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Tue, Nov 29, 2022 9:26AM

27:51

## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

lesbian, people, women, lobby, houston, talk, call, gay, word, years, role models, hate crimes, queer, love, men, lesbian gay, speaker, executive director, involved, laurie

## SPEAKERS

Speaker 10, Speaker 7, [Music], Speaker 11, Speaker 8, Speaker 12, Speaker 9, Jewel Gray, Speaker 13, Jimmy Carper, Diane Williams

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S

Speaker 7 00:04

You're Jewish, right? You're from Jersey?

S

Speaker 8 00:07

Yeah, South Jersey, and we immigrated to the US.

S

Speaker 7 00:12

Now, you actually came out of the closet, in the 70s. In an interview in the Village Voice, you came out as bisexual.

S

Speaker 8 00:18

Well, it's real, you know, those are such volatile terms, you know, because a woman I know said, you know, well, if, if you've slept with a woman, but you're really attracted to men, does that make you gay? And I said, no, no, I guess that makes you bisexual. But I personally have a problem with that term right now, because I feel like there are a lot of people who have come out as bisexuals. And it's almost a safety net right now with all the civil rights problems going on. So I'm using the word gay. I guess I use gay rather than lesbian because I feel like male homosexuals got to have a whole new word you know, and female homosexual got to keep lesbians though I, I use gay as a kind of catch all term. Probably politically incorrect. I have a lot of trouble with the word queer, how about you? I use the word queer sometimes for shock value just to get people over the hump, because I meet so many people who really think they've never met a gay person before. And if I use the word queer, they're so freaked out by that that everything else I say comes as almost normal. I do think you have to de-mythologize words, I think words are an amazingly mystical thing that conjure up all sorts of unconscious

images. And if, if I'm dealing in songs like *Breaking Silence*, the title of the album, which is about incest, and I choose to use a line my children broken on the bed, you know, that conjures up a whole set of images from everything from a broken doll on a bed to someone on the rack in the Inquisition that are unconscious that are moving through my audience's mind. So words to me are real powerful, but at the same time you have to play with them.

[ **M** [Music] 01:59

Thoughts unspoken, thoughts unsaid. Lies of hearth and home. Children broken on the bed. And left to lie alone. Things you talk around. Scum you chock on down. Come into my solitude. Step on sacred ground. We were speaking of values and violence, breaking silence.

**S** Speaker 8 02:42

The coming out thing is, I was outed by the *Village Voice* basically they were looking for a serious cover story and there was a young reporter who outed me, Elton, and David Bowie all in the same month. And I find it very offensive when people out someone, I think it's real arrogant. Personally because I know so many people who would lose their jobs. Times have changed a lot since the mid 70s. Though, you know, to me at this point, if I'm not part of the solution, I become the problem.

**S** Speaker 7 03:11

Bert Weiland brings us more of the words and music out again singer songwriter, Janis Ian, next time I'm this way out

**J** Jimmy Carper 03:26

Okay, and so along with that, why don't we hear something off of that new album by Janis Ian and it's one that you've heard before when we really like it's called "Ride Me Like a Wave."

**D** Diane Williams 03:52

And how're you doing? We're on the air. We do have a call from the lovely Laurie Eiserloh. She's the executive, currently the Executive Director of the Lesbian Gay Rights Lobby. And Laurie is on the phone with us now. Hi, Laurie.

**S** Speaker 9 04:08

Hi, how you doing?

**D** Diane Williams 04:09

Oh, just fine. I'm sorry to keep you up so late.

 S Speaker 9 04:12

Oh, it's alright.

 D Diane Williams 04:13

I appreciate the call. I know you're at a friend's wedding or something in another state long distance and everything.

 S Speaker 9 04:19

That's right.

 D Diane Williams 04:20

Well, I'm glad you could call. I went to the banquet tonight the Houston Lesbian and Gay Political Caucus banquet. And Torie Osborn was the speaker and it was wonderful. It was not only a who's who it was just an incredible evening. We haven't gone to the tape of that yet. We haven't discussed a lot of what went on there yet. I was hoping to do that a little bit later on in the evening. Right now, I was really interested in talking with you about your position, what you're doing, what you've been doing at the lobby, and how that role has changed for you over the years. How'd you get involved in what exactly do you do there? Tell everybody that opening.

