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SPEAKERS

Speaker 3, Speaker 2, Scott Lewis, Jimmy Carper, Diane Williams

J

Jimmy Carper 00:07

The following program contains language or images of a frank or sensitive nature, which may be considered objectionable by some, listener discretion is advised. Whoa, it must be Saturday night at midnight because you're listening to After Hours, a continuing tradition on KPFT Houston 90.1 FM. The crew of After Hours is ready to bring you news, interviews, and music gear for gay and lesbian people. Just as Gloria Gaynor says in this song, it's time to open up your closets. We at After Hours urge everyone to come out of their closets. By our definition, that means standing up for yourself and taking responsibility for your own life. But if you feel that you can't come out right now because of your age, your job or whatever reason. That's okay, we're here for you too. So sit back, relax, and enjoy this week's edition of After Hours.

D

Diane Williams 01:25

Hey, welcome to After Hours a continuing tradition of gay and lesbian news, entertainment information for you. We've got a lot of interesting, interesting and fun stuff happening tonight. So much stuff that we just don't know what to do with it all. So we're gonna bring it to you tonight. We've got people in interesting situations. We've got, we're all giggling back here because we've got notes for days going. Okay, what's important? What do we want to talk about first? Clinton and the military. What's happening? We just don't know. It's in the genes. It's, they found a gene in gay males that seems to predestine homosexuality. We're going to be talking about couples. We've got Pat Gandy from the Lesbian and Gay Rights Lobby of Texas and John Bergow is here. And he's going to talk to you about something's happening in his life, the Quakerism and the Quaker religion. So stay tuned, stick around coming up is going to be the QMZ with Jimmy. And we have complimentary admission for two to, thank you, Jimmy. RuPaul. Okay, and I want to tell you, this has been hyped up and I'm excited about it. I just wish I could go. But I don't think that I will be able to. But I would love to win these tickets if I could, but I can't because I'm giving them away. And therefore you so give us a call at JAM KPFT. Was that 526?



Jimmy Carper 02:56

 JIMMY CARPER 02:00

Yeah.

 D

Diane Williams 02:57

But when you do you know, yeah, it'll be, it'll be 526-KPFT. So give us a call. If you have some interesting on your mind when it talks about it. If you're at a really cool and happening party, you want to tell us where it is and how to get there, give us a call. If you have free drinks at your bar, and you're there, give us a call there too. We'll see you later. So we're having a good time tonight. We hope you are too. Stick around for the QMZ.

 J

Jimmy Carper 03:25

Yes, here it is, QMZ with Jimmy. Oh, you get the opportunity to trade chairs to do this.

 D

Diane Williams 03:33

I was gonna wait another time.

 J

Jimmy Carper 03:35

I noticed that.

 S

Speaker 2 03:37

When no other women walked in, we would have lost you under the desk.

 J

Jimmy Carper 03:41

Ah, tonight, ah, that QMZ, the queer music zone. Very big play users by gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgenderal artists.Oh, yeah. Oh, oh, I, I've got like one CD here in my hot little hand. And the whole QMZ and beyond is on it. Because I don't really even have enough, what, enough time to play the whole thing. And it's great. It's great. It's great. We've, we've played one thing off of it before. It's called "At Karen's House," but the name of the CD is A Family Of Friends. It's a women's music sampler. And oh, gosh, the people on here. It's fantastic. It's really really good stuff. I gave it a second listen to I said I've got to just do the whole QMZ on this one CD. Starting off, I want to redo something that we've done before. And this will be for Diane. It's called "At Karen's House" by Jamie Anderson. Yes, yes, yes, lesbians like Linda, and I know what you're going to say, boy, that sounds like k.d. but no, that was. That was Pam Hall. And that's from the CD that I've been talking about the A Family Of Friends from the woman's music sampler. And before that, of course, was Jamie Anderson doing "At Karen's House." And coming up I've got two more that I really like off of this. I hope this is right. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10. Yes. From two groups that you've heard hear a lot on After Hours and the QMZ, QMZ. Yes. I've been doing this for so long I don't even know what it is anymore. Okay, we've got

coming up is Venus Envy doing a little number called the "Myth In Genesis." Kind of interesting little tune then we got Yer Girlfriend go, doing "Lez-B-Bop." These are more up tempo tunes. So let's get right to it. Whoa. "Lez-B-Bop."

D Diane Williams 06:35

That's my line.

