

gcam_ah_19980418_t1_01

 Fri, Feb 24, 2023 9:28AM  46:41

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

people, talk, domestic violence, violence, abuse, gay, lesbians, lover, men, women, bisexual, tonight, place, deal, houston area, straight, beaten, police report, situation, community

SPEAKERS

Jewel Gray, Jimmy Carper



00:02

At EOS College Station



Jewel Gray 00:05

The following program contains language or images of a frank or sensitive nature that may be considered objectionable by some listener discretion is advised.



Jimmy Carper 00:39

Oh yes, you've tuned into after hours queer radio with attitude right here on KPFT Houston 90.1 FM. The crew of after hours is ready to bring you news, interviews, dialogue and music geared for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people and their friends. 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 age job or frame of mind. That's okay, we're here for you too. So sit back, relax, and enjoy this week's edition of after hours. Hello, Houston and welcome to after hours queer radio with attitude. Heard every Saturday night at midnight right here on KPFT Houston, and ke O 's College Station. Hey, College Station. We are the sounds of Texas.



Jewel Gray 02:22

Can I do I get a chair tonight. You have to beg Jim for cheer tonight. This is Jewel gray with Jimmy tonight. And we have got one great show for you. It's kind of a little serious subject. But I think it's an important subject that we should all think about. And we should watch you know and be aware of and we've got some really intelligent and informed people down here tonight who are going to talk to us about these things we shared the big boy is going to talk about some important things. And Michelle is going to be talking with big boy when they do the news

about these important things that and you're gonna play some music here and there. And that's gonna be very important too. And Jim is around somewhere. Tim, can I have a chair please? Thank you.



03:07

So how have you been doing in the I've been



J Jewel Gray 03:09

great. I was over cousins a while ago watching a show. You know? I've been to a show. It's an I love them over there. I took rose over to see a show tonight. She never seen a show before. She was real. Right. impressed. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Excuse me while I've been the mic down? Hey, you know, we got rid of that little tap tap didn't mean that squeak? I hope so. And I had a sheet of paper somewhere telling us who was going to be here talking to us, but I don't know where it went. I think there was still writing on it when I was when I left the law that maybe so we could tell people what was going on. But there's a lot of stuff going on in town this week. And some at some point tonight, you might want to have a pencil and paper. Oh, it might help in your life, your your life or your friends. Somebody you knows life. So be good for you to get a piece of paper and pencil and be ready for phone numbers or information that might come to you tonight. And I'm at a loss. I don't get it a lot. I was telling you about cousins, you know. Yeah. And you know, I



04:09

experienced the same thing this week.



J Jewel Gray 04:11

There we are. There's my papers as



04:14

you took roasted cousins and that was her first and I took



04:18

standards in town. Yes. I can always tell when standards. The biggest grin. I love you took a hoot first time. Excuse me. You took who for the first time? Well, I bet there are a lot of crumbling people out there right



04:32

now. My very good friend Bill Gaddy, who died three years ago next month. As a matter of fact. I'm still very close to his family and his oldest sister. And I went out to dinner last Tuesday and she wanted to see something of the Montrose and I suggested going over to the BRB because every Tuesday in Nevada has a benefit show

J Jewel Gray 04:57

God Nevada is good NTN there's no lipstick sitting there, she's got a talented voice

∅ 05:01

and I keep dogging her for a tape so I can play it. I don't know why she didn't do so. Surely there's somebody who can appreciate that. But she's really, really good. But I mean, the BRB is the place where we're Bill hung out and actually worked.

J Jewel Gray 05:18

Well, yeah, that's where I knew Bill from. Yeah. They're in the switchboard

∅ 05:22

there. And this was yes, he was a member of the switch. So she had never seen a drag show or a drag queen.

J Jewel Gray 05:29

The woman she just didn't know she had.

∅ 05:32

She loved it. It was great. We had a great time. really had a good time.

J Jewel Gray 05:36

It's a good place. To a good time. Yes, you did. And you know, the thing is that a lot of people think well, you know, that's not a moral thing to do. But I think it's really wholesome fun. I have a

∅ 05:46

great time. Julie and



05:48

I did the show. Well, actually, you kind of do.



J Jewel Gray 05:51

Well, you were moving chairs around. And we need to jump in there.



