

gcam_ah_19930626_t1_02_edit

Tue, Nov 29, 2022 9:22AM 40:34

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

queers, compromise, gay, community, black, heterosexual, call, military, happened, give, aids, talking, totally, movement, gay pride, rally, screaming, fag, connie, thought

SPEAKERS

Speaker 21, Michael Crawford, Jewel Gray, Speaker 24, Speaker 23, Jimmy Carper, Speaker 25, Speaker 22

J Jewel Gray 00:27
That was Swing Out Sister doing that for us. And before that was

M Michael Crawford 00:32
2 Unlimited

J Jewel Gray 00:33
2 Unlimited doing

M Michael Crawford 00:34
"Tribal Dance."

J Jewel Gray 00:35
"Tribal Dance." and I liked that.

M Michael Crawford 00:36
Well, I mean, I like it too. But last year, they had the big all the big songs at Heaven, you know, "Workaholic," "Twilight Zone," were a lot harder. Because you know, I mean, I interviewed her, well the lead, the singer with the band about a week ago. And yes, it'll be my very first band profile in new Voice coming up next week. And they seem pretty cool. I mean, she was talking

about how they were trying to, to make techno, bring techno into the mainstream, because in Amsterdam, which is where they're from, the music is a lot harder. It's like, it's like, techno music is to disco what punk was to regular everyday rock and roll.

J Jewel Gray 01:20

Yeah, I like it, you know it, what I like most is, is that it's more music than song. And when the song is there, when the person is singing something, it's to compliment the music rather than the music complement the singing,

M Michael Crawford 01:33

Right.

J Jewel Gray 01:33

Which I really like because you get a real feel for the music.

M Michael Crawford 01:37

Right.

J Jewel Gray 01:39

I really liked that sound too, jazzes up things, you can't help being in the room and moving. It just even for those who were stiff in, on the dance floor like myself with two left feet and two left hands. It's it's, it makes me move when I get in some places I hear that. But that's why I avoid having so much because I just, you know, after I go to Heaven, I have to sleep two days. That's the truth. I have to sleep two days. We're going to talk a little about gay pride. And we've been kind of talking about things around here. We played that tape for you. I hope that helps some explain things. We got a really, really nice supportive call a little while ago that really made things worth being here. Someone was very moved, and someone else was sharing that. And I wanted to say that we are, we were to moved and we're proud of these people and we're proud of you know, the stance they took, you know, no more. And, and even though the battle still goes on, it had to start somewhere. And we're really proud of those people made that stance, it was the final straw so to speak. And Michael, you hadn't heard that tape and I know I chattered through most of it, you probably didn't hear much.

J Jimmy Carper 02:49

Well, I mean, I, despite what a lot of older gay people say. I am one young queer who knows what happened then. So I heard, I'd already heard read most of the stuff that had happened that was on the tape. I mean, like, the guy from the Village Voice was talking about how he was

in the building when the riot was going on. Well, I've already read his reports from the Village Voice saying, you know, essentially that, but it was cool.

J

Jewel Gray 03:16

Yeah, like I liked the dramatization. It kind of gives a feeling rather than cold, hard facts that you know, the sound effects in the back really add to the dramatization of it. I've, there was another tape we did a couple years ago that I've also found very moving and stirring that Jimmy did as a matter of fact, walked around and interviewed people at the gay pride parade. And it was a stirring and I hope that we can do that for you real soon. Talk to our local community leaders and movers and shakers in our community at that time. Some of them still are. Some of them have moved on to other things. But it's a real moving stirring piece, I think comparable to the one we just heard. It's one of the, I really think so. He's sitting over here, nodding, humbly. But I hope that we can do that sometime. What do you think? What do you feel like, when you think of gay pride and the celebration this week? I know that we feel a little differently.

M

Michael Crawford 04:17

Yeah. And I think we're gonna feel vastly different on this particular issue. I mean, I said, when we when we first started that I wasn't really sure if I was gonna go to the parade or to the rally. And part of that is for me, I mean, and that's just not about me. That's, I mean, some of my other friends are like, really ambivalent about going and it's not because we're not, you know, out and queer and loud and proud and all that stuff. It's because of what's happened to Gay Pride Day, Gay Pride Week. What, what's happened to it? It seems to me that the way that it's run now, it's completely and totally irrelevant to what's going on. It's, it's just another excuse to party, to, you know, to drink a lot, to get laid, and you know, then they run back in the closet, you know, on that next Monday morning, it seems to me that it's almost like an effort has been made not to offend heterosexuals. So it's been made so bland. It's been completely and totally bled of all historical and political meaning. And, you know, and it's really funny, because a lot of the people who are essentially putting together the Pride March, and all the floats and everything that's involved with it, are older people. And the older people are the ones who continually come up to me and my friends who are activists, my younger friends who are activists, and say that we don't know our history, we should pick up a history book, we should learn where we came from, and this, that and the other. And then they come into something like this. I mean, you know, Stonewall was a riot, it was, it was a riot, it was not some really great party, it was not like a bake sale, it was a riot. And I think that we should act that way. We should. I mean, it seems to me that this would be not a time for just going around and having yet another party, and we have so many of them. But it should be a time for serious political action. And you can also mix parting in there with the two. I mean, because I managed to be both an, an activist and a disco queen simultaneously. I just think there needs to be more I mean, it, the way it is now, it just seems so totally eighties and irrelevant to what's going on in '93.

