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SPEAKERS

Jimmy Carper, Dee McKellar, Gigi, Elizabeth Richards, Michelle

J

Jimmy Carper 00:44

Yes, After Hours and continuing tradition KPFT Kingston 90.1 FM. The crew of After Hours is ready to bring you news, interviews and music geared for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people. Here at After Hours, we may be diverse, but we have one thing in common. We are all out of the closet and urge everyone to come out of their closets. That means standing up for yourself, taking responsibility for your own life and being proud of who you are. Realistically, we know not everyone can do that because of a job or frame of mind. That's okay. We're here for you too. So sit back, relax, and enjoy this week's edition of After Hours. Hello, Houston you've tuned into after hours queer radio with attitude. I'm Jimmy Carper. And with me tonight is Gigi. Yeah, there. Bisexuals are in the house.

G

Gigi 02:16

Baby and we've got a program lined up tonight. We're gonna be doing first thing we're gonna do is transgender warriors. Leslie Feinberg.

J

Jimmy Carper 02:27

Yeah, that's the new book out by Leslie.

G

Gigi 02:28

Yeah, so I'm gonna be interviewing J she's gonna kind of go over what the books about. Oh, great. Give it a break. A plug bit.

J

Jimmy Carper 02:38

I've heard good things about that. Yeah.

G

Gigi 02:40

And we're also going to talk a little bit about with the Pride Parade coming up by Nance gonna have a float. Oh, we're going to be in the community when pride. And right in line with the theme and the parade this year. I don't want to give anything away early.

J

Jimmy Carper 02:58

But well, you were in the parade last year that last year marked the first time bisexuals as a group were in the parade. Yeah. And that was great.

G

Gigi 03:07

So I want to talk a little bit about the forming sense of community.

J

Jimmy Carper 03:15

Getting to that point.

G

Gigi 03:16

Yeah. I mean, we are becoming a part of the community. A very viable part, I think. Oh, I think so too. And, you know, since we've gotten the new phone number in, you got Do you have a new phone number? Yeah, by net has a new phone number. And I'll have to look it up later.

J

Jimmy Carper 03:41

Really new.

G

Gigi 03:44

So anyway, since we've gotten the line in, we've been getting a lot of calls and talking to a lot of people. So we know you're out there and we want to let you know that there is a community here for you. Oh, yeah. And you're always welcome by or by friendly.

J

Jimmy Carper 04:05

Okay. And we're also going to have the old farts tape is how we lovingly talk about it. It's, it's a tape that was made several years ago, where Ray Hill and I interviewed some of the old timers in the gay and lesbian community folks that were around before Stonewall. So we'll get some

insight on how people felt and act and reacted to the news of Stonewall. That'll be coming up in the second half of the show, I think. And we've got because you have called and complained that we haven't done enough pumc Lately, QMZ queer music zone, which is a segment of music played by openly gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered artists. We're going to be doing that tonight and probably be doing Get a lot more in the future. Right now I well coming up also I'm going to talk to D McKellar and talk about what's going on with spectrum spectrum is alive and well and going strong. But before that we're going to go to a piece of music by local artist pink, who has we'll be we'll be opening for the pride Fest and also did some work for spectrum and she's been there for the gay community for years and years years. We're proud to present her work this is off of last year CD, which is called hush the drama, okay, had that covered up sorry. But this is this is my favorite cut off the song. It's called give and take and it's a great song for the queer community. I give you. Pink is pink and the album is called hush the drama and the cut is given take. You're listening to it on after hours queer radio with attitude on KPFT Houston and KEOS College Station on Jimmy Carper. With me tonight is Dee McKellar. Dee is what are you now with spectrum?

D Dee McKellar 06:28

Well, I'm what I have been for all along. Oh, I'm the Secretary on the board of directors.

J Jimmy Carper 06:33

Oh, okay. And what's going on with spectrum these days?

