK. I mean--

BIG ROY Is there a closet in prison?
MCCARTHY:

RAY HILL: Well, of course there's closets in prison. A lot of people are living in closets. A lot of gay people are not willing to admit that they're gay, and that only makes them more vulnerable. Look, hello, folks, I mean, I don't care if you're in the joint. This is 2002, all right? You can even get a job at the Country Kitchen and be openly gay.

JIMMY CARPER: Sure.

RAY HILL: And what is that place along the road that used to discriminate against us?

BIG ROY The Copper Kettle.
MCCARTHY:

RAY HILL: Copper Kettle.

BIG ROY But you still can't-- you still can't do--
MCCARTHY:

JIMMY CARPER: Cracker Barrel.

RAY HILL: Cracker Barrel.

BIG ROY You still can't--
MCCARTHY:

RAY HILL: Yes, you do. Cracker Barrel-- gay people were eating Cracker Barrel.

**BIG ROY
MCCARTHY:**

RAY HILL: Yeah, I went in there. And they all were wearing dangly earrings and had limp wrists.

**BIG ROY
MCCARTHY:**

RAY HILL: And just north of Conroe, Texas.

**BIG ROY
MCCARTHY:** Now, what I wanted to find out from you is that if a prison official takes a liking to a particular inmate, does that inmate get-- do these gay inmates get special treatment and all that sort of stuff, besides working in the warden's office?

JIMMY CARPER: They're segregated.

RAY HILL: The warden office-- that was not a-- as a matter of fact, I run into one of those guys after he got out of prison, because the warden now worked in Houston as a law enforcement officer. And I run into one of those pretty convicts out there in North Shore one day. [INAUDIBLE] I was thinking. I said, don't I know you from somewhere?

He said, oh, yeah, you visited down the unit where I was on. And I said, oh, yeah, you were in front the whole time. I said, god, I thought you were the prettiest convict I believe I'd ever seen. And so he introduced me to his wife and his baby and all of that. And he and the warden are still in communication.

JIMMY CARPER: Wow.

RAY HILL: And the warden is living here in Houston. And he always thought that it was rude for them to fire the warden. Apparently, he wasn't the one inmate that squealed on the warden. But some inmates squealed on the warden.

**BIG ROY
MCCARTHY:**

RAY HILL: Well, I mean, we've had a couple of incidences of that in Harris County Jail, where it can go gay stuff or not gay stuff. Real tragically, one of the officers was getting sexual favors from a gay inmate who did not necessarily object that much-- Harris County Jail. And the news found out about it. And that was the first he knew that that inmate had AIDS, and he committed suicide rather than deal with that.

**BIG ROY
MCCARTHY:** No, you brought up a very good and very important topic, which I have communicated with a few, about three or four different inmates, from the TDCJ prison who listen to this show. And almost every one of them-- in fact, I can say that every one of the correspondents that I have spoken with have told me how that prison officials, prison guards, do routinely withhold HIV/AIDS medicines from-- and other medications from other prisoners as a form of punishment. What damn business does a warden or anybody else have withholding-- they are not doctors.

RAY HILL: Here's how that works. I mean, let me get that in real clear focus so that everybody understands. That doesn't make it forgivable or understandable. But the main thing about prisons is security, all right? Now if you're entitled to have your protease inhibitors every 6 hours--

BIG ROY Right.

MCCARTHY:

RAY HILL: Some protease inhibitors are taken that way. Or if you're supposed to take them every day at 1:00 in the afternoon on a full stomach-- some of them are given that way. Your first health care assistant is the officer that opens your door.

That's the first hurdle you've got to overcome to get to your medication, because in Texas prisons, they no longer permit OPMs, which is on-person medications. You can't go get today's meds and maybe tomorrow's meds at one visit. You've got to go each time you need medication.

BIG ROY Well, I can understand that.

MCCARTHY:

RAY HILL: No, let me finish. So it is time for your medication. The guard is pissed off because somebody else on the wing has said or done something that's got him on edge, and he ain't opening your door. And if your door don't open, you don't get down the hall, where you deal with the second medical personnel, which is the lieutenant in the hall.

Where are you going? Oh, fine. And then you've got to get to the pill window, where the third medical care person is actually the officer or the nurse that dispenses the medication. Now if you're mobile, and you're in a regular wing, you can move out. If you are locked up in isolation--

BIG ROY Ad Seg.

