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SPEAKERS

Speaker 3, Speaker 4, Michael Crawford, Speaker 2, Speaker 1, Jimmy Carper

J Jimmy Carper 00:07

The following program contains language or images of a brain or a sensitive nature, which may be considered objectionable by some, listener discretion is advised. 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 the 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 01:32

Yep, that's right. We're here at another edition of After Hours. This is Michael Crawford. And I'm here with Sarah Guterrez. And Sarah, why are you here?

S Speaker 1 01:41

Because I'm queer. And you told me to come here, no.

M Michael Crawford 01:43

And we know that you're queer because we can read your breasts.

S Speaker 1 01:46

Thank you.

M Michael Crawford 01:47
We, Sarah actually had an unfortunate incident today where she was

S Speaker 1 01:54
I was trying to, a straight man over at Circle K tried to pick me up and I was there like hello with my big Queer Nation t-shirt. And I was like, Can He read my breasts or what?

M Michael Crawford 02:03
Yep, the straight world is stupid. Today, what, August 14, 1993, we have an exciting fun action packed show. First, we're going to be having a discussion on queers in the media. The question today is who gets to speak for us? How are these people chosen? And who decides what they say? Why is it that we see all the same people all the time, we're also going to be reviewing zines. And for all those out there, those of you who, I don't know, I guess didn't pick up the August edition of Details Magazine, zines are basically a weapon of war against the homosexual lifestyle. It's created by young queers like myself, who basically are rude, mean and nasty, and who frankly, feel left out by the mainstream queer media. We're going to be having lots of fun and exciting music, some queer, some not. And we're going to be telling you why a sissy boy like me, Michael Crawford bought the September issue of Playboy.

S Speaker 1 03:02
To give it to me.

M Michael Crawford 03:03
Exactly, because I read your breasts.

S Speaker 1 03:06
Thank you.

M Michael Crawford 03:07
But first, we're going to be going to a, actually a phone call. I got a call a couple of days ago from this really sweet young guy from HATCH, who was calling up and going to tell us a little bit about this event that HATCH is having. His name is Jack. And Jack, you're on the air.

S Speaker 2 03:26

Great. Hi, how are y'all doing tonight?

M Michael Crawford 03:28

Good. How are you?

S Speaker 2 03:29

Pretty cool.

M Michael Crawford 03:31

So why don't you start off by telling us a little bit about what HATCH is?

S Speaker 2 03:35

Great. Okay, what HATCH is the name HATCH actually stands for the Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals, okay. Okay. And what HATCH is, is this, it is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to provide a relaxed environment for gay youth, gay, lesbian, bisexual, even confused, no, youth between the ages of 16 and 21. And what we do is in this environment that we create, we're all able to discuss topics of interest, you know, be it queer or not, you know, with, you know, other peers and also trained facilitators. And what's really cool about this is within this atmosphere, aside from being relaxed, it's also free from humiliation and persecution.

M Michael Crawford 04:26

Unlike high school.

S Speaker 2 04:27

Unlike high school by all means.

M Michael Crawford 04:30

So is this also a good place for queers under the age of 22 to, I don't know, meet potential boyfriend, girlfriends and that kind of thing?

S Speaker 2 04:37

Yeah, exactly.

M

Michael Crawford 04:39

Okay, and what are like some of the some of the topics you guys have discussed?

S

Speaker 2 04:43

Oh, wow. Several of the topics that was discussed, has been, you know, the rise in the AIDS epidemic out here in Houston. The rise in violence in the high school system, you know, how we as gay youth can deal with that and no just topics in general along those natures, and how we can protect ourselves, how we can still interact with society. No, and don't let people know, hey, we're gay, you know, there's nothing you can do about it.

M

Michael Crawford 05:13

Get used to it. Are there any, like young people out there? How would they be able to contact HATCH to find out more about the group?

S

Speaker 2 05:21

Okay, find out more about the group, we have a number, okay. And the number is 942-7002. But thing it really, is really cool that none of us out there have to worry, because confidentiality is a guaranteed necessity. You know, so if any youth call up, and they're like, hesitant, oh my lord, you know, my name, you know, I'm gonna call up here and this person is going to spread my name all throughout Houston, it's not gonna happen, you know? So, guaranteed confidentiality.

