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## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

lesbian, women, gay, queer, dyke, men, gay men, agenda, aids, people, feel, rupaul, comment, wac, put, images, issue, media, madonna, run

## SPEAKERS

Eric, Speaker 3, Speaker 6, Speaker 4, Michael Crawford, Jewel Gray, Speaker 2, [Together], Speaker 1, Jimmy Carper, Speaker 5

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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.

M

Michael Crawford 01:30

All right, we're back and it's another edition of After Hours here at KPFT Houston My name is Michael Crawford and

E

Eric 01:38

My name is Michael Crawford.

M

Michael Crawford 01:39

Okay good. I think when at the very beginning at the start of the show we should say that all you, I don't know, really scared heterosexual parents should be afraid because ten percent is not enough, recruit, recruit, recruit, en percent is not enough, recruit, recruit, recruit, en percent is not enough, recruit, recruit, recruit. That's right, we're out after your kids, we want to induce them into becoming homosexuals because 10% is not enough. We have a pretty

exciting show today. And I'm pretty damn jazzed about it because it's the vaginal power theme show. Which means basically, that we're gonna throw away that whole obsession that the queer media seems to have with men and their penises and going to actually focus on women. We have a really multicultural bunch of dykes in the house. And we're going to be having a discussion on dyke activism, the nuke dyke visibility and the dyke agenda. In addition to that, we're going to be having speeches by Urvashi Vaid, who happens to be my most favorite activist in the entire world. Patricia Ireland, who is the bisexual president of now. We're going to be telling you a little bit about the meeting that was held the GLPS offices with Sam Nuchia, who is a bigger Nazi than we thought he was. We're going to be having an essay by Natasha Gray, called *Bored With the Boys: Cracks in the Queer Coalition*. And of course, QMZ with Jimmy. Oh, tell us about the tickets.

 Eric 03:10

Well, I always get the the trendy club job anyway. Finally a night where we won't have to promote Charles Armstrong. And, yet and yet, we're giving away to RuPaul tickets, congrats--oh wait, uh yes, if you win, congratulations. We'll be yours. Because you'll have, we'll have won two complimentary admission platforms, bell bottoms, hairdos and RuPaul, a night of looking back into the 70s through dress and style and looking into the future through RuPaul, compliments of Heaven and After Hours, a continuing tradition on KPFT 90.1 FM, and that'll be July 24th. At Heaven, and you've got to love yourself before you can love anyone else.

 Michael Crawford 03:58

And yes, we had again, we should say that the only reason we can give away bunches of concert tickets is because yes, producer Scott Lewis of After Hours is also promotions director for Charles Armstrong. We're also going to be telling, telling you about the new art exhibit that Eric happens to be a part of.

 Eric 04:15

Oh, thank you, Mike Lamb, my zine, *Homo Boy, Homo Girl* is part of the some scenes exhibit at DiverseWorks through August. Located on the east freeway that's a little bit past the U of H downtown campus, you just go two inter--one intersection and then make a right on the first street and go around where that warehouse building is. And it's, it's right there. It's DiverseWorks located next to the Diverse Books which is open and you can call them and get directions.

 Michael Crawford 04:25

Location? Okay. We're gonna get into our discussion pretty soon, but first, we're going to have a song from Madonna, which is basically about vaginal power and it's entitled where "Where Life Begins." Okay, that was Madonna, from the album *Erotica*, the song "Where Life Begins," basically telling us that mentioned the sexist pig because if it wasn't women, we wouldn't be

here. And she snaps her fingers, kind of like that. Okay, we're going to start our discussion now. And basically the topic is going to be about the dyke agenda, dyke activism and the new dyke visibility. With us this evening, we have Vi Lee. Say hi.

S

Speaker 1 05:42

Hello.

M

Michael Crawford 05:42

And she's an Asian lesbian who's been heavily involved in peace activism, queer activism and AIDS activism.

[

[Together] 05:50

Yay.

M

Michael Crawford 05:52

We have Tiffany Isabelle. Say hi. She has been heavily involved in Queer Nation, ACT UP and formerly WAC. Correct? Okay, good. And we have Eve Trials who I just met today. So tell us what what have you been involved in besides the fact that you're African American just like me?

S

Speaker 2 05:54

Hello.

S

Speaker 3 06:11

Myself, basically.

M

Michael Crawford 06:12

Okay, cool.

S

Speaker 3 06:13

Involve in myself. And, etc.

M

Michael Crawford 06:16

Yeah. And her girlfriend is sitting in the production room waving.

S

Speaker 3 06:19

We love you.

M

Michael Crawford 06:21

Yeah. Everybody looks, okay. And Jewel Gray.

J

Jewel Gray 06:25

Hi.

M

Michael Crawford 06:26

And everybody knows you. Because you're a producer here at After Hours.

J

Jewel Gray 06:29

Producer here at After Hours. And what a fun game that is.

M

Michael Crawford 06:32

Yep. See us how we try to get you into lots of trouble. During this, this discussion, we're going to be taking your calls here at 526-5738, 526-KPFT. And I guess my first question will be

E

Eric 06:48

Who represents riot girl?

M

Michael Crawford 06:50

Oh, do we have a riot girl?

S

Speaker 1 06:53

I was looking at those zines?

M

Michael Crawford 06:54

That's, that's close it up. Close it up. Okay. Um, my first question is going to be right now it seems that lesbians are like a hot topic. They've been covered stories in New York Magazine, in Newsweek, there have been major stories in Vogue, and Vanity Fair, and so on and so forth. How do you as actual lesbians feel about the heterosexual world's the newfound discovery of you? Start, Vi.

S

Speaker 1 07:24

I think it's great. But I'm kind of afraid that it's gonna be like a fashion thing and just be here for a little while and then be gone. And just be put on the backburner. And that is what I'm scared of. What else? Oh, I guess that's it, um, I think it's great that we're being you know, out on the news, and people are recognizing that we are a part of this world. But I feel like that we're going to be put on the back burner in the future. And we have to stop that from happening.

M

Michael Crawford 07:54

Yeah, Eve, how do you feel about the fact that most of the coverage seems to revolve around a certain type of lesbian, and that lesbian is usually this middle class white woman who, and well, they're all middle class white women, and they look femme, as defined by Newsweek, meaning they look, they're the kind of women that men would find attractive, rather than a whole diverse range of lesbians. Yes, straight men.

S

Speaker 3 08:19

I suppose basically, I find that it's, you know, it all caters to straight male titillation. I mean, isn't that what life's about? But frankly, I think all of our media coverage, just sort of like the lembata. You remember the lembata? Michael, I remember the lembata. It'll go away.

M

Michael Crawford 08:38

Yeah. Tiffany, you've been heavily involved as the lesbian activist and trying to increase lesbian visibility. Is this the kind of visibility you want?

S

Speaker 2 08:52

To a point, yeah, I have a problem that it all revolves around sex. You know, I find that very, again, it's catering to that whole patriarchal crap. I mean, you know, for lack of a better word, well, I can think of a better word, but I can't say it. You know, I mean, I have a real problem with that. I mean, it's again, that what's every straight males fantasy is to have two women and so we're going to put that on the cover of everything. And I also have a problem with the fact that that it seems very condescending to me because they very rarely do they actually have actual lesbians on the cover. There are a lot of times, straight women who are exploring their lesbian

tendencies, and who are still able to take advantage of you know, I guess it was a line one of the few lines I liked in Claire of the Moon, that they're still able to take advantage of straight privileges.

M

Michael Crawford 09:54

What kind of images of lesbians would you like to see, Jewel? I mean, since there seems to be a, a not a total happiness with the kind of images that were presented in the mainstream media, what kind would you like to see?

J

Jewel Gray 10:08

I gotta be careful with this because I, I, I saw the article in Newsweek and I really, really liked the cover. There was, I guess, I feel a little outnumbered here, because I kind of liked the fact that we're getting that exposure. I'm not comfortable with the style of that exposure, but I liked the fact that people are beginning to recognize that not just every diesel dyke out there is the only lesbian out there that there are a lot of lesbians who do tend to mix and are unnoticeable in the elevator at work and driving down the street. But what I liked, what I like is that even, even if it's got errors in it, that we're getting out there, people are beginning to recognize that we exist. I didn't like some of the stuff in the article, I especially didn't like the glossary, which was designed was, was described as what you wear opposed to what you are. It's an attitude, it's not a, it's not necessarily a behavior, it's not necessarily a jacket, you put on and go down the bar and play butch, it's, it's roles that older lesbians used to play and that younger lesbians are pretty much rebelling against now. But it's nice to know that we're getting this media because I can remember time when the word wasn't even spoken men, gay men were spoken. Homosexuals were only gay men. And now it's gay and lesbians. Lesbians are being you know, pretty much the whole lot of us are being outed. And I like that part of it. But I agree with some of the things that were said here about male titillation, the male fantasy, the lesbian, and I think that some of that glamorizing of this is in some way, part of that where it's it is a male fantasy. Kinsey said so when everybody I've I've ever read sexual behavior reports on it, I've said so so I can see where some of the male dominated media, you know, at least teasing the straight male population out there with some of this, but it has, it has its good and bad views to me.

M

Michael Crawford 12:21

Tiffany, you wanted to make a comment?

S

Speaker 2 12:22

What scares me about that is I think it's wonderful that that we're shar--we're having different pictures and different images of lesbians, but what What scares me is that once again, it's promoting this, if you, it's pitting the good lesbian against against the bad lesbian, you know, it's pitting, you know, it's okay to be a lesbian if you wear a dress, it's okay to be a lesbian if you wear lipstick, it's okay if you still cater to, you know, yeah, I mean, you're still attractive to men. But you know, I mean, I have such admiration for women who are very visibly dykes, who

are very visi--there's no doubt about it, you know, I mean, and I have a lot of admiration for that. And I get scared when we start putting pictures for it saying it's okay, if you look like, you know,

 Eric 13:13

Sharon Stone?

 Speaker 2 13:14

If you're, yeah, if you look like Sharon Stone, and you're lesbian, you know,

 Speaker 3 13:19

The whole thing relates to if you're attracted to men.

 Eric 13:27

Technical difficulties. Say that again.

 Speaker 3 13:30

The whole thing basically relates to whether or not you're attracted, attractive to men. I mean, this society's views of what's attractive are the views of men, because men do the magazines and do this and do that. And I think that now that women are changing some things, and women are being the owners, and they run their own magazines now, women are trying to push the boundaries of that, but we've been culturized, to think of attractiveness as what men would like. So we don't know what's attractive to ourselves. And that's when this whole butch femme, role playing, what's attractive, what's not, what's normal, what's good. And it's just a whole big can worms you can open up.

 Michael Crawford 14:12

Well, I mean, I think it's also has to do with the fact that a lot of the lesbians who came up through the ranks of ACT UP, Queer Nation, WAC, Lesbian Avengers, basically, you know, the lesbians who are 20 something, are just not following those rules. They're not simply saying, okay, well, I guess I gotta be, you know, butch so I got the dress this way. They're saying I can be anything I want at any time I want it, any time I choose. And I think one key thing we should point out when talking about the visibility of lesbians is that a lot of this is in the general interest magazine type things and it's almost like it's an oddity, but when it comes down to issues like the military ban, I mean, we all know that lesbians are persecuted more in terms of, you know, the military, like, I don't know some some dumb ass heterosexual soldier, you know, who has been turned down by a woman is sitting there grabbing his crotch thinking things like, huh, she didn't want this so something must be wrong with her. She must be a dyke. And then

he goes and tells her commanding officer, and she ends up being thrown out of military. But in a lot of discussions around the military, we don't see lesbians. We don't see lesbians. I mean, we don't see women period. We don't see them on the the Senate Armed Forces Committee. We don't see them at the hearings that are either as witnessed, as witnesses or in any capacity. How do you feel about so much of the focus around like the military ban and other things like hate crimes are so focused around men?

S

Speaker 3 15:42

I think, primarily, one of the larger problems is that we do have that sort of deceptive, I don't know, we're sort of enigmatic. A lot of, a lot of times, unless you are in the gay community, you, you don't naturally assume that this woman is possibly a lesbian, we still have that ability to hide, you know, this person could just be our roommate, or they could be our lover, you really don't know. So I think that's part of the problem. How do you feel about that, Vi?

S

Speaker 1 16:15

Well, I think it's sad, because, okay, I'm just like all bald, too many things to think about. When we talk about military or any kind of within, when they talk about homosexuals, quote, unquote, it's always that word, just, people just think gay men, they don't think, oh, there could be a woman in this, but it's just how America and just rest of the world is based on a male dominated society. And that has bred into this, you know, thousands of years ago, and it's not, it's gonna take that much longer to change it. And people are not going to open their eyes, and little by little people are coming out. And they are using the word as lesbians are looking towards that type, I guess, to consider a woman's feelings, but it's not there. Would it be in the gay community? Or would it be in the straight community?

M

Michael Crawford 17:00

Do you have a comment? Okay, we're gonna take a phone call. William.

S

Speaker 4 17:05

Good evening.

M

Michael Crawford 17:05

You're on the air.

S

Speaker 4 17:06

Um, thank you. I wanted to make the comment that part of the reasoning behind the increased visibility. And for lack of a better term, the palatability of lesbians and lesbian culture by the media is that the media, particularly mass media, and a lot of the vast majority of the political

structure in this country is still run by white heterosexual Republican males who do not find the concept of lesbian behavior and the lesbian culture in general, threatening in the sense that male homosexuality is viewed as threatening. I mean, Sam Nunn, and his buddies are not terribly concerned about the lesbians and their impact in the military and upon fellow officers. But they are very concerned about all these young men living in very tight quarters on these ships, and these things are going to happen in the shower. And that is rooted in their fear and ignorance. But that is probably also reason behind the increased exposure, that they are viewed as more or I'm sorry, less threatening physical sense and in the cultural sense, because the vast majority of people don't understand that when women are organized and unified, they're a far greater force than most of the male driven organizations on the planet.

 M Michael Crawford 18:31

Thank you.

 S Speaker 3 18:32

There's a wise man.

 M Michael Crawford 18:33

Anyone like to comment?

 S Speaker 2 18:36

I think, I think for the most part, they do find us less threatening. I mean, in most, most straight men's minds, it's just a little mutual masturbation, and it's, you know, it's, it's, yeah, what can you possibly do without a penis? Well, I have news for you. But, you know, it's just, it's kind of sad that they'll rea--their realm of what sex is revolves around what's in their pants, and not perhaps what is happening with their female partners?

 M Michael Crawford 19:04

Well, I mean, how do you feel about the fact that the most visible images of lesbian sexuality today are the images created by Madonna? If we take the book *Sex*, and Eric finally has a comment, we take the book *Sex* and we see, see where the images that Madonna created, the ones where she got the two founders of the Clique Club together, and it was like they had shaved heads and were pierced and all this cool stuff. And beside the fact that they were hot women, how do you feel about the fact that the most circulated images of lesbian sexuality, your sexuality, are those created by a heterosexual woman?

 S Speaker 3 19:47

I think Madonna is basically a lesbian wannabe. Um, it's just, it's basically a situation where I

mean, the, back again with the magazines, when you look at the people who put out these images, Vanity Fair, Mademoiselle, all of the magazines who are running these heavily, you know, gay is in type magazines or articles lately, they're your basic debutante. What did they know about being lesbians besides some episode they had at camp, you know? What do they know?

 S Speaker 2 20:17

There's an African American lesbian who works at Vanity Fair, and she's one of the higher ups I can't remember her name. But they did in a column honor and Deneuve and she's beautiful. She's just drop dead gorgeous.

 M Michael Crawford 20:29

I thought that was the one who was the editor, executive editor of Essence.

 S Speaker 2 20:33

I thought it was Vanity Fair.

 M Michael Crawford 20:36

Yeah. Okay, well, we'll call them all lesbian. I mean, because officially before the show started, we decided that Cindy Crawford was a lesbian, did we not?

 S Speaker 3 20:45

Oh, yeah, yes, absolutely.

 J Jewel Gray 20:47

My ex used to tell me that every woman I saw was a lesbian. And I told her no, but every woman I saw had potential.

 M Michael Crawford 20:56

Let's talk a little bit

 S Speaker 3 20:58

Can be a gay woman, not a lesbian.

M

Michael Crawford 20:59

Let's, let's talk, we don't explain the difference.

S

Speaker 3 21:04

There's a big difference between being a gay woman and being a lesbian. I mean, a gay woman is just as someone who sleeps with women, and I think being a lesbian takes on the whole love for women, the whole wanting, you know, I was talking to a straight woman last night, and she said that she had no real affinity for women besides sexually. I'm sorry, that's a gay woman. That's not a lesbian. You know, I mean, and she said she wasn't a lesbian, you know. And, yeah, I think that there's a big difference. You know, I mean, not, you don't have to be political, but there has to be something besides just sex, you know, because sex does not, I mean, I could be celibate, and still be a lesbian.

J

Jewel Gray 21:43

Spiritual politics.

S

Speaker 3 21:44

Yeah.

J

Jewel Gray 21:45

You know, who you are and attitude of belief or conviction, a goal in your life. Yeah, I've met women like that too.

S

Speaker 5 21:52

Well, when I was in high school, which, you know, when I was in high school, I didn't want to be lesbian because I didn't like the word. I didn't like the word lesbian. I wanted to be a gay woman. I wanted to be queer. I wanted to be whatever. But I hated the word lesbian. And I didn't want to use it, because to me, it sounded medicinal. It sounded like a disease or something your body did after you died, you know, the, she's dead. She's a lesbian now. I just, I hated it. And it took me a long time to grow into the word, I guess I had a connotation of women with sandals and wearing potato sacks. And ugly old people eating, you know, wheat germ, in the corner of some room somewhere chanting over a candle. And somehow

S

Speaker 3 22:38

And isn't that the whole thing that men used to scare women?

S

Speaker 5 22:41

Yeah, exactly.

S

Speaker 3 22:42

Sorry, you know, we're gonna put this picture out of what a lesbian is. So you become it so you know,

S

Speaker 5 22:49

But I didn't want to become one because that was, I guess, my picture of a lesbian and, and I said that I was a gay woman. And I said, you know, if you want to call me a lesbian, that's fine. But my term for myself is a gay woman. Because the term gay at that time was unifying to me, I thought that we could be gay men and women and I had a lot of gay male friends, as well as gay female friends. And I thought that that was a unifying term. And now with the use of the word queer, just being so prevalent for me, I'm really comfortable with that word. And I find that unifying. So I consider myself a gay woman. I consider myself a lesbian. I consider myself a queer. You know, I'm, I'm not quite a transgenderal, but, but you could even call me bi sometimes, you know, it's just,

J

Jewel Gray 23:36

You heard it first here on After Hours.

S

Speaker 5 23:38

No, you've heard it here before.

M

Michael Crawford 23:41

But, but how do you see I mean, Diane, you talked about, your seeing, in the past gay as a unifying term. But now it's not seem that way.

S

Speaker 5 23:50

The media has turned it into something that's not unifying, because when, because most of the time the term is used as gay men, most, most of the time those two words are used together, even when they say gays in the military. The visual picture you get is men with guns.

M

Michael Crawford 24:05

White men with guns.

S

Speaker 5 24:05

White men with guns.

S

Speaker 1 24:07

Well, I heard I heard something really funny on the news the other night, it was a rather bigoted man who said those gay lesbians. Okay, that's, that's a new one.

S

Speaker 2 24:19

Isn't ahteterm lesbian woman redundant too? People use that all the time lesbian woman as opposed to lesbian groundhogs.

J

Jimmy Carper 24:30

There's some kind of official unofficial lesbian men.

S

Speaker 2 24:35

Well, there's lots of, there's a couple of honorary lesbians. But I think that that's a term of affection that lesbians endear their family with.

M

Michael Crawford 24:47

Well, I have a question about if, about how do you see lesbians fitting into the overall queer agenda? I mean, I've been noticing that there is a bunch of sexism in the queer community.

E

Eric 25:02

I want to add on, do you think that lesbians have their own queer agenda?

[

[Together] 25:06

Yes, yes. Yes.

J

Jewel Gray 25:09

Yeah, you're right. We're forced to

team, you're right. We're forced to.

 Speaker 2 25:10

One of the best quotes that was in that Newsweek article, and I can't remember who said it was that, that the lesbian agenda was the stepchild of two separate movements. They weren't sure whether or not they were the lesbian part of the feminist movement, or the feminist part of the gay movement.

 Michael Crawford 25:26

Yes, that was Torie Osbourn.

 Jewel Gray 25:27

Yeah.

 Speaker 2 25:28

You know, I mean, worry about two separate issues, you know, I mean, do we

 Speaker 3 25:33

Constantly

 Speaker 2 25:34

Yeah.

 Speaker 5 25:34

And if we're any kind of person, we also have to worry about racism issues. And I think we're more aware of that than most feminist and most gay, I mean, considering that we have at least two piled upon is sometimes three.

 Jewel Gray 25:47

I also think that the lesbians are taking over, frankly, I've been to a lot of meetings that I remember attending some years ago that were male dominated. And I've been to a lot of big group meetings that were women's groups. And I've seen I mean, just for example, the WAC group, where else in town, can you get that many women or that many people to come out for a group, an organization like this, at one time, have these meetings that the WAC people, I

mean, I'm always impressed whenever I see WAC people around, they're usually four or five of them. And if I go to a meeting, there's 15 or 20 of them, now I call meetings all the time and my capacity here, and my capacity at the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard where I can get to people tops. So I really think the lesbians are putting an extra effort into the community, into the politics and shaking and making the community.

S

Speaker 2 26:35

How much do you think AIDS has do with it?

J

Jewel Gray 26:37

I think a lot, I think a lot. But I think there's a certain apathy running through our community because in result, maybe the age, burning people out they've worked so hard and so long, and they've been so disappointed dealing with people about AIDS and money and medical and grief, and, and that they're just apathetic about some of the political stuff now, I mean, a guy who's lost his lover in the last year may not feel very much like being political. And I think a lot of that goes on. So I think we're, really I think I begin seeing us to start taking over organizations, WAC didn't exist a couple years ago, neither did the Lesbian Avengers.

M

Michael Crawford 27:13

Eve, you want to make a comment?

S

Speaker 3 27:14

I basically wanted to, to address the issue of why we felt we had, you know, we were sort of bastardized, and that, you know, we are the splinter group. I don't know, I would think, as a minority, you know, why couldn't this, the sex issue of men and women be inclusive in the gay movement all together? I mean, when you look at it, we're basically a minority, the way I feel about it is as a black woman, as a black person in general, were I, were I not gay, or lesbian, or whatever, we're labeling this, I would still want to, to feel the same feelings about the gay movement, as I would say about any civil rights movement. Because I think it's a human issue, and not just a gay or lesbian issue. I really don't feel, I don't feel the need for the splinter, these labels in these groups, because, as a woman, yes and as a lesbian, I'm a feminist. But at the same time, I feel just as much for AIDS and every other issue that exists. It's a human issue.

M

Michael Crawford 28:19

Vi, you wanted to make a comment?

S

Speaker 1 28:22

She had someone had mentioned earlier that the media has separated, you know, gays and

lesbians, and made us feel like we're at the lower level, but it's just not the media, also the gay community itself has, because I feel like that maybe they feel that women are not beneficial to men sexually, because there are gay men, and we don't need them, or they don't need us period. And also to the comment of the, I'm like going blank, the lesbian issue, the agenda, I think it's really harder because we have, I was told by a woman who walked up to me in the street the other day, not all lesbians are political, or they don't, no, they don't want to get political, they just want to be housewives and be happy. And not all lesbians want, we have different agendas. People are going into politics. And here are the people who's pulling into the other direction. The, I guess the Donna Reed syndrome, I don't know. But it's very hard because here we are fighting the, you know, homophobia and fighting sexism and have you struggle with our own womanhood.

M

Michael Crawford 29:26

If you have any comments or questions, so number to call is 528-5738, 526-KPFT. Yes, I gave the wrong number the first time 5256-5738. What are some of the issues that you see on the dyke agenda? I mean, forget about gay men for the moment. I mean, I know that in a lot of ways I would like to forget about gay men. What do you see as dyke specific issues?

S

Speaker 2 29:53

I think that, that lesbians and dykes and queer women and gay women and the whole bit I mean, I think we've been working behind the scenes for such a long time that, you know, the behind the scenes work we've, we've, we've laid this groundwork of, of nurturing and, and doing all the, for use, for lack of a better word, the secretarial kind of running the scene while white patriarchal men take credit for it in a lot of situations. And part of that I mean, you can, you can go back in in lots of organizations, even to the Gay Men's Health Crisis in San Francisco and in New York, yeah, in New York, first of all, and there was gay women there, doing the backbone kind of stuff like gathering information, while the men went out where there was money with their other male friends and gathered up and did the fundraising and the marketing. And even in the National Gay and Lesbian Taskforce, right now we have Torie Osborn, who is very powerful leader, she used to be the leader of the Los Angeles Health Center. And before her there was Urvashi Vaid who's, who was there, who is a tremendous activist. So I think that we've had an agenda. And our agenda now is just to be more visible, to be more, to be seen more as a diverse culture within a culture. And I just think visibility is, is got to be our main agenda, a positive, a positive visibility.

M

Michael Crawford 31:31

We, all of you agree with that?

S

Speaker 1 31:33

Yeah, I have something else to say, though, I think the lesbian agenda, I think, in my personal opinion, should be that they're going to be the backbone, the unity that brings the gay and lesbian and the heterosexual community together. And also, I think more because I talk to gay

men, and they're not most as aware about racial issues, either within the gay community, but I think the lesbian agenda should be, they're gonna unify the racial issues, the woman issues, the feminist issues, you know, AIDS issue, I think they're gonna be the backbone and unify all that into one.

 Michael Crawford 32:06

I agree with that. And I think one thing that we should continue, continually hammer and continually say is that with all the, without all the work that lesbian feminists did in the 70s, with up with the whole theoretical, you know, onslaught, the queer communities would not be where we are now, there would be no ACT UP, there would be no Queer Nation, there would be no WAC, there would be no Lesbian Avengers, there wouldn't be this tremendous push towards single payer national health care, all of these issues came out of the work that lesbian feminists did. And the only thing that gay men brought were our penises, you know.

 Speaker 3 32:42

Clinic defense, yeah.

 Michael Crawford 32:46

Is it enough for you just to be hanging out in the background doing all the grunt work while the you know, the fags run around and getting all the glory?

 Speaker 2 32:54

No, no, because it's not just getting all the glory, you know? Because if we don't have visibility, we're not, you know, I mean, no, we're not, we're not, we're completely and totally invisible. What happens, you know, with all the AIDS trials, I mean, the clinical trials, there are no women or there are no lesbians in there. You know, I mean, so you're not just getting the glory. You know, I mean, you, we're overlooked in everything, you know?

 Eric 33:20

There's also not any people of color in those.

 Speaker 2 33:24

Well, there are trials specifically now for, that include people of color, but I know that when we were in DC, we went to that lesbians and AIDS demo, demonstration. And a lot of my friends were like, well, that won't be very big, because not many lesbians have AIDS. And we get there and to me, it was like the second highlight only to the Dyke March. And that was, that was incredible, because there were powerful women, chanting, yelling, being, being very visible,

very aggressive, very positive, getting, getting it accomplished the best possible way. We ignored any kind of fundamentalist kind of people that were there, we ignored them as much as possible.

M

Michael Crawford 34:05

Not completely. There was one time when we all laughed at them simultaneously. And the cop stopped us. And then there was that one time we all lunged at the Health and Human Services building until they agreed to let twelve lesbians and to meet with Donna Shalala to talk specifically about lesbians and AIDS. Let's see, we have Connie Sawyer from Q-Patrol, a lesbian, activist in Q-Patrol. She's on what line seven? Connie?

S

Speaker 6 34:37

Hi, how are ya?

M

Michael Crawford 34:38

Good. How are you?

S

Speaker 6 34:39

Oh, not too bad. It's a fairly slow night this evening. But we've had in the recent past couple real busy nights.

M

Michael Crawford 34:46

Can you tell us a little bit about lesbian involvement with Q-Patrol? How many women do you have? Well, not maybe not how many women but what percentage is women and what part do you think women are playing in Q-Patrol?

S

Speaker 6 34:58

We've been playing a fairly large part as far as some of the leadership has been concerned over the past few months. Let's see, as far as total membership is concerned? Probably you're talking about a quarter of the members at the most. And I would love to see more lesbian involvement in Q-Patrol.

M

Michael Crawford 35:17

So does this mean you're going to make a plug for Q-Patrol?

S

Speaker 6 35:21

Sure. If anybody wants to become a member of Q-Patrol, please feel free to call me at 666-3125. Leave me your name, telephone number, or any other information necessary to reach you. And I'll get back in touch with you.

M

Michael Crawford 35:38

And Connie, why don't you give us a little bit of, maybe make a comment on how you see the role, you see dykes playing in, in, in, in queer activism?

S

Speaker 6 35:46

I'm sorry, could you repeat that please?

M

Michael Crawford 35:48

Can you like, give us a few comments on the way that you feel about dyke participation in queer activism? And what do you see? I mean, how do you see lesbians being accepted by gay men, etc.?

S

Speaker 6 36:01

I see, actually, I've been disheartened in the past by, by some divisiveness between the genders. That's, that's something my partner in this mobile unit we're driving around and we're talking about just, we were driving around. I see an increasingly important role and necessary role for dyke activism as far as queer politics is concerned, simply for any of a number of reasons. But first of all, simply because we need and deserve to be there.

M

Michael Crawford 36:35

Right. Is there anything else you wanted to say?

S

Speaker 6 36:39

Other than the fact that I would love to see some more people out on patrol with us? And I think it's wonderful that you got to, that you guys are doing a program tonight on, what is it, vaginal visibility? What was that?

E

Eric 36:50

Vaginal power. Vaginal power. Yeah, Clit Power.

S

Speaker 6 36:55

Yes. Yes. Well, visibility would be nice too, many men.

M

Michael Crawford 37:00

Do you want to give the number for

S

Speaker 6 37:01

It's getting late tonight.

M

Michael Crawford 37:04

Do you want to get the number for Q-Patrol one more time?

S

Speaker 6 37:07

Pardon, number for Q-Patrol?

M

Michael Crawford 37:09

Yes.

S

Speaker 6 37:10

666-3125.

M

Michael Crawford 37:12

Okay, thanks a lot, Connie.

S

Speaker 6 37:14

Bye.

M

Michael Crawford 37:14

Bye bye.

