

**MAN:** And now, the QMZ.

**JIMMY CARPER:** All right.

**WOMAN:** OK.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Hello, Houston. It's Jimmy, with the QMZ. The Queer Music Zone, heard every week on *After Hours*, queer radio with attitude. Tonight I've got something that you-- if you listened last week, you heard for the first time. It's new music that I brought back from San Francisco.

A group called Fag Bash. And old Jimmy Vaughn from Esoteric Adventures spent about an hour in the production room getting out all those big F words so that we can play it on the radio. Because it's really, really a fine song. It's called "Lust Letters" by Fag Bash.

Whoa, something wrong with the tape on that one. We'll work on it and get it back to you next week. Because that's too cool of a song. I want to read a letter that I got from Reticence and Anxiety. If you'll remember, about two weeks ago, I think, I read a little-- I talked about the new zine called Reticence and Anxiety.

That their first issue was out of Philadelphia, but I've got news for you on that one. And I read this article that they did on, are you a boy or a girl? And maybe it was three weeks ago, I don't know. Anyway, I sent a tape and got a letter back. It says, thanks for sending the tape and letter. It's great to receive a long letter that is supportive.

I get a kick out of listening to you reading my piece, are you a boy or a girl? I think that is one of my better pieces. Now for some information about our zine. We published issue number six last month. And yeah, I want to interject here. When I went to San Francisco, I found issue number two, three, four, and five and six.

And guess what? They've now relocated to Austin, Texas. Yes. It's \$1.50 in stores, \$2 by mail. We are carried by Liberty Crossroad Books in Austin, but not in Houston. I don't think, because I haven't seen it there. As well as a few other local places. A good resource for queer zines is Holy Tit Clamps. That's right.

And I have an issue of the Clamps. And you can get that at Crossroads. It's \$3. And in the middle of it is, oh gosh, about a ten page zine review. All queer zines, all reviewed and addresses and costs. It's really worth it to get it. HTC is put out by Larry Bob, who is a great guy.

I would appreciate it if you would read his PO box address on the air. Right. Let me see here, because I have the issue. Yeah, Larry Bob. Box 590488 San Francisco, California, 94159-0488. That's four Holy Tit Clamps, with that great zine review.

And it's \$3, cash. You can order Queen's Queer Zine Explosion for just two 29 cent stamps from Larry Bob, or pick up fact sheet five. That's something else that has a section on queer zines at any of the larger magazine stores. It's referred to as the definitive guide to the zine revolution. Yeah.

It's-- but it's a little pricey. It costs about \$5 or so, and it reviews all kinds of different zines. Now, Bob Mould of Sugar is gay. And I have played some Sugar, but Bob Mould doesn't like to be referred to as gay, or does not like to, I don't know. He just doesn't like to be-- talk much about the gay experience or being gay or anything like that.

And not that we expect our singers to be gay icons. But just to kind of be able to look in the mirror and say you're gay is a real important thing to do. He was originally in the highly influential Husker Du. K Records and Kill Rock Star records both have some dyke bands on them, such as Fifth Column and Bikini Kill.

Yeah, we've played them both on this show. Have you gotten the Outpunk dance party compilation? Oh yes. If you'll remember about a month ago, we did a whole QMZ on Outpunk dance party compilation. And it's, of course, available at Record Sound Exchange now on Westheimer.

Also, we accept stamps instead of money. I had intended to mail you one of our issues, blah, blah, blah. Anyway, I really appreciate you sending me the tapes and I'm glad you liked my piece. Oh, by the way. Anxiety is an Anglo dyke and Reticence is a Black dyke. OK, see?

We were talking about that, because I was reading the zine and I didn't know gender or color or anything. And I'd got the impression halfway through that Anxiety was a Black dyke. And as it turns out, I was wrong. Have you heard Diamanda Galás? She is an avant garde opera singer, or something like that.

The subject of most of her music is AIDS. She is my all time favorite singer. Also, one more thing. Disposable Heroes of Hip Hop. Ah, yes. Yes. They have that song called Language of Violence, which is about gay bashing. They're not gay, but that is a great song and we have played that on this show for a couple of years now.

Reticence just suggested something to me again. Gretchen Phillips experience. Boy, yes. That is really good. She was once in Two Nice Girls, and frankly I think the Gretchen Phillips experience is better. I have seen them four times live, Each time they were great. Well I have a tape of Gretchen Phillips, and I'm going to have to edit a little bit out.

