

[MATTRESS SQUEAKING]

[HEAVY BREATHING]

ANNOUNCER: The following program contains language or images of a frank or sensitive nature--

EXCITED MAN: Oh, Frank

ANNOUNCER: --which may be considered objectionable by some. Listener discretion is advised.

[MATTRESS SQUEAKING]

[MUSIC PLAYING]

(SINGING) After Hours, After Hours.

Oh, yes, you've tuned in to *After Hours*, a continuing tradition on KPFT Houston, 90.1 FM. The crew of *After Hours* is ready to bring you news, interviews, and music geared for gay and lesbian people. Here at *After Hours*, we may be diverse, but we have one thing in common, we are out of the closet and urge everyone to come out of their closets.

That means standing up for yourself, taking responsibility for your own life, and being proud of who you are. Realistically, we know not everyone can do that because of age, job, or frame of mind. That's OK. We're here for you too. So sit back, relax, and enjoy this week's edition of *After Hours*

[MUSIC PLAYING]

MICHAEL That's right. You're listening to *After Hours* and I'm Michael Crawford and you're not. And yeah--

CRAWFORD:

JIM CARPER: And I'm Jim Carper and you're not.

MICHAEL OK, great. What's the date? The date is July 9th, correct?

CRAWFORD:

JIM CARPER: Yes, it's not the 10th until you go to bed.

MICHAEL With who?

CRAWFORD:

JIM CARPER: Anyone.

MICHAEL OK, great.

CRAWFORD:

JIM CARPER: Even by yourself.

MICHAEL No, thank you very much.

CRAWFORD:

JIM CARPER: OK, we have a lot on the big program today.

MICHAEL Is this the first Saturday of the month, or--

CRAWFORD:

JIM CARPER: No, it's the second.

MICHAEL Oh, OK.

CRAWFORD:

JIM CARPER: I'm the second Saturday of the month.

MICHAEL Ah.

CRAWFORD:

JIM CARPER: Yeah, we did Scott last week.

MICHAEL We did Scott last week.

CRAWFORD:

JIM CARPER: I'm this week. Diane is next week. And Jewel is the week after.

MICHAEL OK, OK.

CRAWFORD:

JIM CARPER: OK, great, great, great. Let's see. What are we going to talk about? We have Ray Hill here today.

MICHAEL Do we ever.

CRAWFORD:

JIM CARPER: Yes, and he's looking mighty good. And we're going to be talking about a whole bunch of stuff. He's come here with some troubling news about apparently the police and anti-gay violence and so on and so forth. And he is going to be telling us about that.

MICHAEL Can you believe, for the first time in like five or six years, there's been a bar raid?

CRAWFORD:

JIM CARPER: Can you say Stonewall 2?

MICHAEL Ah-ha.

CRAWFORD:

JIM CARPER: OK, actually, we're going to be talking about Stonewall 2 at the Stonewall 25th anniversary, which several of us went to New York to participate in. We're going to be talking about the experiences that several people had here. What they expected when they went? What they did? And how they felt about what went on?

MICHAEL Great, great, great.

CRAWFORD:

JIM CARPER: So, yeah, so that should be--

MICHAEL First hand, huh?

CRAWFORD:

JIM CARPER: Yep, then we're going to have a couple of speeches or a couple of talks by two women who I think are just absolutely fabulous. One is Ann Northrop, who--

MICHAEL Who is she?

CRAWFORD:

JIM CARPER: She was on the board of directors of The Gay Games.

MICHAEL Oh.

CRAWFORD:

JIM CARPER: She used to be a news producer for CBS. And she's been really big in ACT UP New York. And she's also one of the founders of Gay and Lesbian Americans.

MICHAEL Oh, where have we heard that before?

CRAWFORD:

JIM CARPER: Probably from me because I'm the local coordinator. And you can contact GLA at 866-4077. And--

MICHAEL Shameless plug, shameless plug.

CRAWFORD:

JIM CARPER: And I'm very. And she's going to be talking about what she sees as things that we need to keep an eye on in the queer movement for our future benefit.

We're also going to be having a speech or a talk by [INAUDIBLE].

MICHAEL Oh, yeah.

