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SUMMARY KEYWORDS

march, houston, ad hoc committee, people, marches, turnout, country, radio, community, eric, gay men's chorus, hrc, called, tonight, lined, eba, listen, scandal, grassroots organizing, lesbians

SPEAKERS

Jimmy Carper, Gigi

Jimmy Carper 00:10

The following program contains language or images of a frank or sensitive nature which may be considered objectionable by some listener discretion is advised. Oh yes, you've tuned into 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 geared for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people. Hear it 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 our. Hello, Houston and college station and welcome welcome. Welcome to After Hours queer radio with attitude right here on KPFT. Houston and KEOS in College Station. This is the march 4 2000. edition and the first edition of the new century where we're doing nude radio. Yes.

Gigi 02:40

For Jeremy, getting over this. We are all naked here. Yes,

Jimmy Carper 02:46


yes. Yes, they are.


Gigi 02:50


shining bright. Oh, yes.


02:51


God is full.


 Gigi 02:55
Well, at least Samar.


 Jimmy Carper 02:58
This is first Saturday of the month, so it must be bisexual night.


 Gigi 03:04
Oh, it's bisexual night. And we are doing nade radio.

 Jimmy Carper 03:07
Yes. We are on it. Yes, we are. Yes, we are. And I

 03:10
just bought a cell sexual. Ah.

 Gigi 03:18
And we have quite a special show lined up tonight. Well, it's all special. Very controversial. So we thought we'd kick it off with need radio. Okay. And we're going to be interviewing Eric from the ad hoc committee for an open process. Oh,

 03:36
now maybe you can explain for those who may not know just what is the ad hoc committee for an open process.

 Gigi 03:42
Ad Hoc Committee was formed to in response to the MMO W, which is a millennium march on Washington.

 03:53
And why would anybody want to question Millennium march on Washington?

And why would anybody want to question Millennium March on Washington?

G

Gigi 03:58

Basically, there's some questions being raised. And that is that we want an open process. We want the views presented at Millennium March it to be from the whole community from grassroots organizing, and so far, it hasn't been well,

J

Jimmy Carper 04:23

I don't mean to interrupt, but we were talking about this. We've been talking about this on hand that forever. Yeah. But the last thing I said, you know, I was kind of softening my views on this because there's been ups and downs ups and downs, people leaving scandal after scandal with this group. And just you know, then they got Diane Hardy Garcia up there working for it and Michael Crawford working for the activist here in Houston. And I know him as a very honest and aboveboard man. And so you know, just when I get to soften my views I Another scandal breaks loose, somebody else gets laid off and they're closing the Philadelphia office. And

G

Gigi 05:07

that's the problem is that the board is still meeting behind closed or making decisions behind closed doors. They're welcoming and inviting in all kinds of people under false pretenses. Yes. And then they make these decisions behind closed doors, and then people leave. So that's another scandal.

J

Jimmy Carper 05:29

Yeah. Yeah. It's incredible. It's incredible. The the march is going to happen, but it's racked with scandal.

G

Gigi 05:36

Oh, it's racked, and they still have not made a financial disclosure? Oh, no, they never have have not brought this out as a community forum. And so we're going to talk to one the people that's been behind the scenes from early on. From Washington, DC, his name is Eric Eldridge. And we'll be calling in right after we got a music break. Okay. And basically, we're going to run the show, we're going to do a little bit of history on why the ad hoc committee was formed. Some of the questions they've asked some of the responses I've gotten. And then we're going to open up some phone lines for questions. I think that's a good idea. And see if anybody out there in the community has some questions. I know we're bringing some information tonight that a lot of people may not be aware of. But we'd like to show both sides. And it's not like we're against MMO Tabea. I'm all for marching. I'm all for politics. You know, I'm an activist from way back. I love getting out there. But you know, if we're gonna do an activist March, let's make an activist March. Let's have the community involved. Let's hear the voices out there. But

if we're going to do a march, just disguised as entertainment package, then, you know, don't try to pull the wool. I mean, you know, it's like, this March wasn't even there wasn't even a march until not long ago.



07:23

I got no,



Gigi 07:24

I mean, you know, it's like they had all this entertainment lined out. They had all this stuff, but you'll hear more about this. Yes, you certainly. Will. You certainly gonna be in here fall by baby. Listen, you're getting it from need radio. Who else can you trust?



07:42

And it's right we strip the issues bear just for you.



07:45

Not only the issues, folks. Well, one anyway.



Gigi 07:54

Are we in the closet? No,



Jimmy Carper 07:55

no, we're not in the closet. Okay. Not in the closet.



07:59

The only closet I'm in is the clothes, clothes. Clothes.



Jimmy Carper 08:04

I can imagine I saw that dress. Wow. That was beautiful. The black velvet. Oh, yes, I did.



08:16

What about the undies? Yes

What about the dresses? Yes.



Jimmy Carper 08:17

Oh, wow. Those are pretty spectacular. Lace and then we'll see through stuff. And



08:27

one of my favorite ensembles I see. Yeah. And



Gigi 08:31

the staff in the other room hadn't even ventured in here yet. Check us out.



Jimmy Carper 08:35

Craig Wright is afraid he is very very afraid. He's trembling.



08:40

When be scared be very, very scared



08:49

come in and say yes, it's it's nude radio.



Gigi 08:55

Right in shock. He's writing.



08:58


Just just make coffee. Make lots of coffee. Yeah. Bringing it in




Jimmy Carper 09:11


Okay, in other news, I want to say hello to the tea man and Ronald had communication from Ronald this this week. And as I'm a lousy letter writer, I'll I'll try to say hi over the air. And hello to Gary the Gay Christian. He's listened to after hours for a very, very long time. And for some reason, he thought we were mad at him and I can't imagine why he sent me a letter and no, Gary, nothing's wrong. to women that are special in my life. Melody and Melba may be out


there listening tonight. Later in the evening, we'll be giving out tickets for the Gay Men's Chorus. They're having a a due on March the 25th Saturday The March the 25th or Sunday and or Sunday, March the 26th. At the Kaplan theatre at the Jewish community centers, IW marks Theatre Center, 5601, South braise wood, this is their spring concerts. And this This is going to be really a whole lot. Lot of fun. It's, it's the family values concert. They're gonna get to define what family values are. So it's gonna be a lot, lots of lots of very types of things. Watch


 **Gigi** 10:37
out, I can define family. So

 10:42
Gay Men's Chorus of Houston sings beautifully. I saw them last year. They are fabulous. Aren't they

 10:47
good? Professional Group.

 10:49
Yeah. Very well.

 **Jimmy Carper** 10:53
Okay, and let's see what else Oh, one quick thing here. I wanted to get something in the mail this week and I wanted to bring it up. The Houston Center for Independent Living invites you to register register for American Sign Language classes. It's starting March the 13th of this year, and that's the beginners class you can sign up for that. And as I'm dropping papers on the floor here's a number 713974 to 703. That's Terry Thompson, the Deaf service coordinator. Our email H. cil. Houston counsel for independent living at Neo soft.com. That's going to be starting up March the 13th at the Houston Center for Independent Living, which is at reason 7000 Regency square Boulevard Houston.

 **Gigi** 12:03
And we have some news from binary. Yes, the South Central Regional bike camp. Retreat is coming up may 19 20th and 21st and Oh is it now? Yes. And we will be getting very campy and we'll have a drag queen and king show. This retreat. I just have to tell

 **Jimmy Carper** 12:30

you are the cutest couple we got naked as Jay birds just keep talking. I know I just don't look nervous. He is palpitating yes I am and I'm opening up my weekly card from Buddha Buddha over at Cafe

 Gigi 12:52

and before you do that oh yeah to give her number I'm sorry I'm sorry. Just jumped in there on you did 971-346-7438

 Jimmy Carper 13:05

It's a good thing you gave back as I was gonna give your your home number because I remember that

 Gigi 13:12

I think I got it right. That anyway. Well, I

 13:16

think that's I don't remember it either. Anyway, web two.

 Gigi 13:22

My email address is by house@flash.net

 13:25


and I can see why


 13:33


going there


 Jimmy Carper 13:35


I got my weekly missive from Buddha Buddha who owns the cafe a vino over on Montrose Boulevard next to Phoenix comics. That's right there near Fairview. It's a great little coffee shop. He makes his own stuff. Oh, wow. giant size, you know portions, like muffins that are just humongous.


 Gigi 14:01
Just math and I've sat


 14:03
down and they're all in the lobby. Yes. What?

 Gigi 14:06
What about bands? Are they hot crush?

 Jimmy Carper 14:10
Oh, is? Yes. Very lickable. So he says how's it going? I still have not seen you yet. Jimmy. Where the heck are you? Now? I'm starting to believe you don't exist. Oh, no, no, no, I've been there you weren't. Well enjoy your goodies. The triangle truth a truffle fudge just for Jimmy. Ooh, triangle. Truffle fudge. Let me see.

 Gigi 14:37
Jamie, wait a minute. If maybe we can bring new radio. They're

 Jimmy Carper 14:42
out. They're closed. Okay, close. They close up about 11 o'clock Saturday night and they're closed Sunday and Monday. close

 Gigi 14:53
their law. Look at that. Hey, chocolate fudge. Hey, like chalk?

 15:01
I know isn't that weird?

 15:03
It looks absolutely sinful.



15:07

Let's see work in another hand love chocolate, especially if used in the right places.



Jimmy Carper 15:13

And those places are quite visible. Yes, they are getting it certainly



Gigi 15:26

can be chilly tonight. Thanks. So



15:28

those aren't goosebumps rising



Jimmy Carper 15:36

Well, let's go to a piece of music. I've got something by that we Saunders. And there's a big ol reason I'm playing Dudley Saunders. And I've got that right in my music file here. Because he's coming to Houston. Ah, yes, he is. And it's going to be March. Monday, March 13. That's the day after Louis. Oh, so you can like do all of this Louis stuff. Yeah. And then on Monday night, dropped by chances right there. You know where that is? 100 Westheimer. He's, he's nice. folk singer.



Gigi 16:19

I actually had a scene it chances once so I went in there dressed. Couple of lesbians came up to me and said, Are you a boy or girl? Why Well, I'm kind of a boy but I'm partly girl. They said no, your girl. That's a not not shatter mentalities. She said, rather small but beautiful. says it, okay. And I lifted Montrose in shatter my penis. She said, that's the biggest cleared I've ever seen.



16:58

She did not say that.



Gigi 17:00

She did say that.



Jimmy Carper 17:03

But I have to agree that I'm looking at it. And it's very large. Yes,



17:09

Gigi has shared that story with me before and I believe her.



Gigi 17:15

Actually, there's a bag going on. Yes, a bunch of lesbians had laid down money. Whether as a boy or girl, you're kidding me? No.



Jimmy Carper 17:26

You're very androgynous. Yes, not right at the moment.



Gigi 17:31

Well, depends on how you view me. Which angle but anyway, and yes. Anyway, I think she was on the side that was betting that female Oh, she lost. Oh, well. That's why she said the comment. She said. Actually, they were both wrong. Really are a little bit of both. Yeah, you know.



Jimmy Carper 18:03

Okay, Dudley Saunders, who's going to be in Houston at chances on Monday, March the 13th at eight o'clock doing some folk singing stuff.



Gigi 18:13

And when we come back we'll have Eric eldritch interview with the ad hoc committee for an open process.



Jimmy Carper 18:20

Okay, and I'm going to be playing it this one has a little c and W flavor to it. It's called trying not to disappear. It's off of his album called Restore. You're listening to it on after hours career radio with attitude on KPFT Houston and ke O 's College Station. Dudley Saunders from his album restore. He'll be in Houston on March the 13th. Monday night at chances eight o'clock. Be there nice funky type music nice often Yes.



19:00

Got a nice twing



19:01

Yes, I'd like those things with twangs I got a 20 Yeah, I can see it.



19:09

Swing with that thing?



Jimmy Carper 19:11

Yeah. You've got metal in there and rubber there and gosh, that's not rubber. That's leather. Oh, that's a leather. Yeah, same leather thing that so all around it all? Yeah. Nice little picture frame. Okay, who do you have on the line?



Gigi 19:30

We have Eric and his very name is Eldridge. Okay. And he's with the ad hoc committee for an open process. And how do I work this it's incredibly difficult. No, no, I better let you do it. I always screw these things have actually



Jimmy Carper 19:47

there's a little light that's lit lit up that says one I'd like you to push that



Gigi 19:52

one. Yes. Okay. I'm afraid of this. And Eric. Hello or Are you with us? We lost him. The light's not flashing anymore. That's cuz he's supposed to be here. Hello, Eric? Nope. Did we



20:13

lose? You know, I'm here? Okay.



Gigi 20:19

We have an old fashioned system. Yes, we do really take some work, trying to get all the right buttons punch. But anyway, we are so glad to have you with us tonight. And I wanted to kind of go into some of the history of the ad hoc committee, how it was formed. And you know what it's all about?



20:42

Well, great. Sometimes what we're finding out as these old systems work out to be the best systems. The ad hoc committee came together in response to the March on Washington, as it was planned this time around, they decided to call it the Millennium march on Washington. And a lot of people have been thinking that the Millennium march on Washington would be like all the other marches. But old time organizers looked at this and said, This is what's really being called from the top down HRC human rights camp campaign,



Gigi 21:23

and we know that they you know, that.



21:27

And Metropolitan Community churches came together, after hearing from other grassroots leaders that they really shouldn't call a march, if I don't know if you remember, but we had something called EBA. Equality begins at home,



Gigi 21:45

I was a part of EBA and Austin marching and mad dress.



21:50

That's right. You know, so many people across the country were involved with EBA. And that was because grassroots leaders across the country said, let's work at the state level, we really need to put our money and our time and our energy and our heart, at the at the state level.



Gigi 22:05

And that was such a success. I mean, you know,



22:09

you galvanize support all across the country. But that's the opposite of what's happening now. Against the better wishes of the grassroots community, HRC and MCC under Robin Tyler, at that time, decided to go ahead with a millennium march on Washington. And thinking that it would be a good idea and they announced it, everybody would just fall in line. But they hadn't listened to the grassroots leaders who said, you know, keep the keep the money at home. You know, all that airfare for roundtrip tickets, and all of that stuff. Leave all that that was home, it takes a lot of time and energy for people to get to DC.

 Gigi 22:51

And I'm seeing that in emails right now. And here in Houston. People are scrounging they're saving they're, you know, and the sad thing I see is that, you know, the people that I've see are trying to go are thinking this is gonna be like the preceding three marches. That's right,

 23:11

people are looking at it. And they don't realize that it's not something it's done to Well, I guess now it's two months before the event. You can't just get people to hop on buses, and planes and trains and, and get there, you have to do a lot more work a lot earlier. In fact, I guess I've been looking at different news articles and stuff from across the country. And compared to what was done in the past marches. There were so many more people already organized. And there's just not that turnout. For for this March. Most of the organizing was done on email. And a lot of the organizing was done through the advocate and other you know, glossy kind of sides was done in a way that didn't reach everyone. And that's because you didn't have everyone from the beginning all together working to call for the March.

 Gigi 24:11

Yeah. Well, tell me a little bit about the history of the ad hoc committee. He's on the board and what's going on with him?

 24:22

Well, there are a lot of people that that are on the that are on the ad hoc committee, and we have a website if you want to get all the details and information for it. I'll give you that in a second. But for right now, I guess, names that people might be familiar with are Diana, only Campbell from Washington DC. Billy Helaman from Pittsburgh and Steve halt from New York builds up from New York and It's a very simple name. Yes. Leslie Kagan, also from New York. And there are people all across the US that that have signed on to the ad hoc committee and have have looked at this and said, This March is not organized the way the 79 to 87 and 93 marches were organized.

 Gigi 25:23

What do you think is most lacking here?

 25:26

I think most lacking is an understanding that you still have to do things. The old way, you have to do things with the heart and the agreement of a diverse group of people.

 Gigi 25:39

Yeah, I know that Bonet USA kind of works on the consensus model. And or, basically, decisions are made with from the top bottom on up to the top. You know, we go out, grassroots organizing has always had a history of going out to the community and saying, Hey, what is it that people feel, and they go out, and they do their homework, and they talk to lots of people get lots of inputs, and then they reach consensus, and then come on, put on some decisions, and then put together a platform?