S Scott Lewis 06:35

That's, I'm gonna pretend like I'm Diane Williams. Hey.

J Jimmy Carper 06:39

No, it's, I have to go first. Okay, whoa.

S Scott Lewis 06:42

Hey.

J Jimmy Carper 06:43

Is it the first? Okay, okay. Hey.

S Scott Lewis 06:48

Whoa. Hey, we're versatile here.

J Jimmy Carper 06:54

And that was from A Family Of Friends (Women's Music Sampler). You heard Yer Girlfriend, a favorite group here, doing "Lez-B-Bop." And before that, Venus Envy with the "Myth In Genesis." Coming up. We've got a group. Scott, remember Culture Club?

S Scott Lewis 07:15

Yes, baby. You know, he dragged, he brought me out.

J Jimmy Carper 07:21

No kidding

S

Scott Lewis 07:21

When I was 12, I saw that and I said woohoo. There's something about that I like.

J

Jimmy Carper 07:25

Okay, who was his boyfriend?

S

Scott Lewis 07:28

Jon Moss. Uh huh.

J

Jimmy Carper 07:29

And what's Jon Moss doing today?

S

Scott Lewis 07:32

Probably kicking himself in the ass forever leaving Boy George. Isn't he with a group called Promised Land?

J

Jimmy Carper 07:40

the group called Promised Land. Yes. And it's kind of its kind of semi-religious. There's religious overtones in it. But it's Jon Moss and his new lover I guess. I don't know.

S

Scott Lewis 07:51

Is it sometime kind of dude, is it? You know, Boy George does that. What's that Buddhist stuff now.

J

Jimmy Carper 07:57

Oh, yeah?

S

Scott Lewis 07:58

It's kind of religious.

J

Jimmy Carper 07:59

There's a song in here called "Mantra."

S

Scott Lewis 08:02

Which was the name of Boy George's last album, Martyr Mantras.

J

Jimmy Carper 08:07

There's, there's there's little songs in here. See, Jon wrote and he does the keyboards and

S

Scott Lewis 08:11

Let me see that picture him girl.

J

Jimmy Carper 08:13

There's, there's songs here called.

S

Scott Lewis 08:16

He is just as cute as it ever was.

J

Jimmy Carper 08:18

"You Haunt My Heart."

S

Scott Lewis 08:20

Oh, and he could. We'll talk after the show.

J

Jimmy Carper 08:24

Okay, but, but since we've got John Bergow here tonight that he's gonna be talking about Quakerism I wanted to

S

Scott Lewis 08:32

Is that truly an ism?

J Jimmy Carper 08:35

They're all isms, honey.

S Scott Lewis 08:39

To someone your age I'm sure they are.

J Jimmy Carper 08:41

Yes, yes, yes, yes. But anyway, I just wanted to do something you know, I thought about U2. And I thought about doing World Party or something, you know, kind of upbeat and now with a little kind of religious overtones to them, but I found this.

S Scott Lewis 08:55

Which is downbeat and not, and yesterday, but has, but has religious overtones to it. Is that what you're trying to say?

J Jimmy Carper 09:02

No, no, no, this is cool stuff. This is really, really good called Promised Land in case you're interested in knowing what Jon Moss is up to.

S Scott Lewis 09:11

He's kicking himself in the ass for leaving Boy George.

J Jimmy Carper 09:13

Exactly, but let's listen to "Drive Time."

S Scott Lewis 09:19

That was on boy George's third album. The Queen is tired, she's ripping them off. She's got the Madras part now she's got drive time. Tired rip off queen. Play the song.

J Jimmy Carper 09:28

~

Okay.

D Diane Williams 09:34

Hi. Y'all over this music yet? I really like it. It's some finger snapping music. That was mood changer. Mood changer music. We like that a lot. It's kind of cool. Kind of jazzy, kind of bluesy. Kind of has that cool feeling ,makes you want to snap your fingers. How're you doing, John? Welcome John Bergow, glad you're here at KPFT tonight. We have a crowd. I couldn't begin to tell you everyone in this, okay, everybody shout. The meters just went bananas. My producer is gonna kill me. We have a crowd here tonight and you will be listening to all of them I'm sure but right now we're here for JohnBergow, right?

S Speaker 3 09:55

Yeah. Yeah. I'm doing great.

D Diane Williams 10:20

Is that how you say your last name?