CRAWFORD:

JIM CARPER: Who I totally love, and as I've said before, I would gladly have her children.

MICHAEL Think about that, folks.

CRAWFORD:

JIM CARPER: Yeah, OK, we're also going to be reading excerpts from *The Lesbian Avenger Handbook*, which is subtitled, *A Homemade Handy Guide for Homemade Revolution*. Yeah, so.

MICHAEL These are the fire-eating lesbians, huh?

CRAWFORD:

JIM CARPER: Fire-eating bare-breasted lesbians.

MICHAEL Oh.

CRAWFORD:

JIM CARPER: OK, great. And we got new music from Hole, House of Pain, Offspring, Opus 3, and a whole bunch of other stuff.

MICHAEL And One Dove.

CRAWFORD:

JIM CARPER: Oh, yeah, One Dove, who is One Dove.

MICHAEL It's an English band with a queer member, so we're happy to feature them. And actually, I've got a couple of CDs

CRAWFORD: at home that I'm listening to right now that we're going to bring in the following weeks, The Kitchens of Distinction.

JIM CARPER: They're cool, and they're queer, or at least the lead singer is.

MICHAEL Right, right.

CRAWFORD:

JIM CARPER: OK, so we're going to take a short, short musical break, and we're going to be featuring a new song from Arrested Development.

MICHAEL All right.

CRAWFORD:

JIM CARPER: It's off the new album, *Zingalamadumi*, which stands for beehive of culture in Swahili. And the song is *Ache'n for Acres*.

SINGER: It goes 1 and a 2 and a 3 and it goes like this.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

The message is, the message is,

JIM CARPER: OK, that was Arrested Development, and the song was *Ache'n for Acres* from the album *Zingalamadumi*. And now we're going to be talking to Ray Hill, who I guess needs no introduction because pretty much everyone knows who he is because he's always around and always has been.

How are you doing, Ray?

RAY HILL: I'm doing fine. I'm beginning to catch up on my rest from New York, and then all of a sudden work appears over the horizon. In history, we don't have, in Montrose, many police problems.

There's a little game going on between the male, trans-person, and female hookers in the neighborhood. But that really doesn't affect the rest of us very much because it's a game that they understand. And it's a game that they play.

And when someone gets arrested that is in that game and understands the rules of the game, my phone does not ring.

JIM CARPER: Right.

RAY HILL: But a week ago Thursday, I came in after a long day of sweating my breasts off in the courthouse watching injustice get done on every side and corner, and a young male voice on my answering machine told a story of the preceding evening, where he and a friend were moving from QT's down to Amy's to show off their dresses.

And a squad car pulled up in front of them and stopped them in a driveway, and said, get in the back of the car, you're going to jail for hitchhiking. And they weren't hitchhiking, nor were they hooking. They were just a couple of young men dressed as a couple of drag queens trying out to be trans-people.

And so they weren't, in any way, in violation of any laws and these two cops arrested them. And there was an interesting twist to the story, the uniformed police officers that arrested them were wearing ski masks.

JIM CARPER: What do you mean they were wearing ski masks?

RAY HILL: They were wearing ski masks. I mean they had coverings like ski mask over their faces, which I'd never heard of that before. I've seen plain-clothed officers go back to the scene where they had done a plainclothes operation wearing ski mask. But I had never seen uniformed police officers, and never heard of uniformed police officers, wearing ski masks.

At any rate, they arrested those two young people. And they went right around the block, and there was a crowd of four or five other people. And they took the young men in drag, the three young men in drag, and squeezed them all in the back of the squad car with the two that they'd already arrested.

Now, none of these people were hooking/ none of these people were hitchhiking. All of these people were just showing off their lovely dresses, which is, in Houston, not against the law. We used to have a cross-dressing ordinance, but activist lawyer Phyllis Frye took the city to task for that. And the city actually repealed that by vote of City council. So we don't have a cross-dressing ordinance anywhere on the horizon.

But these people were obviously arrested because they were cross-dressing. But since there is no offense to that, they were charged with hitchhiking, which is the new handy throwdown. You can arrest anybody anytime you want to for anything else as long as you've got something to tell the Sergeant when you get to the station.

