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SPEAKERS

Speaker 21, Speaker 27, Speaker 26, Michael Crawford, Jewel Gray, Speaker 24, Speaker 1, Speaker 23, Speaker 19, Speaker 20, Speaker 25, Speaker 22

S

Speaker 19 00:04

This is Michael Nava, the author of the Henry Rios mysteries, but it's no mystery to what we're listening to. It's This Way Out, the international lesbian and gay radio magazine. My books reach a lot of people in the gay and lesbian community, but This Way Out reaches a lot more and deserves all our support.

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Speaker 20 00:25

In focusing attention and actions on defeating political opposition, lesbians and gay men may overlook the importance of reinforcing those non gay politicians who actively support the community's drive for equal rights under the law. Karen Bowman recently spoke with one such friend, US Senator Paul Wellstone of Minnesota,

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Speaker 21 00:45

Senator Wellstone, thanks for joining us on This Way Out. Let's talk a little about efforts in Congress towards creating civil rights legislation for gays and lesbians in the United States.

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Speaker 22 00:56

I can Karen and although I think the past is not going to be any guide to the future, I hope there's civil rights bill, Alan Cranston really took the lead. And I think there were about 14 of us in the Senate that have signed on as sponsors of it. And this would essentially amend the Civil Rights Act to make sure that there could no longer be any discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. I think now that Bill Clinton is President, assuming that we can get him to follow through on commitments that he's made, that we will get many more co-sponsors on that bill,

is one of the first piece of legislation that I sponsored and very proud to do so, it's a basic human rights question. There's no reason to equivocate whatsoever. And it's not just for gay and lesbian people, but it's also the right thing to do for this country.

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Speaker 21 01:44

What would this mean in areas of housing and employment, where we often hear of the most severe cases of discrimination?

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Speaker 22 01:51

Well, I think, right now, all too often, the experience for people gay and lesbian community is one of almost terror, which is to say, you could lose your job or you could be without shelter, just by virtue of the fact that landlord or employer, whatever finds out that you're gay or that you're lesbian. And I think what this legislation would assure is that that wouldn't happen any longer.

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Speaker 21 02:15

What would happen to states that are in the process or have instituted laws that are against gay lesbian rights, such as some of the actions taken in Colorado?

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Speaker 22 02:27

Be preempted, those, those efforts. Absolutely, Sheila and I lived in the south during the Civil Rights Movement, and it's very comparable, I think, because this is a civil rights movement. And, you know, southern states could pass their own essentially apartheid laws then. But once the Civil Rights Act of '64, and '65, became the law of the land, no longer could any state, practice any form of discrimination. And that's why I think we should make the Civil Rights Act for gay and lesbian people, we should pass it and make it the law of the land.

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Speaker 21 03:00

Now, how could the gay, lesbian and Gay supportive person help with this process?

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Speaker 22 03:06

I just think in general, what the gay lesbian community has been doing, especially in more recent years is exactly the right thing to do. I think people are saying to themselves, we are men and women of worth and dignity. And we will step forward and speak for ourselves. And I think the bolder the voice becomes, and the more people are willing to do that, albeit, it's difficult, the better off we'll be, as as a country, much less, the better off the gay and lesbian community will be.

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Speaker 21 03:36

You're a gay supportive politician, has this proved to be a political hardship for you?

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Speaker 22 03:42

Being very supportive of gay lesbian community, and the concerns and circumstances of the lives of gay and lesbian people has not been a liability in the sense that if, if I'm doing what I believe in, and then I don't think it's ever a liability. I mean, it'd be a liability if I was speaking on behalf of what I didn't believe in or voting, really in opposition to what I really believe in. And I think that it's very, very important for our country, to move, move forward in this area, and make sure again, that there's just no discrimination and that we have protection of human rights for all citizens. As far as letters and phone calls to our offices, both in Minnesota and Washington, it's Karen, it's far more in opposition to the positions that I've taken then in support of the positions I've taken. And I think it raises an interesting question, because I think all too often if this is not presumptuous of me to say, people in the community tend to be focusing on the Jesse Helms-es you know, and kind of forgetting about supporting the people who, you know, who I think really need the support. So I would urge people in the community, please make sure that above and beyond sort of the focus on Helms and making sure terrible things aren't done, please go out of your way to let the people in the the legislature, be it State or the national level, myself included. If you believe in what we're doing, and you support what we're doing, please let us know. I think it's very, very important to remember to not only oppose what should be opposed, but be sure to support what should be supported, right, because people do account to their phone calls and their letters. And I think, you know, we're not yet at the point in time and the politics of our country, where people in politics and public office have come to the conclusion that support of gay and lesbian rights is a, quote, political majority position to take. I think we are definitely heading in that direction. I think it's the sort of politics of hope time for us. But I think it's really important not to forget to support people.