M

Michael Crawford 05:55

Okay. And when you called me, you were, you were actually trying to get me to donate money. But since I didn't have any, I invited you to call up on our show. Now, what were you trying to get me to donate money to?

S

Speaker 2 06:07

Well, actually, what we're doing is on September 11th, a Saturday from seven to ten, HATCH is presenting its second annual awards night, honoring the people who have helped HATCH itself and the gay youth community.

M

Michael Crawford 06:21

Okay, okay.

S Speaker 2 06:22

And our program, what we're doing is we're calling around the community trying to ask people to sponsor, okay, sponsor, the group itself, so that the youth within can provide a, you know, a, I guess, how can I put it? Not a star studded lineup of entertainment, but something that will guaranteed awesome and amazing.

M Michael Crawford 06:45

Yeah, it'll be much better than any group of heterosexuals could do. I'm sure.

S Speaker 2 06:48

Oh, you got it.

M Michael Crawford 06:49

When is this event?

S Speaker 2 06:51

Okay. It's gonna be Saturday, September 11, 7 to 10.

M Michael Crawford 06:56

Okay, well, well, my question is, like, where did like the donations and stuff come in?

S Speaker 2 07:01

Okay, the donations? As what exactly do you mean, where do they send them to, or what exactly?

M Michael Crawford 07:07

Well, what are they for? How do people how would I mean, there are a lot of people out there who may not be able to get involved in queer activism on a really like visible level or because of their jobs or unable to go to ACT UP meetings or whatever, but who have a healthy checkbook and can write a check to HATCH or to this event? How would they do that?

S Speaker 2 07:31

All right. Well, it's really easy. Okay, if you sponsor, you know, we ask, you know, the youth, yeah, we asked the community for a \$50 minimum, tax deductible, repeat, taxable deductible donation. Okay. And it's really easy to send the check written out to HATCH, send the check to P.O. box 667053. And that is Houston, Texas, area code 77266-7053.

M Michael Crawford 08:04
Okay, do that that P.O, box number once again?

S Speaker 2 08:07
P.O. box 667053, course in Houston, Texas. 77266-7053.

M Michael Crawford 08:21
Okay, and there was one other thing you wanted to mention wasn't there?

S Speaker 2 08:26
Oh, yeah. Yeah. That yeah, yes. What? Really, you know, getting the word out to the community, not necessarily just the gay community, but also the heterosexual community. Not the fact that Home Box Office, better known as HBO, came out in February and did a documentary about growing up gay in the United States today. One of the four stories that they decided to document was HATCH itself.

M Michael Crawford 08:53
Okay, so you guys are like movie stars now.

S Speaker 2 08:56
You got us. No we're star studded, yeah. No ego, don't work. Okay. And what's going on is, the really cool thing is, is that this documentary has already started airing. Okay, it started last week. And it's going to be running out throughout August.

M Michael Crawford 09:16
Okay, do you like have the dates and the times?

S Speaker 2 09:18
Sure do.

M Michael Crawford 09:19
Go ahead.

S Speaker 2 09:19
Okay. The next showing is going to be this Monday, August 16, at 9:15pm. And then it's going to go on Sunday, August 22 at 2:30pm. Then Wednesday, 20, August 25 at 6pm. Then we've got two showings on one day, Tuesday, August 31. First showing at 1:15pm and the second showing at 11pm. You know, so kind of a little bit of variation there just in case your parents are at work for the day or they're asleep at night for the youth, you know why. Regardless, you know,

M Michael Crawford 09:53
Yeah, you can, you're kind of good at this. Why don't you, why don't you get the number for HATCH one more time, so that kids who missed it before can pick it up.

S Speaker 2 10:03
All right, cool. All right. If you're interested in becoming a member of HATCH, the number you can call is 942-7002. And don't worry, all you youth, don't worry, confidentiality is a guarantee.

M Michael Crawford 10:19
Okay. And since I like gave you pointers before on how to solicit money, I think you should do that one more time, make a really strong emotional appeal. And remember, think that you're Madonna, and request money from those who have it.

S Speaker 2 10:34
Okay.

S Speaker 1 10:35
Watch your lips.

M Michael Crawford 10:36
Okay, go ahead.