And these young people spent the night in jail. They went to court the next morning. En route to the court, they were told by the jailers if you go in there and plead not guilty, you can go home right after court. But if you plead guilty, it's going to be five days before you get tried unless you post some \$500 or \$600 bond.

Well, since nobody had that kind of money in their pocket, they decided the quickest way out of there was to plead not guilty. And four of the five did that. One person, who has a relative works through the legal department, knew that that was just a kind of a gimmick that the police officers do before people go to court to persuade people to plead guilty and pled not guilty and was carried to trial the next morning. The officers did not show up to testify against him, and so he went home the next day.

But several things about this bother me. First, the ski masks bother me a lot.

JIM CARPER: Right.

RAY HILL: And Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus passed a resolution Wednesday night condemning the use of ski masks by Houston Police officers under any circumstance and demanded immediate cessation to that.

Another thing that bothered me, was this, obviously, we're arresting you for cross-dressing, but we're going to put another charge on you so that we can hold you in jail. And that sounds to me a lot like discrimination, prejudice, and harassment against trans-people, which it's too late in the game for us to be putting up with that crap now. We haven't put up with that crap for years.

And so the caucus also passed a resolution, and Phyllis Frye, who is a very capable attorney, is looking into possible litigation of some of these factors. And so we're gathering affidavits from people and preparing to look at to see where the litigation is going to be appropriate in this because this is harassment and discrimination.

The other thing that really bothered me, was this business of marshals and jailers giving legal advice to people who are in custody at a very vulnerable time as they go into court. I don't like that at all.

If you and I did that. If Michael Crawford and Ray Hill went down to the Municipal Court building and took those people who had just come through the tunnel and started telling them how to plead, we would have our ass in jail for practicing law without a license.

But these cops, apparently do it routinely, and the caucus passed a resolution calling upon chief judge Sylvia Garcia to see to it that it stopped immediately. Because it is patently offensive to the Constitution, and it's just so damn cheaply manipulative that it doesn't have to be tolerated.

So we were doing real well with that and getting all these things out of the way. That I'll be damned, this past Wednesday, two plainclothes officers and eight or nine uniformed officers, most of which were wearing ski masks, came busting into QTs for a real old-fashioned, everybody against the wall, everybody take out your identification, everybody that-- we haven't had a raid like that since we made a deal with Lee P. Brown that that wasn't necessary.

MICHAEL And that's been forever.

CRAWFORD:

RAY HILL: And that's been many years ago. One cannot stop people from enforcing laws in the bar. I mean that's what cops are for, and if laws are being violated, they can do those investigations. But to come in, turn on the lights, turn off the music, demand everybody spread eagle against the wall, everybody's shutting down, everybody's identification out. That's just intolerable inconvenience of law-abiding people present.

They don't treat other people that way. Let them try that at the River Oaks Country Club.

JIM CARPER: They wouldn't try it there.

RAY HILL: Yeah, right, let them try that stuff. Exacerbating all of this is-- and there's the ski mask again. That bothers me still. Exacerbating all of this, is there is a real class warfare going on on Avondale.

The Avondale Association, which used to be the straight people that lived on Avondale being hostile toward all gay people, has now evolved to being mostly gay men. I don't think there are any lesbians over there. And I know they're not any trans-persons. But mostly, gay men who have invested in those old houses.

MICHAEL Probably for a pretty cheap price too.

CRAWFORD:

RAY HILL: Oh, yeah, well the house next door to the Atrium, which is probably the specific cause of the new encouraging the police to pick on the riffraff. A guy bought it for \$70,000 or \$80,000, put \$100,000 into it. Now he has it on the market for \$325,000, which is pretty good margin of profit, over a year, year and a half's time.

It's a nice house. Unfortunately, it's next to a very trashy gay bar. But if the people that went to the Stonewall, were living in Houston, Texas in 1994, they would either go to QTs.

JIM CARPER: Right.

RAY HILL: They would go to the Atrium, maybe Lazy Jays.

MICHAEL That's exactly right. That's what we're talking about here.

CRAWFORD:

RAY HILL: And so it really amazes me that some of the people who are encouraging the police to pick on the riffraff and organizing Gay Pride Week, Gay and Lesbian Pride Week. All right, folks over there in the organizing committee, and folks receiving awards, like Grand Marshal and stuff from Pride Week, are the same people that are trying to accomplish in 1994, what the New York Police were trying to accomplish in 1969.