05:57

Mass, the hateful queen.



J Jewel Gray 06:00

Like a ballet dancer. You're more like, you know, weightlifter. Yeah,



06:04

we make we make a charming pair. That's right.



06:08

That's right. And what were we saying? Oh, the BRB and going to the shows, but I'm sitting there at night thinking Jeez, this is really just good fun. You know? No, you know, I yeah, I have to admit, I had I had a drink while I was there, you know, but I didn't drink to excess. And I didn't know anybody there was drinking to excess. And we were all just having a good time watching the show. And vision with each other. Playing little pool. Are we waving? No, no, we're not waving now. That's sure looks like waving to me. And well, the



06:39

neat thing about one of the neat things about cousins is that you're liable to see more people let's see how many more people dressed as women



J Jewel Gray 06:52

in the audience. Yes. As a matter of fact, there were more people in this one thing we



06:56

I learned to the name was being switchboard is when people are just coming out to cross

learned to the game was being switchboard is when people are just coming out as cross dressers or trans section transgender induce Yes. And that's the place to go. That's right.

J Jewel Gray 07:10

That's right. And and you know, and you can tell, you can always tell, and you know, what they're doing is they're they're watching and they're learning and they're getting experience and they're getting comfortable with who they are. And it's a very comfortable place to do that. We were in there. And I want you to know those bartenders made us feel I haven't been in cousins in probably three years. But those bartenders made me feel like I had been there yesterday and they had known me for three years. The bartenders and the people there you know, they spoke everybody was friendly. I was really impressed and I was really glad to took rose there because it was a you know, we were e Jays earlier and there was like, you know, we walked in and every I gag, you know, like, what are they doing?

♂ 07:50

That's the place where we're boys take off the clothes on the regular base. So

J Jewel Gray 07:53

we left deejays I said, let's go over to cousins. I said if we're lucky before we leave after we leave cousins, we'll go over to the ripcord. Ah, but we didn't get time we got caught up in cousins. But as we drove by the record, we saw many high knees walking across the road and their leather, chaps. These dark dark black leather chaps these white little high knees walking roster. They were so so vivid. Oh yeah. It was something I said. Can you tell this is ripcord and she said yes. Even rose. You've never seen it before. So yes, I can tell. I told her I'd take her in there, but it was too dark. And I'm afraid I lose her.

♂ 08:29

But before we get to the cast of 1000 really seriously, Castle? I gotta tell you about the bisexual conference in Boston that I went to. Yeah, a couple weeks ago.

J Jewel Gray 08:40

You were in Boston? Yeah. Tell us Tell me. I know. I know. Okay. What's going on in Boston? By what? The byway one for the fifth

♂ 08:51

annual Yes. The fifth international bisexual conference, okay. And it had just people from out got everywhere. And I got to meet Tom Robertson.

J Jewel Gray 09:04

Tom Robinson. You know, the great camera.

♂ 09:07

Yeah. Glad to be gay Tom. Yeah.

J Jewel Gray 09:12

The great the famous.

♂ 09:13

Yeah. Well got into sign a disk and then lost it somehow. No.

♂ 09:17

Oh,

J Jewel Gray 09:18

no. So, Jimmy, does that mean does that mean you're by? Yes, completely. You haven't crossed over yet?

♂ 09:26

No wonder. We don't want to confuse the audience here.

♂ 09:28

We've got Jimmy Carper. We've got Jimmy Vaughn. That's right. Jimmy Vaughn, Jimmy Carper and Jim Vaughn. That's right. I I quite often, it's either Jim or Jimmy. And then it's either Jimmy or Jim to me, doesn't matter. They just it's like

♂ 09:41

Jimmy Carter is pretty solidly queer. pretty soft.