S

Speaker 2 10:38

Okay, what's going on is we're asking the community for money, \$50 tax deductible, that's deductible, donation. And this is going for a great cause. Okay, HATCH, it's helping youth to keep them off the streets, kind of give them self esteem. And one, one of the things I find extra fascinating. What people probably don't know, is that the suicide rate amongst gay youth, is t three times more of that of a straight youth. You believe that, three times more? I mean, there are a lot more gay dudes out there committing suicide than anybody else.

M

Michael Crawford 11:20

And they're doing it because they feel like they're alone. Because, I don't know, a lot of them don't know about HATCH and the good things that you guys are doing.

S

Speaker 2 11:29

Exactly a lot of them, you know, feel alone, like, oh, my goodness, I'm the only person in the world who thinks like this. Nah, that ain't the case.

M

Michael Crawford 11:37

And so everybody who has a relatively healthy checkbook should quickly make out a check to HATCH, because this group is doing really good things. And it's like, probably the only group that we have in the city right now. That's keeping our young people alive. Okay, well, Jack, you know, I want to thank you for calling in and say that I'm really impressed and pleased with your performance. And, well, you're not, yeah. And you're not getting my job hosting here at After hours.

S

Speaker 2 12:08

Aw, darn.

S

Speaker 1 12:08

But you can have this seat right here. Okay.

M

Michael Crawford 12:12

Okay, thanks a lot. Bye. Bye.

S

Speaker 2 12:15

Bye. Bye.

M

Michael Crawford 12:18

Jack. Really nice, really cool, really queer. Okay, we're gonna get into our discussion soon. But first, we're gonna go to a song by Beats International entitled, "Dub Be Good to Me." And it's, yes, that one. Hit it. Oh, I hit it. We're back here at KPFT Houston. I think it's time for our discussion. Let's see. Who do we have here? Paul Mullen grungewear. Paul Mullen is a really intense, left wing activist, former member of Queer Nation. Yeah, one of the founding members of ACT UP Gulf Coast and you officially identify yourself as a Marxist. Is that correct?

S

Speaker 3 13:11

That's absolutely correct. Okay.

M

Michael Crawford 13:15

Read her breasts. Yes, we have Sarah Gutierrez here who is also joining us. She's a lesbian, Hispanic lesbian.

S

Speaker 1 13:22

Thank you.

M

Michael Crawford 13:23

Also a former member of Queer Nation, and, and ACT UP. And we have Vi Lee. Again, also a former member of Queer Nation and ACT UP. And she's been involved in a bunch of other things, peace activities, feminists activities, choice activities, and so on and so forth. We're going to be discussing here right now queers in the media, not so much how much we're in the media, but more focusing on who gets to speak for us when we are allowed in the media. Let's go around the table. I'd like to get a general sense of how you guys see the way we are seeing in the media. Let's start with you, Paul.

S

Speaker 3 14:03

Well, I think that the gay and lesbian community is pretty much constructed on media as being male, overwhelmingly white, and overwhelmingly middle class and bourgeois. And since Chris Bacon has now pretty much resigned as the president of the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus, I'm going to take one last opportunity to take a shot at him. And I'm going to refer to an interview with Chris or and an article that he wrote in the Houston press last year, it was called the New Face of Gay Power in Houston. And at the very beginning of Chris's article when he is creating an image of the gay and lesbian community to introduce it, he starts out by

invoking a meeting of gay men. They are college professors. They're businessmen who says they work, he says in well known corporations, law firms and universities. And this is all part of the construction of not only the image of the gay and lesbian human community but also the the political ideologies that are dominant in it as being bourgeois and white.

M Michael Crawford 15:09

Okay, um, Sarah, how do you see the way queers is seen in the media?

S Speaker 1 15:14

Well, most of the time, when I tell people that I'm an activist, they start telling me things like, well, you know, you need to calm down, and you need to chill and all this kind of stuff, because most people know, a very good friend of ours, Brian Bradley, you know, whenever anything's you know, coming out, it's like, you see Brian there, right? And people tend to think, you know, why are you so mad? Why are you so angry? You know, they're like, well, that's the only time you really listen to us. And, you know, I'm glad Brian is out there. Because I have to go to work during the day. So you know, I can't be out there like I used to be. But it is dominated by males, you know, white males. I don't mind Brian, because you know,

M Michael Crawford 15:54

He's Brian.