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Speaker 21 05:39

So it's the individual person taking the time to write the letter, taking time to make phone calls,

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Speaker 22 05:44

Don't discount it, don't discount it. It's very, very important. It's extremely important.

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Speaker 21 05:50

Does it motivate you to go further?

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Speaker 22 05:52

Yeah, that's right. It does.



Speaker 21 05:54

Well, Senator Wellstone, I want to thank you for the time and information that you've given to us, and wish you well as you continue.



Speaker 22 06:01

Well, thank you. And I wish everybody that's listening well, and once again, I really believe that one of the most positive things I've seen is the ways in which people in the community now are really developing more confidence supporting one another, becoming a louder and a clearer and a bolder voice. And I think that this is going to be real, real important.



Speaker 20 06:21

That was US Senator Paul Wellstone of Minnesota in conversation with This Way Out's Karen Bowman.



Speaker 23 06:33

Coming soon on This Way Out, Dave Buell unsheathes the gay blade,



Speaker 24 06:38

You travel through an eerie dungeon trying to rescue in personnel who's imprisoned on level 13. And you'll get attacked by some horrifying creatures such as angry fundies, homophobic cops, one of the worst TV evangelists with bags of money. And it's got 256 color graphics. It has digitized sound effects.



Speaker 23 07:04

Burt Weiland in interviews officially out of the closet singer songwriter Janis Ian.



Speaker 25 07:09

I've always been out to my family and to my friends, everyone I've ever worked with, and moved to Nashville. I was out I've been living with someone there for five years now. Everybody knows.



Speaker 26 07:18

Even in Nashville.



Speaker 25 07:19

Particularly in Nashville. Oh, people are pretty upfront in the shelf. Yeah, they'll stand there and say it to your face, I don't understand it. I just don't get it. You're welcome in the house, but I don't get it. You know, they're real frontal whereas in the north, they're very nice, but they'll make sure that you don't babysit.



Speaker 23 07:38

And next week reaction to President Clinton's July 15 decision regarding gays and lesbians in the US military. Thanks for choosing This Way Out, the international lesbian and gay radio magazine. This week, Cindy Friedman, Brian Nunez, Susan Gage, Burt Weiland, Dave Buell and Karen Bowman contributed program material. Thanks also to Ron Buchmeier. And Kirk Kirsten.



Speaker 27 08:06

Faith Nolan, Bette Midler, Sly and the Family Stone and Fred Small performed some of the music you heard and Kim Wilson composed and performed our theme music.



Speaker 23 08:16

This Way Out is brought to you each week by a staff of community volunteers and is sustained by financial support from the community. Audio cassettes of This Way Out programs are available by mail, individually, or by subscription. Write to us for more information.



Speaker 20 08:30

Or with any comments, questions or suggestions you might have or just to let us know you're out there listening, write to This Way Out. Post Office Box 38327 Los Angeles, California 90038. And please do be sure to include the call letters of this station.



Speaker 23 08:47

This Way Out is just produced by Greg Gordon,



Speaker 20 08:49

And Lucia Chappelle and we thank you for listening on WCBE Columbus, MGR Ma Mo and KMUD Garberville.



Speaker 23 08:56

S Speaker 23 08:56

Among others.

S Speaker 20 08:56

And for supporting this local community radio station.

S Speaker 23 09:00

Y'all stay tuned.

S Speaker 1 09:26

And that was our original rendition dead air. My goodness what happened to those little bells anyway that come on, signify the end of the show. And they just weren't on were they? Yeah, that's the whole thing. I'm gonna put the commands here.