MICHAEL Well, I don't find it so surprising.

CRAWFORD:

RAY HILL: Well, I find it so ironic and, of course, Michael Crawford, Ray Hill has only one role cast here. I have got to come down the side of the riffraff.

MICHAEL Right.

CRAWFORD:

RAY HILL: I don't have any option. Unlike, Miss-- excuse me, he objects to being called Miss, but young Mr. Garcia, who is a honcho in Avondale Association, who is calling the police every 30 minutes because somebody is using the sidewalk in or around his house.

He's got options, I suppose. He can identify with the oppressors, but I've had too many boots on my neck, in my 54 years, to just say that I can identify with the oppressors.

So I've opened up negotiation. And when I went down to the police department-- you know I always take it to the-- I'm a by the book person. Police causing a problem you go talk to their boss, right.

So I went down there and found out that central patrol, and everybody who lives in Montrose Heights, Third Ward near North Side sixth Ward, everybody out there listening to this, please understand, that because of the overtime program to hire a lot more officers on the street, central patrol does not have a captain.

The position was vacated when Captain Buenik was transferred from central patrol captain to become the new captain over internal affairs. And I'm sure George Buenik is going to do an excellent job over there. But basically, they have left central patrol without a head. There is no command there.

Now, Lieutenant Eisenmann is acting captain, but he has the same rank as three other lieutenants in the division, and there's always competition between them. So basically, the officers on the street says, there is no one in charge here. And we can do what we damn well want to.

And so part of the problem is, an absence of command and control discipline.

JIM CARPER: Right.

RAY HILL: Another part of the problem is, upper class gay people in class warfare against us riffraff. And we're going to go a long, hot summer without any command, when the crime rate is the highest. I mean, it was this time of the year that Paul Broussard got assassinated. It was this time of the year that queer bashing, in the past, has happened.

And we've got a bunch of cops on the street that thinks that their job is to pick on drag queens instead of looking after our safety. We've got some problems here.

JIM CARPER: How can we tie this to what happened 25 years ago at the Stonewall Inn?

RAY HILL: Well, what happened at the Stonewall Inn, and I'm relatively familiar. I am not among the 1500 Stonewall veterans out of an event that only 200 people actually participated in. [LAUGHS] There were at least 1,500 veterans at the Stonewall parade, Stonewall 25 parade, and there were about 200 people involved in Stonewall, in the first place. So actually, there are a lot of multiple personalities going on here. Actually, it's a group of people sharing personalities.

What happened in Stonewall, basically, is that Stonewall was a bar very much like the Atrium, very much like the QTs. It was basically where poor students and working class kids hung out.

There was some substance abuse there. I think the term speed freak ought to come into any discussion of Stonewall from 1969 because it was certainly a phenomena that affected. And then, at 2:00 in the morning, here comes the cops coming in there like gangbusters. There were 10 Cops and about maybe 50 people in the bar at the time.

And somebody just did a quick headcount and said we're not put up with this crap anymore.

JIM CARPER: Right.

RAY HILL: And so they all left, but they didn't go away. They had one person in custody, and she was doing drag shows two weeks ago in New York, saw her, was showing off scars that she sustained in the battle. But they went out, and they came around. And they blockaded the front. And it was an act of frustration.

Now, could such a thing happen in Houston in 19 and 94? Kris Kristofferson wrote the words, and Janis Joplin sang them, "freedom is just another word for nothing left to lose."

MICHAEL CRAWFORD: Which I think is a way of saying that the most progressive people are the ones who are most willing to fight the oppressor to fight the system that is crushing them in a lot of ways people who are poor, people who are left out, people who are pushed out.

RAY HILL: And people that get hit from more than one direction like young women and Blacks and Hispanics in this culture. And I think there's probably enough of those people out there. And then there's probably some old revolutionaries like me that, hell, I wouldn't mind kickstarting flame.

JIM CARPER: Yeah, OK, so Stonewall was raided 25 years ago. Qts Was raided [LAUGHS] today.

RAY HILL: Probably, the difference was that they came in at 10:00 instead of later.