S Speaker 3 10:20

Bergow. You're

D Diane Williams 10:21

I've always called you that. I hope that was right.

S Speaker 3 10:23

That's, that's perfect. That's good enough.

D Diane Williams 10:24

Okay. Well, you know, that's true. That's not what I've always called them. Thank you, Scott. You know, John, I just want to say that I've known you for a long time now. Not very well at all times, but I have to tell all the listening audience where I first met you, are you going to be embarrassed yet?

S Speaker 3 10:40

No. Where was it?

D Diane Williams 10:41

It was at a Halloween party some years ago. And you were working for the gay and lesbian of U of H where you like the President,

S Speaker 3 10:50

I was president of the Gay and Lesbian

D Diane Williams 10:51

President of the Gay and Lesbian Students Association at University of Houston. And I met you at a Halloween party at Rice University.

S Speaker 3 10:58

And what was I dressed as?

D Diane Williams 10:59

You were dressed as the lovely Barbara Bush. White hair, blue dress and pearls. And what a first impression, let me just tell you. Like who is this queen.

S Speaker 3 11:11

We recruited many members to the organization after that party.

D Diane Williams 11:14

I know you did. It was a great party had a good time. Yeah. But you've come a long way.

S Speaker 3 11:20

I left those beads behind.

D Diane Williams 11:21

I know that to be true. And then I ran across you at a Queer Nation meeting of all places. And here we are doing this activist thing because I'm like, I know. I know that young man from somewhere. Barbara Bush. I aet it. So tell me somethina. Tell me about what you're doina. This

is a question I ask everybody that is a gay or lesbian person on the air. Give me your own little personal coming out story. How you, how you realized you were gay or found out about it or whatever. And what, where are you from? That kind of thing. Bio, your, your own little personal story.

 Speaker 3 11:57

Well, I grew up in upstate New York. Yeah, a little town of 2,500 people about 30 miles north of

 Diane Williams 12:04

It'd be like Bellaire?

 Speaker 3 12:06

No. It'd be like Hockley, Texas.

 Diane Williams 12:09

Got it. Got it.

 Speaker 3 12:13

You know, a place that gets about 200 inches of snow every year and, and a fun little town. Let me tell you.

 Diane Williams 12:19

Snow, that's that white stuff, right?

 Speaker 3 12:20

That's that white stuff that I honest, so much.

 Diane Williams 12:22

Got it.

 Speaker 3 12:24

And yes, I came out when I was 16. we had this German exchange student who came to live with my family.

 Diane Williams 12:33

Hans?

 Speaker 3 12:35

No, his name was Nicky okay. And I, of course, I fell madly in love with him.

 Diane Williams 12:40

Did he know?

 Speaker 3 12:41

Well, he did by the end of the year, I told him. And about halfway through the year, and I was totally in denial about the whole thing we would have, you know, I would have jealous hissy fits with him all the time. Every time he had a date with a girl or anything like that. Totally freak out. And we would, we would throw snow at each other and have big fights and

 Diane Williams 13:01

Sounds like fun.

 Speaker 3 13:02

Oh, it was hot times

 Diane Williams 13:06

In the snow.

 Speaker 3 13:06

In the snow. And after a while I just said you know what? I'm in love with this guy. And I told a good friend of mine who was also a teacher at the school. And we talked about it. And I was like, gosh, if I'm in love with this guy, that means I'm gay, doesn't it?

 Diane Williams 13:21

And did you get freaked out?

 Speaker 3 13:23

A little bit at first, but not too much. I had I instantly had a lot of support. You know, I mean, all the first people I told were, were, were very supportive. They were very loving. I was dating this girl at the time and, sorry.

 Diane Williams 13:37

What was her name?

 Speaker 3 13:39

Her name was Lisa. But I should tell you that. I told, you know, I told her that I was gay. And three weeks later, she told me that she's a lesbian so

 Diane Williams 13:48

Snap, snap for Lisa. The snap queens are in the house.

 Speaker 3 13:53

We've been best friends ever since.

 Diane Williams 13:55

Great.

 Speaker 3 13:56

And I told the guy from Germany and he was, he was real cool about it. We were sharing a bedroom and it didn't freak him out. He didn't want to move or anything cool. And we've been good friends ever since.

 Diane Williams 14:04

It sounds like a really positive story.

S Speaker 3 14:07

Yeah, it was real good.