D Dee McKellar 06:36

Well, it's interesting, I think is the way to put it. You know, it's kind of strange being in here without that cute little redhead. What's her name? Sarah?

J Jimmy Carper 06:48

Oh, I know. And I know, it's it's almost like I bet you feel like the kindergarten class without the teacher-.

D Dee McKellar 06:58

Will kind of put you know, it's not a transgender issue. This, this is something that affects the entire gay, lesbian, bi and transgender community. It's the organization name is officially town meeting Incorporated. And that's the group that put on the spectrum 95 event a year ago, and had RuPaul in concert a month ago. Right. Okay. Now, as most people know, by now, spectrum 95. had a fantastic concert. I mean, it was great. The only trouble is, nobody came. Yeah, I know. We had a 7000 seat venue. We were honestly expecting to have fell it. And basically nobody bought a ticket to come. Well, you can imagine what that did to the finances. Sure. Ah, and when you're an organization with no assets, or no tangible assets, and no regular income,

the kind of loss we had was staggering. Yes, yes. Well, the logical thing would have been to declare bankruptcy, let the court allocate the proceeds that we did get, because we did take in some money from the business expo. And then we just would have walked away.

 Jimmy Carper 08:32

Well, I think that's group would have done that.

 Dee McKellar 08:35

That's the business like thing to do. Yeah. The problem was, the board didn't feel comfortable with that. Or we had too many friends, too many neighbors in the community who we owed a bunch of money to. And on a personal level, we just didn't feel right. saying to them, you ain't never gonna get any money back. Now, we kind of alluded to this earlier, I'm saying we because I have been on Secretary on the board for almost all the two years, that town meeting has been in existence. So you've been there from the beginning, almost. It started in June, two years ago, I got on the board in September. And the thing is, I've been to all the meetings. That's my job as Secretary is to take them in. It's I know all the history. And I've been in on all the significant decisions. So I know what's been going on. Anyway. We felt honorbound to make up the losses. Sure. We talked to all our creditors and said, Look, here's the deal. Nobody came. We can't help it. We're going to try. We're going to try to stay in business. We're going to try To do some more things, we're going to try to get some money back. For the most part they went along. Okay. There have been two or three that haven't been quite as cooperative. But that's not really the issue. Anyway. We we'd had good success with the business expo, the exhibitors there had been very happy with the crowds that got with the fact that it was their target audience. So that they had a large number of qualified prospects. They wanted to do it again. We made a little money on the business expo. And we said, Okay, we know, we don't know beans, about concerts, but we do know business expos. So let's do that. Again. Some of the major sponsors indicated that they were interested in doing it again, a lot of exhibitors said, Let's do it again. And so we went to work, we started the planning and started putting everything together. And that is still planned to occur the first weekend in October. Just a business expo, it'll be two days instead of one. Where's it going to be this at the Georgia brown Convention Center? Okay. The reason for two days is people told us, it takes a lot of work to design and set up a booth. And to get prepared. If we can do that for two days, it's much more effective. A one day show is just not really what they wanted.

 Jimmy Carper 11:44

Well, then again, there are people who will maybe work on a Saturday and not on a Sunday Versa.

 Dee McKellar 11:50

We would expect to to pick up different people. Anyhow, so we wouldn't want to after it. Then early this year, actually starting back in November, we found that we had an opportunity to get RuPaul to come to town. And we said hey, this is neat. We're kind of scary of the concert

promotion business. So let's find a partner. Well, we got Rich's involved, they certainly know about concerts. So we use their facility, we use their knowledge, we let them predict what the attendance was likely to be. We consulted with them as to ticket prices. So a lot of the mistakes that we made the previous in the big concert we didn't make. We had a good team on board. We still made a few mistakes. And we had some bad luck besides. And then you read about that. There were two big issues a big issue big issues of the invoice earlier in May. But the fact is we still basically broke even. We understood our costs. We had the audience, the gate pretty well pegged. But we didn't make any big money, unfortunately. But we got a lot of bad press.