But it's really, really good. That gives me impetus to do that. Write back, here's our address. Reticence and Anxiety. To get these great zines from these two women. Reticence and Anxiety. PO box 2552, Austin, Texas, 78768. And if you can't get to Crossroads to pick up HTC, to have the queer zine review that's in the middle of it, send it to Larry Bob, HTC, box 590488, San Francisco, California, 94159-0488.

Well thank you, Anxiety. From Reticence and Anxiety. And they were talking about Kill Rock Stars, and I did get a compilation called Stars Kill Rock. And it's put out by the Kill Rock Stars label. And there's a great song on it by CWA called "Only Straight Girls Wear Dresses." Let's go to it now.

**WOMAN:**

Yes, darling. Yes. Why don't we take a look at the photographs, huh? Yeah. Oh, no. Take the finger out of your mouth. I know it hurts. It's hard to be a teething baby. Yes.

**CHILD:**

Yes.

**WOMAN:**

Yes I do. Yes. Yes. That's-- OK. You know who that is, don't you? That's Thelma. That's Grandma Thelma. Uh-huh. And look, there's grandpa Willy. Yeah, uh-huh. And that's their friend Kitty. Yes it is, it's Kitty. Good. Yeah. She's different. Yes, no. That's-- you know who that is. You know who that is. You know.

Who is that? No, it's Dada. No it's not. I know it looks like Dada, but it's not Dada. It's Willy. That's Grandpa Willy when he was younger and looked like Dada. Yeah, yeah. No, that's Willy holding Dada. And look, Kitty has her arm around Willy and Thelma has her arm around Kitty, isn't that nice?

Yes, yes. Kitty, that's Kitty. She's their friend, remember? She's mostly Thelma's special friend. She's very nice. We like her. We like her spice cake, don't we? Yes. You've been there. Look, look, look, look, look. Remember. Remember? We played in the leaves in their backyard, remember?

They were raking leaves. Yeah. And Willy was holding the bag open and Thelma was raking and Kitty was picking up the leaves and putting them in the bag, you remember don't you? Don't you? Look. Oh, and then we all cooked dinner together. Remember? And Willy set the table.

And then we ate, yes. You and me and Dada, right? And Willy, Thelma, and Kitty. Grandpa Willy, Grandma Thelma, and Kitty. Yes. You like them, don't you? Yes, yes, yes, yes, yes, yes, yes. They're friends. They're very special friends. Yes. They do.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Something we debuted last week, Juliana Luecking. And she has a spoken word album called Big Broad. That was Willy, Thelma, and Kitty. It's really a pretty piece about a woman talking about her mother and her father and her mother's female lover.

And to-- and before that, we had CWA with "Only Straight Girls Wear Dresses." That's off of the Kill Rock Stars compilation that Reticence and Anxiety talked about in their letter. Yes, Evelyn?

**EVELYN:**

I really liked that one.

**JIMMY CARPER:** You liked that one?

**EVELYN:**

I liked that one a lot.

**JIMMY CARPER:** I think we need to take it to the production room and clean it up a little bit and play it every week, OK.

**EVELYN:**

That would be very nice.

**JIMMY CARPER:** OK, we can do that. See if-- I'll see if Jimmy Vaughan is busy and get him in that production room. Yes indeed. And to close out the QMZ this week. QMZ, the Queer Music Zone, heard every week on KPFT Houston After Hours. We're going to do one of the more requested songs in the past month or two that I've had in a while.

It's by a group called Horse, whose lead singer is by the name of Horse, who's a dyke and proud of it. This is off of their first album, and it's called-- well the first album is called The Same Sky. And the song is called, well, you all know it. You listen every week, and you hear it.

It's called, And She Smiled.

Oh, let's try that one more time. CD player seems to be a little ornery tonight. I have to put it-- oh, here we go. Let's try that one more time. Horse, And She Smiled.

Yes, Horse. And She Smiled. And that-- that'll conclude another edition of the QMZ, the Queer Music Zone, where we feature music by gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered artists just for you. Right here on After Hours, a continuing tradition on KPFT Houston. We'll be right back.