J

Jewel Gray 06:30

Well, you know, oddly enough, I see what you're saying, I truly do. And the only way I can tell you how I feel about, you know, the way you see it is, in the way I described today to someone

who made them very angry, also was that if all we're going to get out of this military fiasco is a compromise, I'll take it, I'll take it rather than nothing. Because taking giant leaps, sometimes the risk equation is greater than taking small steps and continually taking small steps. And I know, I know that when you're young, the blood boils, and I know that, you know, there's a lot of anger. And believe me, I've been exactly where you were at. And very angry about how I saw my community, letting things happen to us, instead of taking, you know, doing something about it. And, and in my day, I was pretty active. But after I got to a certain stage where I found the apathy running through kind of like, I know, you have frustrations, finding such apathy, I've heard you talk about it, it began to be me and a few other people doing absolutely nothing. And after I began realizing that, that that was a waste, I had to find another way to do it. And the way I've chosen to do it is to try to belong to organizations, and try to participate in my community as much as possible. And that's how I feel about gay pride is that that's my, it's my time to say, yeah, I do this stuff. And I do it because it's my community. And I don't see it so much as a political thing. Although I know it is, and I'm really looking forward to the rally tomorrow, it's supposed to be a little different. I felt similarly to you about the beer commercial rallies that this became, and I'm hoping it goes back to back eight or 10 years ago when it was at Spotts Park and it was a political thing. And there was some, I mean, our effort made

M

Michael Crawford 08:35

The hardest part, I mean, we got the press release, saying who's all going to be you know, speaking on the lineup for the rally. And I looked at it and it's like, pretty bland, heterosexual politician number one, heterosexual politician number two, sexual politician number three, you know, and bands and stuff. And I'm like, well, where the hell of the queers, where are the queers, where are the AIDS activists, I think had that had Brian Bradley, not been named one of the, one of the grand marshals or whatever he is, where would be no AIDS activist speaking at all. I mean, and that was like part of the, part of the problem with the March on Washington, when ACT UP threatened to storming stage and less Larry Kramer was allowed to speak. And I mean, I don't know what it is, but it seems to meet this almost like this, this, the the pushing back of AIDS as an issue. And that frustrates me. I mean,

J

Jewel Gray 09:28

I agree,

M

Michael Crawford 09:29

And it's a lot of things that have been coming out that queers have been saying lately. Oh, the mainstream is finally taking notice of us. Now we should, you know, not be so pushy. But it just seems to me that

J

Jewel Gray 09:42

I don't agree with that.

 Michael Crawford 09:44

It's like, I don't know. I mean, it just seems like why the hell should we go if we're just gonna listen, listen to Eleanor Tinsley tell us that she wants our votes when she does absolutely nothing for us.

 Jewel Gray 09:55

Yeah, I agree with that 100%. I was wondering what activity would you like to see there? And are you looking for? I imagine what you're looking for, what you're looking for is something not equal to but something like akin to the speech that the man made the democratic committee who talked about being HIV positive. Yes. Something stirring something, what, connecting something saying what really was going on, but still had spirit to it.

 Michael Crawford 10:27

I would like, I would like more queer, queer people speaking. I would like

 Jewel Gray 10:33

At gay pride?

 Michael Crawford 10:36

And not just necessarily queers who evident to my point of view, nut just something that reflects the diversity of the community that says, this is us. This is who we are. And, you know, this is our history. This is our political and cultural agenda or whatever, something where we can be us and stop kissing up to heterosexuals. I mean, it seems to me that there's

 Jewel Gray 10:57

Something a little shouting.

 Michael Crawford 10:59

Yeah. Even if it's even if it's not a loud shouting.

 Jewel Gray 11:02

Yeah, I know what you mean .



