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Tue, Nov 29, 2022 9:25AM 37:45

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

queer, act, gay, people, issue, vivian, group, talk, sit, drag queen, lesbian, caucus, give, man, ban, activists, members, community, tonight, civil disobedience

SPEAKERS

Speaker 7, Speaker 3, Speaker 6, Speaker 4, Michael Crawford, Brian Bradley, Speaker 2, Scott Lewis, Jimmy Carper, Speaker 5

J Jimmy Carper 00:07

The following program contains language or images of a frank or 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 gear for gay and lesbian people. Just as Gloria Gaynor says in this 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.

B Brian Bradley 01:26

Another time that I didn't know I was supposed to be here, but we are. And who are all those strange people in the room next to us.

S Scott Lewis 01:32

Your ex lovers. All of them.

B Brian Bradley 01:34

I didn't know I had Terri Richardson as an ex lover. I let her get away.

S Scott Lewis 01:41

And that is a big mistake. But there are other people in that room you probably don't want to

And that is a big mistake. But there are other people in that room you probably don't want to claim his ex lovers. Well, anyway, but since they're in that room, we'll all be nice. So Brian Bradley, what have you been up to? It's been about two months since we've seen you here.

B

Brian Bradley 01:56

Well I've been out of town a little bit and I've been in town a little bit of celebrating the great fall of the Judge Lindsay empire it looks like and real happy about that. And can we say collapse, can we say get on your ass, blown out of the water, sucked dry Mary. Yes, yes. Been a long time coming and it was strange, Gene Harrington now we're talking about tonight, we more or less said at the same time, we didn't know where each other was coming from but we arrived at the same place. We said I can't believe we have lived to see this, would be allowed to say this. But we are, so what have you been up to? No that's about it.

S

Scott Lewis 02:39

There you go that, we're supposed to give cats. Oh, those are here somewhere.

B

Brian Bradley 02:42

Gave me trouble tonight.

S

Scott Lewis 02:45

How are you doing? You know somebody asked me the other day. And tonight even, somebody asked me tonight about you, how you were doing, how your health was and so forth.

B

Brian Bradley 02:53

Well, I got a little touch of AIDS but other than that, expect to be over that by Tuesday. I'm fine. My mother's here from out of town driving me absolutely stone rock crazy. I think she's probably listening right now. And I'm not kidding mom, go to bed.

S

Scott Lewis 03:08

Hi, Jean.

B

Brian Bradley 03:10

I need some dentail hygiene. Not hygiene. But hello, Jean, Brian's mother. Well, I hope to see her before, how long she gonna be here? About five months. She's here for chemotherapy. She was jealous of all the medical attention I was getting. So she's having a bit of around,

S

Scott Lewis 03:27

She's here to stay?

B

Brian Bradley 03:28

I think so. Should we tell him who we're going to have on as guests tonight? Let's, okay, Michael move that big old yellow book out of my way. Thank you.

M

Michael Crawford 03:37

I'm trying to find John [unintelligible] number so that we can get Heather to call him up and tell him

B

Brian Bradley 03:41

It's zero. Tonight, we've got a whole host of people that are going to be here and we're going to talk about gay, lesbian, queer, bisexual, transgenderal drag queen activism. But I think we're going to sort of start out on a new term that I heard a couple of weeks ago at the gay and lesbian health conference, that being horizontal hostility. I had not heard the term before, I was familiar with the concept, and it was explained to me that that is what we spend 99% of our time running around fighting each other instead of focusing on our common enemy know, someone made a comment and

S

Scott Lewis 04:18

The common enemy is busy that whole time focusing on us and we're losing ground.

B

Brian Bradley 04:22

That's right. You know, they say some animals devour their young Well, the queer community doesn't only devour is, it's but it bites them in big hunks and chews them up, spits them out and stomps on them. And I'd really like to see some, some change in that. So tonight, we've assembled a group of people that we consider in the know and or at least could get here at this time.

S

Scott Lewis 04:44

At least would stay up this late.

B

Brian Bradley 04:47

We have Chris Bacon, the current president of the Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus with us and

we have Chris Bacon, the current president of the Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus with us and Toni Knight, a past president of the caucus. We have the wonderful, wonderful Terri Richardson, possible future president, our Terri is in love right now. And we want to congratulate her on that. She's got a girlfriend moving down here from Pennsylvania. And she's so happy and mushy and all that stuff.

S

Scott Lewis 05:12

Oh, God, are we gonna have to put up with that? Yeah, for a while.

B

Brian Bradley 05:16

And we have Michael Crawford with us tonight. And Renee Drosy, Rainbow de Clown. And last but not least, we have Vivian Lee.

S

Scott Lewis 05:28

Who now, who's Vivian? We all know who Rainbow de Clown is.

B

Brian Bradley 05:32

Vivian is the young woman sitting on the other end there with

S

Scott Lewis 05:36

Yes, Brian. But for those who are, Vivien Leigh was the one who won the 1939 Academy Award for *Gone with the Wind*, don't you know, you idiot.

B

Brian Bradley 05:46

She's, oh, she's looking good.

S

Scott Lewis 05:50

She's looking real good. Don't want an award, get that hoop skirt down. So what are we going to talk to him about?

B

Brian Bradley 05:57

Just whatever we want to, queer activism. I just told you. Vivian, come here, please. Right now.

S

Scott Lewis 06:05

Come in here, Vivian. This is your mother calling. Vivian. Your mother's at the door. You told her you're gonna be at Bayou Mama's and she's not happy. Vivian,

B

Brian Bradley 06:16

This is the world tell them who you are.

S

Speaker 2 06:19

I'm Scarlett O'Hara, how are you?

B

Brian Bradley 06:22

Who told you, you big idiot? Well, now I know Vivian's someone that I've known I guess for about is going on a year now. And first met her when she was scrubbing the steps of the little Neartown Association building down here on Westheimer. The police had her and Terri Richardson and down on their knees with scrub brush in hand scrubbing up artificial HIV positive blood that they didn't put there by the way. So Vivian is someone that we know from ACT UP.

S

Scott Lewis 06:51

And we also have with us

B

Brian Bradley 06:54

A stranger. Who is that man with his back to me?

S

Scott Lewis 06:57

No, on the other side. Him over here in the glasses.

S

Speaker 3 07:02

Well, hell, hold on. It's about time you got here.

B

Brian Bradley 07:05

And Donna is here from WAC. Thank goodness we have someone from WAC, someone from WAC. No, no, she's not. Okay, Donna is a member of WAC. But she's not here representing WAC

tonight. And she's shaking her head up and down now. Okay. Donna, you're tougher than any of those women who told you you couldn't come in here and be from WAC tonight. So don't worry about them.

S

Scott Lewis 07:25

We better get the show on the road. Okay, push that tight. We're going to do a little number here. "Glad to Be Gay" by the Tom Robinson Band. And when we come back, we're going to talk to these folks about horizontal hostility and whatever we want to.

B

Brian Bradley 07:41

Maybe their roots.

S

Scott Lewis 07:47

We're back. Did you miss us?

B

Brian Bradley 07:51

Here, of course, yes we do.

S

Scott Lewis 07:55

They weren't talking to you. We're surrounded by can we say activists? Would that be offensive to anyone here?

B

Brian Bradley 08:03

If it is, then get him leave.

S

Scott Lewis 08:06

We're here with a group of activists. And we're just going to kind of talk about horizontal hostility and activism, where we're going from here, we've had something interesting happened with the gay ban on after the 15th. And we're going to talk here for a few minutes and then take some phone calls at 526-5738, 526-KPFT. And find out what you want to know and what your opinions are as far as gay activism and where we go from here. Where do we go from here? What was, was it a stinging defeat? The gay ban?

M

Michael Crawford 08:40

The military ban? I, personally, this is Michael Crawford, also known as Michael Cooper. I did not feel that, I mean, I didn't feel that Bill Clinton's sell out on the military ban was a defeat. Anybody who's listened to After Hours before know that I wasn't too crazy about the effort to lift the ban in the first place. But that's not the reason I'm kind of pleased that he sold us out. What I'm hoping is that people will, will look at the situation and realize that we cannot sit on our asses and wait for some political official to do something for us. I mean, because during the, during the campaign, we were really good. ACT UP was running all over the country, screaming at every presidential candidate in sight. What about AIDS? Queer activists were all over the place screaming what about queer issues? What about the military ban? But once Bill Clinton was elected, and you know, after the inauguration and everything, we kind of just had a let's sit back and wait attitude. And if anybody knows anything about the history of progressive social movements in America, we know that we cannot sit and wait for anyone to do anything for us.

S

Scott Lewis 09:44

But was that us as the gay community or was that Bill Clinton because he seems to have done that on a cornucopia of issues?

M

Michael Crawford 09:51

Well, I think one of the things that's pretty interesting about Bill Clinton was an article that that I know, I read this article in this magazine called "Social Policy." And it was by the executive director of ACORN in Arkansas. And he was talking about how they got Bill Clinton to do what they want it there. He says that if you build it, Bill Clinton will come. Bill Clinton likes to portray himself as a progressive, but he's not going to go off and lead anything. If we build a popular support for a particular issue, then Bill Clinton would like to jump into the front and say that he was for it all the time. I do think, I do fall Bill Clinton, in part because he sold us out and sold out a lot of people he just completely and totally, well, and virtually every promise that he made to anybody. But I do think it's, we need to remember that, for example, it all during, during the during the so called six month waiting period, a lot of the homosexual elite or the establishment type, homosexual activists, were saying, don't do direct action tactics, don't protest, don't demonstrate, and so on and so forth, which I think is, would have been just the kind of, you know, necessary tactics to keep the issue, to move the issue towards our way of thinking, because what happened was people like Senator Sam Nunn, who's has instant access to media attention, just came out totally against it. The right wing had their people organized, they beat us in terms of letters, letters, letters against lifting the ban beat letters for lifting the ban 100 to 1. So I mean, if you look at the right wing, when even when they have someone like George Bush and Ronald Reagan, who they support in office, they don't let up, which is why they get a lot of the things they want.

B

Brian Bradley 11:33

But maybe we wouldn't have that happen quite to the extent that it did if we'd had a little bit less of that term that we used earlier, horizontal hostility. If you had every gay and lesbian person in America writing a letter to lift the ban, even though they personally you know, didn't find it the number one item on their agenda, we might have gotten it done. If you talked about

progressive social movements, no progressive social movement, the woman's movement, the African American Movement has done it on their own. We've done it with coalition building, and such as that. If we can not even build a bond between ourselves within our own community, how do we expect other team, how should we expect other communities come in and join us? You know, if you don't agree with the military, but agree with the basic premise that a gay person or lesbian should have the right to be in the military, support them, in part, you know,

M

Michael Crawford 12:22

I should point out, I would like to point out that in this instant, we had more support from non queer people than any issue we've ever faced, people from ranging groups or any, from the NAACP, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Coretta Scott King, and a whole bunch of black civil rights leaders came out in favor of lifting the ban.

S

Speaker 2 12:43

Barry Goldwater.

B

Brian Bradley 12:44

Barry Goldwater.

S

Scott Lewis 12:46

Chris, Chris Bacon and president of GLPC, you are certainly considered more of a moderate on many issues than Michael Cooper. And how important was this to us? How important of an issue is gays in the military? Is this a real priority to us? And if not, what are our real priorities?

S

Speaker 3 13:10

Why, I would not have chosen this as the issue to, to bring to the limelight. Unfortunately, we didn't have much of a choice, it somehow ended up being the issue that came up next. And unfortunately, we, we did miss the boat in this one. And I'm really not sure. At this point, I'm still somewhat shell shocked. It's difficult. It's a lot easier when you've got Bush and Reagan as your presidents or Bill Clements is the governor of Texas, where when they do the wrong thing, you can say, well, we're going to vote for someone else to take their place. When Ann Richards ignores the gay and lesbian community, which she has done repeatedly, where do we turn? We say, oh, we're gonna go vote for a Republican. At this point, I've got to say, I'm very frustrated.

S

Scott Lewis 14:17

What do you see as a more important issue, or what is the next issue or our future?

S**Speaker 3 14:23**

Well, I think Michael is right, that we do need to take our case to the American people. And, and I think that really is our responsibility. I think, Michael and I might disagree as to the best approach to bringing the case to the American people, but I think we would agree that it isn't Bill Clinton's job, it is our job as a community. I think we do need, as Brian suggested, to get over ourselves, and we do need to work together. And that means moderates like myself, need to be less critical of civil disobedience activists because I think they play a very important role. Civil disobedience activists also have to be careful and not to use terms like the elite gays. Because I think both terms are divisive. And I think we are weakened when each group sort of views the other as an adversary when we have so many other adversaries.

B**Brian Bradley 15:27**

You know, recently I was on a panel of people talking to some doctors who were graduating and going on to their chosen careers. One man said he had chosen the Centers for Disease Control and Epidemiology as where he would spend his life in science. And he was taking exception, very friendly exception to AIDS activism and said that you always seem as if you're running around putting out medium and small sized fires and never tackling the big fire. You know, and I really don't understand that. And I think that, what I explained to him was, we have so many problems, and so few people to fight them that that's just the nature of the beast. But I think what we need to do is sit back and at least begin to delineate what we think our five top, ten top problems are. And surely one of them would be just basic out and out discrimination that any man woman or child can experience, irregardless of their gender, or sexual orientation or whatever. It was very interesting today on CNN, there was some gung ho idiot Marine in Camp Lejeune or somewhere in North Carolina, went into a bar with other Marines, you know, as patrons and open fire on them and was babbling and screaming Clinton and queers in the military and all this. And the attitude was somewhat the man, his actions should be condoned. He was upset that harkened back to the whole time during the Senate hearings, and talking about well, queers can't be in the military, because the people in there would be violent to them. You know, we didn't miss the boat on that, Chris, they missed the boat on it. You mean, we didn't rock the boat on that we weren't allowed in the boat. You know, you gotta be in it before you can rock it. I think we need to, you know, realize we have major problems that are few, and problems that are less magnitude that are many, and start going after them, realize our common problems instead of our differences.

S**Scott Lewis 17:26**

Vivian, you're in ACT UP or act crazy as it was quoted in the Houston Press last week. We discussed that letter here last week, you remember we got a stinging phone call to my comments. That's a real different perspective than, than where Chris comes from are the GLPC, I don't ever see GLPC out in the streets in front of Castle Dental throwing fits, I see them more doing maybe a letter writing campaign. Please don't do this anymore. Not to degrade that because I think they're both important. What do you see? Where's, where does activism go from here? Is that offensive? Renny, just jump in here.

S**Speaker 4 18:04**

That's not offensive. But I think I think people get confused when that letter from the guy from, that said act crazy. A lot of people that are members of the caucus are members of ACT UP. And a lot of people that are members of ACT UP are members of the caucus. So when you say that there's people not out in front of Castle Dental, it's ACT UP people. Well, it's me too. And I'm vice president of the caucus. So I think people don't see the whole thing. Sometimes they see the caucus as one group and ACT UP as another group. And they see them at opposite ends. But there are a lot of the same members and a lot of the same issues and they intermingle so it's hard to, it's hard to tear them apart sometimes.

S

Scott Lewis 18:37

Why is it then that there seems to be such a

M

Michael Crawford 18:42

Dichotomy?

S

Scott Lewis 18:43

Dichotomy. Thank you, my vocabulary man, behind me between the two organizations.

M

Michael Crawford 18:51

It's history.

S

Speaker 3 18:53

In part, it's actually created by the press and sometimes radio programs. It, it's amazing to me every time I talk to someone in the press, they love that their favorite story is how are ACT UP and the caucus different and they're not interested in any of the similarities. I mean, they love the story of conflict and confrontation. And, you know, and I know I'm not the only one who gets this. I know that when ACT UP members are interviewed by the press, invariably, they're asked about, to say something negative about the mainstream organizations and I think we sometimes have fallen victim to that. And I think Renny is very right. The memberships overlap incredibly, I think a lot of us sometimes people wear two different hats. When they are in ACT UP, they put on their civil disobedience cap because they think it's effective for some things and then the next day, they'll put on their caucus cap, and engage in letter writing or engage in screening of candidates or engage in political action for getting people elected. And both roles are important and sometimes the same people doing both.

S

Scott Lewis 20:02

Let me ask this, Michael, because you are, I don't know how active in ACT UP, but you are certainly active in civil disobedience. And I would think and correct me if I'm speaking out of

turn, but you would probably never even imagine joining the GLPC. Why is that?

M

Michael Crawford 20:17

Before I answer that question, I want to comment on some of the other comments that have been made. I don't want to give the, I mean, I don't want people listening to have the impression that ACT UP and GLPC, Queer Nation and GLPC or any of these groups are all the same. There are clear and legitimate differences between groups, say, for example, the Human Rights Campaign Fund and Queer Nation New York. There are differences in in agenda and tactics and in overall goals. So while it's in some points, ACT UP and GLPC may overlap, there are some people in both groups who would never get together. You know, but as your question about why I wouldn't join GLPC, you're just assuming I would not do it.

S

Scott Lewis 21:02

Right. And correct me if I'm wrong.

S

Speaker 5 21:03

We talked about

M

Michael Crawford 21:04

Yeah, yeah. Toni and I talked a long time about a lot of things last night. And to be honest, I wouldn't, I, well right now, I would not join GLPC because I don't see myself paying to join an organization that I don't feel is effective. It's, it's, I mean, I know that as a black loudmouth, leftist fag, that I'm not going to exactly be in the inner circle in any group that I'm a part of. I didn't even

S

Speaker 3 21:31

Why would you want to?

M

Michael Crawford 21:32

Wait, wait, let me get to it, okay? I mean, I didn't, I didn't even feel that way with Queer Nation. But I felt the Queer Nation was worth fighting to be a part of, if I felt the GLPC was living up to what it said goals were, then I would join if only because I would at least, there would at least be a black person in the room.

S

Scott Lewis 21:50

Where do they fall short?

M

Michael Crawford 21:52

Hey, wait, I didn't get to Brian's question. No, I don't want to be in the inner circle. I, I am not into inner circles, because the inner circle seems to be perpetuating the status quo. And I'm not interested in perpetuating the status quo because it doesn't work for enough people. I want something that works for all of us.

B

Brian Bradley 22:09

Terri, what about you? Yeah, jump right in there.

S

Speaker 6 22:11

I ran for a board seat on the GLPC because I wanted to bring a more activist element to the caucus. And, and, you know, I think that's a legitimate reason for being on the board. You can change organizations from within. The caucus, you know, there are a lot of people in the caucus that have been there. there 18 years from the very beginning. I've been there less than one year. And I think I bring a different perspective to a lot of issues. And I'm, you know, I think it's important that people with different perspectives, run for positions like board of the caucus, or get involved in the caucus and be on committees. I'm on the police committee of the caucus. I mean, I'm a member of ACT UP, I'm, and that's that's how I self identify more than, more than than anything is with ACT UP but, but you know, it takes all kinds of different people.

B

Brian Bradley 23:08

I can only, I can remember just a short, short time ago, and even more than one person in this room right now, we've had somewhat of a disagreement on things. In the past, a queer was ABC, and it was clearly defined. And no one had a question what one was, and I never did like that. And I was running around saying, no, we can be this and we can be that we can be that. And however, at the same time, you're confusing the hell out of the enemy. They don't know which, you know, end to attack. And all of a sudden either the light has come on for people where they've come to that conclusion themselves, or it's become popular, yeah, but each person should, not can but should wear 15 different hats. It keeps the opposition very confused. They don't know what to do. And that goes back to our saying, you know, comment earlier, my comment earlier about the horizontal hostility. Here we are arguing over whether or not we should be able to define ourselves however we choose to, and meantime, the big issues aren't being addressed. Sure, you can be a member of the police task force of the caucus and ACT UP, why not?

S

Speaker 5 24:13

Can I, can I get in on this if I may, um, my name is Toni Knight, and I'm past president of Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus. And I have also, I've also worked in several different organizations, locally and state, a member of Mexican American Democrats, although I'm not

Hispanic, um, for the people that are listening tonight, for everybody listening, if I had to either pay people a dollar that had any idea how the parade comes about, for instance, like probably most of you have gone to the Pride Parade, or if for each person listening, I got \$a dollar. If you had no idea how the parade came about, if you had no idea who has committed their lives for the last three years to be chair and co-chair of that parade, and that's just one example, and let me tell you, a talk show like this is certainly fun. But the reality is, is that both the problem and the solution is the ignorance in the lesbian and gay community. For different reasons, as far as I'm concerned, and that it is much more popular to get into arguing about things, it's a lot easier, it's sort of a quick solution, it can give you a reason not to participate. And I love really what Terri said a little bit earlier on, you can either use an organization that serves a purpose in the community, and you can see things that you don't like about it, and either use it as a reason to participate, or use it as a reason to not participate depending upon your own goals. And, you know, the parade is just one example people go out to it. But most people have no idea how that goes along. So then what happens and why, why sometimes activists in any organization gets sort of frustrated when they kind of seem like these manic crazy people that scare you, is because it's really sort of this group of people that have been doing a lot of work and carrying a lot of stuff for a long time. And most people aren't going to know their names, unless they, it would seem to me unless it was about some gossip and stuff like that. Or about like shows like if you can get one person fighting against another. And the solution is just to look in the mirror, find something that you're interested in and participate in it regardless of the personalities. And one more thing I'd like to touch on, my personal experience, as far as the most difficult thing to deal with, in life, let alone the lesbian and gay community is people come. The reality is, is that we're not what they say we are. We are in my mind's eye 10% random of the general populace. Therefore in the lesbian and gay community, we have people that are racist, that have no idea why that would be a deficit to them. We have people that are sexist, probably more homophobic we have people that are homophobic, probably more in this part of the country than any other part I'd been on, what I'd be around left wing people and have them right before show like put somebody down by calling another man bitch or calling her. These are whole pockets of issues, as far as personal isms other than just homophobia that have not even had the surface scratched in the city. Therefore what happens? We haven't come together the, the incredible separatism in the city, I either have a choice in this city of either being around men, that most of them, right or wrong, they have no idea even what sexism is. Or I have a choice about, about being around women, who most of, a lot of them don't like men, and never join men in their life. And I think that that's probably been one of the most difficult things for me personally, is I refuse to just put myself in separatist organizations, regardless of the ignorance or regardless of the sexism, and the left wing people are regardless of the racism and, and just to stand up against it, and just really what Terri said, use it as an excuse to participate. Use it as an excuse to stand there and say, this is not acceptable. And slowly, I've seen things whittle down with some people and the other people, it's just not gonna whittle down. There'll just be more and more hate. They'll be more and more uncomfortable.

S

Scott Lewis 29:07

Rainbow, you, you're a drag queen. Can I use

S

Speaker 7 29:12

An entertainer.

S Scott Lewis 29:12
An entertainer? Yes, and a lovely one this evening, aren't you?

S Speaker 7 29:16
Yes. Well, I don't know. I'm not in drag, and I came here not in drag because sometimes people are offended, not offended, but they don't take me seriously.

S Scott Lewis 29:29
Toni was just talking about the separatism within our own community. And I want to discuss that briefly just a little bit more before we get into the ways to cure what needs or the cures are the things that need to be done in our community. You are a breed that started this movement. You are part of not a breeder, but uh, drag--drag queens started this movement almost 25 years ago, if it had not been for those men coming out of the Stonewall Inn.

M Michael Crawford 29:59
Let us not forget that there were also working class dykes there, right? And that a lot of those drag queens were men of color. Okay.

S Speaker 7 30:09
And I happen to be white. No, no, yeah, I understand what you're saying.

S Scott Lewis 30:13
Let me, let, let me finish what I was saying. And yet today, those same people that were in that club are often ignored by this community or put aside, certain bars won't even serve you liquor if you're in drag, they don't even want you in there.

S Speaker 7 30:32
I have been there, I have been in situations like that. And thanks to you, your bar, that you have parred up has lifted that ban, and let the ban roll off.

S Scott Lewis 30:42
So how important is the band in the military to you when you walk into a club in your own community? And they tell you because you're dressed like a woman you can't drink? What are your priorities?

S

Speaker 7 30:54

Dressing as a woman in a gay bar?

S

Scott Lewis 30:58

What, I mean, what do you what do you see as the priorities and things that need to change?
Are they outside or?

S

Speaker 7 31:03

To tell you the truth, I did not know the military ban was one of Clinton's projects when I voted for him, I voted for the man because of his health issues that he was going to try. And that's coming up. That's when I will really make my decision. I think he has started something that is going to be building blocks in the future. I mean, people bring up about Truman in the blacks, it was building blocks, it started before him and still building. And I think the gay thing is going to be a building block. You know, you just don't say right now, later on, later on, things will happen. And I think it will, as we show them that we are a different kind of people. I mean, you saw me in the parade, dressing ridiculously in a drag outfit. I was showing in a way. And not only my statement, I was showing how ridiculous, you, the American people might think that we might do this type of stuff, you know what I'm saying, and, huh?

M

Michael Crawford 32:03

That's just pure silliness.

S

Speaker 7 32:04

It's pure silliness that we're going to even be like this. But I just wanted to show them that there's no way that.

S

Speaker 2 32:10

But how could

S

Speaker 4 32:11

Believe it, they see those, they see those pictures of the person who picks up on those pictures. And everybody thinks that's the way it is. And why is that?



B

Brian Bradley 32:20

Well, because they want it that way and they're more comfortable that way , they can define us in two dimensions,

S

Speaker 7 32:26

The press might do that. The press might do that. But the general public, I don't believe that. I entertain in 100 mile radius of this town, I don't entertain in gay bars. The majority of my bars, the majority of the bars I entertain are ice houses and offices and places like that. And I do it in drag. And they love it. I present when I go to these places, I give them a different feeling about my gay lifestyle. I mean, give them a different feeling about gay life in a way by just expressing, by being a real person.

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Scott Lewis 33:06

So what do you see as the priorities for this community?

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Speaker 7 33:10

Well, if you want to talk about the different groups, I used to belong to both ACT UP and GLPC. And I used to go these meetings a lot. And I told you this privately on the phone after the show last week. And they would get up and they'd make these AIDS speeches, great AIDS speeches. And I can tell you a lot of good speeches that could be heard out in the community. But you know what, I would invite them to go to a benefit show. And none of these people would show up. And I know these people because I'm an entertainer there, and I can't see any of them out there. And I invited these people and I even tell the bars, I invited these people and these people. So really what they're doing, some of these people that are on the streets screaming and hollering, where are they when we want money to take care of our own? They're not there. And that's what, that's one thing I miss, and the queen miss that too, you could probably have, you could probably have a, we call it a drive to get membership. If you just infiltrate that type of, that, you know, like the benefit shows, to give you an example. I mean, it's way I get, I got very, in fact, that's why I basically left the GLPC, the ACT UP and all that. All they're doing is screaming in the wind. But when it comes down to giving their money and showing up at benefits shows even if they don't give the money, just show their support. Why don't they wear an ACT UP t-shirt, a GLPC, what is, what is the word now? GL, is it the same GLP, I don't think any more letters yet. But why aren't they there to give their support to the people that are working in the community and those like you said, I don't think that's fair. It's not fair.

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Speaker 2 34:58

Not fair all. No.

S

Speaker 7 34:59

Why?

S**Speaker 2 35:00**

Because first of all, you're talking about maybe an ACT UP, that what, that didn't, that doesn't exist now. Okay, which I don't know, I've never seen you at an ACT UP meeting. And I'm one of the founding members of ACT UP Gulf Coast. So that's all well and good. Second, I would love to show you my checkbook and the checkbook, and anybody in ACT UP Gulf Coast right now, because we are not only giving 20 and 25 and 30 hours a week of our time, to address the important issues in this community, the issues that do affect people's lives and people's deaths. But we are giving our money also, we got it, we're trying to keep an office open. We're trying to get faxes out to, to, to politicians, and to other people across the nation. And we're paying for this out of our own pocket. And I don't have time sometimes to go to benefit shows, I would love to go to a benefit show because that's entertaining to me, and I would give you my money. But I don't have time because I'm sitting running a god damn fax machine, or whatever else working for some of the same causes that you are. So I think it's a real unfair characterization. Okay, there are some people that do that. But why don't they just show up to give their support, I don't understand they will go, you have a one day notice to show up at a protest downtown. But you may have a week notice in the Montrose Voice or the TWIT, and where are they at? You can get people who will buy drinks to go to a benefit show, you've got a lot of queens that sit on their asses and do nothing else but buy drinks. And that's their thing. And then you can get them at a benefit. You can't get a lot of people to you know, just to sit in an office or to go to meetings or to to make signs are the right to Judge Lindsay. You don't find a lot of people that will do that. So you know, you've got the mainstream on your side. I don't.

M**Michael Crawford 36:37**

Can we say horizontal hostility? I think the point is, is not that members of ACT UP and GLPC and all these other political groups are not giving them their money, they are giving you their money to their particular groups. And you know, it's expensive to get out of jail. Okay, that's just the truth of it. But I think the point is that the, the queers with the most access to money, the wealthy white men who have all the money that we need, are sitting on their asses. Anyone who read Queer in America knows that in the part when he's talking about what went on in Oregon, how those wealthy white racist, anti-semitic queens sat on their asses all the while the OCA was working to strip the queers in Oregon of their rights. It's not the people in ACT UP. It's not the people in GLPC. It's those wealthy faggots and dykes who are in Hollywood, who are in Washington, who are in New York, who are sitting there in Tanglewood and Rye Brook and so on and so forth writing out thousand dollar checks to the Republican Party and not giving a damn dime to queer AIDS related causes.

B**Brian Bradley 37:40**

Why can't we just stop and say then it's not the drag queen