MCCARTHY:

RAY HILL: In Ad Seg or isolation or protection cell-- protection cell is locked up. If you can't move around the prison because you're in a particular area, then you depend upon somebody to bring you your medication. The nurse could come to the door, and the officer said, we can't have you here, because there's a security issue going on, whether there's a security issue going on or not. And so what happens to people on protease inhibitors is enough of their medications are not delivered so that the protease inhibitors doesn't do them any good, because you've got to build up certain levels in your system to maintain that, and you continue that.

The other thing is that your medications may be denied by the unit doctor. And here's the rationale for that. All doctors in the units within the broadcast footprint of KPFT get their health care professionals on a contract with University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, another state agency.

And so the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston hires doctors to go to the unit to service the needs of the inmates. Those doctors are bonused by reducing the cost of medications on the unit. So the doctor may be behind on his Porsche payments. And the way he gets extra money to pay those payments is to deny medication to inmates for hepatitis C, for HIV, for especially psychotropic, I mean--

BIG ROY What is that?

MCCARTHY:

RAY HILL: I mean people that need to be taking things for their bipolar circumstances, things that really-- those medicines cost a lot of money. And so the doctors start looking for medications that they can reduce the dosage or eliminate the dosage altogether in order to get a bonus to pay their car note. And so that is an insidious system.

And all I can say about that is that I've been spending an awful lot of time corresponding with Donna [? Brobie, ?] because one of the things that remains of the Ruiz case is the treatment of mental health and emotional issues in Texas prisons. And I'm trying to nurture those things.

BIG ROY MCCARTHY: I think Ted Koppel, I guess maybe a year ago, did a big*Nightline* segment on the Texas prison system, especially Ad Seg.

RAY HILL: He went down there and spent the night.

BIG ROY MCCARTHY: And what I've--

RAY HILL: It was the only Ad Seg cell in history that had a telephone.

JIMMY CARPER: Wow.

BIG ROY MCCARTHY: Well, Ted Koppel was saying that at least half the inmates in our Texas prison system do not belong there. They are really mental, psychiatric patients, who-- there's nowhere else to put them, so they just dump them.

RAY HILL: One of the continuing scenarios on*The Prison Show* is I tell inmates to look around and see who within their field of vision don't belong in prison, but perhaps in another institution because of mental and emotional health problems. The trouble is, Roy, is that if you've got a mental health problem in Texas--

BIG ROY MCCARTHY: We do have one.

RAY HILL: I mean, if you have a-- if you are an individual with a mental health problem in Texas, and you go to a Texas state institution for people with mental problems, they're going to dump you on the streets of Houston, Dallas, San Antonio, because we are now 49th in mental health care of the 50 states. And so they're going to dump you on the street of Houston, Dallas. And you're going to act funny.

And when you act funny, you're going to get in trouble with the law. And then you're going to go into the criminal justice system. Well, once you cross the line from the mental health system to the criminal justice system, there's no way back.

BIG ROY MCCARTHY: And I see this. It's so tragic, because it really breaks my heart, because I see a lot of people out on the streets of Downtown Houston and some of them up here in the Montrose area.

RAY HILL: And they act funny.

BIG ROY MCCARTHY: And they cannot-- they are really not capable of taking care of themselves. Obviously, they were just dumped out here. And I think that that is criminal that they should be treated like this,

RAY HILL: If you think that is criminal, can you imagine how these poor, vulnerable people are treated in a predatory society like prison?

BIG ROY I agree. What can we do? Those of us that are on the outside, what can we do to try to change-- we can't change the world, but we can try to change things in TDC for our gay brothers, gay, lesbian, bisexual--

MCCARTHY:

RAY HILL: Well, one of the things-- and I suspect some of you are already doing that. There are 138,000 people locked up in Texas prisons tonight. Actually, population is down a little bit over a couple of years ago.

JIMMY CARPER: Wow.

RAY HILL: But 138,000 people is a pretty good chunk of people.

JIMMY CARPER: It's bigger than most Texas towns.

RAY HILL: Yeah, that is more people than live in Galveston, for instance, which is a big city. 138,000 people of which there may actually be a disproportionate number of those people who are gay, lesbian, transgendered, bisexual. If they're transgendered, they're living in extreme closets, because the system is simply not going to understand the gender variance thing. If they're-- excuse me-- if they're gay or lesbian, lesbians are not even segregated in women's units, because it's just a whole different dynamic. Without the macho thing, it's just different.