Michael Crawford 11:03

 Michael Crawford 11:03

But it seems to me that we're like, I don't know, it's almost like we feel that we need recognition from heterosexual to legitimize ourselves as people and as a movement. And I just don't see that it's the case. I mean, I mean, I know, like, what I said in the Houston press, have to throw that in, you know, in their gay pride issue, I mean, at one point, I said that I see no reason to compromise in terms of our civil rights. And I don't, because as far as I'm concerned, we're worth everything. And I want everything and I want it now. Because I don't see why we as, as queers, should sit around and wait for someone to give us something. I mean, like you said, that you found, you will be willing to accept the compromise in the military situation. As far as I can see, like that, don't tell, don't ask, don't tell thing.

 Jewel Gray 11:54

That's not a compromise.

 Michael Crawford 11:55

That's not a compromise.

 Jewel Gray 11:56

That's queers, I'm talking about a real compromise.

 Michael Crawford 11:58

You know, it's like, what kind of compromise is that when we're when we basically say to the military, okay, you can use this as kind of fodder, and, you know, send us off halfway across the planet, we'll get shot at and we'll kill other people. But we just won't tell you about who we are, we'll just lie about who we are. That's the same way it is now. Because if and what's gonna happen to the queers who already come out, they they're not going to be allowed back in because it's already known.

 Jewel Gray 12:25

Right.

 Michael Crawford 12:26

You know, it's, it's, that's not really a good thing.

 Jewel Gray 12:30

No, I'm not, I wouldn't be happy with that kind of compromise. And I don't think anybody would,

but if they offer. Yeah, well, I would think that the compromise, it's, I like that. That was a nice comment. What I would be happy with would be your private life, it's your private life, what you do on base is what you do on base, and the twain should not meet. And under conditions that were equal to heterosexual contact and conditions on base, but that after work, that you can have your lifestyle of any sort. I mean, basically, our lifestyle shouldn't be at work anyway. We don't go to work to be queers. We go to work to earn money so that we can meet queers.

M

Michael Crawford 13:19

I mean, well, but heterosexual soldiers can receive Playboy on the base.

J

Jewel Gray 13:23

Right.

M

Michael Crawford 13:24

And that kind of stuff. Okay. Now, if they totally shut off Playboy for the hetero soldiers, well, I still don't exactly like that, because I'm like, you know, I mean, I don't agree with just like, tell them they can have it. But if all situations were equal, and they had to be only heterosexual off the base, well actually, I don't know, I really don't think that that would work for us, because people would just normally went around assuming that you're heterosexual, because that's what people do. Kind of like, when some people hear me talking on the radio, they just assume I'm a white person, which is why I keep saying, I'm black. I'm black. I'm black.

J

Jewel Gray 13:59

And beautiful.

M

Michael Crawford 14:00


Yeah. Black and proud.


J


Jewel Gray 14:01


And do you really think that suppose you know, you could have this as an old switchboard question. Suppose you have a magic wand, and you can make this happen overnight, tomorrow morning, we wake up, and it's been signed that homosexuals are totally able to do whatever straight people do in the service. And we're gonna see there's paperwork sign that says, We're gonna give equal rights to homosexuals all over the country. Do you think that I mean, that that's a possibility? I mean, is that is that what you do? You go to these things, and scream and yell and say, you know, I want the stuff and I want it now. Do you really think that that's a possibility now?


 **Michael Crawford** 14:42
Well, if I had a magic wand, I wouldn't use it on the military.


 **Jewel Gray** 14:47
I would,


 **Michael Crawford** 14:47
Because I


 **Jewel Gray** 14:48
Give them all pink tutus.

 **Michael Crawford** 14:50
I should probably say that I'm not in favor of lifting the ban. Because I'm not in favor of the military. I mean, but the screaming and yelling part I mean, And you can look at history and it has advanced every social movement and this

 **Jewel Gray** 15:04
For sure, for sure, no question.

 **Michael Crawford** 15:06
I mean, I am under no illusion that that yelling and screaming only is going to get us where we need to be. But it, it's a vital component.

 **Jewel Gray** 15:16
I agree. I agree there's, that it has to be there just like, it's a catalyst. And without it, nothing moves. And I agree with that 100%. That's why, no matter what I feel about our politics, I support your efforts in every possible way I can. And I want to remind you that this is KPFT Houston, and 90.1 FM. This is After Hours, a continuing tradition. And here's Jimmy, this is Jewel. This is Michael. And we're talking about gay pride, and just whatever happens to rock our fancy, and I'm really enjoying this conversation.





Michael Crawford 15:53

Can we take calls?