S Speaker 1 15:55

Yeah, he's Brian, that's enough said about Brian, you know, but, but it is true. Not enough Hispanics and people of color, you know, are out there doing things, they're all at the bars. And it's really, you know, we need to, we need to, we needed to look more united than we are. I'm glad that we're going out there. And like Suzanne Anderson and this HBO thing, you know, I thought, I thought that was great. You know, her being out there even though, you know, we're getting some media, but I wish more of us, the diversity of our community would show more.

M Michael Crawford 16:29

Right.

S Speaker 1 16:29

Than it is now.

M Michael Crawford 16:31

Vi, what's, what are your general impressions of queers in the media of our media image?

S

Speaker 4 16:35

When I process, I think is definitely dominated by male white class, or quote unquote, proper gays, or people who are willing to sell out and give up our rights, and the rest of the gay community rights for their own personal gain, which is really pathetic, because they are getting, they're fitting into why, I mean, they're fitting into the whole heterosexual straight, I guess, requirements to be, you know, subtle and to be proper gays, I think and it's really sad, because people are getting in the streets and they're not being heard, and people who are at the negotiating table, they're there for a reason, you can't have one or the other, but I thought they're sending a, a lot more than we expected to.

M

Michael Crawford 17:16

Yeah, there's there's kind of a image of, well, when I, when I look at us in the media, whether it's on television, or in newspapers, or on the radio, it's usually I mean, the picture you get is of a middle class white male, and it's someone between 30 and 50. Because once you're over 50, you're just out of the loop. When you're under 30, you're not even included. And if you are a woman and of color, you don't count anywhere. Why is that necessarily not a good thing?

S

Speaker 4 17:56

Just for the longest time, I mean, even our, you know, four founding fathers were white and middle class, I mean, for the longest time, this whole system was based on white dominating, male who are middle class, and people were the real people of America, the slaves are the minorities or the woman have no voice, and it's a continuing system, when there are out there so dominating within the gay society within the gay communities, white males are dominating the minorities, what's going to happen, they're going to sell out, they're going to do what's better for them, they don't know what it feels like to be a woman of color, to be a lesbian, or to be a color person at all. And I think that's really sad, because the system is like a circular, and it's gonna go on and go on until we break the chain. So we need, it's really hard to get minorities involved, especially in women, so I think it's really important that we strive for those core goals to have more women, more visible and more minorities, people of color, especially.

M

Michael Crawford 18:48

If you'd like to join in our discussion, the number to call is 526-KPFT, 526-5738. Call up, we'll put you on air have your, make your voice heard. Um, let's, let's, let's, explore a little of this, the idea of the, the uniform white gay male, middle class thing. And that agenda that seems to follow from that. It seems that in some ways, a certain group of people or that monolithic type, white male image, seems to promote a certain political agenda. Whereas all the rabble rousers, you know, the people of color, the women, the young people, the older queers, the, the people who are not moderate and, you know, discreet and lowkey gets shoved out of the way. Paul,

you're involved a lot in, in direct action oriented type groups. How do you feel about the fact that a lot of the publicity that Queer Nation got, you were, you were criticized for by the more, the establishment type of homosexual leaders?

S Speaker 3 19:58

Well, we, we came under attack by the establishment for engaging in actions and policies that now, I now consider to be rather moderate. I've moved to the left a considerable bit, but just to speak more in general about the type of agenda that these particular white centered Eurocentric bourgeois centered images creates, that agenda is one, which, as Vivian note-- noted, is one which excludes many segments of our communities. When a white middle class male says that issues such as housing rights, or the right to a job is not part of the queer agenda, that white gay male is not recognizing that in queer politics, as it's defined today, by the establishment, there are certain assumptions made by the good homosexual establishment about what a queer's class position is. For example, in the 80s, the more moderate segments of the movement called for a right to privacy, okay, the idea that we're going to get in our bedrooms, and whatever we do behind closed doors, is our business. And once we have that rival, we've got it made. Well, in this country, in order to exercise your right to privacy, you've got to have a bedroom to be in, you've got to have a home. What does this mean for homeless queers? It doesn't mean anything, it doesn't apply to them, because they are out in what is considered public spaces are in parks and under under bridges, and they don't, under that kind of system where we would base our rights solely on right to privacy, they wouldn't have any rights. So all these kind of assumptions about economic status and racial status and so forth, affect the agenda. And I think you see that reflected in these images that we have of white, bourgeois queers.