And lesbians are integrated in general society. Gay people could be vulnerable. My recommendation to them right now is that if you've ever asked for and did not receive protection, and you were subsequently sexually abused, we need-- Marta and I need your name and address, and you need to write to the station, to *The Prison Show*, because we can add you to this case.

JIMMY CARPER: And Marta is not afraid to say it on the air.

RAY HILL: Now, Marta--

JIMMY CARPER: That woman has more balls than most men I know.

RAY HILL: Well, Marta covered this issue pretty thoroughly Friday, last night, covered the issue on the prison rape and inmate on Rodney Johnson. And I'm proud of Marta. Marta has been with me now a decade.

JIMMY CARPER: She's an amazing woman.

RAY HILL: She's an amazing woman. Her anger at Texas prisons is one of the most healthy things I've seen. She lost a husband to Louisiana Death Row, and she just ain't going to get over that. And by the way, I know that we're on *After Hours* tonight. I didn't remember to remind folks out there listening, but word's got around. We've got a lot of inmates listening to the program tonight. And do you mind if I take a minute and just talk to them?

JIMMY CARPER: Sure, go ahead. Please, go right ahead.

RAY HILL: --I was a caller on the prison show. Brothers-- and I say "brothers," because no women can hear KPFT.

JIMMY CARPER: Right.

BIG ROY Why?

MCCARTHY:

RAY HILL: Because the only women within the broadcast footprint are those at Plane State Jail in Dayton. And they don't allow people in state jails to have radios. Now once in a while, a guard will leave her radio in the cell so that a group of women can get around. So if women are listening, they have to keep it a secret, or they'll come confiscate the radio.

So brothers, I-- this is Ray, same guy that does *The Prison Show*. I appreciate you listening to other programs on KPFT because I believe very strongly in this radio station and what it's trying to do. And of course, *After Hours* is special to me, because I got my radio experience and my talent by doing a program called *Wild Inside*, which was--

**BIG ROY
MCCARTHY:** And I remember--

RAY HILL: *The Gay Show*, yeah. *The Gay Show*, yeah.

**BIG ROY
MCCARTHY:** That was back in the early '80s.

RAY HILL: So radio can be used to uplift and to encourage. And that's what I try to do on *The Prison Show* with you. I'd appreciate if you'd take some time to think about writing me and telling me about perhaps the things that I should be doing with *The Prison Show* that I'm not doing, because I think that your ideas-- I might not incorporate them right away. And I get sometimes 25 pounds of mail a week. So--

JIMMY CARPER: I know.

RAY HILL: It's not unusual for me not to answer letters. But I do read everything that comes to the radio station for *The Prison Show* personally, and then I share it with some of the other volunteers perhaps to respond. I can't do anything about your old case. I ain't a lawyer. I'm just a guy on a radio.

You know, I'm not the lawyer. I can't help you with your appeals. I'm just not the lawyer. I'm the guy on the radio. I can think about some reforms. I can't do anything about the lieutenant in the hall in front of the chow hall, either. I don't know him. You're going to have to figure out how to get along with that sucker because he's still going to be there when radio show ain't on the air.

But I'm just a guy on the radio, and I can expose them once in a while. And I can try to work with the legislature on some policy changes if we can get the back-up. I need to know what's going on. I need to know what's happening where you are. Now if you're one of my gay brothers or bisexual brothers, so this whole issue of sexuality is confusing you, and you don't know who to talk to it about, been there.

I wasn't confused about my sexuality. I was openly and proudly gay in Texas prison. It's an atmosphere where being gay, at least in the early '70s, was not low status. It was negative status. But I made it. I held my head high. didn't have to lie my way through. Didn't avoid being who I was.

And I survived. I want you to survive, too. If you have needed protection and not received it, I really do need to know your name and your number and something about that story so that I can share it with the ACLU lawyers working on this case. Maybe this case is so egregious and so strong, it's not the worst case. I mean, we had one of the *Ruiz* litigants ask the doctor to sew up his asshole, because he was so tired of getting raped several times a day that he would rather live with a colostomy than even have a asshole.