Jewel Gray 15:54

Yeah, we can take it. Yeah, we sure can. We got those calls with the tickets while ago the phones lit up so we know you're out there listening. And we'd be glad to talk to you about any of this stuff. I think we have kind of divergent opinions. But somewhere along the way, I guess, you know, I recognized a minute ago somewhere along the way we agree. And I like that because that's the whole point. We are a diverse culture, we are a culture and there are many parts of that culture, there are the, oh, the number, JAM-KPFT, JAM-KPFT, write that down somewhere, right and on the walls, take your pin knife and scratch it in the woodwork, JAM-KPFT. But I think that that's important people understand that, that we do have such a divergence of opinions and that no opinion is going to walk away clean by itself. They're always going to be people for other opinions and other ways to do things. And the only way and this is what I think is the most beautiful part of our, our diversity is you and I sitting here talking, the only way anything's going to change is when two people get together and talk about their diverseness, like we're doing and point out that there are, there is the common, there's the commonalities in that diverseness.




Michael Crawford 17:09


Well, I mean, I've been thinking a lot about this. I mean, particularly after I read Urvashi Vaid's essay, And I want you to read that a little bit Yeah. And she was talking about the necessity of I mean, she, she was taught at one point she was talking about the military a compromise. Don't Ask, Don't Tell. She says no, honey, no, no, no, no, no. And she was talking about that we focus too much on the short term and need to consider long term organizing, and the necessity of a broad based agenda. And that's what I've been thinking a lot about lately. How one of the things that frustrates me about being black and queer and in the queer community, is that a lot of people in the queer communities don't want me. And what I see as being like the issues that have been placed at the top of our agenda don't necessarily reflect the agendas of queers who are not just white gay men. And one of the things I did say in my interview with the writer from the press, and he didn't include and I'm really upset with that I was critical of the racial and, and sexual division in the queer community. How, like, I mean, in, in, in the press, you know, gay pride issue itself, how there were only two women quoted, and these women were quoted on issues that were concerning, primarily gay men. And I'm like, oh, what the hell was that? I mean, you know, what about dykes? What about their lives? What about their, and I was the only black person quoted and I wasn't quoted as a black person. And had there not been a photo of me screaming and angry, post, mind you. They would never have known. I mean, it's this kind of thing. Because I mean, I've been thinking that when we run around talking about queers in the military or gay rights ordinances, we never talked about what's happening with queer youth, or queer homeless people, or older queers. I mean, it's just generally assumed that we all make \$55,000 a year, and I'm sorry, you know





Jewel Gray 19:02

We're here to tell you we don't.


 Michael Crawford 19:05
No one I know makes that.


 Jewel Gray 19:06
Yeah. Do we have a call?

 Michael Crawford 19:08
I don't know.


 Jewel Gray 19:09
Somebody screaming at us? Screaming that, we don't want any fag yellers on on tonight.
Michael doesn't tolerate them well, and we will not tolerate them.

 Michael Crawford 19:17
Well, except if you're a die corfac or by screaming fag, right?

 Jewel Gray 19:20
Yeah.

 Michael Crawford 19:21
Throws of passion. Someone screaming fag

 Jewel Gray 19:23
Really .

 Michael Crawford 19:23
Can be quite exciting.

 Jewel Gray 19:25

Oh, you know you were talking Mike. And I want to talk to you since you brought them, since you mentioned it. I'm not gonna say you brought it up. But you know, at Switchboard we have a definite lack of people of color. And we have tried everything we can to interest people of color to participate. We have a couple of Hispanic people, a couple of Hispanic women, but we only have one black woman there and you know, we have been literally out there tearing the house down looking for people of color to participate because we think it's very important especially with the Switchboard where people have, you know, call looking for information that we have a diverse, you know, representation. And we can't find anyone. There's this lack of

M Michael Crawford 20:09
Yeah,

J Jewel Gray 20:10
Participation out there.

M Michael Crawford 20:11
I mean, like, I've been really critical of white queers for being racist. But one thing you're going to hear me start being critical of is queers of colors. I mean, I think it's like one thing to say that the white organizations are exclusive and don't really make a genuine effort to include us, although some do, but it's also the responsibility of queers of color to know that these situations exist, yet they're not fighting for a more inclusive agenda. I mean, there are a lot of people who were my friends and we'll call it are no longer my friends, you know, after I got involved Queer Nation and stuff, but we have phone calls.

J Jewel Gray 20:45
Yeah, let's take, let's take Connie's call first.

M Michael Crawford 20:49
Is this kind of Connie's Q-Patrol?

J Jewel Gray 20:51
Yeah. Connie with Q-Patrol and Connie is on seven. Connie, are you here?

S Speaker 21 20:57
Yes, indeed. Yes, indeed. We're out and about tonight.

J Jewel Gray 21:00
Great.

S Speaker 21 21:01
We've had kind of a, kind of an abbreviated schedule as of late, but we've gotten some more volunteers and we're out. Hoping to be out with a little more frequency in the near future.

J Jewel Gray 21:13
Well, great. We appreciate you calling. Is this, is it quiet out there tonight?

S Speaker 21 21:17
Well, we've had it we've had about three incidents happen. I mean, nothing real major, but it's kind of a typical night, night for the way it was, say probably about a year ago.

M Michael Crawford 21:29
Connie, we heard about a blue truck that was

J Jewel Gray 21:32
Cruising.

M Michael Crawford 21:32
Yeah, cruising montross with a six, six young men. Have you had any trouble with the blue truck?

S Speaker 21 21:42
Well, what kind of vehicle were they in?

J Jewel Gray 21:45
Blue truck.

S

Speaker 21 21:46

In a blue truck? Yeah. Let's see. I don't know if we've recorded that license number or anything like that. But I will let our people know that, that's been the case, actually. Just a second, got a blue, what kind of a pickup truck was it?

M

Michael Crawford 22:01

We don't know.

J

Jewel Gray 22:02

We don't know. Like someone mentioned it. They saw someone. They saw some people out there that didn't look like they belonged in a blue truck earlier. We were gonna give you all a call.

S

Speaker 21 22:11

Okay. Yeah. Well, thanks a lot. Actually our cellular phone right now is out, it is out on the fritz. We're borrowing a friend's right now.

J

Jewel Gray 22:19

Why is your schedule abbreviated, Connie?

M

Michael Crawford 22:23

Give a, give a shameless plug for membership.

S

Speaker 21 22:26

I can't hear you. I'm sorry.

M

Michael Crawford 22:28

Give a plug for membership.

S

Speaker 21 22:29

Oh, yes. Thank you. We, you can actually if you are interested in joining Q-Patrol, you can call me at home. My telephone number is 666-3125. We'll also have people out and about tomorrow evening doing security for the rally. And we'll have membership blanks with us.



Jewel Gray 22:51

Great. That's a great place to be, I'm looking forward to seeing Q-Patrol there.



Speaker 21 22:55

We'll be, we'll be out and about. We'll also be in the parade of course.



Jewel Gray 22:59

Yeah. What's your number?



Speaker 21 23:01

Number five.



Jewel Gray 23:01

Number five. All right, right up there. You guys will be, well that, that's now almost necessary for you to be at the rally to do security.



Speaker 21 23:08

Yeah, well, we got, we've got to rush from one to the other so I think it's probably best that we were



Jewel Gray 23:14

Ypfront. Yeah, right.



Speaker 21 23:14


Yes.




Jewel Gray 23:15

What's going on Tom?



 Speaker 22 23:16

Connie, this is Tom. I was in Q-Patrol. What's for? I'm wanting to get back on again so I'll probably see you this next week sometime.

 Speaker 21 23:24

Okay, yeah. We're patrolling somewhat more sporadically. And that way you don't get disappointed when no one shows up. We're trying not to let the general public know when we're going to be, when we're going to be out so that we're not predictable.

 Jewel Gray 23:37

Good idea.

 Speaker 22 23:38

Well, you'll probably remember me when you see me.

 Jewel Gray 23:40

Okay. Thanks for calling, Connie.

 Speaker 21 23:41

Okay, take care.

 Jewel Gray 23:42

You too.


 Speaker 21 23:43


Bye. Bye.


 Jewel Gray 23:44


Which one? Do you want to take? Let's take Daniel on eight. What happened to Warren on seven? Try, let's try Warren on seven, is seven on?


 Michael Crawford 23:51


 Michael Crawford 23:54
Oh, that was just Connie.


 Jewel Gray 23:55
Six, try six. Is that Warren?


 Speaker 23 23:58
Yeah, this is warm.


 Jewel Gray 23:59
Hey, Warren, what's going on?

 Speaker 23 24:01
Doing pretty good. I was just tuning in and listening up, I'm a heterosexual male. And I was just wondering, what could the heterosexual do to help the gay community or the cops?

 Jewel Gray 24:14
Well, there are a lot of a lot of organizations you can participate in. If you look under AIDS in yellow pages you can connect with any of those organizations and they can give you some volunteer work.

 Speaker 23 24:25
Okay.

 Jewel Gray 24:26
Is that cool?

 Speaker 23 24:26
Yeah. With the with the gay community frown on a heterosexual working with them towards their goal?

 Jewel Gray 24:32

No, but they're definitely going to be more careful when they screen you because of, because they want to make sure you're not a fag screamer.

J Jimmy Carper 24:43

This is Jimmy and I wanted to mention what, since you asked that, yeah, the Switchboard, Gay and Lesbian Switchboard has just gone through

J Jewel Gray 24:54

Probably the first in town actually,

J Jimmy Carper 24:56

The big change in that now we are actively seeking straight men and women to join

J Jewel Gray 25:04

To participate.

J Jimmy Carper 25:05

Yes.

J Jewel Gray 25:05

So there's, there you go. You can look them up in the Yellow Pages too. Okay, take care, Warren.

S Speaker 23 25:11

Thanks.

J Jewel Gray 25:12

Okay, let's go to Daniel on eight. Daniel, are you there?

S Speaker 24 25:16

Ah, yes.

J Jewel Gray 25:17
What's going on tonight, Daniel?

S Speaker 24 25:18
Oh, pretty good. Not much. I have a question for Michael.

J Jewel Gray 25:22
Okay.

S Speaker 24 25:23
He mentioned earlier that he was black and gay. And I was watching Geraldo the other day, and they had a special on gay, gay [unintelligible]. And one of the audience, personally audience, he said that he couldn't, black, he cannot relate to gay people because he says that, you know, you're black, you know, people see you. And, you know, they know you're a minority. But if you're gay, then you know, you can't tell.

M Michael Crawford 25:55
What's the question?

S Speaker 24 25:57
Oh, what is your opinion on that? And how can you convince a black person that, you know, again, the gay movement, you know, gay people are like the same? We're also minorities?

M Michael Crawford 26:07
Well, I think part of that comes from the fact that you can't see us. I mean, you know, when I'm walking down the street, people know that I'm a fag, not, not only because, you know, you know, my hips are going from side to side but also because I have t shirts on that say, fag. And that's one of the problems, we don't come out. We are not, I mean, it's like, we can walk around and be incognito, and that whole straight acting, straight appearing thing. And so, so we don't come out. But I think one really important thing when it comes to being queer and of color, is that it's absolutely necessary for us to go to our, you know, the Latino, the black with the Asian communities, whichever one we're from, and point out to them that we are of them, and we are queer. I mean, like, I have to go up and, you know, tell those ministers who are black Baptist ministers who consistently criticize and queers and saying that we're evil, and we're gonna

burn in hell, that not only are we not going to burn in hell, that there are black queers, but that I have slept with a black Baptist minister, you know, so it's necessary for us to confront homophobia in the communities of color.

J Jewel Gray 27:20

Well, thanks for your call Daniel.

S Speaker 25 27:21

Yeah, something I want to add to that is that, in order for black people and other minorities to understand where we come from, they might look at it this way, if there was some way they could hide their racial identity, so that they could get ahead and they wouldn't have to deal with prejudice. You know, maybe they might be able to make it somewhere in the world, but how would it make them feel about themselves, and that's what gay people go through, in order to not, not lose their jobs and not be thrown out of their houses or have their parents turn away from them. They have to hide who they are, you know, and stop and think of it that way. In order to get ahead in the world, you'd have to deny that your family existed, you know, deny your whole history and everything and, and play a game with someone else.

J Jewel Gray 28:15

That's point. For those who are alphabetically impaired, our number is 526-5738. JAM-KPFT. And we are taking some calls tonight, we're talking about gay pride, and we're talking about things about being gay. And we're gonna give away some tickets a little later. We have another pair of tickets a little later. So

M Michael Crawford 28:36

We're gonna have a trivia question.

J Jewel Gray 28:37

Stay tuned. A trivia question. You wanted to read this by Urvashi, how long?

M Michael Crawford 28:42

Well, it's in the

J Jewel Gray 28:43

Five minutes?

M Michael Crawford 28:44
Yeah, I would think so.

J Jewel Gray 28:45
Yeah. Okay.

M Michael Crawford 28:46
Do you want me to do it now?

J Jewel Gray 28:47
Well, yeah, I think Well, let's take this call then. First. I think we push this button first.

M Michael Crawford 28:51
And we should wait. And

J Jewel Gray 28:53
Let Matt screen it. Yeah, I guess you're right. Okay, so you have this thing by Urvashi that I read.

M Michael Crawford 29:02
Yeah, it's in the current issue of the Advocate. I forget who them, oh, Sam Nunn was on the cover.

J Jewel Gray 29:06
Sam Nunn. Oh, God, I bet he loves that. Better than Jesse Helms.

M Michael Crawford 29:11
Yep. And I was, one of them, it was something about the sissy awards, and now he's being a total screaming idiot on the whole queers in military thing. Because although he's the Democrat and you know, head of the Senate Armed Forces Committee and supposedly, what's the word I'm looking for? So we don't have a call. Okay.

J

Jewel Gray 29:33

So why don't you go for it and read for Urvashi?

M

Michael Crawford 29:36

Okay. It's entitled Compromising Positions. Okay, the diabolical, the Democratic weasels in the Senate pandering to homophobia as well as the painful side of Barney Frank, defending a sell out on the military ban makes me mad enough to want to register Republican. The end, the fight to end military discrimination proves one fact. Until we stop confusing access to the political system with real power and it, we will be in compromising positions. Four decades of fighting for gay rights has brought us to where the hallmark of our oppression, the closet, is offered at the precondition of our progress. We are asked to stay in the closet, don't tell in exchange for non discrimination, don't ask. They would allow us to be gay off base but not allow us to be openly participants in service and they would leave the current policy intact. Compromise is celebrated as an art in Washington, gay and lesbian history in Congress is littered with corpses killed by compromises, crashed by the cruelty of conservatives and the appeasement of liberals. Every congressional compromise posed on a gay or AIDS bill has thought one thing, to preserve the status quo. From AIDS policy to hate crime laws, to the war for control over the National Endowment for the Arts, the compromises foisted on us by the Democratic Congress, standards, monuments to gay and lesbian powerlessness. Since 1987, AIDS funding bills have borrowed federal funds for AIDS education programs aimed at gay and bisexual men, the very population most effected in this country. Since 1989, the A-- the NEA has asked explicitly and been required legislatively to offer up certain kinds of art and artists in exchange for government funding of politically acceptable art. In 1990, the federal Hate Crimes Bill nearly fell because Jesse Helms thought an amendment declaring homosexuality sinful. Gay lobbyists were told the only way to defeat Helms was to compromise and endorse an alternative amendment affirming that the bill upheld traditional family values. The National Gay and Lesbian Task Force refused. We squashed this compromise only by inventing another, the Hate Crimes Bill has language saying it opposed American family values. The biggest myth about compromise is that it is mutual and consensual. In fact, compromise is the most coercive of strategies and compromise is always a burden on the powerless. Those with the power control the terms of the deal, Reagan never compromised, Bush won every veto he made. Instead of worrying how to save face, let us face this reality. Our movement is weak when it comes to legislative bodies, be the Congress, state legislatures, city council, county commissions or school boards, we have earned access but lack power and mainstream access alone will not change the prejudice we encounter. Access without power is an endless series of self congratulatory fundraisers while we dress up and pretend we are powerbrokers the business of building a broader and stronger national movement for gay and lesbian equality and freedom remains unattended. We, we face the military compromises today because we are out organized by the right and did not receive the support of our own people and our allies. The Christian right has not only secured access to power, but through the candidacy of Pat Robertson in 1988. It has built a 50 state organization to deliver support to its political allies. It has spent millions to train its members, they even have a satellite network. Wealthy Christians have given tens of millions to fund think tanks, policy centers and leadership development of young people. This wealth finance army wages a revolution from the ground up that has stalled our movement from the top down. By comparison, gays and lesbians have yet to get seriously behind the gay rights movement. National Gay organizations are small, they need much more

financial help than most of us currently give. Our movement barely exists at the state level and leadership development remains a serious movement weakness across the country. How we win our freedom has little to do with our willingness to compromise. It has to do with our willingness to organize, organize long term. If we reject the proposed sell outs and force Congress to vote overtly on its covert homophobia, what will we lose? Let us watch the nationally televised roll called vote. And then let us roll up our sleeves with grim determination and hold each other account, each member accountable. Liberation involves the grassroot process of organizing support for my families, neighbors, colleagues, elected officials, churches and communities. It requires a public display of support for homosexuals. It requires the exact opposite of Don't Ask, Don't Tell. And that was an editorial by a Urvashi Vaid, who is a former director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. She's currently writing a book on the gay and lesbian rights movement.

J Jewel Gray 34:22

Okay, we're back. And we wanted to play that for you, kind of to give you some incentive to give us a call at KPFT, you can call us. Yeah, you got it. Alphabetically

M Michael Crawford 34:37
KPFT.

J Jewel Gray 34:38
There you go. Or JAM-KPFT just like the big, big radio station that put my ear, my headphones back on.

M Michael Crawford 34:47
That that, over at that top 40 radio station, quite a few their on-air DJs are queer, closeted, mind you.

J Jewel Gray 34:55
Really? Which station is that?

M Michael Crawford 34:59
104.

J Jewel Gray 35:00
Really? Is that why they are

J Jimmy Carper 35:02
Ah, okay.

J Jewel Gray 35:03
Is that why they participate in our parade?

J Jimmy Carper 35:05
That's right.

M Michael Crawford 35:05
Well, actually, they are gonna be there. But the queer ones aren't.

J Jewel Gray 35:08
That's clear, just a big blowup balloon.

J Jimmy Carper 35:10
They'll be, they'll be on the sides in the sunglasses and hats watching.

J Jewel Gray 35:14
Right.

J Jimmy Carper 35:14
No, apparently, they're gonna be like, right smack dab in the middle. So that's kind of cool.

J Jewel Gray 35:19
Michael, I'm not getting any reading on you when you talk.

M Michael Crawford 35:21
Oh, I'll talk louder.

Oh, I'll talk louder.

J Jewel Gray 35:23

Okay, we're just really relaxed here tonight. It's been a long week for me. And I'm a little haphazard, because, you know, we just did the show last week. And I did a show the week before that. So you had to bear with us tonight. But we're gonna give away some tickets in a little while. So keep our number in mind, JAM-KPFT. Or we're, Michael, you do that.

M Michael Crawford 35:45

526-5738. 526-KPFT.

J Jewel Gray 35:48

There you go. So keep that in mind when, we will let you know I tell you what we're going to do. We're going to play a song that Sarah cut together and put together tonight that we're going to play on our float tomorrow, going down the street, so you get a sneak preview of the Switchboard entertainment tomorrow. And when we play that, we'll take the third caller. Calling is in and I'll remind you shortly before we do this, that that's what's going to happen. We'll take third caller and give away that other pair of tickets to 2 Unlimited. And I liked that sound we heard a while ago, "Tribal Dance." And they're going to be at Heaven on July 10. And for the jungle party. And it's com--the tickets are complements of Heaven and After Hours, a continuing tradition. So what were we talking about Mike?

M Michael Crawford 36:40

We werere talking about Urvashi and her, her, her essay.

J Jewel Gray 36:44

And wish Diane was here. She'd be just like I said while ago and everybody giggled, she'd be creaming her jeans.

M Michael Crawford 36:49

Well, I must admit if she were a boy, or I were a woman, I would marry her in a second.

J Jewel Gray 36:54

Oh, yeah, I'd just like to look at her, she could stand on the other side of the room, I'd be happy. But this is a powerful woman and a powerful woman. They really need one for that. I'm waiting to see if Torie Osborn can fill these big, thick shoes. And I don't know.

M Michael Crawford 37:10
I have my doubts personally. But I'm

J Jewel Gray 37:12
Torie certainly has a different style.

M Michael Crawford 37:14
Yeah, she has a different style. I don't anticipate her getting arrested.

J Jewel Gray 37:18
No, I don't see that. No, I don't see that.

M Michael Crawford 37:22
But I think she's just totally passionate, just totally involved. My second favorite activist after Larry Kramer. And I think what she said was definitely on target. Particularly, one thing that stood out for me was the whole thing about leadership development. Because, as I see it, I mean, like here in Houston, there is no leadership development for the next generation of queer activity, right? I mean, because

J Jewel Gray 37:46
It says, trip and stumble process.

M Michael Crawford 37:48
I mean, because I would have thought that there, there are some of us who I would have thought would have been picked up and said, you have potential, let's go with it. I mean, people like like me, like Scott Lewis, like Paul Mullen, Tiffany Isabelle, Terri Richardson, Francisco Sanchez, a whole bunch of people who forget can be real assets to the community. But there's just like this total homosexual elite thing where the people who are in power are just like interested in maintaining what they consider to be their power, which is actually not a lot of power.

J Jewel Gray 38:18
I see that as a disease in our community. I've seen it in the AIDS services. And I don't want to

speak about one group or another, but I particularly am upset with one group. And that's, I believe what's happened when they started, they had a passion, they had a reason for being there. And they worked as a team. And since then, which has been a bunch of years. The people that work there simply work there to maintain, to prop, to maintain their jobs, it's, their job is to maintain their job. And they forgotten what the real point is. And that's all it is anymore. It's a job, a career, a place to step on other people to get higher up in the ladder, and it becomes, you know, something like, a corporate job where they forget the people they're supposed to be taking care of. Totally, I believe just about totally. And I've been real upset with that. And I'd like to see that leadership that you're talking about. I really would. And I think you're right. And it's unfortunate in our community, we have so many prima donnas, and none of them willing to groom the next, the next

M

Michael Crawford 39:27

I mean, because I'm willing to be groomed, I'm willing to be a bottom.

J

Jewel Gray 39:31

I don't think you need any grooming, Michael and that's why I like you. I don't think you need any grooming at all.

M

Michael Crawford 39:35

I think that, that what Queer Nation enabled us to do was to stumble and fall and you know, get back up again and try again and, you know, maybe you get it that time and then do bad the next time. But I mean, there's still at best, kind of like things that we can be learning like more in terms of media manipulation. Yeah, I think some of us are pretty good at it. But we can do better. I mean, we just need to figure out new ways of getting people involved. I think, I think what happens is that after a while people have been involved for so long, they only, they can only think in one way. They can only see one way of doing things. And so when someone else comes up with a different point of view, they're not interested because they see it as threatening the status quo that she taught.

J

Jewel Gray 40:20

Exactly.

M

Michael Crawford 40:21

And it's like, we have to try a lot of different things. I mean, a lot of people seem to think that I am completely totally against, you know, Chris Bacon and GLPC. And that's it.