JIM CARPER: Yeah.

RAY HILL: And they just came in with overwhelming force. And the ski masks scare people.

JIM CARPER: Yeah.

MICHAEL Sure.

CRAWFORD:

RAY HILL: I mean these guys got plenty of opportunity to be terrorists when they're off duty. They don't need to have trappings of terrorists when they're on duty. And that really bothers me because it's unnecessarily intimidating. And it's frightening.

Why do these people have got to hide? They're wearing badges and uniforms, and they got nothing to hide.

MICHAEL Yeah. OK, so we see that some of the same things are happening now that happened then. And I'd like to

CRAWFORD: broaden the focus a little bit and talk about what happened during the 25th anniversary of Stonewall and the celebrations in New York.

RAY HILL: Michael, before you get over that, there was one difference. When I went to the joint in 1970, I went to Texas prison in 1970, I was absolutely convinced that the revolution would come. And my friends would be driving up any day now to take me out of that place or put me in charge of it to let me handle the enemy in that same geography.

I don't know if we still have that illusion in our minds, but in 1969, 1970 in that era, the frustration because of the war, the frustration because of the lack of movement in civil rights efforts, we had all the laws and we still weren't free or we weren't included, that level of frustration and belief that there had to be revolution--

MICHAEL Yeah.

CRAWFORD:

RAY HILL: --is not part of the mix now. So I don't know if people feel as free-- politicized people feel as free to begin things as they did. But Stonewall 25 was well, I was disappointed in the absence of the politics.

MICHAEL Agreed.

CRAWFORD:

RAY HILL: Now, if you were out on the parade route, you saw individual politics. The trans-people in their contingent in New York, the openly-gay New York Police officers. I even marched along beside and talked to an Episcopal Bishop that had come out for the occasion and was wearing his bright purple shirt with a contingent of people from his-- what are bishop?

JIM CARPER: Diocese

RAY HILL: Diocese, is from his diocese. And they were so proud of him, and he was so proud to be there. And the women, the bare-breasted women, which weren't only the Lesbian Avengers, but there's also a campaign going on among many lesbian groups about lesbian awareness on breast cancer.

MICHAEL Right.

CRAWFORD:

RAY HILL: Wonderful posters, did you ever see such wonderful posters of these older women self examining in bare breast. It's political nudity is what it is. It's strong stuff and some of the best posters and artwork. And then, of course, that has started a movement of awareness.

And what better way to illustrate breast cancer awareness, than to take Fifth Avenue or 1st Avenue and just shake them.

MICHAEL Yeah. Vivian Lee?

CRAWFORD:

VIVIAN LEE: Yeah.

MICHAEL You, I know, did not go to the main march on the UN or whatever it was called. And we were just talking about

CRAWFORD: how there was politics absent there, except for small occasions. You instead went to demonstrations sponsored by ACT UP and Gay and Lesbian Americans. Can you tell me what the focus was for that demonstration? And why you thought it was necessary to be there?

VIVIAN LEE: I felt like that the UN march kind of lost focus of a lot of things, whether it be politics or human rights, it seemed that to me that they were just there to be visible and to celebrate, unlike the unofficial march down Fifth Avenue was very important to me, personally, because I lost many friends to AIDS. And this was put up by ACT UP, I believe, New York and GLA and part of the Lesbian Avengers and to commemorate, to remember, my friend who died of AIDS and to demand the Cure Act.

MICHAEL And I think it's important to point out that the AIDS-related demonstration was the only AIDS-specific political **CRAWFORD:** thing that happened during that entire celebration.

RAY HILL: The silence worked where I was.

MICHAEL But silence is one thing, but personally, I am beyond silence right now.

CRAWFORD:

JIM CARPER: Sure.

MICHAEL And I think that another thing that why I felt it was necessary to be at the ACT UP demonstration, the alternative **CRAWFORD:** demonstration, we'll call it, was because of for years the Gay Pride Parade in New York has gone up Fifth Avenue. Why didn't we have Fifth Avenue then? What was the big deal?

And the police saying, no, we will not give you a permit. And Gay and Lesbian Americans took them to court twice and lost both times. I mean, what's the point? They should have known that we would get enough people there that we could just take the street, whether or not they gave us a permit.