 26:23

Exactly. Most of the times people look at marches as a way to do visibility, or to strongly react to something in current events, or to call on political leaders to say, look, when it's time for you to make a change, either you change or will change, and you will be out of office. And that isn't what's what's happened here. You've got people who have decided that they should have a march, it's kind of like they looked at their schedule and said, Oh, well, I think we should have a march, but didn't listen to the law, didn't listen to organizers across the country. They went ahead and you know, you can produce an event. You can pull together, you know, all sorts of things, just by throwing out emails and in calling people. But the The sad thing is a lot of people didn't look at the the issue critically. In fact, it's there's no March,

 Gigi 27:25

per se. Yeah, that's the amazing thing to me. I mean,

 27:29

no, no, in the past year is the march, if anyone was there for for 93. The march was way too long. I mean, it was a logistic nightmare. But the way they have it set up now is that people will be on the ellipse. And then they'll walk all three or four blocks down Constitution Avenue, and then they'll promenade across the grass. And so this really should be called the The Millennium promenade.

 Gigi 27:56

Well, a few months ago, there weren't even any kind of Marches just all state shows, as I understand. Right, right, your time man lined up, but there's actually no March until just recently. Well, the Hoc Committee brought it up.

 28:11

Well, it was a there have there been a lot of band aid approaches, when they said that there's no March and people were saying there's there's no March, they turned around and gave us a promenade? Yeah. When people have said that people of color had were not in substantive

decision making parts behind the march all along, they ended up you know, providing a board that, that, that brought people of color on board, but didn't speak from the communities from the beginning.



Gigi 28:47

Because it's amazing that, you know,



28:49

it's been very exclusionary, in how they, how they brought this together. In fact, even I guess someone that's familiar to you, Diane Hardy Garcia. Yeah. She's even been in the press. In fact, at a meeting that we held here, a community forum locally in DC, and the blade picked up a quote from her saying that we should never organize a March this way again, and I'm not sure why considering the the mass failure for this March. Why they just don't put it on hold or cancel it, rather than having a gun or face. They're dragging everybody down with them by this kind of organizing.



Gigi 29:32

Yeah. And the you know, I think the one that things that scares me and so much of this March is tied up with HRC and I know the trans issues and the whole issues behind and now, at the last minute USA national meeting, we decided to return support from Amanda until it becomes As trans and gender inclusive, and it seems that that has been pretty much ignored by HRC. And I guess one of the things I fear is that, you know, that might be one of the political agendas behind this March. Because I know HRC well enough?



30:20

Well, exactly, I think that we've, we've been kind of skewed in, in what we're marching for, yeah, no one really knows what we're marching for. And as the Millennium marches come together, they they keep saying that they have 300,000 votes on email for this or that, or maybe it was 30,000. But regardless, email doesn't have everyone's input. And clicks on computers don't do the work of having conversations in in communities across the nation. And in fact, the Millennium march on Washington, even canceled our local DC forums, for having input



Gigi 31:02

that canceled them all over the country. Exactly. And



31:05

when they did have a turnout, they had a turnout of 30 people, or maybe 60 people. And that

does not sound like they have a mandate from the people.



Gigi 31:13

And even that was a controversial turnout. There's more oppositional questions raised at that than supportive.



31:21

The opposition is more organized than than the support. But the problem is that people aren't looking deeply at the issues. Right now you're seeing op ed pieces across the country that are being written by supporters. But there are people that are, are that are in the back pocket of the march. And they're not coming from the range of people across across the country, and they're not really representative of, of the whole community. It's really easy to pull to get a permit on the mall, it's really easy to you know, do the work of producing an event. I'm not saying it's that easy to produce events. But when you've got money, you've got capital. You can you can host any kind of party you want. The Mandy Carter is also on the ad hoc committee, and she was talking to the board here in DC in December. And she said, you know, there are people of color on the on the Millennium march on Washington itself. But the, the real proof will be in the turnout. Yeah, you know, will you have the diversity of the Lesbian Gay community represented there on the mall. When you look out into the audience, and when they you know, the cameras pan here and there, who you know what faces you're going to see there. You can have anybody you want on board positions, but the important thing is turnout. Yeah. And we don't have turnout.



Gigi 32:53

Say that. And one of the things that I've been kind of concerned about, you know, with this whole issue from the beginning is that, you know, it's like the first three marches. I remember those even though I couldn't attend them. I remember some of the community forums I remember the questions asked, I remembered the Hallmark banned by the organizers, and they really wanted to get a feel