J Jimmy Carper 13:14

Yeah, yeah, there was. There were some unhappy people, and so very vocal about it.

D Dee McKellar 13:21

And I'm not I'm not here to talk about those particular issues.

J Jimmy Carper 13:25

Well, it's been talked about. Yes.

D Dee McKellar 13:29

The thing is from that from the very start, we've had a lot of opposition. We've had bar owners who had been real worried about some event that would take people out of Montrose for one or two nights a year. And so they had not let us put literature in their bar.

J Jimmy Carper 13:48

Oh, well, personally, I have to rethink any event that I go to vets out of the Montrose area.

D Dee McKellar 13:58

Transportation can be a problem. But but some people didn't want competition. Other people, and I'm going to be very frank about this have had personal animosity toward our president. Alan Bourgeois. Yeah. He's been the leader from the start. He's the one who had the original dream, the concept behind spectrum which is wonderful. And for two years, he's basically devoted his life to working for it. But he wasn't the right person.

J Jimmy Carper 14:36

Well, he was the right person to start and he was the right person to start it.

D Dee McKellar 14:40

He had the dream that nobody else has had the courage to dream. He just wasn't. His skills aren't what was needed to bring it to fruition.

J Jimmy Carper 14:55

Did you ever see funny lady to know I never even saw a funny lady. Oh, okay. Sorry, are funny girl too or yeah, whatever funny, whatever funny lady that was, that was okay. Okay, he kind of reminds me of the Billy rows of the gay lesbian community, whatever.

D Dee McKellar 15:12

Couple of weeks ago, he resigned, the board accepted his resignation. And he no longer has any voice in policies of the organization. Okay. Then we took another blow, our Vice President clay Howell resigned. Because he's got some other activities that are starting up actually, as of the first of the month. Oh, so he just didn't have time to devote to town meeting-.

J Jimmy Carper 15:42

While you're next in line, aren't you?

D Dee McKellar 15:45

That's right. That means I'm running the organization. I'm the senior board member. Yeah. I'm the only board member who's been there since before. Spectrum 95. And that kind of makes me in charge. And I don't want that job. Oh. Just as Alan wasn't the person to make it happen, neither am I. I know what my strengths are and what my weaknesses are. I can't make it happen. So what we've got is a situation where we need to come back to the community and say, Please, help us. Please. We've, we've had people come up before and say, I'd like to help. But I really have a problem with Alan.

J Jimmy Carper 16:41

Okay, well, now's their time. Now.

D Dee McKellar 16:44

They've got a chance. Yeah.

J Jimmy Carper 16:46

— Because it certainly is a worthy event.

D Dee McKellar 16:49

Yeah. The thing is, anybody who wasn't willing to work with Alan, maybe they'll work with Dee.

J Jimmy Carper 16:57

There you go. I've known you a long time. I can't imagine anybody finding you difficult.

D Dee McKellar 17:02

Well, I can. Maybe together we can make it happen. Now, I know we're not going to pay off that huge debt in one year. Well, but we can make a dent. And there you go. That's the point we want to make a dent in it. We want to get the momentum.

J Jimmy Carper 17:20

I liked the response. I liked the idea that the group is responsible enough to take on the debt and responsibility for it, you know-.

D Dee McKellar 17:30

And what, what we need, we need to prove to ourselves that the community extends beyond the Saturday night bar scene. Alright guys, we need to rise above the factionalism that divides this community where we pit one segment against another town meeting is the only organization in Houston. And spectrum is the only event that openly welcomes all members of the lads by gay community, the queer community or wherever. We're the only ones we need to make that something we can take pride in. Yeah. And we need to do it now. Well, how do we do it? How do we do it? Well, kind of Coincidentally, the bylaws provide that everybody's term of office runs out. While we have we're scheduled for an election of officers at the end of June. And then July is supposed to be a transition month. Well, I think we're not going to bother transitioning too much. You know, if we can get some new blood in, we're not going to wait until the first of August to be effective, right. Also, we're going to waive the bylaws to some extent. They require that for a person to vote for board members, they have to have attended at least three meetings within the last six months. Well, there are precious few people who have done that. Yeah. And in particular, the people we want to bring back in, and there were some people who worked with us in the winter before spectrum 85 and provided a lot of help and saved us from an even bigger disaster. If those people will come back now. If they'll show up.

