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SPEAKERS

Jimmy Carper, Michael Crawford, [Introduction], Speaker 1

[I] [Introduction] 00:07

The following program contains language or images of a frank or sensitive nature, which may be considered objectionable by some listener discretion is advised.

[J] Jimmy Carper 00:29

Whoa, it must be Saturday night at midnight because you're listening 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 here for gay and lesbian people. Just as Gloria Gaynor says in this song, it's time to open up your closets. We at After Hours urge everyone to come out of their closets. By our definition, that means standing up for yourself and taking responsibility for your own life. But if you feel that you can't come out right now, because of your age, your job or whatever reason. That's okay, we're here for you too. So sit back, relax, and enjoy this week's edition of After Hours.

[M] Michael Crawford 01:34

God, I like that really cool breathing sound. But this is After Hours. And I'm Michael Crawford and you're not. And it's what October 30? Which is what the day before Halloween. And it's also what daylight savings time or,

[J] Jimmy Carper 01:51

It changes to different time.

[M] Michael Crawford 01:54

Okay, but anyway, anyway, it works out so that way instead of being just regular, everyday

heterosexual three hours, we are now a fully queer four hour program just for tonight only. And it's a pretty exciting program because well, I have the first half and Jimmy has the second half. Thank you. Thank you. And the first half, we're going to be talking to Terri Richardson, president of the Houston gay and lesbian Political Caucus, she's going to be telling us about the upcoming elections which are happening on Tuesday, why we all need to get out and vote and in particular vote as a block for the queer candidates are running for office. We're going to be talking about the quiz and the military thing because yes, we thought it died, but it didn't. And also, I'm going to be reading this. I guess the kind of commentary that I that I wrote that was published in TWIT a couple of weeks ago on racism in the queer communities, and a whole bunch of stuff. We're gonna have a whole bunch of cool music like this first song that I'm going to play which is called "Mind Tempest" and it's by band Proper Grounds, which is a hip hop band that's on Madonna's new record label Maverick. And I guess we'll start that now. Okay, that was Proper Grounds. Song "Mind Tempest," from a compilation called Stolar Tracks Vol. 2. Now we're going to be talking to Terri Richardson, who is president of the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus. Hi, Terri.



Speaker 1 03:26

Hi, Michael. Thanks for having me with you tonight.



Michael Crawford 03:29

Well, thank you for joining us. We're looking on militant that leather jacket.



Speaker 1 03:32

Well, you know, it's cold outside and leather is my favorite color.



Michael Crawford 03:37

Good. We're going to be talking about the upcoming election. Well, before we start that, let's talk about a little bit about what the caucus is, what it does and what your role is in it.



Speaker 1 03:50

Okay. Well, I was elected president in September to fill the unexpired term of Chris Bacon who had to leave because of a federal job that was going to prohibit him from serving in that capacity. And the caucus is an open membership organization for all people who are interested in furthering the causes of gays and lesbians, civil rights, human rights for all people. And, you know, we encourage everyone in the community to become involved. We, I think one of the most important functions of the caucus is its screening of candidates for public office, we screen, have a pre-in depth screening process, and then the body needs as a whole and makes endorsements and then the caucus. There are certain things the caucus will do to help the endorsed candidates hopefully be elected.

 Michael Crawford 04:53

Which is actually what you did recently and in fact, I have a have a list of the endorsements right here. So let's talk a little bit about the importance of this upcoming election. It's we're going to be like, Okay, we're going to be reelected Bob Lanier, and hopefully we're going to be electing a whole bunch of new city council people.

 Speaker 1 04:59

Right.

 Michael Crawford 05:01

Let's talk a little bit about some of the candidates that have been endorsed by the caucus.

 Speaker 1 05:17

Okay. Well, the caucus had a really interesting dilemma this year, because at five o'clock on September 20, over 100 people had filed for office and we had a very short time to get letters out to those people to get them scheduled. It's it's, it's quite a process that I don't think people realize what goes into just the screening process. And then we had to get screening panels together, which we did. We didn't endorse in all races, when, in order for candidates to be endorsed, they have to appear in person to screen with the caucus. So we don't consider anyone who didn't accept our invitation to screen.

 Michael Crawford 05:59

Like Al Calloway.