♂ 09:45



09:45

The gas. The gas man and American gas man. Jimmy Boggs, on the other hand is



09:51

undecided. Know. Exactly. He likes to play the field. He doesn't want to narrow his choices down. That's all this spins. is big and wide. That's right. I kind of like it here. Sitting on it feels good. Well, you know, I've always I've always kind of thought that my personal philosophy and this is something I don't share very often because people kind of poopoo it, you know that poopoo kind of say, oh, yeah, is that we all basically are bisexual. All of this all straight people, all gay people are basically bisexual, and then we kind of lean in one direction more than the other. I've always thought that God put us on the, on the planet as bisexual beings that we could make those, you know, movements it as we choose, because it's we have sexual. I want to say we have sexual. What is my word? I'm looking, I'm looking for a word here. No, no sexual Capet we have the sexual capacity to do either way to perform and to have sex either way. And if we were going to be all straight, and that we wouldn't have the capacity to be that way. I don't believe that God would have made us where we could do either one. If he didn't want us to do either one. Well, I



11:09

have to admit, for a solid queer. There have been women that I have loved. And women that I have been sexually attracted to that and it made me kind of scary. I've been I've lusted after at least one transsexual woman, and at least one transsexual man. I just, it was just there. Well, I went I it was confusing. I didn't understand it. But you know, there it is.



11:37

I've been there too. I have been attracted to men. I have been in places where I thought, ooh, just come over home with me. Just come home with me. But you know, and then I think now what would I do when I get there? What I do when I get there? Well, that urge is there, even though I don't have that experience. And you know, that's a lot too. When I was young, I decided that, that if I didn't if I didn't experiment, I wasn't for sure. I wish that I could count on the fact that I was gay. So when I was young, I did. I slept around a little bit, not a whole lot. I have a little experience. But I knew that there was a decided difference. I felt much more comfortable and I in and my emotions connected more with women. That didn't mean it's where I am. That didn't mean that the sex with the men was any less as pleasurable as it was with women. It was just emotionally and spiritually connected more with women. So now that we've got that out of the way, di can town is going up, please, please don't tell me what you think of this movie coming out. They're raising all kinds of cane about one now the one where they gay man and the straight woman get together? We're you know, what is it? What is that movie, that all the object of my affection, where he's gay, and she's straight, and she loves him? And eventually he kind of becomes very attracted to her and I don't even know the tail end of it. Do you know, Blanca? Do they get together? Does anybody know? Call us and let us know.



13:03

But anyway, we've had that in the gay community for a long time. But there is an article in the latest advocate that talks about lesbians and their affinity with straight men, that many lesbians have straight men, friends,



J Jewel Gray 13:20

all my male friends. Well, 99% of my close male friends are gay men, I feel more secure. I have never had to worry about whether what they're thinking, you know, I just, I have a problem dealing with what straight men are thinking, You know what? Because I know that straight men think about sex every 20 seconds. That's the That's what they say and all the statistics that they think think about sex every 20 seconds. Now that's the statistics. I didn't make that up.



13:49

Well, you know, you're looking at TV, you're looking at magazines, all those heteros all they want to do is have sex, it's just, I mean, that's



J Jewel Gray 13:57

when breeders but you know, I've been hearing a lot of murmuring about this movie coming out. As matter of fact, as somebody surprised me on TV of the day, Gene Chow at the reviewer was on TV, you know, he's very strange guy. And he's, he's been kind of negative toward the the community several times in his, and he made several remarks about this movie was going to upset gay people. And if you wanted to see a more positive view of gay relationships, here are several other movies you should go see, rather than this one, I was stumped. Because he was saying that here are several other gay movies you should see rather than this one if you want to see what a gay relationship is about. And there was no it was kind of right on the middle of the road. It wasn't like you know, he had an opinion no judgment and nothing like that. I was really impressed because usually he's very, not very but usually he's kind of in the negative area about gay stuff. But there's some rumbling going on as Matt fact I think that there's going to be a show on next week one of the talk shows where I think Oprah one of them is going to have a lot lesbians on fussing about this very thing where you know now they're going to try to convince all the you know it's hard enough to further tell the religious right that you know we're gay we're you know we're going to stay that way and now these movies are coming out that say well maybe not maybe it's just a matter of you know stepping over that line and because here's a movie that shows that very thing well the lesbians that I've talked to you're kind of upset about Of course I'm Chasing Amy gross to you know the other one I hated one what Kate Jackson and Mike on King and when getting love yeah making love I didn't like that one either because I didn't like that one either for that. And then there was one Perry King did where they were two gay people lesbian and gay man who moved into an apartment together and fell in love of course, and then got married. And it was grotesque was back in the 70s course. Oh, yeah. But those are the kind of movies that people remember. And they point to saying, Hey, you can do this. What is this? Like? Break time? Wrap it up. Oh, wrap it?