J Jimmy Carper 19:29

We can do more in your meeting.

D Dee McKellar 19:32

I haven't set a date. It should be the last Tuesday in June. Okay. I don't know the location. I've got to chase that down. Anybody who needs to reach me can get me at 7778452 write a note of here. Now that is my my paper to write Get that down. Well, you can have this press-. 77784845252. Now that I'm using that phone number temporarily, that that is the the line for the Transgender Law Conference, which is my real job.

J Jimmy Carper 20:24

Ah, that's right. You do have a real job. I have a real job.

D Dee McKellar 20:31

But I am taking the liberty of using that simply because it lets people get through to me.

J Jimmy Carper 20:40

And we can get information good. And so if they'll contact me, there is an answering machine.

D Dee McKellar 20:51

If anybody wants to do email instead, oh, what's that one? Dee? mckellr@aol.com.

J Jimmy Carper 20:58

Okay. I'm a computer virgin.

D Dee McKellar 21:09

I don't get it. Oh, well, that's. It's a long story. Okay. But if people want to send me an email, they can certainly reach me there.

J Jimmy Carper 21:18

Great. Thank you for coming on.

D Dee McKellar 21:21

I want to thank you for the opportunity. Anything else you want to talk about? Nothing we did

I want to thank you for the opportunity. Anything else you want to talk about. Nothing we did. Well, we didn't agree on anything.

J Jimmy Carper 21:29

That would be cheating. No dirt, no dirt. Oh, well. Thank you, Jimmy. Thanks, Dee, for coming on. And thank you for listening. Now, we've got the bisexuals coming up right after this new piece of music from Katy Curtis. It's from her new album, truth from lies. And she's some pretty hot talent. Getting played on some of those commercial radio stations, believe it or not, and she's an outtake. This is her Big Gay hit. It's called radical and you're hearing it on KPFT Houston, and KEOS College Station. Okay, that was a through a second wind in there. That was Diana Jones from Austin doing in broad daylight. And before that, Katie Curtis, with radical. And now we go to Gigi.

G Gigi 22:37

Hi. This is Gigi with BiNet. And before we even get into our topic, I want to say that it does have a new number. What's coming on and off here. Our new number is 467438. We're here to listen to whatever you have decided to us. Give us a call. We can tell you information about the group and where we made its MCR seven and nine Wednesday nights. Tonight we're going to talk a little bit about transgender issues and bisexuality. I have j here with me and Michelle. And we're going to she's going to go over the new book transgender warriors. And we're going to kind of stick more towards bisexuality and transgender. Joe. I hadn't even read the book yet. So can you kind of tell me a little bit about it?

M Michelle 23:44

Okay, well, it's Leslie Feinberg's new book, Feinberg wrote the novel Stonebridge blues, which is, I think, kind of a fictionalized account of her life as a transgendered woman. The subtitle of transgender Warriors is making history from Joan of Arc to Ruth Hall. So it's kind of a historical thing. It talks about people in history who who are, you know, we're cross dressers or transsexuals and transgenders or something like that. All the way up to obviously RuPaul very recent. And then just some, some issues, what is gender? Yeah. And issues about, you know, transgender and what that means and things like that. And I thought it'd be good to talk about on this show, because transgender people, transsexuals, etc, and bisexuals are marginalized in you know, tend to be marginalized in the gay and lesbian community. And so that's sort of a jumping off point, I guess.

G Gigi 24:54

You had mentioned a little bit about they had some terms in the book Like androgyny and I forget some of the others intersexual and all Yeah. I find that I know that I've always identified as androgynous little bit of male, a bit of female. identify as having both aspects within me.