**BETSY:** All right, this is Betsy at the ranch. I'm over at Chance's. We're having an excellent time over here on a Wednesday night. We're talking to KPFT Houston. Come out and visit us at the ranch. Or if that is not close enough, come to Chance's on Westheimer. And I listen to KPFT Houston After Hours.

**WOMAN:** I remember the first time I found KPFT. It was late one night and I remember.

**MAN:** Switched the dial on my radio, it landed on KPFT. That's when I heard something very strange.

**MAN:** It was during Iran-Contra. I was interested in the politics of and the relationship between the executive and [? the district ?] branches of government.

**ANNOUNCER:** Do you remember the first time you found KPFT? Was it recently? Or maybe you've been listening to KPFT since we were first found that in the spring of 1970. During 1995, KPFT will be celebrating our 25th anniversary and we'd like to hear about the first time you found KPFT.

Be part of our 25th anniversary. Write your story to KPFT. If we like what you have to say, KPFT will call you and ask you to come in and record your recollections about your first time and use it during our 25th anniversary year. The deadline is November 28, 1994. Write to 25th anniversary in care of KPFT.

419 Lovett Boulevard, Houston, Texas, 77006. No phone calls, please. Keep it simple at keep it fun. Celebrate with us. You have helped make KPFT 90.1 FM possible.

**ERIC:** It's Saturday night. Or is that Sunday morning at 3:00? You're wondering what that is creeping up on you right now. Why it's Eric, and you're tuned to the Carbon Dating Game, where I'll bring you a meso tunes from Precambrian to [INAUDIBLE]. Right here on KPFT Houston.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

**WOMAN:** And we're back. And I believe-- I believe we're going to do some more reading from-- what are we reading from?

**JIMMY CARPER:** OK. I wanted to bring up some gender issues. One of the things about bisexuality that comes across a lot of times is identifying with other genders and one's own gender. And what is gender? What does it mean to be male? What does it mean to be female?

And we've got some readings from Gender Outlaw. And Michelle is going to read a few passages from Gender Outlaw.

**MICHELLE:** Yeah. And this is a book by Kate Bornstein, who's a transsexual who during her journey from-- excuse me-- during her journey from male to female, she really learned a lot about the nature of gender. And I'd like to read a little bit from it. Most folks would define a man by the presence of a penis, or some form of a penis.

Some would define a woman by the presence of a vagina, or some form of a vagina. It's not that simple, though. I know several women in San Francisco who have penises. Many wonderful men in my life have vaginas. And there are quite a few people whose genitals falls somewhere between penises and vaginas. What are they?

Are you a man because you have an XY chromosome? A woman because you have XX? Unless you're an athlete who's been challenged in the area of gender representation, you probably haven't had a chromosome test to determine your gender. If you haven't had that test, then how do you know what gender you are, and how do you know what gender your romantic or sexual partner is?

There are, in addition to XX and XY pairs, some other commonly occurring sorts of gender chromosomes, including XXY, XXX, YYY, XYY, and XO. Does this mean that there are more than two genders? Let's keep looking. What makes a man, Testosterone? What makes a woman, Estrogen?

If so, you could buy your gender over the counter at any pharmacy. But we're told that there are these things called male and female hormones, and that Testosterone dominates the gender hormonal balance in males of any species. Not really. Female hyenas, for example, have naturally more Testosterone than the males.

The female clitoris resembles a very long penis. The females mount the males from the rear and proceed to hump. While some female humans I know behave in much the same manner as the female hyena, the example demonstrates that the universal key to gender is not hormones.

Are you a woman because you can bear children? Because you bleed every month? Many women are born without this potential, and every woman ceases to possess this capability after menopause. Do these women cease being women? Does a necessary hysterectomy equal a gender change?

Are you a man because you can father children? What if your sperm count is too low? What if you were exposed to nuclear radiation and were rendered sterile? Are you then a woman? Are you a woman because your birth certificate says female, a man because your birth certificate says male?

If so, how did that happen? A doctor looked down at your crotch at birth. A doctor decided, based on what was shown of your external genitals, that you would be one gender or another. You never had any say in the most irreversible of all pronouncements. And according to this culture as it stands today, you never will have a say.

What if he had been born a hermaphrodite, with some combination of both genitals? The surgeon would have fixed you, without your consent, and possibly without the consent or even knowledge of your parents. Depending on your race and economic status, you would have been fixed. Fixed into a gender.