M Michael Crawford 22:02

And one thing you were talking about housing rights, it should be pointed out, is that it's estimated that 50% of the young people on the streets are queer, meaning they are our kids, they are us. But if housing rights are not seen as on the queer agenda, what's up with those queer kids who have no house?

S Speaker 1 22:24

They having no lights.

M Michael Crawford 22:25

Yes. How do you think it negatively affects you, Sarah, as a lesbian of color, Hispanic, lesbian, lesbian Latina. How do you think, how do you think it affects, negatively affects you, seeing only images of white men and take, take into account the things that have been said by them? For example, one of the one of the things that have come out recently was Chris Bacon's overwhelming support of Sam Nuchia. Now, as a woman, you have a different view of that you mean, particularly with all the cases of harassment by women, I mean, harassment of women, by police officers? And we know how his police officers treat Hispanic people?

S

Speaker 1 23:14

Yes, I mean, trying to keep within FCC guidelines when I talk, so, um, I don't know, anyway, I think about it first, I have to think about it as a person of color. And I and then I think about it, you know, as a as a queer, and then as a woman sometimes, because sometimes I don't, you know, I look at myself, and it's just, you know, there's, we need to do something really bad. We need to get better organized. We need, I think there's a, there's a woman's room spinning off of ACT UP for women, and we're going to try to deal with women's issues, dealing with AIDS and things like that. But as far as Nuchia is concerned, I mean, you know, I want to take him up on another day, we don't have enough time for all the, you know, harassment with him, not only as you know, in Hispanics, but, you know, the queers, everything, you know, I mean, I'm not, I'm not a citizen, as far as, you know, the government in this city, country, you know, is concerned. And another thing I'd also like to point out is, I'm so upset with Clinton, right now. The fact that you know, he went to go see, so called, I'm also Catholic. I'm not a practicing, practicing Catholic. So I'm really upset about the fact that, you know, we're there in Colorado, and they need to make sure you know, people know that, not only that, but the media. I've already called the media and let them know, you know, I didn't care about the coverage and the fact that I hope they're not spending a lot of money in Colorado also. It's just hard to get all my thoughts together because I'm so ticked off this week. I do have a Clinton sticking, sticker on my car. But that's only because I work in Republican Land in 1960. And I just feel like I have to stand by it since I did you know, support him back then even though he's basically turned all the way around on us.

M

Michael Crawford 25:19

Vi, if, how do you think the people who are always in the media, the people, well, the white men who are always in the media, how do you think they get to that position? How do you think they get to where they dominate our media coverage, and therefore dominate and control our agenda, the queer agenda?

S

Speaker 4 25:40

Basically selling out and becoming a gay male who's really looking straight and think straight. And basically sell out the community, I think. I think, of course they are, they have the advantage of having the money to get better, better educated, to know that people and to get around, and they are better informed because they do read up on things, and they are better educated, they do have the financial situation to do that. And since they are, they have an easier break in white male, being a proper gay, people when they see them, they don't look gay, don't act gay, they act pretty straight.

M

Michael Crawford 26:16

Right.

S

Speaker 1 26:16

S

Speaker 4 26:16

And sells out the community so that's acceptable. So I think they could get up the ladder that way, and basically dominate what is going on within the gay media.

M

Michael Crawford 26:26

Yeah. Go ahead.

S

Speaker 1 26:27

Not only that, most of the males that are, you know, up there, like making moves, they can afford to go to these lunches. They can afford to go to all these little, you know, get togethers, and we can't even afford to, you know, to go to or even get into the door. Because I'm sure, you know, if Michael and I were to go, you know, they'd probably shut the door, bolt it down and call in the National Guard, you know, there's a bunch of beggars out there, you know, and we'd get arrested. Whereas they would probably just say, alright, you know, here comes a token. Yeah, you know, and let them in.