J Jewel Gray 09:45

Yes, the command here okay. He's gonna love this one here. Is it? Oh my god, dead air. Oh, we're back. We're back. And Jim loves it when I tell him that we're back. We were just sitting around discussing the bad service at one of the local hangouts. Okay, boy, we're having a grand time this evening. And we're glad you're here with us at After Hours. And this is Jewel Gray. And like I said, if you were listening, this is volunteer radio. We are not professionals. This is the official. That's right. There's no pay. This is the official disclaimer. Tonight, Tom, take care. We have people that drop in, visit with us. And we hope that sometime you might come down and visit with us. And, and by the way, Matt is still lonely in the lobby, you can call him at 526-5738, 526-5738. And if you want to make a request, we'll see what we can do. If you have somebody's birthday coming up, you want to, you want to say hi to, you can do that too. There are a couple of really neat things going on. And I want to, I want to tell you about them real quick. One of them is one of the greatest pleasures in the year for me, is about to happen tomorrow. And I want to tell you a little about it. It's the 18th annual garden party at Rich's. And the theme this year is Space Cadet and if you have never participated in the garden party, this, this is a wonderful and fun adventure. And tomorrow. Matt just pointed out to me what time, I'm not gonna tell you what, because I don't want a thousand mean people there with me. But tomorrow, some of the most outrageous costumes and funny dress party you can imagine is going on. And what I do is I park myself across the street at the two story parking garage, and I hang off the top of the parking garage watching and screaming and shouting with about. probably 200 other people usually do this every year. And appreciating the costumes and the designs and the comedy and the blood, sweat, and tears it takes for some of these costumes to be put together. This is, this is much like Mardi Gras as anything in Houston and let me tell you, and it's going on at three Rich's and Rich's is on San Jacinto. And if you were intending to go, I would suggest you're getting there about 1:30. Take a cooler and be ready for a wonderful time. Even if it's raining it will be going on these people arrive in limousines, they arrive in buses, they arrive pulled by horses, they arrive in rickshaws, they arrive in all kinds of ways and and depending on the theme, last year I believe it was fairies and princess. No, last year it was

the Egyptian theme, I remember all the Nefertiti's. Yeah, I remember all the Nefertiti's that were going to the, and what I do is you remember when you watch the Olympics, they have these cards, they flash up say the diver got a six and the next one got a nine and they add up all the scores. Well that's what I do. I take me a set of cards out there with large numbers on them and as a person approaches with a costume on or their production, their show, whatever they do there and it's really as imaginative as you can possibly get. I rate that with my cards, 1 through 10. And last, the year before last, I remember I hardly had anything below an eight so you can imagine what kind of great time it is. Anyway, this is the 18th annual garden party at Rich's, three o'clock Sunday the same space cadet and the money that is collected for the party because it's a paying party, goes to different charities in our community. So it's a positive thing. Follow the, following the garden party will be a dinner at BRB, which will be equally as fun. One of the things I used to like to do was find myself that the local eatery down here immediately following the Garden Park garden party where everybody kind of hung out afterwards. Now they're gonna have a dinner at the BRB. So I guess I'll be down there. That's right. That's right. I guess I'll be down there and watching them at the BRB and like I said once again, this is as much fun as Mardi Gras and people are outrageous. It's as good as a parade. Let me tell you, so if you get some time tomorrow, I'd check this out. Another thing is I'd like to tell you that the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard Houston is a nonprofit service organization dedicated to being your community resource. We offer a variety services that are just as far away as your phone, that are just as far away as your phone. Call us at 529-3211. Cash donated, donations are needed, make your checks payable to GLSBH. P O Box 66469 Houston, Texas 77266469. And I'll read that again later because just a personal note is that I know that the Switchboard right now is financially strapped with the, they've just got a new fundraiser, we're hoping to get her down here and talk to us soon. And they're working on some ways to bring in some capital, one of the fundraisers is going to be a raffle I believe, tentatively set for a drawing set for Labor Day, they're going to give away some really, really unique prizes. And they're working on several other things. And maybe we can get the new financial Chairman down here, the financial chairman, that's right, just sits on the board directors, down here to talk to us about that. So later on, I'll give you that address again, if you want to make a donation to a community organization that offers help to everyone, not just people in a very focused group, but everyone who calls gets information. We, they give information out about the bars and what's happening and what parties are going on and, and where you can find it. They give directions, they talk to out of town people, they talk to people in trouble. They do a little crisis intervention, peer counseling. And we're, we're proud down here to be affiliated with them. Several people at the station here talk, several people here at the station, are also members of the Switchboard. So you understand that I'm going to be promoting my private little switchboard here. Let's see that was the garden party. That was the Switchboard. I talked to Armando. You know, one of the things I've been doing here is reading some stuff. That's why we were out in the lobby, I was reading some stuff that someone dropped off here, and I really appreciate it. There's no name on it. It's just to highlight some stuff. And it's an article that they copied out of Playboy. And I'm really surprised I didn't see this, this is just fire and I really looking forward to finishing it. But so far, I've read about half of it. And the article is talking about the the religious right moving in on the Republican Party, and how they're doing it very slowly, one step at a time, tiny steps, you know, getting to be secretaries and officers of the party and then taking over. Some of the places that it really surprised me is stuff is going here. Of course, if you've listened to us, you've heard us talk about the, what's his name, the little doctor, Hotze, who recently took over the Republican Party here, or tried to and then the woman who was the, then the woman who was the president at that time broke away and said she didn't want to be a party of a religious cult. And they form two parties, right. So there are two parties. There's a party who respects the rights and dignities of other people. And then there's this Steven Hotze party who, you know, looks to diminish the rights of other people. And