D Diane Williams 14:08

I know a lot of people have some really hard like hard time stories. It's always nice to hear one that's not quite so terrible.

S Speaker 3 14:13

And the first chance I got, I left that town and came to Houston.

D Diane Williams 14:17

And got yourself a boyfriend somewhere along the road I'm sure.

S Speaker 3 14:20

Oh, a few but

D Diane Williams 14:21

Yeah, no one. No one serious.

S Speaker 3 14:23

No one serious.

D Diane Williams 14:24

Well, let me, I know what we're going to talk about tonight. I know that that's very important to you. I want to ask you a little bit about your religious background. One of the reasons that I invited you on the show instead of one of our other hosts inviting you on the show is because everyone knows I'm the token Christian around here. But it's okay. Because I like it. I could just say God a lot on the air.

S Speaker 3 14:44

Do you say it in that real echoey kind of way. God.

D Diane Williams 14:47

No, I don't think I can, that didn't sound right. It sounded kind of, kind of tough. Maybe. So tell me what was your religious background? Did you have a lot of faith growing up? Did you have a heavy duty church experience?

S Speaker 3 14:57

Well, I grew up, my family's Catholic and there are screams all across radio land tonight. So I grew up in a very pretty serious Catholic church. You know, did the whole first communion thing when I was seven years old and my family traveled from all over the northeastern United States to come to the first communion party and all that kind of stuff. And I was, I was pretty serious, I guess about it when I was when I was young. And in fact, I mean, my my sister who ended up becoming a fundamentalist used to make fun of me, because when I was like, eight or nine, I would read my little children's Bible sometimes.

D Diane Williams 15:36

Like, catechisms?

S Speaker 3 15:37

Yeah, catechisms in my little cartoon book of The Lives of the Saints.

D Diane Williams 15:41

I never could get them all.

S Speaker 3 15:43

It was, like one with three guys burning in the fire, you know, and it was, it was kind of cartoony and it's funny.

D Diane Williams 15:49

And it still is.

S Speaker 3 15:52

It still is, it still is, in fact, those, those books are still somewhere at home, in Syracuse, in my house there. But, and I was really, you know, involved and I stayed involved all through high school I was, I used to be like, a reader in my church, and I would have the bread and the wine and all that stuff.

D Diane Williams 16:10

Do you think that was really cool? Because I thought it was really cool when I was growing up that I got to do stuff like that.

S Speaker 3 16:14

Well, this was a really, I mean, the, the actual church that I went to was real liberal Catholic Church, that altar girls and things that they weren't supposed to have and

D Diane Williams 16:24

Well, you know, it just so happens that I have sitting behind me right now someone that I actually used to go to youth group with, of course, in our youth group, we got in a lot of trouble. We all like did stuff we shouldn't do, like smoke and drink and stuff like that. So we had a good time doing it. And we did talk about God quite often so

S Speaker 3 16:38

We talked about sex quite often in my youth group.

D Diane Williams 16:39

Yeah, I think we did that. Looked at girlfriends and boyfriends and decided which we wanted and what was happening and all that kind of stuff. So we all kind of were experiencing puberty together. I think, I think my faith helped a lot during that point.

S Speaker 3 16:52

So, and I stayed involved with the Catholic Church, when I first moved to Houston, I would go to my house at the University of Houston, which was also this kind of liberal place where they would have, you know, women doing the sermon sometimes and stuff, which is supposed to be against those Catholic rules. And I went to Dignity. I went to Dignity for quite a while. And I left

D Diane Williams 17:12

Dignity is a local, gay, lesbian Catholic organization.

S Speaker 3 17:16

And they have a mass every Saturday night, I used to go when I lived at U of H, I used to hop

on the bus over there. And I stayed involved, I guess, until about three or four years ago. And I left, you know, for me, all the kind of official stuff and the Catholic Church, all the kind of rules and the dogma and the things you were supposed to believe in, like, you know, like the virgin birth, and, like, especially the big one that always got me was the Immaculate Conception. Yeah, which was the idea that, you know, when Mary's parents had sex, and she was conceived, she had no kind of original sin or anything. And, you know, if somebody wants to believe that, everything on, great, you know, go for it. But for me, none of those things were very important. And I grew up in this kind of liberal Catholic Church, where I learned a lot about, about the way that things that seemed to be important, you know, in the world are not necessarily important, like having a lot of money, or being white or things like that. I mean, it was it was a cool place. And so those were things that were important to me. And when I realized that for most of the other people, that I was going to church with, all those other things were really important. I suddenly realized, you know, I'm totally not in tune with these people. I mean, we're like coming from totally different places. And I just, I just couldn't go back.