 Speaker 1 06:01

Like Al Calloway, like Bob Lanier, like several others. But those who did accept the invitations, they come in, and we use the screening process as not just to find out about the candidates, but to give the candidates an opportunity to find out more about our community. Some of these people, it's the only it's the only contact they have that they know about with openly gay and lesbian people. And so it's it's, it's a nice form, it's we usually try to keep it very friendly and non threatening to the candidates. But there are tough questions asked.

 Michael Crawford 06:40

What was some of the particular concerns of HGLPC this this year?

S

Speaker 1 06:45

One of the questions that I think most of the council candidates were asked was the candidates stand on increased HIV funding for Houston, you know, it's it's dismal. And you've talked about it on the show a lot. And and we wanted to know, you know, what they thought about that? Another question that they were asked was how, and we don't have a list of questions. The screeners, you know, ask whatever questions they wish. But one of the questions that all the candidates were asked was, their stand on, on lesbian, gay civil rights legislation, whether a bill for a civil rights ordinance in the city or domestic partnership, or spousal rights or whatever, you know, that can take a lot of different forms. And, you know, different cities have passed different versions of that, and, but we ask general questions about that.

M

Michael Crawford 07:42

Okay. And let's see, let's look at some of the people you guys did endorse? Well, hey, since George Greanias, as his name is at the top, okay, let's talk about him. Why did the caucus feel it was important to endorse George?

S

Speaker 1 07:57

George has, he's been a friend to our community, he, he has thanked us profusely for the support that we've given him in in the past. It was pointed out at the, at the endorsement meeting that George Greanias was one of the people that didn't stand with us on the ordinance in 1985. And, you know, I think that's something we all need to keep in mind, some of our very best friends on Council, he was he was on city council, it's time for a council member from District C. And he is a friend of our community. And he is he's very comfortable with our community and is very warm and very responsive. But there have been times I'm told, and some of these people I can't speak a lot about from personal knowledge, because I just haven't been that active that many years. But but, you know, he's, he's got some growing to do with our community. We, we endorsed him because and he was just absolutely wonderful on, you know, every question that he was asked, I mean, that that goes a long way.

M

Michael Crawford 09:10

And one thing we also need to remember that I think queers tend to forget is that there are limits to friendships, particularly in politics, and that it's not so much about personal affection for our community. It's about what can get them elected and what can keep them being elected. And I think that that's, that's really important to remember, particularly because in, in a little bit, we're going to be coming to the city council races, where this time we don't have to solely count on, you know, running up and voting for our heterosexual friends, but actually voting for people who are like us, who are same sex oriented, homo and all that other kind of stuff.

S

Speaker 1 09:49

Well, yeah, we have a really unique opportunity this year to do that. And I guess we'll talk, talk about that in a little bit. This is this is the most exciting political time for lesbians and gay men

about that in a little bit. This is, this is the most exciting political time for lesbians and gay men in this city ever, I think. And we do have a really unusual opportunity. Unusual for every city. I don't know that this has ever been done. I guess maybe in San Francisco, there have been this many openly gay people on the ballot, but they were running against each other in many instances, right. You know, we've got an opportunity that you can vote for, you know, a lot of queers on November 2.

 M Michael Crawford 10:26

I mean, I think I can vote for three of them.

 S Speaker 1 10:30

No, you can vote for more, everyone can vote for four because four of them are running at large.

 M Michael Crawford 10:34

Okay, I can vote for four but like and the one person who I really want to vote for, I can't because I don't live in District G, meaning I can't vote for Gene Harrington.

 S Speaker 1 10:42

Right, right.

 M Michael Crawford 10:44

But if you have any questions for Terri, you can call us at 526-573-8526 KPFT. We'll put you on the air. You can answer questions about the upcoming elections, and so on and so forth. Let's see. Let's start with council at at large position number one.

 S Speaker 1 11:01

Okay. Gary Van Ooteghem, we're queer. In fact, council at large positions 1, 2, 3, and 4, which means everyone in the city can vote for these candidates are all queer. The only the only at large position that we do not have a gay person running is position five. And when Gene Harrington told Judson Robinson that the only reason we didn't feel the candidate against him is because we didn't have the extra \$500 for the filing fee. And I'm not sure he knew that was a joke or not. And I'm not sure whether it was or not.