So maybe your case is not that egregious. But I remember being in prison back in the old building tender era and listening to cries in the night and knowing what that was all about. And I remember knowing for certain that the administration was not going to punish in any way the abusing building tender or turnkey or whoever it was.

I hope things are a little bit better. I hope that my being openly gay in *The Prison Show* has helped change some attitudes. Or every once in a while, one of you will send me a letter. Why don't you shut up about being gay? And I'd write it back if I can and say, listen, you don't have to listen to me. Listen to that straight guy on *The Prison Show* over on another station. Oh, excuse me, there isn't one.

JIMMY CARPER: Exactly. Exactly.

RAY HILL: Because no other ex-convict has gotten out of there straight or gay that had the chutzpah to go after it, but I have. I may be the gay guy. I may be the punk. But I ain't a weak one. And I ain't a scared one. And by god, in the media, nobody has been there for you longer, more certain, and with more determination than old Ray. Well, they call me Mickey because I was wearing a Mickey Mouse watch when I went to prison.

And for you old Black guys who remember way back in the '70s when I didn't see the line between the color when it comes to putting people on the maintenance squad or in the construction crew, as a matter of fact, I understood that Black guys were really culturally insulted about being expected to pick cotton in a field where their grandfathers had worked as slaves. And I knew that was a little more sensitive, so I gave you special breaks. I am still over the racism.

And you guys who are hung up in gangs, who think you can make excuses for the gangs, uh-uh. You got no place to hide, son. That whole idea of pretending to be tough guys hanging together is a fraud. Give it up. Surrender. You ain't fooling nobody. It's a power trip. It's cowards manipulating weak people.

I love you, yeah. This old gay guy in Houston, Texas on the radio loves you exactly where you are, as you are. And by the way, you've been judged and condemned enough. I don't have to do that. Y'all have a good night, get some rest, and we'll see you on the radio next Friday.

JIMMY CARPER: Thank you, Ray. And let me add to that, I have several-- like I said earlier, I have several guys who write to this show and to me. And I have had two of those guys now out of prison, on their feet, and doing well. One guy is up in Anchorage right now. And I don't know where the other guy is, the T Man, the one I really care about. He's around here somewhere, and I hope he's OK.

BIG ROY Jim.

MCCARTHY:

JIMMY CARPER: What?

BIG ROY You missed him two weeks ago, three weeks ago.

MCCARTHY:

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, I know-- the T Man.

BIG ROY He came.

MCCARTHY:

JIMMY CARPER: What a sweetheart of a guy. And as many of the men who are writing to us right now-- and I know that you're finding out more about yourselves because of this show. And that can only be a good thing. And I welcome any of you, when you get out, come by this station. Come. Come see me. Come.

We'll put you on the air, or we won't put you on the air, depending on what you want. But I'd love to see you. And I know I can't write to everybody. But I sure do appreciate the letters that you send me. Roy, thank you for a wonderful segment.

BIG ROY Well, we-- just I want to thank Ray for carrying that segment. I really didn't get a chance to say much or really

MCCARTHY: cover it. There's just so much to really cover.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

BIG ROY And we'll have to do it again.

MCCARTHY:

JIMMY CARPER: Have to do it again.

BIG ROY Some other time.

MCCARTHY:

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

BIG ROY Good. And thank everyone for listening. And I hope to hear from y'all again in July, I guess, is when my next

MCCARTHY: segment comes up.

JIMMY CARPER: You bet. You bet. You've been listening to *After Hours-- Queer Radio With Attitude* on KPFT Houston and KEOS, College Station. Coming up in just a couple of minutes, early morning groove guy. Bobby Fats's car is here. I see it in the parking lot, so he's got to be in the building somewhere.

Oh, here he comes. Here it comes. In the background, you're hearing music by Ray Baker, the Music Bear. It's a dance version of a song he does called "Homophobia." We'll see you next week.

RAY BAKER: (SINGING) Well, first I learned it was evil.

[WOMAN SPEAKING INDISTINCTLY]

JIMMY CARPER: You can't do an illegal ID because we can't play that.

DEBBIE: Oh. It has to be my real name?

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, no, no, no. It doesn't have to be your real name, but it really has to be KPFT Houston, because otherwise, we'll be breaking the law.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

DEBBIE: This is Debbie, and I'm listening to KPFT Houston.