 D Diane Williams 18:31

Yeah, I think most of us can relate to having some kind of experience of not belonging, or not being in tune with the people, especially people in church situations, especially being gay or lesbian in church situations, because of what Christianity at least teaches us to believe. Tell me a little bit about, I want to know, first of all, a little bit about what you did during the time that you weren't really going to churches, did you find that you were missing that? Or did you find that you wanted some kind of spiritual base, and then tell me how you got involved with Quakerism? Quaker?

 S Speaker 3 19:03

Quakers.

 D Diane Williams 19:03

Quakers.

 S Speaker 3 19:04

Friends is the, the Religious Society of Friends.

 D Diane Williams 19:08

Okay, and how you got involved with them. And our audience is going to be mostly gay and lesbian people, and I want to make sure that we're relating to them how this affects gay and lesbian people and how it affected you as a gay man going into a religious society at all. I mean, that's a very, I mean, that's very, it's been a problem for much of his recon--reconciling our sexuality in our religion. That's a big question.

S Speaker 3 19:33

Yeah, during, during the time that I wasn't going to church, I don't know if I'm, I don't know how much I missed it. I, what I did was a lot of activism, which for me, was always church. It was, yeah, it was church. And it was this community of people that, you know, at least on certain things, we agreed very strongly. And we worked together and we had this we had this kind of unity in this union between us. That was really powerful. I mean, if you were at the big, you know, March after Paul Boussard's murder when we took over the streets, I mean, that was, for me, that was a religious experience. And I also listened to a lot of music coming out a lot of feminist music, a lot of Sweet Honey in the Rock.

D Diane Williams 20:10

I think that's when you became a lesbian, honorary lesbian at that point.

S Speaker 3 20:16

That's right. And so I kind of filled, I kind of filled it, filled it all that way, how I, how I came to Quakerism, or the Religious Society of Friends, is I read a lot of science fiction. And just about a year ago now, I was reading a science fiction magazine, and there was this short story. And the main character was this Quaker woman. And they didn't talk about much about what Quakers believe or anything like that. But I was reading it, I was like, wow, this person is exactly the kind of person that I want to be. I mean, so I didn't really know anything about Quakers. I just knew that this woman, this character, and it was fiction, and it was idealized and everything, but that she was just she believed, I mean, she, she behaved the way I would want to behave in situations. And so I determined that I wanted to find out more about Quakers. And so I just started doing some reading and and I work part time at a local bookstore,

D Diane Williams 21:12

And say the name please.

S Speaker 3 21:13

The name was Inklings, local, feminist and lesbian and gay bookstore.

D Diane Williams 21:17

And what's the address?

S Speaker 3 21:18

1846 Richmond, at the corner of Richmond and Hazard.

 D Diane Williams 21:21

And what are the hours?

 S Speaker 3 21:22

The hours are for Tuesday through Saturday from 10:30 to 6:30. And Sunday from noon to five.

 D Diane Williams 21:27

And the phone number is

 S Speaker 3 21:28

521-3369.

 D Diane Williams 21:30

Ding, ding, ding. Correct answer on all counts.

 S Speaker 3 21:34

So while I was there, you know, we have our catalogs and everything, we list from our distributors of all the books they sell. So I looked and looked and looked until I found some books about Quakers. And we ordered, I ordered at the store since as an employee, I get a discount. And

 D Diane Williams 21:49

How do I become an employee?

 S Speaker 3 21:52

I ordered some books and just started doing some reading. And I was really impressed when I found was this religious group that was totally unlike any other religious group that I have ever conceived of? I mean,

 D Diane Williams 22:07

Well, give us a hint like what are the beliefs what? What did you see in that woman that you

wanted to have in yourself?

S

Speaker 3 22:16

I mean, let's talk about the beliefs. Yeah. Quakers are a group with no, no creed, no list of things that you have to believe or not to, not believe, that they impose on their members at all. No ministers telling you what you should do with your life. A historic tradition, the group is 350, around 350 years old, a historic tradition of respecting the dignity of all people, and especially a strong tradition of respect and equality for women in the religious society.