It's a fairly common experience being born with different or anomalous genitals, but we don't allow hermaphrodites in modern Western medicine. We fix them. But let's get back to that birth certificate. Are you female or male because of what the law says? Is law immutable?

Are we legislating every day in order to change the laws of our state, our nation, and our culture? Isn't that the name of the game when it comes to political progress? What about other laws, religious laws for example? Religions may dictate right and proper behavior for men and women, but no religion actually lays out what is a man and what is a woman.

They assume we know. That's how deep this cultural assumption runs. I've been searching all my life for a rock bottom definition of a woman and unquestionable sense of what is a man. I found nothing except the fickle definitions of gender held up by groups and individuals for their own purposes.

When I first came across this book, something that was really interesting to me was I thought about-- with all these possible permutations of gender and sex, what does it really mean to be gay or straight in our society? Like you know, I asked some gay friends of mine.

Like what if you-- like a gay male friend of mine. I asked him, what if you met this man who is totally gorgeous, you know. Absolutely the most gorgeous man you've ever met. And then he told you, well, there's something you have to know. I have a vagina. Could this gay man still be attracted to this person? I don't know.

**WOMAN:** It's an interesting question. Coming from-- coming from the stand of bisexuality, ideally, there is a theory that ideally we are all born bisexual. And that through reasons of our own, we either decide or through reasons of our upbringing, we are swung one way or another.

A lot of people disagree with theories-- with that theory, of course. But ideally, we should all love human beings for what and who they are, and it shouldn't matter what their genitalia is.

**JIMMY CARPER:** I think one of the things that this kind of bring some issues up for me is that we have such a fickle sense of what is male and female. I mean, there's no real clear definitions. And being bisexual, to me, is partly a spiritual experience. It's partly an experience of being in touch with the maleness in me and the femaleness in me.

And I think what this book doesn't quite go into, but what I've gone into in my life in a search, is that even though I have the body of a man, somewhat.

**WOMAN:** Not tonight, girl.

**JIMMY CARPER:** And not tonight. But even though I have the male genitalia, I'm very much in touch with the female part of me. I'm very much in touch with the male part of me. And it's a spiritual essence. I mean, so much of gender we try to accentuate in our society. Women put on makeup, they shave certain parts, men shave other parts, but not some parts.

And we have to do all the-- we have different length hair, supposedly, until the '60s came around. And then a few people started breaking those boundaries. I know growing up, I used to try to question-- you know, I had a best friend, female, who was a tomboy.

And I kept trying to come up with a name for myself, because I identified very much as being female as a child. I liked doing the girl things. Playing with dolls, cooking, sewing. And it was like, the only names I got called were derogatory. You know,

**WOMAN:** Tomboy is really pretty derogatory when you're 12 years old. Growing up.

**JIMMY CARPER:** It's not quite as bad as sissy. And it wasn't just that they said I was a sissy. I got beat up for being a sissy. You know, I got spanked for being a sissy. Let's hear it for S&M.

**WOMAN:** How does this come up?

**JIMMY CARPER:** But I think the thing that this book illustrates so much is that gender and sexuality is much more than just a physical thing. It gets on spiritual levels. It gets on emotional levels. And it's culturally taught how to act like a man, how to act like a woman. You know?

**WOMAN:** Yeah.

**JIMMY CARPER:** These are the things that are kind of the patting on top of the thing we're born with between our legs. It's like, a woman doesn't walk down the street like, oh, what's that TV star's name? The cowboy. The real manly cowboy.

**WOMAN:** Oh, I don't know. I know a few-- I know a few women who walked down the street, just butch as you please, girl. John Wayne.

**JIMMY CARPER:** John Wayne, that's the name I was trying to think of. But I mean, you know.

**WOMAN:** I live with Elvis.

**JIMMY CARPER:** When we're about 3 feet tall, girls are taught to walk down the street a certain way and men are taught to walk down the street a certain way. And we get a lot of this early gender training from this high up.

**WOMAN:** I think currently, psychologists agree that your sexual orientation is determined by age three. They based that on studies done in childcare facilities over a number of years and they tracked these children, over 100 children, for 15 or 20 years to adulthood.

And those children who were male who had female characteristics continued that throughout their life. And it was-- they were seldom wrong, and everything was based by age three. Sexual orientation, and I guess gender orientation as well.