16:01

10.01

Up, Jewel. No, no, no. Okay, now

16:03

we've got folks we need Yes, we

16:04

do. Yes, we do. And let me go through really quickly who they are we got? PAYGO is that Rica? Now? Rice? Oh, is that Rica? Is rice. That's it? All right. Ice rice? Who is God, part of the BiNet membership? And a former parole officer? What does that say in

16:29

one of the five? What are the five BiNet members? I find it members five strong. Yeah. So you

J Jewel Gray 16:35

know, if you're a bi person and you're interested in joining an organization, obviously here's one that needs some, some volunteers?

16:43

Well, no, no, no, no, no, no, then we wouldn't be the five anymore.

16:48

Tell us a little bit about yourself. Yeah.

16:50

Well, I have been out in the community for about six years now. And moved to Houston, two years ago to become a parole officer. Now I'm a portraitist, and living my life, much less in a much less stress related field. Somehow, being a starving artist is much more easy on my life.

17:16

A starving artist. Yes. And you're here to speak about what we're going to talk about later, but I want which is not about being by Oh, no, that that's just a by product. Oh.



17:33

She didn't go there. She didn't. She did.



Jewel Gray 17:36

But we also we asked, we also have Mindy Snodgrass, and I used to asked I told Mindy Oh, you got the name of my favorite actress. She said she's my cousin. Who's I love this. I love this. Did you read this no fully recovered lawyer, social worker in private practice working with gay and lesbian survivors of domestic violence and representing the Houston area Women's Center. So that gives you a hint, what we're going to do tonight when we talk



17:57

about Houston area Women's Center, they send us stuff all the time that we promote. That's right.



Jewel Gray 18:03

So we'd be talking about domestic violence. Tonight. We have Gary Norman here from the hate crimes. Oh, he's a hate crime specialist. And we'll talk a little bit about that. We don't want to step on big Roy's toes, but we're gonna talk about how that relates to domestic violence and such. And he's also with the Montrose Counseling Center, and we have Blanca Balderas. And that's like Antonio about this. She's a crisis counselor with HPD. And we'll be talking about some, some current things and some important things and we'll be given out some information a little bit more that just suddenly got louder. Is that me? Or no, I



18:42

turned it up.



Jewel Gray 18:42

Oh, you turn me up. Okay. Yeah. And they're gonna be here talking about domestic violence recently. We've had it kind of put in our faces again, how domestic violence actually touches all walks of life. We had a little scene here in the Montrose about flows about three weeks ago, where one young man shot another young man in a parking lot. They had been lovers and he had was I don't know what the cause was, but they had been lovers. And obviously, there have been some problems before because the one young man who died had reported the his lover for stalking him or something. And so there was a police report on file. And, of course, there's not a lot they can do until something happens only this time. So what the something that happened killed one of them, I think the other one was shot to death one shot himself. That's what and so, that's been in the news lately. And, you know, just a lot of things about I think that a lot of gay people think that domestic violence is just for heterosexual couples, straight straight couples, you know, they remember their mom and dad or, you know, their neighbors

next door screaming and fighting with each other. But, you know, folks, that's not true. That, you know, it's, I think that they're the same percentage of The domestic violence goes on within our community as it goes in a strike community. I



20:05

think so too, because you might back me up on this jewel, but at the Gay Lesbian switchboard, we have often received calls from gays or gay men or lesbians who talk about having a violent episode with your lover.



Jewel Gray 20:22

Yeah, I've gotten calls there where it was going on at the moment, as we spoke on the phone, I can hear banging on the door screaming, let me in let me in. And the person on the phone was, you know, what should I do? What should I do? You know, if I let them in, they're gonna, you know, beat me up. Now. The person I was talking to you didn't think they were going to be killed, but they were pretty sure they were going to be beaten up severely. And you know, it's hard to deal with a situation like that. Because their own there's only one answer at that point. And that's to call the authorities. You know, you can't, you really should involve other people, you should involve somebody who can put a stop to it at that moment. And that was the only thing I could say. But while I was on the phone, it's hard to get a hold of the police. And I heard the screaming and yelling in the background and door, you know, somebody's trying to kick open a door, it was very clear what was happening. And that was just one incident. There were many, many others. So it's not something that just goes on, you know, in straight couples. And I was talking to Peggy about this, when we talked about on the phone last week, my father was abusive to my mother. And for years, you know, it never occurred to me that it went on into in gay relationships that that kind of thing went on, until I met these two men. One time that one of the men confided in me that his lover often struck him when he was angry. And he kind of just, you know, shuffled, shuffled it off like it was no big deal. But I was stunned that he would stay, you know, because I had watched my mother take it so long, I guess that I was stunned that a man would stay in a relationship he was being beaten in. It was different. But what we want to do tonight is I'm going to kind of let PAYGO, who really was the instigator of this. And I think it was very important. Calm, you know, topic for us to talk about something we don't talk about often. I think it's something that embarrasses a lot of us. And it's hard to admit, you know, be critical about our own community sometimes. But it's something that if we talk about loud enough, and often enough, maybe we can actually make a difference. So PAYGO you were the one who called and said, hey, you know, this is important to me. What do you think about doing one of these shows this, you know, particular incident in the parking lot in Montrose couple of weeks ago, really brought it to the forefront and you wanted to talk about it. What, what may make this important to you?



22:45

Well, frankly, in my life, this has been something that has come up over and over and over again, since I was a small child. We had abuse in my own family. When I grew up and went out on my own, I kept finding people who were in abusive situations repeatedly. Which is to say, I lived in a very small neighborhood where walls were thin. And after I got out of that, I was

working as a security guard, then as a parole officer, then I was in the gay community. And everywhere I went, this was a something that came up. The basic difference between the gay lesbian, bisexual and transgendered community in the street community is nothing, there is no difference, the only difference that can be seen is the equipment between the legs of our lovers. And that's it. Statistically, there is no real difference between how many people get abused in the straight community and how many people get abused in the gay community in an attempt just to similar peg,

J

Jewel Gray 23:52

you know, what I'd like is that we kind of defined something here abuse, you know, to me, that meant, you know, doubling up your fist and, and giving your, you know, your, your spouse, your significant other a black eye, you know, bloody lip, maybe, you know, couple of stitches here and there, but it can be a lot less, a lot less severe and a lot more subtle canted.

♂

24:14

Indeed, frankly, some of the, the most important abuse that goes on is the mental abuse and sexual abuse, the things that cut off the end of the victim from their support group. When you have some money to test out the friends in your life, the family in your life, all of your acquaintances, they eventually can even cut off your job. They threaten everything that you have, including your dignity, your sense of self worth and your sense of self present preservation. Then use jealousy, possessiveness, unrealistic expect expectations. frankly, they use brainwashing to get between you and your sense of control. And when this happens, you lose sight, how to get out and how to survive,

J

Jewel Gray 25:12

right? You kind of kind of feel closed in know where to go. And that's when people tend to, you know, work on the situation from a response angle, rather than from a healthy angle, they respond in kind, you know, they try to strike back in some way or, or to answer with, with some sort of violence rather than some sort of recovery, something healthy.

♂

25:39

That's one of the reasons that I have asked everybody else to come in here is to help speak about these, the situation here inside our own community, we really don't talk about this too much.

J

Jewel Gray 25:54

Well, Gary, you're with the Gary Norman, you're with the a month was counseling center. Do you see this very often there?



26:00

Well, personally, I don't see it with the program that I work at. But we do have a program where we work specifically with survivors of intimate partner violence. And the discussion I think, is important for all the all the points that have already been raised. I think it's also good to point out some specific differences. Some that we've already talked about, but some differences between the heterosexual community and the gay lesbian community in battering. In addition to what we've talked about, I think something that's important, we can start, we can easily get into blaming the victim on these issues. And something that I've seen, and something that the center has seen is that we need to look at it in the context of what is available, like when people are when people are having their family connections cut off, their friends cut off. It's difficult to find those resources. And it for the straight community is difficult. We're still dealing with that, right now, trying to find enough resources for people. But if we look at the the gay and lesbian community, it's even that much more difficult to find any services that are out there.



27:32

Yes, a lot of the gay community have to look at the fact that they are already cut off from most of their family. This isn't to say that we all aren't, but it's a significant factor.