 M Michael Crawford 11:42

I think next year, we need to hit up these queer businesses get those filing fees up front.

S

Speaker 1 11:47

Gary Van Ooteghem is running at large position one, he has been a leader in this community for many, many years. In 1975, Gary, who was assistant county treasurer, and in fact had been brought to Houston as a result of a national search to try to find someone who could come down and straighten out the mess that was going on at the county treasurer's office. Gary was the candidate that they found in this national search. They brought him down from Chicago. And a year later, Gary was one of the founding members of the Houston gay and lesbian, well back then, it was the Houston Gay Political Caucus. And Gary started speaking out about gay issues and was fired, filed a lawsuit, has been that kind of an outspoken activist for our community forever. He's also a businessman, he is,

M

Michael Crawford 12:44

Kinda Republican.

S

Speaker 1 12:45

Well, you know, yeah. I've always heard the rumors that Gary is a Republican and the Log Cabin Republicans do meet in Gary's home now. But Gary says he's not, he's not so sure he's a Republican. He. You know, I think it's funny that he's more comfortable about being openly gay than openly Republican, but,

M

Michael Crawford 13:05

Well, yeah, because you don't see Republicans meet at my house.

S

Speaker 1 13:10

Gary, Gary's a really great guy.

M

Michael Crawford 13:12

Who's the incumbent in Gary's right?

S

Speaker 1 13:15

Gracie Saenz is the incumbent. And a very interesting thing about Gary's rise is Gary was not only endorsed by the HGLPC, but he was endorsed by the Mexican American Democrats against a Hispanic incumbent.

M

Michael Crawford 13:29

Well, what exactly has Gracie Saenz done for our community besides having fabulous hair?

S

Speaker 1 13:36

Actually, Brian Bradley said that one of the first things he wants to do is make a motion that maybe she do something else with it if he gets on council. She, I don't know that she's done anything for our community. If you're talking about the lesbian and gay community I'm not really aware of of it, if she has, and I think probably the Hispanic community feels much the same way. She's, she doesn't have a real good attendance record. She's been flying around lately, doing a lot of campaigning for NAFTA. So.

M

Michael Crawford 14:12

Yeah, we know where she stands. So let me get this straight. Queers are losing their jobs because they're queer. They're, they're not being able to get housing. You know, they're being discriminated in all areas of public life. And Gracie Saenz has done nothing for our community.

S

Speaker 1 14:30

Nothing comes to mind, Michael.

M

Michael Crawford 14:31

Okay. And we're in the midst of the you know, the worst pandemic in modern US history. And Gracie Saenz has done nothing, just to help alleviate the problem.

S

Speaker 1 14:43

Nothing comes to mind.

M

Michael Crawford 14:44

I can see why you guys endorse Gary. Okay, let's see. Position number two. Ray Hill. Ray Hill, yay. Do we need to say anything about Ray Hill?

S

Speaker 1 14:57

You know? Yes. What we need to say is and and I hope everyone takes this to heart Ray Hill is currently running neck and neck for second place in this race that I think has 10 or 12 candidates. Eleanor Tinsley is the incumbent, Eleanor. The recent poll that I was made aware of, Eleanor was running about 33%. And Ray Hill and Rosie Walker were running at about 18%

age. Now, if that's true, Ray Hill could get into the runoff. Part of that is name recognition. And that's another reason why it is so important to vote the gay block vote. Everybody if you, if you have never voted before, if you've never felt that there was any reason for you to go to the polls that that one vote wouldn't make a difference. Remember that John Kennedy won the presidency from Richard Nixon by one vote per precinct across the country. So those votes are important. And I mean, Ray really has a shot at making the runoff, if we could get some candidates in the runoff.

 Michael Crawford 16:06

That would be an important step.

 Speaker 1 16:08

It would be very important.