VIVIAN LEE: They were there watching over us anyway, so why not just hand us a permit.

RAY HILL: Well, yeah, I was active in Stonewall 25 organization up to and including the Milwaukee conference.

MICHAEL Was that the one where they decided--

CRAWFORD:

RAY HILL: Last August.

MICHAEL Was that the one where they decided not to include transgender people?

CRAWFORD:

RAY HILL: Yeah, I left at that point. I thought the absence of that inclusion was a bad sign for the steering committee and the organizing committee. At that point, the plan was to come up Fifth Avenue the way Heritage of Pride had always had done.

MICHAEL Right.

CRAWFORD:

RAY HILL: At that point, it was a different stage arrangements on the grand lawn. At that point, it was more political-oriented because that Stonewall was unquestionably a political act. It wasn't a, "I'm going to show off my new dress" kind of occasion, OK Or, it doesn't make a difference how pretty I am. It is a political act.

And at that point, all of those ducks were in a row. What happened, was that the organizers and the planners who could have gone to David Dinkins then and secured Fifth Avenue and secured different arrangements on the lawn, they did not do that.

And David Dinkins got out of office and then they had to deal with this new Republican mayor, who basically told them where they were going and the organizers bought it.

MICHAEL Right.

CRAWFORD:

RAY HILL: So, you're very appropriate, Vivian, for recognizing that the approved march was, in and of itself, a confession of weakness and was hostile to the idea of the political nature of Stonewall 25 years ago and the appropriate remembrance of Stonewall now.

I do think that the march accomplished a sense of internationalization of the movement. I think that happened.

VIVIAN LEE: I agree with you there.

RAY HILL: Although, the UN was almost not in the picture because it was where we just gathered. We left the UN instead of going toward the UN. So it occurred to me, that coming from the Christopher Street area and using Fifth Avenue would be a far more appropriate to the history, but those people screwed up. Those people acquiesced to this Republican mayor.

Of course, it didn't make any difference because if you've got enough people, you take the street anyway.

MICHAEL Exactly.

CRAWFORD:

RAY HILL: And that's exactly why happened.

VIVIAN LEE: The only thing about the UN official march I really enjoyed, was that to see a lot of minorities from different nations. I mean that's something

RAY HILL: That was very powerful. That was very powerful.

VIVIAN LEE: --in the end. And to see that because you don't get that much here, especially in Houston, the Hispanics or the Blacks or the Asians would be marching down Montrose. I mean that was very touching for me.

RAY HILL: And to see and to see the small delegation from Bosnia and the two or three people from Serbia marching arm-in-arm where that could happen with us, but it can't happen in their home land.

MICHAEL You see, and that was one of the things for me. I wasn't moved very much by the march on the UN, except for

CRAWFORD: seeing, for example, the people from Bosnia, the people from Bolivia, and know that they had to put a lot of effort into coming here.

RAY HILL: The new South African contingent was no slacker either.

MICHAEL And it's really interesting that there were just a lot of queers from New York City, from all over--

CRAWFORD:

RAY HILL: Everywhere in the world, right.

MICHAEL Who were just standing on the sidelines. Vivian and I know someone whose name I'm not going to mention

CRAWFORD: because I'm just really frustrated at his behavior there, but basically, he was flown there. His expenses were paid for. And he could not get off his ass to even go to the march on the UN. He stood on the sidelines.

And I'm wondering, what is it going to take. Probably, the best question that I saw that was raised during the entire week and a half, or however long it took place, was the one raised by ACT UP, where is your rage? It seemed to me that everybody was in a celebrating let's party mood.

For example, I think virtually every night for a week there were these really big parties on the *USS Intrepid*, which is a warship.

RAY HILL: Yeah

MICHAEL You know, and--

CRAWFORD:

RAY HILL: Well, there was a goodly contingent of people, at least around NYU. Instead of going to the Intrepid, I hung around NYU because that's where our radicals came from if not in '69, certainly in '70. It's walking distance from Christopher Street.

MICHAEL Right.

CRAWFORD:

RAY HILL: And here I hung out at NYU. And here were these old curmudgeons. I can't believe people this old in the movement then I realized, wait a minute, they're my age, except for Maurice Kite, who's older than dirt, who was just wonderful. Morris is wonderful.