so, you know, this is pretty scary what I'm reading in this article if you're interested. It's in a March '93 Playboy, and it is dynamite. Cindy, if you're listening, this is one for you. Playboy March '93. When you read this, we'll, we'll talk girlfriend. There are several things in the Chronicle. Wednesday, talking about Don't Ask Don't Tell, you know, me being an ex-service person. To the denim party to nothing to eat unless it's cocked. Yeah, I forgot the denim party is tomorrow night at the BRB, that's the dinner, nothing to eat unless it's cocktails. So we were wrong about the dinner following the garden party. So I've been corrected. Thank you. And usually I get an invite to this. But I guess Bill, Bill missed me this year. Oh, yeah, he's up at his mother's that's why I didn't get it. Right. Okay, back to Don't Talk, Don't Tell. You know, we're in a place right now people, those of you who've got, you know, who are interested and who are involved and who care about this stuff. Well, we need to start saying stuff, you know, we need to start fussing about some of this stuff. And I would recommend anybody who's interested read this article, and it's time to get involved. This is really scary, I hadn't read this and it's, I'm gonna be passing this around. Um, it's called God As My Copilot. It's on page 91. And it's about the Christian agenda, where the Christian ride is taking over the Republican Party step by step. And they're in some places and I'll read to you what it says here in some places they're trying to get the death penalty for being homosexual. I'm looking for it really quickly. The death penalty pro family right. Assembly seats. Oh, here we go. Another state of a biblically oriented candidate committed to the death penalty for such sins as homosexuality, abortion, these people captured and this is in Santa Clara County, these people captured 14 out of 20 seats in the Republican County Central Committee. Now that's dangerous, 14 out of 20 seats, which means they have control. And what, which means that they can get this into the Republican platform, theoretically, this can get into the Republican platform, because these people have taken over that, that particular committee, so this is pretty dangerous stuff. And these people are backed by the conservative business people. One of them being predominantly mentioned several times in here is the Pat Robertson programming. And yes, really, and as he's mentioned in here several times. So is Pat Buchanan and some of the people that we're used to hearing, you know, being a pain, and you know, what, I can't believe I said that in the you know what, that's just not me, the blankety blank. It's just not me anyway, I want to let you know, that was there. So if you're interested, that's a good thing to read. But also with the Don't Talk, Don't Tell, you know, stuff and our president, and as Syd was saying earlier, and our president not doing what he's promised to do, that it's time that we started getting a voice here and calling people and raising all kinds of cane, there are ways to find numbers. And it's so simple to pick up a telephone. And if you call it the right hour, it's so cheap, you can call the White House, and they'll take a message, of course, you're not going to get a call back. But this does matter. That's what these people are doing. They're making phone calls, they're running letters, they're bothering people who matter. And these people are giving them money, big, big, big money. And they are well financed, and they are getting more financed. A couple of weeks ago, you might have heard me talking about recently that Jerry Falwell has recently, his Old-Time Gospel Hour corporation is, I think it's incorporated, has recently been found guilty of giving money to, giving money to, oh, good, Michael. I'll be right with you. Giving money to political organizations, both in '87 and '89. And you know what political organizations those were, it was the Bush and Quayle group. And doesn't that sound like a hunting party, Bush and Quayle? And, and trying to support them, get them back into office. Well, recently, they were found to be doing this with religious money that's been donated by the little old lady sitting in front of her TV, eating cat food, living on food stamps and Social Security, sending her you know, pennies off to these organizations, and they're just sucking it up living in, living in nice, nice style. And taking her money and donating it to a political party. Well, they've been found guilty and what the penalty is, they have to pay a \$50,000 fine. Fifty thousand doesn't seem like too much. But what the real penalty is, for two years, they lose their tax exempt status. And people, I think this is something we need to start

thinking about: tax exempt status for churches. If these churches are involved in politics, if church gets into politics then the church should be paying taxes. The idea is to separate the church from the state. If the church becomes the state, it should pay taxes. If the church becomes a state, we are in big trouble not just as homosexuals, not just as women, not just as people of color, everybody is in trouble. Martin Luther King said, if you take away the liberty of one person, you diminish the liberty of all and that is very important to think about right now. So it's a time that we should start putting our you know, our nose to the grindstone, start making some of these calls, start making our voice heard, telling people that they can't do this, that we will not support this, that they will have to pay the political and career penalties for these kinds of moves. So that's my standing on a soapbox right now.