 Michael Crawford 16:10

And I want to say a little bit about Eleanor. Now, again, the same things I said about about Gracie Saenz, you know queers being discriminated against and AIDS just totally wiping out, you know, large numbers of people in the city of Houston and her having done nothing else applies to Eleanor, but I called up her campaign office. And I asked the question, What have you done for me lately? And you know, the only thing she could say that she's done in the queer interest recently is a vote for the bill gay rights referendum in 1985. I'm like, Well, honey, this is 1993. What What's up with that? And they couldn't say anything. So I think that pretty much shows how much our friends like Eleanor Tinsley feel, I mean, how they feel towards our community, they don't think our lives are worth anything, they don't think they think that, you know, if they just run, we're gonna go run out and vote for them just because, you know, they whisper sweet nothings in our ears in some dark alleyway. But this time, we actually have an opportunity to put one of our own well, actually five of our own on city council. And I think Ray would be a lot more sensitive to our issues than Eleanor Tinsley.

 Speaker 1 17:23

Well Ray's, Ray's sensitive to a lot of issues from a lot of different communities, as you know, and as anyone who knows where he knows that and, you know, he's also running a little bit of an anti-Eleanor campaign. He, he, you know, she's been, she's been pretty busy getting anti smoking ordinances passed and anti billboard ordinances passed and, and things of that nature. And it's, you know, Ray, and a lot of Ray's supporters just see that as, as a little bit too much government, where maybe that much government doesn't need to be and not enough, you know, in other places.

 Michael Crawford 18:02

And when you take into account the fact that there are, you know, a lot of homeless people, there are a lot of people who you know teenagers being infected with HIV and so on and so

there are a lot of people who, you know, teenagers being infected with HIV and so on and so forth. And she's going around trying to ban billboards, it's like honey, rearrange your priorities.

 Speaker 1 18:18

Eleanor certainly isn't a, isn't a bad guy in our community. And, and she has a lot of friends in the lesbian gay community, but I think Eleanor, you know, while she is, is very friendly to us, shows up at everything, she was the you know, the person who gave us the proclamation for the Lesbian Gay Pride Week, last year. It it just is time to ask these people, what have you done for us? I mean, that's the that's the pertinent question that that you called her office and asked, and they they don't have answers for that question.

 Michael Crawford 18:54

Yep. So, okay, so in position one, Gary Van Ooteghem, and I still don't know how to get Ooteghem out of his last name. And for position 2, we're voting for Ray Hill, godmother of queer activism in Houston. Position three.

 Speaker 1 19:12

Okay. Rob Bridges is the caucus endorsed candidate in position three, he is also queer. He's also an activist. Rob doesn't have quite the public profile that that Ray Hill has. Rob has worked very hard behind the scenes he worked very hard in for, in Ray Hill's campaign. He worked very hard in Annise Parker's campaign for city council. Rob was one of the one of the people in our community who spent the most time looking at the zoning issue to ensure that the queer community was not going to be adversely affected by the decisions that were being made by the Zoning Commission. He also lobbied probably harder than anyone against the gerrymandering of, of Montrose out of district C and into district D, two years ago.

 Michael Crawford 20:12

Right where all those people who are now incumbents literally sold us out. Just, just totally treat us like trash. And you know, Vince Ryan threw us over to district D because well, he didn't want to have to deal with that many queers.

 Speaker 1 20:24

Well, Annise ran against him, and they were hard feelings there. And you know, God knows we shouldn't be running against our friends, should we?

 Michael Crawford 20:32

Particularly not when they're heterosexual.

S

Speaker 1 20:35

But anyway, Rob is, Rob is a professional musician. He plays the viola and he's, he's Rob's wonderful. He's very articulate, and he's very impressive. He's very energetic about our issues.

M

Michael Crawford 20:49

He's also been involved as a labor union organizer.

S

Speaker 1 20:53

Right. Right. He's, he's involved with the, with the,

M

Michael Crawford 20:57

AFL-CIO?

S

Speaker 1 20:58

I think it is.

M

Michael Crawford 20:59

Good, good. Good. And he's also part of the gay and lesbian Democrats.

S

Speaker 1 21:06

Yes. He's one of the one of the state coordinators for the Lesbian and Gay Democrats of Texas.

M

Michael Crawford 21:14

And his race is a race that we don't have an incumbent.

S

Speaker 1 21:17

That's right. He is running for the seat that will be vacated by Jim Greenwood. And there, are this is another opportunity for us to make a big, big statement. There are 14 people in this race.





Michael Crawford 21:34

Runoff.



Speaker 1 21:36

One of the one of the people in the race is Lloyd Kelley, who is getting a lot of conservative right wing money. He's, I think he's outspent all of his other opponents.