M

Michael Crawford 27:02

Yeah, and I think one thing that particularly irritates me, and I don't want this to seem like we're bashing white men, because Paul is one, is that I think, in a lot of ways, a lot of the establishment, white men, see themselves, I mean, their view of politics, of queer politics, in particular, seems to be that the only thing wrong with the world is the issue of gay rights. And that all it needs is a bit of minor tinkering. And the world will be perfect. They seem to kind of think that if we present, since, since they are like that, they tend to think that the people, middle America, who they're trying to appeal to or suck up to is this white man, and I guess we don't, we're not considered middle America. And so they keep saying things like, oh, we just want the opportunity to be just as normal as you are. And I saw the guy, Scott Peck, whose father said he didn't want him in the military, because he was a fag, say this and he was wearing this, he and his boyfriend were wearing these starts to white button down shirts, and these khakis, and Topsiders. And it was the most disgusting thing. Not because, not necessarily because they were dressed badly or anything like that. But I think my real frustration, and my real problem is the lack of diversity of images. I mean, for example, we haven't seen people like Paul on the media, except when they chained themselves to the White House, or, you know, this, that or the other. How do we let these people get in control of our image? And what can we do to change that?

S

Speaker 3 28:44

Well, I think that we let them get in control of the image sometime around November 4 of 1992, when Bill Clinton was elected, and almost everybody and our communities, gay and lesbian and transgender and bisexual, and everybody began kowtowing to the Democratic Party Clinton line, you had major figures and ACT UP in cities like San Francisco, begin saying, oh, now it's time to work in the system. You know, and it's time for me to start boating up my resume and get that little like, blue flannel blazer and my gray slacks all ready to go to

Washington, right. And the Democrat came in after, you know, 12 years of Reagan and Bush, they were ready for a Democrat. They, I think reasonably expected Clinton to be somewhat better than the Republicans. And they let direct action tactics, which has propped this, the movement up for the past six years, go by the wayside. And I think we're seeing the effects of that now. When there isn't any kind of organized response to the attacks are coming back from the Clinton administration now. I think it was Clinton's election that caused the problem of people no longer responding in a militant manner to the problems at hand, it totally became the responsibility of the homosexual establishment.

M

Michael Crawford 30:11

I think it kind of sort of began to change with the March on Washington, or at least, I mean, because I spent lots of time with, with ACT UP people and with Queer Nation people, and even even at the March on Washington, it's fashionable to bash ACT UP and Queer Nation and say, direct action tactics are over. And all we need to do is worked on crafting our image, and so on and so forth. But when I was there, Queer Nation and ACT UP were really critical of Clinton, and they were the only groups that were attacking Clinton, particularly ACT UP Seattle, witch, and they had a lot of they, they had a lot of fun. I think the question now is, how do we manage it so that we get more diverse voices heard?

S

Speaker 1 30:57

I think we need to, you know, go out and start just dragging the people under the waters. Because I mean, myself. I know, I can say that, during the Republican Convention, I got wiped out afterwards, you know, and my work, you know, everything slagged in my relationship, and all that kind of stuff. And I took, you know, a break for a while. And then I started looking at it, and I started getting mad all over again, because I thought, you know, things were gonna change, how naive, hello, and then I woke up. And that's when, you know, starting to get active again, you know, but I mean, we can't even take a break. And we need to let everybody know that we cannot back off, whether they think we're radical or whatever, because people like, my lover, for instance, she always tells me to chill out, you know, because sometimes people will say something, and I mean, I bark at them at their house. And I tell him, I'm not gonna sit here and let you talk like this in front of me, you know, I don't care if these are your kids, and this is your house, I'm not gonna sit here and allow you to talk like this in front of me. And she gets upset, you know, because she says, you know, you need to, you know, learn how to go with the flow. And I said no, people need to know when I'm in the room, they're not going to do this. And we need to let just never let our guard down, and never back off. And we need to get more people to come back. And to get him to get mad because we're not doing anything anymore.

M

Michael Crawford 32:19

In particular, I think we need to get more people involved and, and encourage people to speak up.

S

Speaker 1 32:24

I like call

LIVE CALL

M

Michael Crawford 32:25

Yeah, call 526-5738, 526-KPFT. And make your voice heard. Because it seems to me that particularly in the case of queers of color, they not only don't get involved in political groups, but when they do, they don't speak up. And it's, it's pretty funny, because when you look around and you take stock of say, the media attention that the queer community in Houston has gotten over the past year, there haven't been very many queer of color voices. I mean, there's, yeah, I mean, there's been me, but only because I'm loud.

S

Speaker 1 33:04

No.

M

Michael Crawford 33:07

In case you didn't know.

S

Speaker 1 33:08

A little teet louder than she is.

M

Michael Crawford 33:11

But it's kind of frustrating, because I know that I don't like represent the mainstream of black queer thought, you know, and it's, it pretty, it amazes me that we are, because I think we allow a lot of it to happen. For example, with the gay health conference that was here a few weeks back, we didn't really make an effort to publicize that. I mean, I am a big, you know, visibility queen, media whore, that whole type of thing. And I think when we allow the people who have been doing it always to continue doing it, we don't get any play and we don't get hurt.

S

Speaker 3 33:57

Well, I think there's also the aspect that you have to get people of color involved in these organizations, you also and of course, the presence of people of color will help to facilitate this, you have to fundamentally begin to change the agenda in the queer community, right, we have to begin to address issues of concern to queers of color, we have to be in addressing issues of concern to poor queers or lesbians. You know, housing rights. I spoke to that. We have a lot and a lot of similar interests with other oppressed communities such as the African American community. Last August, we were attacked by the police at the Republican National Convention. Police violence is an issue of constant concern to the African American community with two murders in Houston over the past couple of years that garnered a lot of attention of Ida Delaney and Byron Gillum, and we need to start drawing the connections with other

oppressed communities around certain issues that we have common interest in, and then that way we can begin to, you know, diversify the kind of image that we have and diversify the agenda and get it on the right track, because we're not going to have any kind of victory by just limiting it to a bunch of white queers. We've got to broaden it.

M

Michael Crawford 35:19

And that was kind of kind of a pretty obvious during the whole debate around careers in the military. Because when you had someone like Colin Powell, black man, stand here and say,

S

Speaker 1 35:30

Not black, he thinks he is.

M

Michael Crawford 35:34

But when you had him stand there and say that he did not think the queers and military issue was similar to blacks in the military in the 1940s, white queers had no response. And they couldn't really have a response. But me, black man, I could have stand there, could have stood there and outlined the similarities because I am both black and queer, and I know what's going on. So it's also a situation where when we left that diversity, we lacked the ability to respond in the media. And I'm really big on media. I mean, Paul, you know, that I'm just a total media queen. And I think that's one way that we can get over. I'd like to just shift the discussion a little bit to the queer media, in particular. Vi, what do you think are the responsibilities of the queer media to the queer communities?

S

Speaker 4 36:30

Okay, before I answer that, can I make one more comment? Sure, please. Well, Paul was talking about I think it's really sad, because I think I haven't actually believe this, because the Republicans have done nothing, basically, for the past 12 years that when Clinton came along, everybody had very high hopes. He was kidding. I'm saying he's doing exactly what the Republicans did, nothing. He's doing nothing for anybody but himself. I mean, that's all he's doing is doing nothing just like Bush and Reagan did. And I think it's really sad because people really believe that they were going to do something and make change in this nation. And they're not, they're not. I mean, they have proved they're not doing anything at all. And what you talked about minorities not wanting to speak up, I think minority queers especially don't want to speak up, they want to fit into that mainstream. You know, they're already bad enough. They're minorities, but they want to fit in some, okay, everybody wants to fit in and feel loved and feel wanted and feel like they belong. But if they do speak up against the system, they're X. And, that is it. And that's one more reason why they cannot fit into the society, which is really sad. I mean, what they should be really doing is, oh, I can make a difference. Oh, I'm a minority? I need to work for my people, which is not going to happen. Only very few are, will think that way. And what you talked about queer media, you asked me?

M

Michael Crawford 37:42

Yeah. What do you think the queer media's responsibility is to the queer communities?

S

Speaker 4 37:46

Their responsibility is to look at the overall big picture of the queer agenda, which is not, I mean, if you look at, can I name names,

M

Michael Crawford 37:58

Name names please.

S

Speaker 4 37:58

Okay, TWIT, The Voice and every gay magazine have picked up, at least in Houston, is you see white male, just a meat market. I mean, there's more to it than that. I mean, and that's exactly what people perceive queers are, you know, about sex. So but, it's more than a spirituality. It's about, you know, ourselves and humans. And they don't really face a lot the issues. They really don't. I mean, everything is dominated by white males. Even the queer media itself is dominated by white males. So we're not getting issues like you know, the Asian society is very ignorant when it comes to AIDS and queers, they are. I mean, they all care mostly about business and how they could get along in deciding fit in in America. And there's a lot of agents who are in the closet of afraid to come out and don't have focusing issues as you know,