M Michelle 25:21

Yeah, Feinberg defines androgynous as more of neither gender. Yeah, I'm having a little bit of both would be I guess I would call you bigendered. According to Feinberg, bisexual and bigender, okay.

G

Gigi 25:39

Yeah, like pass bieverything. By everything, by the way.

M

Michelle 25:45

By gendered, according to find Berg. People have both the feminine side and a masculine side and want to be able to express both aspects of themselves. So there would be transsexual, which is a person who wants to change her or his sex, genitals the physical part, then there's transgender in which the person acts differently from what their genitals say they should add, you know, I'm saying like a woman who wears a suit and tie or a man who wears a dress, not necessarily crossdresser. But right. By gendered would be you express both aspects. Then there's intersexual, which is what? You most of the time I've heard the expression hermaphrodite. Yeah, intersexual means you have both genitals. Yeah, and let's see what else is.

G

Gigi 26:40

Then I might fit kind of in that category slightly, because I know I've got a little bit of the female parts on me. You know, I have very little Adam's apple, and, and there's some things you know, I know, some babies are born with both. And shortly after birth, the doctor makes a few changes. And I think some traces might have been left or the changes.

E

Elizabeth Richards 27:05

I want to point like they try to make in the book is that it's not always, like, you know, we're taught that boys are this girls are this and there's like this solid line in between. But it's really more true that I mean, there is like, most people are very much on one pole or the other. But there's also like a kind of almost continuum. between in between there.

M

Michelle 27:27

Or not even so much a continuum. I think you said one time God that I think it was you someone Someone once said that, um, it wasn't so much like a line with male on one end and female and the other was more like a circle. And Feinberg says that somewhere in the book, I wasn't able to find it. Something to be effective. In the end, it all kind of comes back to itself. You know, you start out with male and you go to female, and then you can go back to male again. And it's kind of this this cyclical thing. And, and so it's not, you know, and you can say continuum or whatever. But one point Feinberg does make rather strongly is that it is not just to talk about the opposite gender, and it's like, well, what does that mean?

G

Gigi 28:16

I know what the opposite. I know of bisexuality, I've never seen bisexuals in between gay and straight. Because, you know, there's a lot of problems with that concept. I mean, all of a sudden, you know, you're with a man and you're a man. And a lot of people presuppose that you're gay at that point, then you get with a woman and all of a sudden, you're straight at that point. And that then weren't for me because I'm bisexual, no matter who I'm with. Yeah, yeah. And same with gender. It's like, I don't really cross dress I dress. With both genders. There's always something some hint of both genders, whether I'm in a dress or in, in male clothing. I swear something that's can be considered the other side.

E

Elizabeth Richards 29:13

Feel that it's that the experience and experience of being bisexual isn't really like an experience in between being gay and straight. mean, it's a little bit different than both. It's like if you're like gay people, I guess. Well, not now. Of course, not all gay people experience like the same way but, I mean, there's a certain commonality of the way you know, gay people experience life just due to being gay, with experience attraction in certain ways or whatever. And I feel that at least like if I'm around like a group of gay people or a group of straight people, I always feel a little bit different and then group of bisexual people. I feel like a certain community.

M

Michelle 29:52

Yeah, and I think that's another way that bisexual bisexuality and trans is are very similar in that they cross boundaries all all over the place. Kind of interesting this year for the Pride Parade, what is it? Pride knows no boundary. Yeah. And that's what bisexuality and trans trans ism. Feinberg uses the term trans just to mean transgenders, transsexuals, anyone who crosses gender boundaries, because as Michelle said, there's, in this society, there's one way to be a man and there's one way to be a woman. And people are punished for crossing those boundaries.

G

Gigi 30:39

I know I was.