Michael Crawford 21:48

Right. He's, He's the only city council person, out of all the city council candidates that I've seen with television ads. And it's really scary, because okay, I mean, you told me that he's getting some of his money from the whole Steven Hotze bus. And if anyone remembers Steven Hotze was a part of the straight state coalition that was completely totally atomy opposed to the gay rights referendum, and Hotze has also been quoted in the Post as saying, he believes that queers should be punished using capital punishment, meaning execution, because according to him, that's what it says in the Bible. But he has these really scary ads where we see him hugging Colin Powell. We see him running around with cops, the same cops who beat the crap out of queers at gate four, you know, at the Astrodome during the Republican convention. And it's like, this man is scary.



Speaker 1 22:38

I think, I think with 14 candidates in the race, a block vote, you know, if we can get all the queers out to vote for Rob Bridges, it, it'll make a difference. Rob can make the runoff in this race.



Michael Crawford 22:51

Right.



Speaker 1 22:51

If we're all out there.



Michael Crawford 22:53

Yeah. Okay, position five. Person who's. Oh, four. Hello, I couldn't see that number. Okay. Someone well known to the listeners of After Hours. Brian Bradley! Okay.



Speaker 1 23:09

This is, this is I think everyone's favorite emotional, passionate race. And it's also the race that

that frankly, created the most controversy in the caucus and in the community, because he is running against Sheila Jackson Lee, an incumbent who has been perceived as being one of our good friends on City Council. She has been a progressive voice on city council. And it really raised all of the questions about, you know, should we be running against our friends? And I think it took a lot of courage for Brian to get in this race. And he's faced a lot of criticism from from, you know, his own brothers and sisters in our community. And Brian has, has raised the issues of AIDS and HIV on the campaign trail, like no one ever has, right? He's articulate, he can speak about anything, he can talk to you about potholes and garbage pickup. And, you know, those kinds of issues just as easily as he can talk about issues such as HIV and AIDS, which are what he's been so involved in for so many years.

 M Michael Crawford 24:26

He is one of the one of the I think, two openly HIV positive candidates in the entire election race.

 S Speaker 1 24:35

Yeah, I've heard that, I've heard, I've heard that said. Yeah.

 M Michael Crawford 24:39

And and I must say that our friend Sheila Jackson Lee. Well, when I went to city council meetings to speak out about anti queer violence and about AIDS issues, she was not too friendly towards me. Now maybe because I was asking her. What exactly has she done for us lately? And she went back to 1991 talking about the city council passing it a hate crime resolution asking the state to enact harsher penalties for hate motivated crimes. And I'm like, Well, honey, this is 1993 and we're still being beaten. She couldn't answer that. That's when she kind of got huffy. You know, I couldn't speak anymore.

 S Speaker 1 25:14

She was one of the one of the 11 Council members who, as soon as Gate Four happened. In fact, she was one of the one of the few who actually spoke of the 11, who said that they agree that something that needed to be looked into. She hasn't said much about that lately. We can't get any of them to talk about that.

 M Michael Crawford 25:33

Right. I mean, and that's something that was really weird. That's really weird about this election with five queer candidates. Well, including two who are running for mayor who were not endorsed by the caucus, bringing a total total of seven queers. There's not been a real discussion in the media or in the, like, the public arena of queer issues or AIDS issues, which I find kind of strange.

S

Speaker 1 25:54

Yeah, we're not we're not getting any particular help from the, from the straight press on this one, that's for sure.

M

Michael Crawford 26:01

Okay, so where are we at so far? Okay. For city controller, George Greanias.

S

Speaker 1 26:06

We talked about George

M

Michael Crawford 26:08

For City Council the at large candidates, position one.

S

Speaker 1 26:12

Gary Van Ooteghem.

M

Michael Crawford 26:13

Position two.

S

Speaker 1 26:14

Ray Hill.

M

Michael Crawford 26:16

Position three.

S

Speaker 1 26:16

Rob Bridges.

M

Michael Crawford 26:18

And position four.

S

Speaker 1 26:19

Brian Bradley.

M

Michael Crawford 26:21

Okay, before we go to the district candidates, we're going to take a short musical bweak, break and we're going to play this really cool song by Moby and since I can't pronounce the title, I'm not going to say it but it's a really cool song so give it a listen. Okay, that was Moby from the real world soundtrack. And if you liked that song, you may want to go and check out, uh, Moby's new album. They're actually playing this thing on that other station known as KRBE. But of course they didn't play this one because well, they're wimps. But we're back talking about the upcoming mayoral and city council elections with Terri Richardson, president of Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus. We have just finished the at large council positions and we're now to the district candidates. District B.

S

Speaker 1 27:09

District B is, we did not endorse in District A. Okay. Okay. District B is the seat that is going to be vacated by Ernest McGowen. And we endorsed a young woman named Rosalind Smith in this race. She's 25 years old. She's a student. She's campaigning full time on the campaign trail right now. And the impressive thing about Rosalind, I think, I think one of the reasons that she received the endorsement was she showed up at the, at her screening session with a booklet that she had prepared and put together about what she thinks about a lot of our issues, HIV funding, course civil rights, just a lot of different things she was she was very impressive. And I think, you know, if I think we're gonna see her around in this city for a long time.

M

Michael Crawford 28:02

Well, and I must admit, I live in District B. And I'm voting for her, specifically because you guys endorsed her.

S

Speaker 1 28:10

That's great.

M

Michael Crawford 28:10

So we're all voting for Rosalind Smith, she's also my age, so. District C, which used to include Montrose, but no longer does. Who do you endorse in that race?

S

Speaker 1 28:23

We endorsed Robert Wollen, who is, is an attorney. I don't know very much about him. So I can't really say very much he was very good on our issues. I think he's from New Jersey or something, and is sort of a progressive. Anyway, he's, he's brought a lot of yard signs over to the caucus office and has called upon us he was very interested in doing a bar tour, to go around and try to meet some of the voters. Unfortunately, we don't have the numbers of people living in District C as we once did. But this is also a race that's wide open, there is no incumbent. Vince Ryan chose not to seek reelection, so.

M

Michael Crawford 29:07

Okay, so all you queers who live in District C can go out and vote for Robert Wollen. He was endorsed by the caucus, which means he must be interesting, at least on our issues. Well, queer issues that is because I can't say our because well, we're a lot of different people. District D. Hello.

S

Speaker 1 29:25

Well, this is this is a race to end all races. The caucus endorsed Gene Harrington over incumbent Al Calloway. Gene and Councilman Calloway are in the race, just the two of them, so there's no possibility of a runoff. It's going to just be one or the other. It's it's a race that a lot of people are watching. Gene Harrington, of course, has been an outspoken activist in our community for many, many years. He's a professor at Thurgood Marshall School of Law at Texas Southern University. He's taught there for 27 or 28 years. Prior to that he was, taught at law, law school in Nigeria. He was in the Peace Corps for two years in Africa. Gene is a civil rights and human rights activist of the highest order. And, uh.

M

Michael Crawford 30:28

I think he refers to himself as a progressive voice. And on pretty much every progressive issue he as.

S

Speaker 1 30:34

Well, on every single one, I can't think of anything that Gene isn't, isn't among the progressive voices. Gene's, the theme of the campaign is bring democracy back to District D. And Calloway was appointed to the council position. When Rodney Ellis left when he won the his job was state senator. He was elected in 1991. And now is up for reelection. Now, he was formerly administrative aide to county commissioner El Franco Lee, who, contrary to popular belief, has not of late been a good friend to our community. And, frankly, councilman Calloway has not been a good friend to our community. District D. Gene, when he's out on the campaign trail likes to point out progressive people who have come out of district D and they are the likes of Barbara Jordan, Mickey Leland, Craig Washington, some of the real progressive people in this city, and Al Calloway does not sound very much like a progressive.

M

Michael Crawford 31:53

No.

S

Speaker 1 31:53

So some of the things that he has done. The, the city got a windfall or is coming into a windfall of drug forfeiture funds. This is the money that's confiscated in drug raids and such, the city was getting \$16 million for that. Ben Reyes made a proposal at a city council meeting that \$500,000 of this funds should be diverted and go to HIV prevention and education in Houston. Al Calloway, who does represent Montrose, the community most hardest hit thus far anyway, by HIV, moved to table that proposal and send it back to the Mayor's Office for further study, while everyone in our community knows what happens to an issue that is of importance to us when it gets back to the mayor's office.