 S Speaker 9 04:57

I'm sorry to miss the banquet. First of all, and I did put in some money for a ticket, and in a letter as well, I had to miss it, my partner's brother was getting married. We're out in New Mexico for the wedding. Now, it's interesting, Diane, because I just decided that I'll retire from Lesbian and Gay Rights Lobby in November. I'm still the director, and I'll continue being the director until then. Mostly the reason why I'm doing that is because, you know, my, my partner and I just bought a house together. And I'm about to turn 30.

 D Diane Williams 05:35

Settling.

 S Speaker 9 05:36

Yeah, and we just need to start making more money and settling down a little bit. It's, it's been a tough three years, to explain three years. I got involved with the Lesbian and Gay Rights

Lobby right after I got out of law school. For a job as a lobbyist, and why I take when [unintelligible] was dragged to run for public office. And it was a tragic thing for everyone everywhere. And that timeline was I made executive director. So that's how I got involved. It's been a terrific time. Loved it.

 Diane Williams 06:11

So what did you do there? What did you, what were your main duties as executive director and lobbyist? And how has that changed over the three years that you've been there?

 Speaker 9 06:20

Well, as you know, the [unintelligible], director and lobbyist, they really couldn't change all that, much. Primarily, what my duties are the state capitol, and I talk about issues affecting one thing in the community. AIDS issues, lobby on lesbian and gay issues. Over the years, I have blocked such thing as an attempt to criminalize HIV positive healthcare workers. Attempts to cut the AIDS budget by 94%. I've blocked attempts to make it illegal, the group that is ACT UP, to protest in front of State Capitol. And I've passed good laws that improve funeral home regulations as well as a hate crime bill. Then, well, the first, first hate crimes bill was a Statistics Act, that helps us count the number of people affected by hate crimes, the second hate crime law that I worked on with a penalty provision that punished hate crimes against lesbian, gay people, people of color. You know, various groups that are discriminated against. So I've worked on that. I also, I guess, over the years, probably the most disappointing time I had there was when I worked on the repealed section 2106. The support of the Houston legislative delegation, and representative, incredibly important, and that's that's, it was out there. Getting out to toward people like John Whitmire, people like Garnet Coleman, Debra Danburg. Really strong supporters, repealing unjust laws. Unfortunately, we lost it by, really by one vote.

 Diane Williams 08:21

I think we're kind of losing you here. Can you speak up a bit?

 Speaker 9 08:24

Yeah, sure.

 Diane Williams 08:25

There you go. We talked to Pat, Pat Gandy was here earlier, and she was, not this evening. She was here a few weeks ago, and she was telling us about the vote and actually what 2106, how the vote was handled and how the Speaker of the House kind of was our friend and then now isn't, can you tell us a little bit about that real quickly?

 Speaker 9 08:46



Speaker 9 00:40

Yeah, certainly. No, we really had worked a lot with the speaker. And I think a lot of real gay people and lesbian people have been involved with his election as the speaker of the house early on, and that he was being supportive of our issues. We didn't, you know, even though we talked at great length, we really didn't know that he was willing to sort of put pressure behind the members of the house until after it was too late. Now, clearly, he was not supporting us. So I cannot say that he's a friend of our communities. I just don't think he is, and I think he's better than Gib Lewis. I do not think he's supporting gay and lesbian issues, you know, it's hard to say but I just don't see that happening.



Diane Williams 09:38

What do you see the future of the lobby? What do you see? And I know that you said you'd be resigning. Do you have any short term ideas of where it's going to be going and specifically long term ideas? What can we do to get more involved with the lobby? What is the lobby need most right now?



Speaker 9 09:57

Well, we always need money clearly. But that's not directly the reason I'm resigning. You know, as I said, I've been doing it for three years, and I'm just, someone else has to do it. I think that, you know, our long term plan, we have a lesbian gay rights lobby, there's no way around it. You know, I was working on AIDS funding. And I talked to the house speaker, committee about this AIDS funding issue, and I said, look, I've got to know, we have this money, you're gonna get your funds working, then you're lobbying, testifying, putting in those amendments so that the AIDS money is restored, and the people who don't have their lobbies here are not going to get their money. Now consider what that means. And it's like murder, it's horrible, we must have lesbian gay rights lobby. So there will be one and we're, we're searching for an executive director right now. Nationwide, so interested to definitely send their, their resume.