MICHAEL That's right, he's always been old.

CRAWFORD:

RAY HILL: Morris was born older than I am now. [LAUGHS] but with the old curmudgeons, the old curmudgeons really were hacked off about this warship party thing.

MICHAEL And there was a demonstration around that, I think, like on that Friday night.

CRAWFORD:

RAY HILL: Yeah, but we had to get home and take our NyQuil and go to bed.

MICHAEL Well, I think while we've been talking about the absence of politics and the events surrounding the anniversary, I think what I learned from the march on Washington was not to hang out at the official events, but to hang out with people from ACT UP or from Gay and Lesbian Americans. People who I knew would know what the interesting stuff was going on.

So in that way, on one night, we were at this demo for drag visibility, which was totally great because they had probably the best accessories.

RAY HILL: [LAUGHS]

MICHAEL They had cut out--

CRAWFORD:

VIVIAN LEE: Better clothing than I did, better dressed.

RAY HILL: Gays and lesbians in the millinery. [LAUGHS]

MICHAEL And they were carrying these cardboard cutouts of Uzis that they had painted pink. And you had all these

CRAWFORD: fabulous drag queens brandishing these hot pink Uzis.

RAY HILL: As a matter of fact, there were several such events, and women's events were just abounded. And basically, none of these were official events. They were a lot of fun, and they were very different.

But you know what I really enjoy, is I got my press pass when I got there. Then I found out that the Pacifica coverage of the march, was strictly a New York party, and it had nothing to do with anybody from out of town. So I was not wanted, needed, and would I please get the out of the studio.

And so I had my press pass, my news pass, so I got to work and strike up conversations with people along the route. And when did you decide to come? What does this mean to you? Is this your first march? What others have you done and just talking to people.

And I use an old vehicle. I'll take, like the trans-people march, I see there's a 13-year-old out there listening on the radio. What do you want me to tell her or him about being transgender and growing up in gay or straight world? What advice do you have for your children?

And I would do the same thing for police officers and ask, basically, the same question, in different contexts, for the handicapped and ask questions of the elderly. And people, when you take over their responsibility side, can give you some amazing information.

Of course, I'm going to plagiarize all of that and use it in my own radio [LAUGHS] and never give them credit because I didn't bother to ask their names. [LAUGHS] But that kind of contact with the people, which journalists can enjoy that other people really can't, is extremely valuable to me trying to gauge where we are, how have we gotten here, what directions do we need to take from here to get to where we need to go. And these kind of gatherings give me a diversity of people to ask those kind of questions.

JIM CARPER: Vivian, tell us a little bit about the Dyke March. Explain what it was.

VIVIAN LEE: I wouldn't call it actually a march. I was somewhat disappointed in that, actually. I mean it was really nice to be surrounded by a lot of women and sisterhood and feel that bond, but it was just like a walk down Fifth Avenue. And it was like they weren't really demanding anything at least like having same-sex partners who could have children or something.

And I felt like they should demand something or had some kind of main theme or purpose. And it was just like people off the streets or everywhere any dykes or lesbians or women just got on and just marched, just walked down Fifth Avenue. And they got to Washington Square Park, and that was it.

And there was not speakers there or anything or any information, and I just felt like that was kind of disorganized.

JIM CARPER: OK.

VIVIAN LEE: I mean, it was great because I had a lot of fun marching down. And it gave me-- I marched topless. It gave me visibility, but that was about it.

JIM CARPER: Well, and I think that was one of the keys. When the Lesbian Avengers started the Dyke Marches, and I think the first one was in Washington at the march on Washington last year, the key thing was lesbian visibility.

Because even within the lesbian, gay, queer communities or whatever you want to call it, lesbian and bisexual women are still invisible because even in the face of the media, the straight or the queer media, it's always men who are there.

And I agree with you that there wasn't really an agenda. And I think, at the beginning, the Dyke Marches were great in terms of visibility, but now you're visible. What do you want?

VIVIAN LEE: I want to go beyond that. I am visible. Excuse me, I want to go beyond that. And where do we go from here?