M

Michael Crawford 32:48

And one has to wonder how many people died of AIDS, while it's sitting in the mayor's office waiting to be studied?

S

Speaker 1 32:54

Well, Gene Harrington also says in his campaign, that he contracted HIV at a time when his city didn't spend one cent in prevention. Yes. So, you know, he says, I can't blame the city for the fact that I have HIV, that I have AIDS. But you know, let's be real about it. A lot of people have become infected while the city stood by and did nothing.

M

Michael Crawford 33:19

Right. And I'd like to say that Scott Lewis and I tried to set up a tape debate between Gene Harrington and Al Calloway, and it was all set to go until Al Calloway decided he didn't want to do it because well, Gene may be confrontational. Now how you how you can go into a debate and not be confrontational is beyond me. But I think that proves just what a coward Al Calloway is, and how unfriendly is towards our community. And that if we want anything done on queer issues or on AIDS issues, it would be who've us to vote for?

S

Speaker 1 33:54

Gene Harrington, district D.

M

Michael Crawford 33:57

Okay. Moving, well, let's say there's no district E.

S

Speaker 1 34:02

We didn't endorse in District E, District F, we endorsed Dennis Doherty. And the one thing I want to say about him, this guy's really delightful. He came in screened with the caucus. And one of the questions that was asked of him is what his reaction would be if his son came to him and said, Dad, I'm gay. And Dennis sort of sat back and said, Well, you know, I have a son, who is 30 or 35, I forget how old, living in Austin and he's not married and well, if he's not gay, he's at least bi and I think he's probably having a great time. He's sort of endeared himself to everyone. He is real progressive on our issues and we would encourage people to vote for him if they live out in District F. District G, we did not endorse in District H, we endorsed Liz Lara, who is the young woman 36 years old. I don't know that may, anyway, she, she has been very active in Democratic Party politics for many, many years. And she has been blocked walking her district. She is real familiar with the issues that are of concern to people in District H. And she's also very, very good on our issues. A lot of our people live up in the heights and a lot of our community will have an opportunity to vote in this race. And we really do urge you to vote for Liz Lara. She's, she's pretty terrific. Okay. And, and then, last, but certainly not least in the council district I, we've endorsed Ben Reyes, Ben Reyes as is the only seat city council member who abandoned us during the referendum in 1986. And then came back to our community to say how sorry, he was that he had done that. Ben Reyes is currently in my estimation, the only city council member at that table, who raises issues of importance to our community. Ben Reyes has been there with the, he was the one who proposed that businesses which derive more than 50% of their income from alcoholic beverage sales be required to put condom dispensers in the restrooms, that as we know, died in the mayor's office. The drug forfeiture money, a million dollars for HIV, \$500,000 for prevention and education was also Ben Reyes's as brainchild, that is in the mayor's office. We don't know what's happening to that. But Ben Reyes has been raised as a good friend to our community. And again, a lot of people, gays and lesbians will have an opportunity to vote for him. And we really urge you to do so.

M

Michael Crawford 36:59

Okay, so what's going to happen, like on election day?

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Speaker 1 37:04

Well, on election day, what do you mean?

M

Michael Crawford 37:09

Well, I mean, we all,

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Speaker 1 37:10

We all go out to the polls. And we take either the notes that we've made while listening to the radio tonight or any, any bookstore, any gay owned business, any of the bars, any of the restaurants in the Montrose area, have got a stack of the HGLPC endorsement cards. This, this

has the names of everyone on and they are small enough that they will fit in the palm of your hand and cannot be detected when you walk into the voting booth. So you know, please pick up one of these if you if you can't find one and would like one made available to you can dial 521-1000, which is the HGLPC phone number. And it's currently ringing at our campaign office at 811 Westheimer. Um, also anyone who would like to volunteer we need people to be at the precincts all day with our endorsement cards for those, those who show up without the card and need some help on that casting their ballots that will be going on voting is from 7am to 7pm. Tuesday, the second. At seven o'clock pm there is going to be a huge victory party at the Wyndham Warwick hotel. I think that's on Main, right? Like main, like in Herman circle there, right? Right across from our museum of fine art, right? Please come out, there's no admission, of course. And the place will not be decorated with the traditional red, white and blue. But with the rainbow colors.