Jewel Gray 11:08

Laurie, this is Jewel Gray. I'm one of the co-producers of the program. Yeah. And the question I'd like to ask you is, who do you see coming up behind you, what do our, you know, candidates look like to step into those mighty shoes, I want to let you know that we personally are very proud.



Diane Williams 11:24

We love you.



Jewel Gray 11:25

Og the job you've done and really, really ache to see this your, your time with the lobby come an end?

D

Diane Williams 11:33

We want to buy you a new car.

J

Jewel Gray 11:35

Or something, yeah. But I mean, we speak about you a lot here on the program. But what I'd like to know is being from your seat, and I don't have any perspective from, from that point. Well, who do you see coming up to step into the fill the shoes?

D

Diane Williams 11:51

Not only the people, different people you might see that might be a candidate, but also what are the qualifications, you think that you would need to do this job? What did you learn?

S

Speaker 9 12:00

Yeah, well, the two people have expressed an interest. One is, is Dianne Hardy-Garcia and the other is Rich Bailey. I know lots of people, lots of people are going to put their names. And you know, I have to warn you that, that it's, you know, it's a tough job. I know a lot of other first graders do it. But they have to keep that in mind. The quality, really the qualities, we're looking for someone who has an interest in politics, someone who has a proven fundraising record, and proven political record. You know, as far as their interest goes, and I know we're doing a nationwide search, it's gonna be tough, but, you know, we'll find someone, we will find someone. I've told the community, I'm telling everyone, you know, I'm not leaving until we, until we find a replacement.

D

Diane Williams 12:49

That's great.

S

Speaker 9 12:50

Yeah, no, cut out the arrow. You know, it's incredibly important organization. And this session has proved it to me that no matter what, got to have no, so we'll, we'll find someone good and really want everyone in Houston, the Houston community has been ,well, I appreciate your support, it's very, very simple to our best over the years. I know that there's some talented people that are encouraging them to apply.

D

Diane Williams 13:18

I want to ask you a couple of quick overall questions, since you've been in kind of the vortex of Texas evil as Irv would say. Do what do you think about? I'm going to ask you really broad

TEXAS CIV, AS CIV WOULD SAY. DO WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT? I'M GOING TO ASK YOU FEWLY BROAD questions. We've heard that this is the decade of the lesbian, how do you think women are being represented, especially women in general in, in politics in Texas, and especially lesbians in the political structure. I know that we've always been pretty active, but I'll tell you even at the dinner tonight, everywhere I looked, there were tables that had all men, you know, a table full of eight men, a table full of eight men, a table full of eight men. Oh, look, there's a woman and every time I saw a woman, I was a little joyful.



Speaker 9 14:03

It, you know, we needed more and more lesbians to get involved with politics. And I, especially in Texas, I think, you know, it's been a terrific summer. We, on a wedding weekend, all weekend long, we've been teasing about this being the summer of lesbian love and I really, you know, it's, it's tough. It's a tough place to be and we, you know, certainly I think in Texas, going back so you've done a lot to get the gay lesbian people everywhere but a lot you know, a lot of women really need to be sort of made enthusiastic by other women being involved in the process because they feel, we have felt, we have been left out for so long. I think groups like LIB have done its job as far as getting women involved in lesbian and gay politics, even if it's at, you know, a pretty basic level. Some, they just go to meetings. But you know, or some people, maybe they do get involved with campaigns. We need everyone from the letter, stuffers to the people who are willing to run for public office. Yeah, we need more. And we know once again, played a big role in getting lesbians involved, just like LIB.



Diane Williams 15:23

Yeah. Well, I want to know, who are your role models? I mean, who do you look at and say, I know there's a lot of gay people in the media right now. There's been there's been talk of, you know, k.d. lang and Martina coming out and being active and everything. On a, on a larger scale her your role models, and in a smaller scale, I know many of us look to lesbians of power and think of people like yourself, and who do you see as role models?



Speaker 9 15:56

As role models? Well, you know, it's funny, because once again, there's lots of Houstonians, play a pretty big role as, as role models in my life, I really, you know, it's funny, because I really, really love women and I have a lot of women who will



Diane Williams 16:11

We like that about you.



Speaker 9 16:12

Really, do. You know, people like Pat Gandy, definite role models for me, Terri Richardson, in a lot of ways, you know, and even though, you know, I always say Gene is an honorary lesbian, Gene Harrington is a role model for me. It's made a huge influence in the way I think about

politics. I try to do my job. Those are, those are some of the folks. Urv, Urvashi Vaid has always been a role model for me, I think she's terrific. Torie Osborn, I don't know that well. But I've been lately, I've really been trying to follow her more closely. See, I was in her talk in Los Angeles and used my first suggestion to sort of restructure the Lesbian Gay rights Lobby board and the way, and I think she's an amazing woman and other activists that maybe people don't know Austin activist. My friend, Skip who who died, well Bill Hunt in Dallas also passed away. I really, I really appreciate people who are willing to get everything, heart and gold to the cause, and I look up to those people. And every, every single person I just mentioned are folks that are willing to do that. I hate to start naming, next to the names because then it's like, why didn't you mention so and so like, I think Annise Parker is a terrific woman, I really look up to her. And I think Suzanne Anderson is a sick woman. But you know, I have a lot of, I have a lot of different, alot of different leaders out there. A lot of people I look to this, for some reason, this weekend, I just keep making that ringtone and I don't know why. I guess because I sent out that announcement to the press before I left and I just, you know, I, the whole weekend to keep the current dean is really the one who taught me an awful lot of what I'm saying.

 Diane Williams 18:26

Kind of losing you here. Well, I just wanted to say thank you. And those of us here. There are many of us here, especially at the radio station, especially a lot of us women within the activist community look to women like yourself, for our role models, I know that we've always appreciate the work you do. And it's hard for us to say in ways that truly, truly, you know, manifest themselves materially. But we certainly feel it and we give you all love, all the love in the world. And we hope that you and your partner are having a great weekend and come home safely.

 Jewel Gray 19:02

Yeah, and I want you to know that if you decide to run for a public office in this state, you have my vote.

 Diane Williams 19:08

You got my vote, babe.

 Speaker 9 19:09

I appreciate it. I really do appreciate that, you know, all throughout the years, KPFT has been great. And it's so important to what we're trying to do at the state level. Everything off support, I always, always, you know, I mean, that's it, now your material support, whatever, that's important, but the most important thing is the moral support and it's tough. We're gonna win. We're gonna win the battle and we're gonna win the war and I think, I think I like

 Jewel Gray 19:42

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Soldiers like yourself, we have no doubt, we're gonna let you get back to bed.

D Diane Williams 19:47

Well, thanks for staying up late, hon.

J Jewel Gray 19:48

Appreciate it.

S Speaker 9 19:49

All right. All right. Well, y'all have a good evening. Okay.

D Diane Williams 19:55

Cool. We love you. Thank you.

J Jewel Gray 19:58

Stayed up this late and be asleep.

D Diane Williams 20:00

That's right, well, you know, it is an hour earlier there. She's in Santa Fe or someplace. So this is an hour earlier, but one o'clock is still late if you're if, you've been wedding, wedding

J Jewel Gray 20:10

And that kind of stuff, and she paid for the call, so.

D Diane Williams 20:13

She did. Actually, I don't know whether or not she paid for the call. I think maybe the Lesbian Gay Rights Lobby paid for the call, perhaps, perhaps mother in law paid for the call. But thank you all at that too.

J Jewel Gray 20:25

So yeah, that was really nice. Well, we're going to, we're going to take a break here and then we're going to give this back to Jimmy and let him do some of the QMZ.

 Diane Williams 20:34

That would be queer music zone.

 Speaker 10 20:41

I'm not home right now. But if you want to leave a message, just start talking at the sound of the tone.

 Speaker 11 20:49

It's 10 o'clock Friday night, and I'm at the station doing my radio show. Esoteric Adventures, where my co host and I bring you the oddities and highlights from the recorded universe. So hang up, tune in to 90.1, and don't call back or you'll wake up my fish. Don't forget that's Esoteric Adventures with your flight attendants, Jim squared on KPFT Houston.

 Speaker 10 21:22

Well, you know don't know me but I know you.

 Speaker 12 22:03

Friday night, Big Jesus Trash Can dumpster dancers bringing you a sampling of counterculture trash, metal, hip hop, punk. Hardcore, alternative guitar rock, comedy and listener requests. It's three hours of cool, old radio with a hand gun and lots of love and understanding.

 Speaker 13 22:35

The dumpster can be heard when Friday meets Saturday on weird radio KPFT Houston.

 Jimmy Carper 22:44

Yes, you are listening to After Hours, a continuing tradition on KPFT Houston 90.1 FM World Radio for the for the people. And you have Jimmy with the QMZ, do that Diane.

 Diane Williams 23:02

Okay say it again.

J Jimmy Carper 23:03

You have Jimmy with the QMZ.

D Diane Williams 23:06

QMZ. Queer music zone.

J Jimmy Carper 23:13

Ah yes. Couple of things I want to hit on before we get into the music but we almost week we currently got into it already with the, with Janis Ian thing, that was kind of nice, that interview and we've been jamming. We've been jamming. We've been jamming. But something for the guys. And we know you love it. If you've listened to After Hours for years and years and years, it is Wednesday, August 25 at the Montrose Mining Company. It's the Bear of the Month Contest. Yes, lots of men. Lots of hair, lots of hair. And all over, yes. And they show off as much as they can.

D Diane Williams 23:54

And shoulders and arms and everything.

J Jimmy Carper 23:56

Yeah, especially the everything. And that's, always

D Diane Williams 23:59

Butt hair, back hair?

J Jimmy Carper 24:00

Yeah. All over, all over, hot men, hot men.

D Diane Williams 24:07

If they shaved, they'd be cooler.

J Jimmy Carper 24:11

Yeah, but they're hot. That and I got a call from a friend of mine who had just seen a new movie. The Robin Hood movie.

D

Diane Williams 24:23

Men in Tights.

J

Jimmy Carper 24:24

Yes. And she said it was so good, everybody rush out and see it and what we've got to do, she told me that we have to go and sneak in.

D

Diane Williams 24:36

Well don't tell anybody.

J

Jimmy Carper 24:37

Tape recorder so that we can tape record this, you know, half the lines and all of the music. Okay?

D

Diane Williams 24:43

Okay, okay.

J

Jimmy Carper 24:45

We'll do it. We'll do it.

D

Diane Williams 24:46

Sit next to a speaker.

J

Jimmy Carper 24:48

There you go. Tonight, I want to start out the QMZ officially the QMZ with a request.

D

Diane Williams 24:56

QMZ.

J Jimmy Carper 24:58

With a request we got earlier in

D Diane Williams 25:02

Ernie.

J Jimmy Carper 25:02

Ernie. And he asked for a song and Matt came into it. Do we have a song like this? I said, Yes. Yes, "Crabby Day." We haven't played

D Diane Williams 25:13

Did you dedicate for me as well?

J Jimmy Carper 25:16

Oh, is there a reason?

D Diane Williams 25:18

No.

J Jimmy Carper 25:18

Oh, okay. Yeah, cuz it's Pansy Division. And those guys are coming to Houston. I keep telling you. It's on October 21. They will be in Houston. Now, where is the thing, they're negotiating now, and I'll be in touch with them. Because as soon as they've got a place, I will let you know. So let's go ahead and get to Pansy Division, "Crabby Day." Okay, that was Ron Romanovsky. We haven't heard from him in a while. And it's about time we did, that's off of his solo album. He is with Romanovsky and Phillips, of course, that was "Baby Take Advantage of Me." And before that was Suede. Yes. That was the Suede that Jewel was talking about earlier, those Suede that she saw in Washington, the woman doing "Miss Celie's Blues," "Sister." And we started out of course with Pansy Division. We're going to cut the QMZ a little short tonight, because we have so much more to bring you on After Hours. We've got a little piece that, guess what Deborah Bell is going to be on After Hours after all, sleep or not asleep. She's interviewing Phyllis Randolph Frye. And that's, there's going to be some sort of conference going on very soon. So we wanted to get that in. And we have a piece that Diane did for Torie Osborn. So we're going to end up tonight, the QMZ with something that I've been wanting to do for a while, it's, um, the Gay Men's Chorus. And it's my favorite, favorite piece for a men's choir. It's called "There Comes a Time." And it's for everybody out there. Everyone who likes men's choruses.