Jewel Gray 27:43

And the authorities tend not to want to respond as well with the gay community as they would in a straight community. I found that to be you know, they come to the house. I mean, just for an example. I know, this is pretty, you know, far fetched, but there was a young, half naked, you know, rather beaten young man running around a parking lot one night, and police officers took him back up to his lover's apartment. And it turns out that his lover was Jeffrey Dahmer. If that that, you know, for example, is you know, and they laughed and sneered, you know, we'll just take him back up there to his lovers, rather than if it had been a woman out in the street, you know, and she'd been running half naked and looking beaten. I think they would have done a little bit more than just taking backup to his lovers and make snide remark remarks.



28:33

And the truth, though, is that it took incidents like that in the street community before anything was done. to sensitize the police, to dealing with domestic violence. There have been cases that are absolutely horrific. That happened in communities that really should have known better. And the situation was addressed officers that allowed this to go on, were taught to you and programs were initiated to help sensitize the Community Services and the police services to dealing with domestic violence in the heterosexual community. It is still in its bare beginnings with the homosexual community. But it is happening. You know, there are a lot of really good points of progress that have been happening around the country. Blanca is here to talk about some of them.



Jewel Gray 29:29

Yeah blockers with is a crisis counselor at the through HPD. And I'm sure Blanca, you see a lot of this coming through being counselor there and talked to a lot of people do. Many people from our community, seek that sort of help from the police department?

29:44

Yes, they do. And let me say that I've been an out lesbian at the Houston Police Department for 14 years. And I want to encourage anybody who's listening. I want to if you feel like you're a victim of emotional or physical or any other kind of abuse I want yoo hoo. Feel free to call me and we can speak confidentially about your situation, I can tell you what the options are, I can tell you, I would like to explain the procedures involved in making a police report filing charges, etc. I really want people out there listening to know that we care that I'm there, I'm out. I have sensitized the entire unit, we have had a lot of consciousness raising over the past several years, around family violence in general, and especially around domestic violence and same sex relationships. People think that, you know, they, they, they get treated a certain way. They won't be listened to they won't be respected. And I can tell you that as far as if you have any kind of disrespect from the police department. There's procedures for answering to that also.

J Jewel Gray 30:51

Well, you know, blanc I really think that a lot of people are unaware that there are crisis counselors to the police department.

30:56

Yeah, that's true. We're a small group. Right now, we're nine counselors, and a supervisor in the family violence unit. Our numbers 71330 Wait, 1100. The family violence unit is open during business hours Monday through Friday 6am to 4pm. But I also want you to know that a person can make a police report 24 hours a day, there is a difference between making a police report and filing charges. The difference is a person can go to a substation or storefront. Explain to the officer at the desk that they want a police report major, it could be stalking could be telephone harassment. Could be assault could be a number of things, explain the situation. Express your interest in having a report done because you want the documentation you want a case number, you may or may not want charges filed at that time. That option is up to you. For a lot of reasons people don't want charges done immediately. And that's true and in hetero of situations. Also, people don't necessarily want charges, but they do want someone to know they want an outcry to the system.

J Jewel Gray 32:05

Okay, we'll give you that number and a couple of other numbers in just a little bit. The sound

32:09

of Texas KPFT Houston, of Pacifica radio network station 90.1 FM 89.1K e os College Station,



32:18

expect?



32:22

Actually, we're still on we just did a quick gas station ID and all that nifty business.



Jewel Gray 32:29

Like, you know, we were talking about, we were talking to Blanca Balderas and Paco rice, about domestic violence. And I've really, you know, I really would like to put a handle on this, I think there are a lot of people out there who are being abused in one form or another, who do not recognize that this is domestic violence, it's abuse, can we kind of just like, find a way that we can put some definition on what that would be. And you know, when I said earlier that there are some subtle forms, we talked about mental and, and environmental abuse, you know, where you're kind of locked in, you know, I'd like to kind of run the gamut, a range of possibilities. Some people just do not recognize that this is what's happening to them. Can I throw something in real quick certainly,



33:17

I just bought Greg Louganis is breaking the surface. And I love the movie. And I really wanted to get the book. And there's something in there that is so telling. And it's when he explains how his his lover at the time used to. Every night before going to bed, pat his head and say my little dummy, that is so telling I mean something, it could be something as minor to that to the outside world, but to that person, they know what that humiliation and and all of that what that means.