S

Speaker 27 24:09

Not only that, I mean, you don't have to make a long distance call because all the representatives have offices here in Houston.

J

Jewel Gray 24:15

Great.

S

Speaker 27 24:16

And I mean, you have it right there in the blue pages of the phonebook. And if it's in your district, I know I visit mine.

S

Speaker 1 24:23

Jim? Are you out there? I need you in here, Jim. Jim's out on the floor dancing around with somebody. I was rubbing his nipples a while ago. We're waiting, Michael, for Jim to get here to turn, to turn you on I'm not really sure how. Sarah, do you know how to turn him on? Do you know how to turn Michael Crawford on? Yeah, it's the freezer section at Randalls. You think just push the button, push it. Oh, I don't, yeah, we're gonna get somebody get Michael Crawford on. He wants to talk about Don't Ask, Don't Tell. And you know, Michael Crawford is one of our co-hosts here. Well respected and well received and and as a, a gay activist, a black man and person, an advocate for human rights. Okay, we're gonna try now. So he's on seven. He's on seven. So we push it. Are you there? Michael? Are you there, Michael?

M

Michael Crawford 25:18

I'm here.

J

Jewel Gray 25:19

Okay, you're there. Okay. Tell me what you got to say.

M Michael Crawford 25:22
Okay, first of all, we were talking about calling the president. And I happen to have the President's number right here.

J Jewel Gray 25:28
Cool, Michael.

M Michael Crawford 25:29
Okay. So the White House comment line, the number is area code 202-456-1111. White House Switchboard is area code 202-456-1414.

J Jewel Gray 25:48
Great. I'm glad.

M Michael Crawford 25:50
If you want to write to the President.

J Jewel Gray 25:51
Yeah.

M Michael Crawford 25:52
It's the President, the White House, Washington, DC 20500.

J Jewel Gray 26:01
Cool. So there you go, people that's how you can let your voice be heard. And it's time to do it. Tell them Michael.

M Michael Crawford 26:10
I guess it should come as no surprise that Bill "The Welcher" Clinton has done it to us again. He has completely and totally caved in not only to the right wing, because we expected them to completely and totally hate us, to those weasels in the Democratic Party. And we should all

take note of the fact that the opposition to lifting the ban was not run by Republicans. It was run by Sam Nunn, Democrat of Georgia. Okay. It wasn't like last week when we had [unintelligible] talking about how much we should be investing in the Democratic Party, and how much they loved us. And you know, all these people like at the March on Washington talk about how Clinton, Bill Clinton was our friend. Was it take note that it was practically screwed up?

J Jewel Gray 26:55
Yes.

M Michael Crawford 26:57
And it's really funny, because at the March on Washington was really fashionable to bash ACT UP and Queer Nation, because we kept running around saying, we can not sit around and wait, we still have to be assertive, we still have to be aggressive. We're going to have to force the President and the Congress to do what we want them to do. And everyone's like, nah, that is, the type of direct action is over. He invited us into the White House. He just loves us to death. And now we have nothing.

J Jewel Gray 27:27
Nothing.

M Michael Crawford 27:28
And what really frustrates me is just this huge amount of apathy I see in the community. Okay, yeah. Like tonight you mentioned earlier that tonight with RuPaul, lovely and talented Scott Lewis got me a free pass. Okay, now I got there. And the line was stretched, you know, way back, you know, pass the door of JR's, and to be perfectly honest, it made, stomach. And I left because I could not see squeezed in but the drunk and apathetic queers. Okay. And it's really funny because you know, that there were more queers standing in line to get to the bathroom at Heaven than there were at the demonstration protesting Clinton's policy on queers in the military on Friday.

J Jewel Gray 28:16
Yeah.

M Michael Crawford 28:16
And it's really scary, because it's not just here, but everywhere. I mean, there was a recent article in The Village Voice where Donna Minkowitz was asking the question, what the hell is going on with the queers in Colorado? I mean, she, she actually had people who said things

like, it's no big deal being queer in Aspen. Nevermind the fact that their, that their rights are virtually all but stripped away. And it really frightens me that we here in Texas, have not even begun to organize. I mean, because we know one of those [unintelligible] type things that are, is coming for us. And that if it can pass in a progressive state like Colorado, it's gonna win by landslide here.