JIM CARPER: Although, I do think--

RAY HILL: Well, actually, I'm real glad of Vivian's report because when I got to Washington Square, I didn't go to the March I just came to the square to hear the speakers, and there weren't any. And I've been thinking, all this time, I missed them. And I feel so relieved. [LAUGHS]

VIVIAN LEE: There was nothing there. There was nothing there. I was so disappointed.

RAY HILL: No focus after you get there.

MICHAEL There was the fire-eating episode--

CRAWFORD:

VIVIAN LEE: Yeah.

MICHAEL --which I think is really good. And I want to say that I think while Dyke Marches may have been maybe played out

CRAWFORD: on the East Coast, I'm still hoping that some enterprising lesbians, including you Vivian, will have a Dyke March here in Houston. I would--

VIVIAN LEE: You're not going to march down topless down Montrose, yeah, in Texas.

MICHAEL Main Street.

CRAWFORD:

RAY HILL: Well, how about Austin? We could do that in Austin. If we can't do it in Houston, we could do it in Austin next year during the legislature.

MICHAEL Yeah, I think some of the visibility things are something that lesbians here need to work on, which, of course, is why we're going to be reading from the *Lesbian Avenger Handbook* later, hopefully, to inspire women to take action.

One thing that I'd like to talk about that I don't think either of you went to, because I didn't see you there, ACT UP held a national strategy session to talk about the AIDS Cure Act. And that is, basically a bill that's in Congress right now that would set up a kind of Manhattan Project to do an intensive research effort to find a cure for AIDS.

And I think that, more than any other single event, during the entire week we were there, inspired me and made me feel good. Because I saw a lot of people who were smart. They knew what they were doing. And they were really into it. It wasn't a fashion thing. They were really serious about the work that was going on.

And what also made me feel kind of good was, that some of the things that they had talked about that had been effective for them, were some of the things that ACT UP and GLA, locally, are just now beginning to do in terms of getting our local Congress people to sign on as co-sponsors of the AIDS Care Act.

And what I'm hoping, is that if we can prove that this kind of grassroots effort is successful, that we can get queers motivated to do it on a whole range of issues, including sodomy law repeal. So it just amazed me that-- I guess, in a lot of ways they felt so surrounded by people who were just partying, to see people who were committed and not boring.

I mean they weren't the stereotypical boring, nerdy types. They had a great time, but they also knew that there was work to be done and they were prepared to do it.

RAY HILL: Well, the ILGA Conference following the march had earmarks of seriousness and focus on that. And talk about making plans in the future, four years from now, the games are going to be in Amsterdam.

Some of us are talking about doing serious organizing and demonstration in The Hague on gay and lesbian refugees and immigration issues. The World Court would be an appropriate focus for that.

MICHAEL Yes.

CRAWFORD:

RAY HILL: And so there were serious things going on. The bill, the AIDS Cure Bill, and the gatherings at NYU, were historically important because they helped sort some of the history out.

Because there's a lot of confusion in gay men and lesbians and trans-people's roles in historic events. And the old curmudgeons, for what they're worth, got together and did a good bit of oral history, which this time, was recorded and the arguments were recorded. And that will, ultimately, give us a clear picture of the early evolution of the movement, at least in New York, which has got to be the place where we all look to as some kind of beginning.

MICHAEL I'm still-- I mean one of the things that frustrated me about the way we celebrated Pride Week here, is the fact

CRAWFORD: that there was no history. It was almost completely and totally absent. And it's strange, to me, how we can celebrate something that-- where we really don't know what happened.

RAY HILL: Well, that's basically what was going at NYU, but those events were very sparsely attended.

MICHAEL Well, I don't know. Maybe it's because I feel the need to know these kind of things that I'm kind of blowing out of proportion the interest in it.

RAY HILL: But they were, however, videotaped. [LAUGHS] So some producer sometimes is going to bring them in your living room on a PBS MacArthur Foundation documentary on what lesbians over 60 thought about the beginnings of their involvement in the movement. And that's going to be some rich stuff because it's done, for the first time, by the people who were actually involved.

And so I sat there and watched that and asked a few questions for clarification and got several different answers for every question that I asked. But that's the way you do that to get this stuff sorted out.

MICHAEL OK, we talked about what--

CRAWFORD: