

gcam_ah_19970823_t1_01.mp3_edit

📅 Wed, Mar 22, 2023 2:11PM ⌚ 46:21

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

gay, politics, people, candidates, issues, houston, caucus, lesbian, vote, run, call, committee, deborah, montrose, barney frank, coalition, ray, nice, week, campaign

SPEAKERS

Sarah DePalma, Ray Hill, Jimmy Carper



00:02

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



Jimmy Carper 00:34

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 transgendered people and their friends. Here at after hours, we may be diverse, but we have one thing in common. We are all out of the closet and urge everyone to come out of their closets. That means standing up for yourself taking responsibility for your own life and being proud of who you are. Realistically, we know not everyone can do that because of 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 KEOS College Station. I'm Jimmy Carper. And with me tonight,



Sarah DePalma 02:14

Well hi folks. This is Sarah sitting in for a little while and



Ray Hill 02:18

Ray Hill. on mic number seven right pull that volume. This is the golden crazy radio microphone that I use on the prison show. Right?



Jimmy Carper 02:36

How is the prison shout do well,

R

Ray Hill 02:38

CBS called and canceled for last night. But there'll be here next week. Ah, you remember that story of the young man that was convicted as an adult and sent to an adult prison even though he was a teenager. His picture appeared on the Houston press cover about three weeks ago. It was incredible and incredibly compelling picture. Well, that picture actually fell into my hands on the right, I came in to do a radio show and that was in my mail. And so I just forgot everything else. I did a radio program about that, sure, and got in touch with his family and turn the picture over to some American Civil Liberties Union lawyers. And it was just timing they took the young man's father and carried him to Washington to argue against the proposed federal legislation that would treat kids as an adult. And so he became kind of picture boy that now that's come full cycle. The father will be on my show next Friday and CBS will have cameras in the studio to record that. Oh, wow. That's when you know, the prison. The prison show it for a little local radio show is probably the most famous, at least among people in radio, the most famous local radio country.

S

Sarah DePalma 03:55

Yeah, this one isn't the only one of its type in the country.

R

Ray Hill 04:00

No one's been well, you know, a couple of religious stations have attempted duplicate but you they've got loads and loads. You've got to talk about Jesus every time you call and I don't have any loads. I don't even send you those people. I let him run as long as they want.

J

Jimmy Carper 04:14

And sometimes when I'm listening, it just chokes me up to hear I had the families.

R

Ray Hill 04:21

Four of my callers crying last night one mother who was not too sure about her own mortality is in a hospital and in Jacksonville, Florida and her son is in a Texas prison and it was excruciating experience with her. And then we had a six year old girl crying because her father couldn't be at her birthday. And then there was someone else crying out. I remember who it was, but it is it is an eavesdroppers Henry but I didn't come Yeah. What? Well, I can't I came in here and I'm glad to be in here with Sarah because Sarah was gonna you know, give you a double dose. I don't you know we This is after hours. Yeah, we've been talking about the candidacy of openly gay people ever since there was such a thing. And so we've already been talking about a nice a great deal on these microphones and on microphone said to gay and lesbian voices, but I made

a courtesy call to gay and lesbian voices earlier this week because radio is my medium and not only use radio and can express myself better whenever I'm facing a microphone with or without teeth.

J Jimmy Carper 05:30

You do pretty damn good with the bugs over

R Ray Hill 05:32

the Kovaks across the street over and Stevens and Pruitt, call me Ray Hill, the jackal lander. I formulate my lips to fake but I have deed. But those are Reverend sons began. But at any rate, they love me and but you know, Jimmy and Sarah, we are not even the same people. We were 20 years ago

J Jimmy Carper 06:06

now, we are not not even 10 years ago, when the show started. We are not

R Ray Hill 06:10

living in the same world now. We lived in funny. On your five years ago,

S Sarah DePalma 06:17

at the the tax meeting today, Texas era transsexual support. And I was making that exact point. One of the things that I'm learning working with the nieces campaign, I guess I should have known it, but it really hadn't connected. There are a whole generation of gay people who have grown up now who have never heard of a nice. There are two generations who have grown up who've never heard of Ray Hill. And it goes that's

R Ray Hill 06:43

kind of hard. It's difficult to get too far away. Well, I am I am most visible queer in this part of the country?

S Sarah DePalma 06:53

Well, I think that's probably true. And yet when we're making calls, and we're talking to people, they don't know who she is, they don't know who you are or who I am. in it. And it's, it's, it's Well, I think one of the real challenges that we're facing in this campaign and for foreign news right now, is written name recognition within our own community



Jimmy Carper 07:13

where, you know, 20 years ago, we didn't know each other because there was only a handful of us. And there was not much happening in the gay community at all the



Ray Hill 07:20

groups of users in my address book, yes. There you go.



Sarah DePalma 07:24

And dialing your phone number.



Jimmy Carper 07:26

This isn't an every time I believe this is an entirely different era. Being out is not such a bad thing anymore. It's in fact, it's a good thing. So many people are doing it. And they're finding that they can live a life. And they don't have to be political. So they're not. They're not doing that. Exactly right. But we



Ray Hill 07:45

are trying to do politics. And we needed the same structure that we organized when we were a handful of people back to back against a hostile world.



Jimmy Carper 07:56

And it doesn't work that way. I mean, we have good friends, in politics, friends, but it's not the same as one of us being at the table. No,



Ray Hill 08:06

I certainly think that the number one motivation is to get someone who is comfortable with saying I'm Galen. We've had gay people elected before. Sure. But a bunch of gay people serving public, I know them all, of course, you know, I dare not use their name. I was on the radio. I was on a another radio station with one of them this week and public figures run probably several times. And he said, he said I'm gonna talk about you and Deborah on there. And I said, Oh, no, you're not or I'll talk about you and on the air, and boy, did he ever shut me how that works. didn't say a word about me. And Deborah, of course, I didn't say a word about he and his college roommate either. But college roommate. Yeah, there's a euphemism. But, but the deal is, is that that we gathered together in a relatively small number of people, and we

still operate our politics as if the world was steel, despising of us. And that is not true. We live in a world that is more accepting of gay, lesbian, transgendered issues than any of us could have imagined just five years ago.

S

Sarah DePalma 09:23

You know, it's funny, I made that argument today. And there were a lot of people in room who looked at me as if I'd lost my mind. And I said to them, Now, wait a minute. Now, I work at a large downtown. I'm not gonna say the name of the company, but I work at a large downtown bank. And they will and they have come to me on several occasions and said, Listen, we know you're transgender, there's a transgendered person in Ohio, we need advice. There's a transgendered person, and they're coming to me because I'm open 10, five years ago, two years ago, I guarantee you that would not have happened you wouldn't have gotten that job, but it's it but Ray is right it is a different world. And it's funny because we're almost faced with a situation now. gays and lesbians are shutting out support to hetero phobia in you know, and that is we're really comfortable. You

R

Ray Hill 10:07

know, I think that part of the problem there is the structure of the organism, you know, do you know who is actually closest to being in the same position we all were 20 years ago is log cabin Republican. I mean, they are literally a small group of people back to back in defense of one another in a very hostile world. Right. And that's why I didn't think until recently, but to analyze that, but that's why I've always envy those people because those people are living in the neighborhood that I became an activist in, but they're the only people living in that neighborhood anymore. I feel like I mean, and they've chosen to go over there and deal with Republicans were Stephen Hazza, you know, as your and talk to God talk back.

J

Jimmy Carper 10:53

That is a tough job.

R

Ray Hill 10:54

That's a tough job. Most people are where we were 20 years ago, but the rest of us are not there. And you know, you've been take that let's analyze that. Even in the Republican Party. Stephen Hodes, he controls about a third of the vote. If you don't know who Stephen hoti is, he is the head of the equivalent of moral majority. He's the right wing religious head of conservative politics. In Houston,

S

Sarah DePalma 11:18

he ran a group of people called the straight slate in the referendum era.

R

Ray Hill 11:21

And that was his vote. I mean, we forced the man into politics. And then he took that and he, he controls about a third of the vote in the Republican Party in Harris County. That's incredible. But since they are organized, they get to set the policy for the whole party. Right, right. We're sticking together as a group, I know about how to control the vote with a minority of people. I've done that but then Democratic Party before and get set policy, whether the minority on the floor, you are more disciplined than they are, and then then you control it. Well, they have lockstep control of the policies of the Republican Party, and then over on the Democratic side, and then oh, this is going to be in some my dearest friends. There are the politically correct, people that are so politically correct, that it's not appropriate to be seen in public with a transgendered person, the people who so dramatically correct, that you don't want the world to know for sure, because it's condescending to identify yourself as a gay person as a non gay person. You know, the idea is that, that a third of the Democrats are the politically correct set and the third of the Republicans or the Republican or the religiously correct set, and two thirds of the people are our friend.

S

Sarah DePalma 12:36

One of the hardest things that I had to do, Jimmy is one of the hardest things I've had to do is edit. Like, for example, we get ready for the legislature. I give him the same speech every time, do not make the mistake of going through the legislature in thinking that the Democrats are your friends and the Republicans are your enemies, because it's not true. Oh, that isn't we have found lots of good people in both parties, and lots of complete jerks in both parties. Sure. I mean, truly, and it has happened now many times that we have gone and talk to people who are turned out to really conservative West Texas Republicans, who would say it was very honestly, I don't understand what you're doing. But I respect you. And I would might consider taking a walk when the time came. I'll live I'll take that. And it's it really is a mistake to to align yourself too much with one party or the other because because it's just not reality. That's not the way politics works.

R

Ray Hill 13:29

Well, neither party is our party. That's right. You know, the closest thing to being our party is libertarians. And then there's a bunch of things that libertarians that make us a little bit, a lot of us nervous and all that. But they are certainly a Freedom Party. They believe in the freedoms that individuals until live individuals live. I found that very trying to. But I think that what we need is a coalition of constituencies that crosses all party lines. We started out one of the better ideas of the caucus in the beginning was that we were going to be not bipartisan, we're going to be nonpartisan. And the caucus actually has endorsed libertarians Republicans and Democrats in its history. And would and endorse a lot of candidates would be didn't know whether they were Democrats or Republicans running in city elections and didn't make any difference. I am trying to think along the lines of the Montrose Houston coalition as a working title, which is a coalition of people willing to stand up for everybody's freedom to be.

S

Sarah DePalma 14:34

I see I think that I think that's an idea that's really long overdue. We hit the one of the things

that I've talked about is that we have Montrose thinking, and like in an easiest case, Montrose thinking won't get her elected. If you can't think in terms of the whole city and coalition's within the whole city. You can't be elected now yield Jerry Dale carpenter out there having heart failures, when we talk about building coalitions and bridges, but that really is the answer.

J Jimmy Carper 15:01

No, we're not going to gain anything our civil rights especially without the help of stray people.

S Sarah DePalma 15:08

I got attacked on this show for saying that when I got on the air and said, We cannot win without stripy. Let's remember I got attacked for that

J Jimmy Carper 15:17

the whole community wants to take. Since PFLAG,

R Ray Hill 15:21

I want to take that concept of a brother, who is doing the best job of changing attitudes toward gay men and lesbian, the straight people it is PFLAG was a billboard campaign. That's right, yeah. And they are structured, so that we can go over there and participate in the, in the democratic process and decision making processes within the organization. There are a lot of gay people involved in PFLAG. But unfortunately, the caucus is not structured to be receptive the other way. I agree. And, and that is wrong. That is seriously wrong. You know, I'll tell you what's happening across the country and other cities, the head of the Long Beach gay pride. Organization is a non gay person, and catching hell for it. But he has done a wonderful jobs. There are non gay people involved in the movement in New York City and in Chicago. And they're doing wonderful work. And there's always people a group of people over there, and they got elected to those positions. Because there are people that want to get involved. And they are not welcome. Because we haven't opened the door for them. We haven't changed the structure. We are no longer and even we I have radio has changed.

J Jimmy Carper 16:40

Okay, I understand your point. But, but to get back to unless we have a place at the table. You know, we have friends and politics. And that's the thing. It's this thinking that if you're not one of us, how can you know what we are and what we need?

R Ray Hill 17:00

Jimmy? Can I can kind of play off those. For years, I have defended Deborah Denver, because I used her seniority for gay and lesbian in prison reform causes more than she did. All right,

yeah, I understand the last session of the legislature. She played that seniority card and got on the calendars committee. And here came all this legislation that was just going to bury us. And she thumped it all. And she got what we wanted on the floor to be voted for up or down, win or lose, but it was important for us do a head count. She got that on the floor. She stopped the stuff that was going to kill us from getting on the floor that would have passed to do that. She is always now there is an openly gay person that is running against Deborah Dannenberg. I am the I for I am not willing to sacrifice her seniority to put a puppy on in the house who was going to get appointed to the monuments committee. For the next three sessions. I'm not willing to wait six years for somebody to have some credibility to represent my interest as a gay person in Montrose. It's

S

Sarah DePalma 18:19

it's a mistake to vote for somebody on the knee jerk basis that they're gay or lesbian. Sure, what kind of gay or lesbian are we talking? In for Ray's point he's exactly right to use Do you sacrifice in your in legislature? Just to put a gay person in office and what Ray is saying is right, you and I would give me an hour talking about that the new bright the new president of the National Gay Lesbian taskforce is very openly bisexual and catching hell for absolute Carrie LaBelle. Gary Labelle really catching hell for one of the biggest criticisms that has lodged against transgenders is that many of us are straight. So therefore, of course, we can't be part of the community. You know, in that kind of thinking is well all the

R

Ray Hill 19:03

ones that I knew were straight are now members of lesbian couples. So I don't know. I don't know how you cope with that when there is no thinking about is, is what we've been trying to do. We've been trying to a small group of us carry the water for the rest of us. And I'm suggesting that what we need is a blanket organizations with a committee for gay affairs or gay lesbian affairs or lesbian gay issues or lesbian issues, a committee for transgendered issues a committee for AIDS related issues and let's all carry everybody as well. But we need to have an umbrella that is brought up Hey, adults for legal freedom most people are having the same kind of police problems, but some of us are still a gay males are still facing you bad and entrapment situations that but but and we need we need to knit All of this together under one blanket, and go forward with numbers, because I hate to tell you this, but politics is a numbers game. The ones with the numbers are the ones that are going to win. And the fact of the matter is you can sit over here with 10% of the vote or 15% of the boat, and brag all you want to know about your higher percentage of voter turnout. But until you get 50% plus one vote, you're not going to have any seat at any table. That's, and so we need to put together a coalition that at least has the aspiration of being possible to lace up 50% of the vote plus one vote so that we can win an election. Otherwise, we're going to run out many times I've run I've run six times. I've never done poorly. That's true. I've never I mean, I mean, the last time I had 16 opponents, I had a little money but but not for nothing. I came in fourth I close fourth right on right on Dave Wilson's heels, right? at 16 feet out of 16. People, and and they wouldn't too far behind a Chris, you know, so we were within, you know, 600 votes, and I'd been in runoff and 600 rotary and found that in precincts right around here, it would have done a better job of turning those hands. So the fact of the matter is, is that openly gay candidates are not wholesale rejected by public. I'm not and I'm more obnoxious than most games. As Drew can.

S

Sarah DePalma 21:35

Now my question to you then is, how do you take the single issue? Groups? Whether you're talking about the N double ACP, or Lou lac? How do you take the single issue groups who are narrowly focused themselves and go to them and say, if we don't build this coalition, we all die individually, because I agree with you, sir. I just don't see these individual groups doing

R

Ray Hill 21:57

it's kinda like going to a gay orgy back in the 60s, you got to bring some to get some. Okay, I by that, I mean, I am here to

J

Jimmy Carper 22:06

do that with Joan Dafoe. And I bless her.

R

Ray Hill 22:09

I am here to support your causes. And you're here to support my causes. And we know that just not a topic for discussion. We want to hear what the issues are. And we want to break them down so that we can support them. Sounds good to me. And I am absolutely sure there are some single issue groups are going to be slow to come broad because they're still laboring under the illusion they can do it by themselves.

S

Sarah DePalma 22:32

I don't see any alternative to this, when you're talking about one of the things that I was talking about today. The question came up, they said, somebody said to me, Well, I'd be willing to go to the legislature with you. But I don't see how we can fight the right. And I said to him, first of all, you have to be more well organized than they are. And that's not easy. It's almost impossible to go to the legislature. These people, they have their little notepads every day. They know what committee hearings going to take place. They know who's on it, they know who's going to testify and about what time they're gonna testify. They know what the people are going to say, and just about what the fallout is going to be. You want to be a you gotta be more well organized. Be you got to have the numbers that they at least theoretically, can produce it as long as we remain single issue groups will never do it.

J

Jimmy Carper 23:19

Well, you know, Harvey Milk did not get elected by the gay community. No, no,

S

Sarah DePalma 23:23

he got elected by the

R

Ray Hill 23:24

union have a single day residential neighborhood in his district. Barney Frank, the icon of the gay, openly gay US House of Representatives is elected from a collection of what used to be Portuguese fishing villages, south and west of Boston. And how Barney Frank takes care of his constituents business is He is the senior Democrat on the immigration committee and Portuguese heritage people have a lot of immigration issues. And Barney Barney Frank takes very good care of, ah,

S

Sarah DePalma 24:05

he's also on the fisheries committee, among other things, among other things, among other things. That's right.

R

Ray Hill 24:11

If you look at what Barney Frank actually does, and legislate, you can figure it out quickly. And he has the freedom to be openly gay and he has the freedom to be the icon of liberal politics these days, simply because he does that. I am telling you that Ray Hill is not even the same person he was when the caucus was formed. The community is not the same place that caucus was when the caucus was born. It's time for us to look and this has nothing to do with the current leadership Elaine Lewis is I was excited about Pat Gandy, his leadership was tied to the traditions of the past. And I was wonderful period of time and I'm just as excited about Elaine Lewis's administration, because it is the step to the next generation of leadership to kind of come from this community. But Ray Hill is a leader whether he holds a title or an office or not. I mean, I bet looked on here to provide some thinking and some leadership. And I've learned a few things along my experience. And so Rachel is speaking out independently, that we need to look at the structure of our organization. And we need to look at who we call our allies. And we need to broaden their picture if a nice is going to have a chance, or if other people are going to have a chance to get elected to

J

Jimmy Carper 25:22

public. Well, and this is hardly a one issue candidate. No, absolutely

R

Ray Hill 25:25

not. I have a nice nieces service to near town Association and development planning and the whole nine yards. She's wonderful. She's an eye she's a wonderful candidate. And he's not don't agree with everything. If Sarah were running Sarah, and I would not agree with Oh, I know that anyone I mean, that's just the way that's going to be. But the fact of the matter is, it never crosses my mind that I could not sit down with a nice and we could come to some kind of

mutual understanding, which would require compromise and both of our parts. And if you think you can do politics without compromising you're crazy. Didn't get the right civics teacher when you were injured, right. It's

S

Sarah DePalma 26:01

that tough. He will cut politics at the art of the possible you know, really is

J

Jimmy Carper 26:05

and the person you can't stand this week is going to be your ally next

S

Sarah DePalma 26:09

week. And one of the first things I've learned in politics has never made never burn your bridges because you need each cross back over them this week. And in one of the things that worries me, in I hear this in my community, I've heard it in gay and lesbian community is still there's the sense of us in them. Or us even worse, it's us versus them. And I really agree with Ray if we don't build bridges to them, and make them part of us and vice versa. We're doomed. Well, you

R

Ray Hill 26:39

know, one of mine that has to be done. One last thing about being re healed is that I'm you know, I can't there's no such thing as me going into a restaurant. Whether they speak Spanish or English or Vietnamese and sitting down to have a dinner without somebody recognized I live in a world where everybody everybody knows that I'm good. Yes, I buy. When I go to the courthouse, everybody knows me when I get on the bus. Everybody knows me. Very frequently people come up and and talk about gay friends they've had my hairdresser was gay is not an unusual line. You know, and, and all of that. And let me tell you, none of those people are hostile. None of those people that recognize me and speak to me, Are not they may want to argue some issue with me. But Ray Hill is okay with them. Regular as a gay person is okay with him, you know

J

Jimmy Carper 27:29

that the fact that you are gay, openly gay, and into prison reform is really an odd combination, because a lot of them folks behind bars are not too comfortable with you don't think

R

Ray Hill 27:44

I get letters, you know, I get letters from convicts saying Oh, that was you're just being weird. But, you know, the gay community until they finally just developed a callus there complained about me being openly ex convict. You know, I really, you know, and I just said, You know what,

y'all just gonna have to get over it. Because that's gonna be free until all of me is free. And there are these two issues that are important in my life. Yeah. And now I've got to go to work on senior citizen issues, especially senior citizen issues.

J Jimmy Carper 28:10

I'm catching up with you there. I'm right behind legit

R Ray Hill 28:13

you know, Jamie, considering what has happened to so many Reverend that is really something to be proud on believable.

J Jimmy Carper 28:18

I you know, there were there was a time that I never thought I'd make my 50th birthday. And it's coming up in a few months. And

R Ray Hill 28:25

we're the only people that approached those birthdays without without having any problem, right. I got a call the other day from Incidentally, I think generally the September, October No, one of the guys have been working on my biographies. I've got three or four of them, but the guy would the first one out is going to be through Houston. Professor Sears, who is a he wrote growing up gay in south. And he will be coming to Houston and I hope to align him to come by and visit after our Oh yeah. And talk about the book. It's a book about organizers of gay and lesbian politics in the south and who they were and in Houston, he chose pokey Anderson and I

S Sarah DePalma 29:12

think it's pretty good choice. There's no argument with either one of those.

R Ray Hill 29:15

And so when he comes in to sell the book, but I got a call from one of my biographers on a West Coast and he said yes, it did you actually say this. And and I'd even forgotten about the beach, but I was a speaker. And

J Jimmy Carper 29:36

my first thought is, oh, yes, of course, unnaturally did

R

Ray Hill 29:39

a conference of epidemiologists. At Berkeley. I had flown out they'd pay my way went out putting me up and cheap hotel and I went over the campus and, and I gave a speech about epidemiology and the question answer session, some young epidemiologist said well, you You know, there's gotta be something wrong with gay sex because you don't make. But he quoted a percentage of the population, which I could have argued with, but I didn't just let it lay two or 3% of the population. But you've got a third of the venereal diseases. Well, this is in the early 70s, or late mid 70s. And I responded, Well, we may be having gay males may be having a third of the sex in the society. At that time, that was true. Sure. But that is no longer true. That is changing. That is no longer true. Even the most sexually active people that I know today, and I, you know, I'm not I don't live like a hermit, I'm out and about, would probably be considered prudes by the standards of the 50s 60s, early 70s.

S

Sarah DePalma 30:59

I think that's largely true.

R

Ray Hill 31:00

And so if we're not the same people, and we don't live in the same world, and our community is different, and everything is broadened, we need a bigger tent. And that tent is going to have to be organized, we can't possibly get it organized before this city election. But our work toward that end, at talking it up. What will follow, I was on gay and lesbian voices talking about this very same subject this week. And I'm duplicating it to your wonderful audience, because it's a different audience. And I think it's a younger audience. And there's a lot of distrust of the gay and lesbian political activity in the community, because what you hear in the media is the conflict. What if somebody made it home safely from work that's going to appear on the front page of the Houston Chronicle today. But if somebody didn't make it home safely from work that might, that news is inherently the bad side. And it's the conflict. It's the resistant, it's surprising. It's the unordinary it's the tragic,

J

Jimmy Carper 32:05

but there is a lot of good work that comes out of those. And you know what, it's not

S

Sarah DePalma 32:08

news. That's what you've not talked about. That's why I can't get on television talk shows, and others like me, because what we do is not news. If you're a normal person, you go to work every day, you're involved with politics, you're doing things that they're there, that matter. And you're doing. No one wants to hear anything. It's not sensational. It doesn't bring in ratings. You're I mean, it's the truth of the matter. If you're if you're just an average kind of person doing maybe some above average or less than or or not average kinds of things. It still isn't news. Now, if I get killed on the way home tonight, there'll be news.

R

Ray Hill 32:46

Well, if you're a city councilman, and you didn't get indicted last week, your city councilman, you did get indicted last week, that is news. And so our impressions of our community, politically organizing efforts, is exactly slanted by the same phenomena. Because actually, these broadcasts and twit in the voice and triangle are news media. Yes. And they concentrate on what is news, what is different. So the general impression is all that goes on in caucus meeting is in fighting, and that's pretty much an accurate description, I'm probably the one starting to bite.

J

Jimmy Carper 33:28

Isn't that kind of part of politics is we'll find a baby. The debate debate

R

Ray Hill 33:35

debate is how ideas are refined, sir. But you know, the actual decision makers at the caucus are a handful of people. And a lot of those have now a lot of political experience. Some of them have worked for public old pa officeholders and public officials. And they get together and they decide which way the caucus is going to go. And although for instance, like my endorsement, overrode that decision, I mean, they had decided who they were going to endorse in my last election, and wouldn't mean, and so the committee came out doing all of this, and the officers were great and all that, but the membership of the caucus, are you crazy. And so, but the trouble of with the caucus is, is that it's a large head stuffed into a too small hat. And what we need to do about that is remember all of that history, everything that we've learned in the process of the caucus in the last 22 years, and I'm the only original founder, still active in the organization, gosh, I was there in the very beginning. And still they still go to meetings regularly. But we need to discard that experience. But we need to take that experience to a larger table and invite other people who care just as much about our freedoms as we do there. yours and knit together a broader coalition. We could win races instead of do well in races in that circumstance.

S

Sarah DePalma 35:08

It's funny, I just got through I just talked with Urvashi bait the other day for interviewing her. And she says exactly the same thing. Carrie Labelle was here Carrie Labelle said exactly the same thing. And yet, it doesn't seem to be taking hold. Yeah, I mean, I talked to her Vashi about this. And she says she made the point. And I think correctly, she said that a lot of times, she feels like she's a wolf in the woods, that she's the only one yelling and no one's listening.

R

Ray Hill 35:35

Well, I know we're I know, we're overstaying our welcome. But no, you're not. But unit unit, you know, you know how you bring about change. I know how to bring about change, I've been bringing about change for all of my line. You don't stand in point and say we need to go over

there. I mean, this is not some generals job. Leadership are not general. Generals can do plotting and planning but leadership are like captains and lieutenants. Yeah, I agree with that. What you do is you grab your troops and move. And sometimes you get out ahead of them. But don't get so far ahead out and you can't turn around, they hear your voice. Exactly. And so what happens is you first there's this long period of time where you discuss about nothing wants to change, it is so easy to get up every day and do exactly the same thing. It is so easy caucus to go through a legend, a legend doing the same thing. As a matter of fact, you do that long enough, and the people that actually do the work think that we should structure the work around their convenience, as opposed to match the job? Well, the job at hand is to put together enough votes so that somebody can win. And in order to accomplish that, we may have to go back and rethink how we do things.

S

Sarah DePalma 36:53

Now is my time to talk about a nice, let's talk about that. Okay, um, what a nice need right now, in addition to money is bodies. We need people to stuff envelopes. We need people to make phone calls, or

J

Jimmy Carper 37:09

what does phone make phone calls mean?

R

Ray Hill 37:12

I can tell you that kind of. Because I got a call from Deborah to point opponents campaign. And then he's got a lot of money. So he hired a canvassing staff to call everybody, at least everybody. They're using a crisscross because he called everybody in my apartment complex. And you ask questions about who you're going to vote for you see, number one had the name recognition he is. And I was one of the few people that recognized all the names because I met him. And nobody else recognized him. But almost everybody recognized Deborah. And then you talk about the various issues and all that. So what you need and this and a nice is in a city wide campaign, this is not, of course, you always don't forget your base. Never forget your base. But you've got to reach out. And, and so she could do with some people that speak Spanish comfortable very much so because very much they print the ballot in Spanish for a very good reason. Because a lot of people qualified to vote are comfortable speaking and reading Spanish. And what you do is you call the telephone number. And you try to create name identification, of course, when you call, you do create name identification, talk about that race at large council number one, talk about the incumbent Gracie signs, and that she's not going to be there. And then to replace Grace To You go through the other candidates that have announced and you throw in a couple of other names. People recognize that. And then that evolves and develops. And in the process, when you get to the telephone and code, you will have said a nice Parker for the times. And that is very important. It's extremely important. It's politics, the way politics has to be done. And then it takes volunteers and phone banks and all of that to do that.

S

Sarah DePalma 39:11

We've got door hangers coming, we've got envelopes to stuff. The phone call part of it actually is for the most part is fun. There are a few of us who are going to be making phone calls for money. But the vast majority are not. The thing is that if telephones the first of all, this is going to be an expensive race. No matter how you slice it is going to be an expensive race. If you're going to run city wide at some point you have to do television, they're not going to give it to you because you're nice. And because they like the way you look. You got to have money. So there are going to be some of us who are going to be making phone calls for money but the vast majority are not. They're gonna be doing exactly what Ray said they're going to be doing polling. It's not a whole lot different than what the Gallup Poll does, or what other places do but you gotta have information. That's the first thing. The second One thing is we need bodies who can lick envelopes, stuffing envelopes, go out door knocking, put out door hangers? And I know, you know, I've talked to a lot of people in my own community in the gay community. And what I'm hearing is all but that so far away, boys and girls, it's two months now. That's right. To two months ain't nothing. Yeah, Labor Day is right around the corner. And we get we get serious, big time. Okay, and it's a we've had a hard time getting people to understand that 60 days is not a lot of time to put together political campaign. The first big

J Jimmy Carper 40:34

why? Because there's this big thing like a week before, and people are bombarded.

S Sarah DePalma 40:40

But it's too late. By that time, most people

R Ray Hill 40:43

actually, you know, if you've got the money to do a bombardment in lines, you know, the last time I run out on how did that no, yeah. And and I spent most of that the last week for media and most of it on radio. Because radio works for me, it just a better mechanism for manual how to use radio better. But, you know, we're gonna have \$5 million in the mayor's race. Wow. among the top three candidates,

S Sarah DePalma 41:20

ez moss backer may well run that.

R Ray Hill 41:25

Multiplier has already spent a million half getting a black candidate to run against Lee Brown. Is there Right? Absolutely. Absolutely. You know, he was giving earlier years giving people cash money to get out of the race. And then Sheila waited too long. She couldn't make anything for holding out. He wanted her in the race by then you don't run a lot to pay somebody else to run. And so So I mean, I mean, this is serious politics now, folks.

S

Sarah DePalma 41:57

Yes, she has eight candidates running against her right now. I believe I believe this with eight nines growing

R

Ray Hill 42:03

it's an open seated those things always want to be Donnybrook. I do better in a Donnybrook. Of course, I don't win the elections. And I don't really anticipate that I'm going to win elections.

S

Sarah DePalma 42:13

So what we what we need is, people, what we're asking for is two hours a week. That's not a lot. You know, two hours a week, that's all we want.

R

Ray Hill 42:23

Is there. What we really need is we really need to give some of those nice young folks listening to after hours tonight an opportunity to go meet a nice and get trained.

S

Sarah DePalma 42:34

Yeah. Well, and the people that are doing that are Deborah Bell and me.

R

Ray Hill 42:38

Okay, how are you going? Deborah, Deborah, is pretty much stationary in the office. Yeah. And so what's that telephone number? Haha,

S

Sarah DePalma 42:45

thank you. The campaign number is area code. 713. Gotta hate doing this error code 713-522-9000. Okay, real simple. 713-522-9000. Now, I got a commitment from a lot of people at tats today, to come down and help with the phone banks. But it's going to take a lot more than that.

R

Ray Hill 43:09

What I would suggest that you do is you can give general Bell a call at that number, yep. 2295 713-522-9000 give general Bell a call. And say I want to come down and talk about the campaign and go down there and Nisa knees. And the enthusiasm from that experience will guide you to learn and do what you need to do.

S

Sarah DePalma 43:37

And nice is nice. And nice is very much the kind of candidate that Ray was talking about, too. She really does believe in coalition she believes in being broad based. You know what I can think of some people who probably would never support running a circumstance. But for the most people, if you're anywhere in along lines of being a moderate, a nice is an ideal candidate.

R

Ray Hill 43:58

Some of our volunteer staff went down and did the research of finding out who has given to all city elections in the last 18 months. And that includes a couple of high dollar referenda issues. So we've done the research on that I carried that list over and gave it to general bail. Yeah. So that a nice winner. I think it's very interesting. If you took all of the people who gave \$100 or less. Yes. To city candidates or causes. They would be about half of what Vinson Elkins alone gives to city politics.

S

Sarah DePalma 44:34

Whoa, that's one of the things that's interesting for all the complaining that people do about PACs, you know, and about political action committees. The fact is the candidates are totally dependent on it for exactly that reason. They can't depend on the money coming from small places. Now, if you don't know where the office is, they're currently doing a lot of their work out of Hubbard financial services, their back offices. If you don't know where that is California at Montrose?

R

Ray Hill 45:02

Kathy Hubbard is the she's raising the spousal issues with a nice spousal benefit if

J

Jimmy Carper 45:13

you don't know where California is, you remember Frank's hotdog stand. That's now Ming's

R

Ray Hill 45:18

main right? Next

S

Sarah DePalma 45:19

one block north Westheimer. Are you there? It's a very easy thing. This is a very inclusive area painting building. Yeah. If you take a look at the folks that are on her staff, this is extremely inclusive campaign. This is men, women, transgenders, people of color. I mean, across the

board. This is a totally inclusive campaign. We've got a spot for you somewhere nice



Jimmy Carper 45:43

has been around in politics for a very, very long time and has proved herself. Yeah,



Sarah DePalma 45:49

absolutely.



Ray Hill 45:51

Well, I want to number one, thank Jamie, or years of service to this listening audience. And I want to thank this listening audience for putting up with me. i You will hear the same things that I said tonight or read them in print media coming up soon. And that will be followed by an announcement for a larger meeting to do the planning toward creating that big umbrella for everybody. And I wish there was some other way we could do it