M

Michelle 30:41

And it's not even I mean, people say it's homophobia, and to a certain extent it is, but really a lot of homophobia is to enforce gender boundaries. You know, it's it's not you know, guys get called swag, not because they are holding hands with another guy, but because they don't play football or something. Or they can throw the basketball through the hoop, you know, and a girl was called a dike, not because she's kissing another girl, but because she wears pants and doesn't wear makeup. And, you know, so it's a lot of homophobia is kind of directed at people who cross gender boundaries. And, and then kind of what you were saying to Michelle

bisexuality isn't in the middle of gay and straight, it's not. You know, and some people I think, have a hard time understanding bisexuality because they have this mentality. Okay, I understand what gay is gay means you like somebody that same gender and, and heterosexual straight means you have somebody of another gender. So bisexuality means you love one of each. You know, and-.

 Elizabeth Richards 31:51

-sometimes you're gay, and sometimes you're straight.

 Michelle 31:52

Yeah, it's like you're half half gay and half straight. You know, this is this is my gay side, this my straight side. Okay.

 Gigi 31:58

And I think that might be where a lot of people have problems with the idea that bisexual, bisexuality is a gender orientation. I mean, a sexual orientation in and of itself. Homosexual can be a virgin and still claimed to be a homosexual. And nobody asked her question about it. A straight person can be a virgin, and still be straight. That when the bisexual says, Well, I'm a virgin. The questions always raised. Well, how do you know you're bisexual? And so in a sense, I think part of the problem is that we don't recognize it is the third sexual orientation.

 Michelle 32:51

Yeah, as another sexual orientation. And it's kind of the same thing with transgenders, according to Feinberg in this book, that you know, there's there seem to be male and there seem to be female. And now I, I can never remember which was which, but, okay, there's, as you pointed out, you know, your little slip of the tongue. Um, there is a difference between gender and sex. Yeah. And like I say, this is the part where I was getting mixed up okay, sex, if I'm right. What you know what sex you are, that is determined by your physical makeup. Okay, so you know, if you have a penis, you're a boy, if you have a vagina, you're a girl. And unless you're growing up and you're a man or a woman, but anyway, um, gender is different, that's masculine and feminine. That's right, okay. Gender is masculine and feminine. And in this society the only accepted gender roles are for men to be masculine and women to be feminine. The idea that a man person with a penis can be feminine wear dress, be nurturing, I don't know whatever we consider feminine this society is completely anathema to the mainstream culture and for and women masculine is also a is not done and heaven forbid you should want to be both man and a woman as you said, you know, some babies are born with both a little bit of you know, maybe one more than the other whatever but doctors immediately quote unquote fix the baby. Yeah, and or heaven forbid a person should want to be by gendered and experience.

 Giai 34:36

... 5. - . . .

I thought it would be so intriguing to go in for surgery and have a little stuff added but nothing subtract. Yeah, a whole new operation out there doctors. Let's do some research. Because I'd be first in line I'd like to have both.

E

Elizabeth Richards 34:59

No. A lot of what you were saying Jay is due to that our society has so much invested in keeping what is a man and what is a woman apart from each other just in terms of like preserving the kind of, you know, patriarchal kind of roles in society. And if the reason that I feel there's so much prohibitions against like, crossing gender roles in our society is that these crossings make it harder to tell what is a man and what is a woman? I mean, what if, like, some straight guy might be attracted to someone who's actually a man who they thought was a woman or whatever, and that would just like, totally undermine.

M

Michelle 35:34

Yeah, and and Feinberg talks about that in transgender warriors. Now, Feinberg is a communist. So there's a little bit of, you know, classism and Marxism. Not a little bit a lot actually. But a lot of it makes sense when you look at it from a class point of view and a money point of view. That way back when in the dawn of time, you know, we were more Metro focal matrilineal people, which made sense because you can always tell, you know, who's, you know, the baby's mother, there's not much of a gray area there. You know, you look and you say, okay, baby came out of that one. That's, that's the baby's mother, who's the baby's father, we don't know. So it was more matrilineal matter Fogle focused on the mother and in those cultures in those which was