J Jewel Gray 28:59
Right.

M Michael Crawford 29:00
And it really frustrates me. I mean, I mean, it's, and it's not just the fact that the right wing was, was so powerful, and that Congress hates us so much, even though they do, fact that we did not get off our asses to fight for our own interest. I mean, I read a report where it said that letters to the President about the queers in the military issue, that the right wing beat us out 100 to one.

J Jewel Gray 29:27
Michael, you have a minute?

M Michael Crawford 29:28
Yeah.

J Jewel Gray 29:29
Can you stay with us a minute?

M Michael Crawford 29:30
Sure.

J Jewel Gray 29:30
Because what I'd like to do right now is take a quick station ID before it's too late after the hour. This is KPFT Houston 90.1 FM. And you're listening to, you're listening to After Hours, and it's right at, what two o'clock, 2:06. Michael, did you hear Syd in here earlier talking about the

M Michael Crawford 29:51

Continuing tradition, right?

J

Jewel Gray 29:53

Right, After Hours, continuing tradition. Did you hear us Syd in here talking earlier about this genetic thing?

M

Michael Crawford 29:59

Yeah. I mean, that whole thing is, I mean, a waste of time. I mean, as far as I'm concerned, I don't care why I'm queer. The only thing that's important is that I am.

J

Jewel Gray 30:08

Right. So you agree with him?

M

Michael Crawford 30:09

Yeah. But I would like to say that, you know, while I think it's really good that Syd and his friends are voting, it's, voting is just the beginning.

J

Jewel Gray 30:18

Right. You gotta keep going into the constant maintenance thing.

M

Michael Crawford 30:21

I mean, I just finished reading this article in a magazine called "Social Policy." And it was about progressive activists, bi progressive activists in Arkansas. And he was writing about how they got Bill Clinton to do what they wanted him to do. And it was basically a if you build it, he will come kind of thing. We have to, I don't know, somehow joke this popular support for progressive issue.

J

Jewel Gray 30:47

Yeah. Because you can't afford to look like he's building it for us.

M

Michael Crawford 30:50

Well, I mean, it's not even that, it's just that Bill Clinton is like a weather vane.

J Jewel Gray 30:54
Yeah.

M Michael Crawford 30:55
You know, whichever way you think people want him to go, that's the way he'll go. He's kind of like Bob Krueger.

J Jewel Gray 31:01
That's been pretty apparent in his choices for seats and chairmanships of committees. With this Ginsburg thing, and what was the woman's name, prior to, Lindy [unintelligible], that kind of, you know, the minute somebody said something, he was like, she's out of here. I was totally upset about that, you know, if I were her, if I was the friend that they ensue, that I mean, they suggest that they are, I would be insulted to the max.

M Michael Crawford 31:27
But I'm really happy that Joyce Elders is gonna be Surgeon General, that is if he doesn't cave in on her, too.

J Jewel Gray 31:35
Yeah, yeah, I was tickled with that choice myself. Did you hear me talking about this article in Playboy, Michael?

M Michael Crawford 31:42
Yeah.

J Jewel Gray 31:43
Was, is that bizarre? It is a long article. I'll leave it here so you can read it when you stop in. But it is, it is just, it's terrifying. I have never seen all this put together in one place before.

M Michael Crawford 31:54
Well, I've been hearing bits and pieces of it. About, about like what they tried to do in New York City with the school board there. And, you know, I've heard a lot about what's been going on in California, because people think California is liberal.

J Jewel Gray 32:09
Right.

M Michael Crawford 32:10
And maybe in LA and San Francisco.

J Jewel Gray 32:11
Yeah.

M Michael Crawford 32:12
But in other places. It's not. And, you know, I mean, the thing that really gets me is that we have not even begun to think long term like that. We haven't begun to think, I mean, it's not just the case of giving, you know, non-queer politicians our money. It's about let's get, let's get our own people elected. You know, let's, the Lesbian and Gay Rights Lobby of Texas, right. They are officially six months behind on paying Laurie Eiserloh's salary. Okay, and she was like the only person who led the, the fight to repeal the sodomy law. I mean, I guess if you only have one person fighting for you, it's going to kind of lose. And it's like, there are 1.5 million queers in the state of Texas, right? If every queer had given \$1 to LGRL, they would have \$1,000,00-- 1.5 million dollars a year to spend.

J Jewel Gray 33:12
Yeah, you're right.