 M Michael Crawford 38:47

Good, very good.

 S Speaker 1 38:48

And the press releases have gone out, we expect some media attention that evening. You know, it's an opportunity for the media to look at our community for the first time really as as contenders. And as you know, being in the, in the arena ourselves, as opposed to just on the sidelines supporting our friends in office. So please come come to the party. We're gonna have television sets set up and microphones for the candidates to break in and, you know, talk to us whenever it moves them to do so. And it just ought to be a really good time. So, so please come out for that.

 M Michael Crawford 39:25

Okay. And you were telling me about a candidate forum that's going to be tomorrow.

 S Speaker 1 39:30

Yeah, this is this is one of the really exciting things about having so many people in our community on the ballot. There's going to be a single issue candidate forum at 811 Westheimer on the second floor, that's the TWIT building. For those of you who refer to it that way. At 1pm. The issue is HIV. And there have already been a lot of candidates who have accepted the invitation to participate. All candidates on the ballot, were invited to participate in this. And this is This is unheard of, we've never seen a single issue forum related to HIV in any election in this city. So we're really encouraged by that. And, and there's going to be an opportunity for questions from the audience, they may have to, excuse me be written down and given to one of the panel members because they don't want they, they want it to be sort of a safe forum. The organizers of this are the people who met Lachlan, who has AIDS talk Houston, on access cable TV is going to be the moderator. And, but it's an opportunity that to, you know, to get our points across as well. So I'd encourage everyone to come out and do that.

M

Michael Crawford 40:52

Great, we need to plug next week GLPC meeting.

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Speaker 1 40:59

The next caucus meeting is Wednesday, November 3, because they don't want to give us a break, I guess, election on Tuesday, the second, our meetings are always the first Wednesday of every month at 7:30. And currently, we're meeting at Stouffer's hotel at Greenway Plaza. caucus doesn't have a home right now. And we're looking for office space, but we're also looking for permanent meeting space. But until we have it, this is a very comfortable, sort of central place for us to meet. And, you know, we'll be congratulating our candidates. And hopefully, we'll be getting back to some of the other issues that we had talked about before, September 20, when we found so many of our people on the ballot and then had to devote most of our time and divert our attentions to, to things like getting them elected. You know, we do have a lot of other things on our plate and a lot of other issues that are important to the caucus, and certainly that are important to me, as you know, sort of the new leader of the caucus, so we'll be getting back to a lot of that. Okay, please come

M

Michael Crawford 42:06

Great. Is there any final words you want to do say? Or do you want to?

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Speaker 1 42:12

I just want everyone to know that the five candidates who are running, who are gay men running, who have been endorsed by the caucus, are not just the five best gay candidates on the ballot, they are the five best candidates on the ballot. These, these, these guys are out there busting their butts. And in the case of some of the candidates, that that's been at great personal risk to them. Because they they do have HIV. And you know, they don't have the energy that someone in wonderful health would have. And they're at it 20 hours a day, they are articulate, they're intelligent, they are sensitive to not only our issues, but the issues of everybody in this city. The disenfranchised and the downtrodden. And the people who really need the strong voices at the table. These are five strong voices. And the theme of, for the caucus, for this election has been take five, it's an opportunity to not just take one seat, but to take five seats at that table, and to have our issues heard for the very first time ever. So please vote the block. Most of you out there have either a mom or a dad, or a brother or a sister or some friends. A lot of straight people aren't planning to go to the polls, because Mayor Lanier is going to be elected and they don't really give a damn about zoning. So if you could encourage them that there are reasons to go and important reasons for you personally, a lot of my hetero friends have asked me who to vote for and I've given them the card and and they're going to be voting for these candidates because they know, they know how important it is. And there's nobody out there saying anything better about any issue, much less gay and lesbian issues and HIV issues. So it's really critical. Please encourage everybody that you know, to vote. And let's take five, let's get our seat at that table.

M

Michael Crawford 44:24

Great. Well, thank you for being here.

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Speaker 1 44:26

Thanks for having me.

M

Michael Crawford 44:27

And it's always wonderful to see you here. Thank you and I hope you'll come back soon.

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Speaker 1 44:31

Thanks, Michael.