**JIMMY CARPER:** But I'm also talking about this process of training that we're kind of pushed into a rut. Because of what we have.

**WOMAN:** Well--

**JIMMY CARPER:** And you know, and it's getting a little-- we're seeing some changes in the boundaries now. But I think this brings up some interesting questions about, for me anyway, I think what it brings up is that we each have male and female energy that's irregardless of what we're born with.

**WOMAN:** So I'm interested in reading this book. The name of the book is *Gender Outlaw*. It's by Kate Bornstein. Kate Bornstein. And I'm really very interested. This-- the whole issue of transgenderism, bisexuality. These are all very gray, relatively unexplored areas.

At least unexplored in open discussion in our community. They come up from time to time and get squished down just as readily. And so this is a huge gray area. I'd be interested in hearing more from our listeners. I would like to-- I would like for our listeners to call in and ask questions.

I would like for our listeners to write us letters at KPFT, 419 Lovett, 77006. Let us know what your ideas are on the subject. I would like to know how you identify. I know that you sometimes dress as female, you sometimes dress as male. How do you personally identify?

**JIMMY CARPER:** I personally identify as androgynous.

**WOMAN:** Androgynous. Define that for our listeners.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Having both male and female within this body. It's like, I've had lovers in the past say that I make love more like a woman than a man. Even my current one says this. When I grew up, I liked doing some manly things and some very feminine things.

**WOMAN:** This is something I identify with.

**JIMMY CARPER:** It's like, I ride a Honda 750 in a leather skirt.

And it's like I identify with-- whenever I dress, I try to incorporate not only just the female when I cross dress, but some of the male parts of it. It's like I wear boots that are kind of a little on the-- even though they're girl boots, they're still on the butch side.

**WOMAN:** They're kind of butch. They are butch, and they're divine. And I'm going to have to go shopping.

**JIMMY CARPER:** I got them in Berkeley, California.

**WOMAN:** Oh, no wonder.

**JIMMY CARPER:** But I basically see myself as having an essence of both genders. And that, to me, is androgyny.

**WOMAN:** That is something that I identify with. I am very anti-label. I get upset when people label me anything. I hate to be called butch. I am not butch. I identify as more femme than not. And I can see how androgyny is probably the place I want to be.

I can go and fix my car if I need to. I have a stocked toolbox, and can readily fix my car. And I can bake a pie just as easily. So

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh, you should see some of my power tools.

**WOMAN:** And you know, my lover does-- my lover is probably-- she probably has more male clothing than female clothing, and cannot even touch a car. Anyway.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes. it's like, I've got

**WOMAN:** Being in touch with who you are.

**JIMMY CARPER:** And I think that's what's really important is that I've come to learn myself and my differences and learned to love myself for those differences, in spite of what many people in the world try to tell me. And it's an exploration and a challenge to explore the unknown.

**WOMAN:** Explore it, yeah.

**WOMAN:** Something I'd like to say-- something I'd like to say about labels is that I found that I started out and I identified as bi. And then I said, you know, well are you butch or femme? So I said, well I guess I like to wear makeup and stuff, so I guess I'm femme. And then I was like, well I'm kind of a hippie too.

And then I'm also kind of a nerd a little bit. And it's like, I got to the point where it would take like 10 or 15 labels to describe me. And then I realized that maybe it's best to just have no labels and go from there.



**JIMMY CARPER:** I think the other thing about labels is that we're not the same person from one day to the next. I know I'm not.

**WOMAN:** I never know what I'm going to be, or who I'm going to be.

**JIMMY CARPER:** One day I might be this label, and then the next day I might be another label. You know, I am so confused sometimes.

**WOMAN:** So therefore, the best policy is not to label us at all.

**JIMMY CARPER:** It's just people loving people.

**WOMAN:** Some music for us. We're about to go into a piece. Oh, OK. I'm sorry. We're not going to go into a piece yet. Do you have some community news? I'd like to put a plug in for Q Patrol. Q Patrol is an organization in our community that goes out to protect those people as they're walking around the bar district down here in the Montrose area.

They are both on foot and in mobile units, looking out for situations that might be perceived as dangerous and very often are. I have walked on Q Patrol. Unfortunately, haven't been able to be active with them in a little bit. I plan on going back. If you're interested in joining Q Patrol, you can call 871-8519. We would like to hear from Q Patrol on a regular basis, and often do.