M Michael Crawford 33:13
And it's like, we don't put our money. We don't put our energy. We don't put our time and commitment into our own movement.

J Jewel Gray 33:20
What do you think that's about Michael? Not just apathy. You know, we've talked about it before, you and I, and we've talked about it on the show here, we really need to really look at this apathy seriously, and find out what that's about.

M Michael Crawford 33:33
I think a lot of it has to do with, with, with, with self hatred. I mean, I don't think we really think

that we deserve human rights. I don't think that we think that we are valuable with people. I mean, with that the I think partly explains why we have all the backrooms, you know, bar room sex, and the dirty bookstores and the people picking people up in bathrooms and parks and stuff. Not that I'm saying that any of that is bad. Because, you know,

J Jewel Gray 34:04

It sure doesn't help.

M Michael Crawford 34:05

I'm just saying that people do that, because they they feel like it's something dirty and disgusting, that they have to hide. That queer is evil.

J Jewel Gray 34:13

What do you think we can do to address that problem?

M Michael Crawford 34:16

Well, I mean, the big thing for me right now, well, okay, it's always been a big thing for me, but, but visibility, I mean, after, after finishing, Michelangelo Signorile's Queer in America, it's become apparent to me that our movement is about visibility. The more visible we are, the more people will see that no, we're not evil. No, no, when I, when I, you know, I don't have like a big horn sticking out of the middle of my forehead, right? Yes, I am angry and passive and all of that. But I think like, like, even though people were critical of Queer Nation here, over its two year period, it got more attention, more media visibility for queers than any other group. And you know, even a a double amount of time period. And I think what happened was, a lot of people began to see, particularly a lot of young people, saw that we were out doing whatever the hell we were having to be doing at the time, and that we were proud to be queer.

J Jewel Gray 35:13

Right. That's one of the things I liked about Queer Nation was that they had all the subcommittees, little subgroups. So one of them was, was it Shop? Yeah, I like Shop, going to the malls in, in bunches and letting people see is, you know, buying Shop and who we are and things like that. There were a couple of what was it PIS?

M Michael Crawford 35:34

That dealt mainly with AIDS because there was no ACT UP at that time.

J Jewel Gray 35:38

J Jewel Gray 35:38
Right.

M Michael Crawford 35:41

And it's also about, we have to fix, remember what, the right wing has, has it on target, they have realized that it is a cultural war, it realized that, I mean, this is why you see them, fighting to keep sexuality and in particular, queer sexuality, out of the textbooks in schools, off television, out of the newspapers. That's how people I mean, when you don't know a group of people, the only way you can learn about them is what you get through the media, through your education and through the entertainment industry, which is why a lot of people have, think that you know, all young black men are on drugs and are criminals or whatever. Because this is a lot of what they see in the news and on television. Yeah, and if we had better access to the media, the entertainment industry, and political power we could get over. Now, unfortunately, a lot of the people who are in a position to help us, the queers who have access to money, access to those industries, to have access to people in power, are either too closeted and won't help us are actively fighting against us.

J Jewel Gray 36:51

Yeah, yeah. And, you know, I want to bring out that this article is talking about Texas, it's talking about Texas, it's talking about areas in Texas. As matter of fact, what I was talking about was, and I'm taking this out of context, but just to give you the idea, the rich Republicans at the San Antonio's Baxter county consider themselves conservative, and they are but the politics of this new crowd gave them a bad scare. Not long after the Christian rightist staged their coup, the president of the Alamo City Republican Women's Club gave up and quit. The so called Christian activists have finally gained control, she explained in her resignation letter, and the Grand Old Party is more a religious cult than a political organization. So listen, folks, this is happening right here, right outside your back door, these little steps. The Board of Education, you know, all those little, for, what is it they call them, the representation, the delegates are being picked, and suddenly people that never been there before show up and dominate a meeting and take it over. And this is what's happened in San Antonio, they just took over this whole Republican committee in San Antonio, and they're talking about other places. It's happened in Pennsylvania. It's happened in Ohio. They're looking seriously in Houston right now. It's going on in California, as you said. And once again, the name that keeps popping up through this whole article is Pat Robertson. And I say it's time we started investigating Pat for his money, how's the money getting from the little old lady eating cat food in front of her TV, with her only companionship, the 700 Club, getting from that place to political parties, is time we started investigating. What do you think of that?

M Michael Crawford 38:42

Well, I mean, one thing that that we had realized was that Pat Robertson ran for president in 1988. And when he ran for president, they had to set up like these little field offices in all 50 states to promote Pat Robertson. And when Pat Robertson lost, these field offices, became like, Christian coalition type groups. And you know, so they have these little set ups in, in states, all across the country to advance their right wing neo-Nazi agenda.