Jewel Gray 33:50

And all domestic violence is not a criminal. I mean, you couldn't call the police because this was going on. But it's definitely something you need to take serious about in your relationship.



34:02

That's vital. Whenever we get into a relationship, that relationship is going to consume a great part of our time and energy. The good thing about a relationship is it's supposed to give back just as much energy as we put into it. Hopefully even more. In an abusive relationship. The opposite is true. We put in twice as much energy and it just sets us dry. abusive relationship is a cycle. Somebody can be abusing primarily in any one spot, but they will always be doing more than one thing. They may be using coercion and threats. Like well threats to your dog they may be beating your dog or cat or your child. They may flash guns at you or knives out

had to make harassing and terrifying statements at odd times, you never know when it's going to come up. And the pattern of abuse is there just to do that, to make your ability to perceive how to move safely through your world less, less stable, less, more confusing, the more the PERT, the victim in this relationship is confused, the less they can do. Confusion is one of the primary tools of the abuser. They use an intimidation, emotional abuse and isolation. When you're isolated, and cut away from your friends and your family. When you can't tell them what's going on. When you don't think they're going to understand. That's when you start losing track of the things that they can tell you to encourage you to remember who you are, and how strong you really can be.

J

Jewel Gray 36:02

Mindy, I know that you're you're with the Houston area Women's Center, you must see a lot of this. Because, you know, I know that that's predominantly what women, I mean, people see as a turning point, a place to turn to, if they're in that kind of relationship that a lot of I mean, predominantly, I think that's the word the word is out. If you're being abused in relationships, the Houston area Women's Center is the place to call or find out help. They have several shelters, and they probably have got the most experience I think, as far as dealing with it, you know, hands on, you know, the really vital situations. Not that what Blanca does. But you guys not only, you know, talk to people, you actually physically work with people, families and find shelters and alternative situations for people. How does it? How does it appear to you?

o

36:56

Well, one thing I want to clarify, I don't work for the Houston area women's volunteer, representing them. And we do get a substantial number of calls about same sex domestic violence, both for men and women. Right now, what we provide is a group for lesbian survivors of domestic violence, there is a potential for the same services for men, although one of the things that you find in in gay male domestic violence situations is that men are not nearly as forthcoming with respect to violent situations in their homes than women are, I think, because they're not as sensitized to those issues. And also, because it's a lot more difficult for a man to admit that he's being beaten up by his partner, generally speaking, but Houston area Women's Center does provide some shelter services for men who are experiencing same sex domestic violence, certainly provide shelter services for women, one of the difficulties in any shelter situation that you run into when you're dealing with same sex partners, is the very viable and real risk that the partner who is the batterer will end up putting himself or herself in the same sheltering situation, as the person who has been the victim of abuse. And that situation has come up with a number of clients of mine over the years. So that's something that differs rather significantly among gays and lesbians, from the the heterosexual population. And I think it's something that we have to be real sensitive to those of us who work in this environment. Because there there is a very real risk of that.

J

Jewel Gray 38:42

You know, I think the key word to all this is violence. You know, I've been thinking about violence for the last year or so about, you know, that our, as a culture, our propensity for violence, you know, I was looking in the paper the other day, and they had a chart on how

many people die from gun shots, you know, from violence and gun gun violence in this country, compared to other, you know, civilized countries around the world. It was like, you know, 12 and 100. And in Japan, it's like, oh, point, oh, four, in 100,000 people die from violent, you know, gun violence. And I was wondering, what is it about our country, our culture that that supports this violence? I mean, it has to be supported in some way or wouldn't exist in the way it does. Do? Do any of you have some thoughts on this?

39:29

I think part of it is about the rugged individualism that that we've always hailed as our, our kind of distinguishing feature in this culture. You know, people pull themselves up by their bootstraps in the wild west where there were gunslingers. And if somebody got in your way, you just shot him down. And I think we've carried that tradition to a really radical extreme. And, you know, it's no large task these days. I used to purchase a gun, you can go to a sporting goods store and buy a rifle and get, you know, 25 minutes worth of training about how to use a weapon. And you can get a permit to carry a

J 40:15

handgun around and then go to your elementary school and shoot for people. You betcha.