J

Jewel Gray 39:14

And you know, you talk about the right wing neo-Nazi, I want to talk there's another piece in this that's really interesting, Carol, let's see. The two weeks after Election Day it reared, this subject reared up into view. Of all places, the Republican Governors Meeting in Wisconsin have been gathered to nurse their wounds. The governors held a press brief conference, a brief press conference at the end of their two day confab. It should have been a dull affair. Mississippi Governor Kirk Fordice unexpectedly livened up when he took the microphone and declared that America is a Christian nation. It's, it follows in saying such sentiments are an, are an anthem to most Republican politicians, including Carol Campbell, the conservative governor of South Carolina who's one of the former Republican National Committee chairman Lee Atwater's great success stories. Governor Campbell, who's one of Atwater's success stories leaped to the microphone to explain that, of course, the nation's values come from our Judo-Christian heritage. And he said, I just wanted to add the Judo part. But the Fordice guy glared at this guy and, and came back at him and said, if I wanted to do that, I would have done it. In other words, he was very clear about what he wanted to say, that this is a Christian nation. And they are really trying to make it that way.

M

Michael Crawford 40:34

And they have the money to do it.

J

Jewel Gray 40:35

They sure do. Three, 300,000 member Christian coalition. It says here, and it's led by Pat Robertson, who's very dynamic, a very dynamic man and very passionate about his beliefs, but he's dead wrong.

M

Michael Crawford 40:50

Yeah, we think he's dead wrong. But unfortunately, he think he's, he thinks he's doing God's work,

J

Jewel Gray 40:56

God's work.

M

Michael Crawford 40:57

And we need to wake up and realize that, I mean, it's, I mean because when I first started, you know, activism, what, three years ago, I figured, okay, I'll do this for five years. Okay. By then we'll make all this monumental, monumental changes, that I'll be able to retire from activism, find a boyfriend, move to the suburbs. Now it's like, okay, well, maybe we can make some really good changes in it before I die. Sixty years from now. Yeah. It's a long term struggle.

J Jewel Gray 41:30

Yes, it is. And I'm really glad, Michael, and I want to tell you, and I think I've told you just about every time we've talked, and I'm really proud that you're out there being one of the people who are making difference.

M Michael Crawford 41:41

Thank you. And I'm glad you're out there.

J Jewel Gray 41:43

Are you out partying tonight or sitting at home?

M Michael Crawford 41:45

Sitting at home. I don't know. I mean, maybe it's just me. And maybe I'm being a bit misanthropic today. But right now, I'm just so sick of queers and parties. I mean, if we went out, I mean, like in LA, right after the, the Clinton so called compromise down there where, you know, a thousand queers in the street, you know, decrying the decision. And, you know, they even marched three miles to the hotel where Hillary Clinton was supposed to be, of course, only to find out she had already gone. But those queens were outraged. And I don't have a problem with partying. But you demonstrate first, did you have a really good reason to party?

J Jewel Gray 42:28

Make sure you have a place to party tomorrow.

M Michael Crawford 42:30

Yeah, that's right. Yeah.

J Jewel Gray 42:32

Well, I appreciate you giving us call. Michael, if anybody else is interested in talking to us about some of this, if you have an opinion, and you'd like to share it with you, with us, we'd sure like to hear it. And you can connect with us at, let's see, I have it here. Wait just a second. Uh, no, it's not far. 526-5738. Thank you, Sarah. Thank you. I am really off. You know what the problem is? Jewel took a nap, Jewel took a nap around 10 o'clock had to get up at 11. And that is a big mistake. We won't do that again. It's hard to gather my wits and get all my paperwork together. Here it is, finally. So I can look at it later. Let's see. I really would like to talk to some people tonight and see how you feel about some of this stuff. This thing about the Republicans, now I

want to remind you that not all Republicans feel this way. Um, I hate being the devil's advocate here, but it's very clear in this article that there are Republicans who are fighting this, who feel like that they have a political voice and they want that, but they don't want the religious right being the only voice and they are fighting this, as a matter of fact, talks about a few of them, says one more example of why moderates and even many conservatives in the Republican Party are running scared. A few of them, including former Senator Warren Rudman and former Representative Tom Campbell are now organizing to keep their party from being taken over by the Robertson forces. But so far, the coalition founded last December is little more than a fundraising letterhead and they're scared because they know it may already be too late. Do you hear that? They know it may already be too late.