40:19

That, you know, the other piece is, and I don't want to diss media too badly. But we've, we've become desensitized to violence through the media, we see it every day, you turn on the TV at 7am. And you're you're seeing somebody blow somebody else's head off. And that goes on till 7pm The next day, and but what is

40:41

it that makes it, you know, because I watched the same violence, you know, I love Japanese animation, and it's just blood and God, God, it's gotten violent. And, you know, I'm real big into, you know, action adventure movies, and there's a lot of violence in that. And you know, you know, I'm not one for like, going to the wrestling matches or things like that. But I see that same violence, and I don't go out and do that kind of stuff. What do you think it is, it makes someone individually think that that's okay.

41:10

Actually, in the criminal justice field, we've ran across a lot of statistics about that. One of the things that I learned was that whenever you've got more kids, then you've got adults, the more more young people than you have old people, you're going to have more crime. That's just the basic principle of law, if you've got your hormones running, you're going to go out and do

something stupid. And this is true in Japan as well, Japan has had incidences of violence in some of their schools. But the some of the difference is just our relationship to our guns, when Americans have this love of guns that other countries don't preserve.



41:57

I think it's more than guns, I think that people would still be hurting each other if we didn't have guns. I really do. I see, I get on a bus and I look across the room and you know, the bus and I think, you know, this person looks angry. And you know, that's kind of scary. Because when I see someone who looks angry, to me, that's a potential threat. You know, people are just angry. I don't know, you know, here we are in a probably the best economic times in my lifetime. We are, you know, doing well around the world. You know, we don't have the threat of nuclear holocaust hanging over us. Yet people are getting more and more angry. You know, maybe you have something you can say about that, Gary? I mean, do you notice that at the counseling center, the people are angrier and staying angry? Deeper? I mean, do you get a sense of that?



42:51

I find myself angry once in a while? Well, you know, it's it's such I think it's such a complex issue, I can't really tie into one thing. It, it's specifically it's really, it's hard. When we hear these stories in like, Jonesborough, what's, what's happened there, we can't really seem to find a way of understanding it. Because it's so it's out of our realm of understanding. And I would agree with a lot of what with what Mindy said, that I think the media certainly does play a lot into what's going on. And, you know, I couldn't I couldn't help but also wonder if, because of our personal histories, that would play into it, too, with the amount of violence that is going on in the families from very early childhood. That that was certainly, you know, and we can talk about how two brothers in the same family, one turns out violent and one does not, you know, we can all relate it to that either.



Jewel Gray 44:07

Complex, what we need to do is, you know, I'm not like, making this simple. But this has always occurred to me that we're not teaching the right things in schools, that I think that we need to start teaching things like coping skills in elementary school, you know, things about how to, you know, deal with issues that are going to be important. I mean, you know, going to be heavy on you know, how to deal with disappointment, you know, we don't teach and parents have not been trained themselves on how to do this. How can they teach it to their children? So we have these parents out there who don't know this, and then we have these children out here don't know. And it just continually, you know, it, it propagates itself. There's no one out there doing it. I really think that we need to start teaching other than reading, writing and arithmetic in school, that you know, it I think this is is a cultural thing not not a moral or not, no, I'm not talking about the Bible, I'm talking about, you know, the science of coping and, and how to deal with issues that will come up and stress management, you know, I think that that has a lot to do with it that we do not know how to deal with our stresses. And, you know, those little boys who killed in Arkansas, not to bring, you know, put lay this on them about domestic abuse. But those children, you know, were angry at their classmates, they had lists of who they were going

to shoot course those people didn't get shot, people that they weren't angry at ended up being shot, but usually you can fall back on any kind of almost any kind of violence, at some sort of stress, you know, even in the violence in our community, you know, the hate crimes that we talked about so often here, stress of, you know, feeling inadequate, you know, the homophobia from you know, from being inadequate or not, you know, being afraid that you might be that there's no one knows how they don't know how to deal with those stresses or those angers that come up from those kinds of things. And so the way they deal with it is they go out and they hurt somebody. And I feel like that a lot of that domestic violence is people bringing in from outside the anger and the stresses that they can't release outside. They bring it into a place that they feel secure. You know, they feel like okay, I'm in a secure place. I can let this out. I can beat my wife because you know, I can beat my lover because this is a safe place for me. You know, if I'm out on the street, I just can't grab the next guy on