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SPEAKERS

Diane Williams, Jimmy Carper



00:01

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



00:12

I am what I am I have my own special creation so come take a look give me the all the Ovation it's more that I want little pride in my old and it's not a blazer lives not worth a damn to you can say



01:06

I am what I am I don't want praise I don't want pity bang my own drum something is noise I think it's pretty bangle to see things from a different angle. God life is a sham until you and shout out



01:45

I am what I need no excuses. I do my own deck. Sometimes he says no internet no deposit not down till you can shout out



Jimmy Carper 02:38

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 hear 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



03:41

I am what I am and I do my own deck. Sometimes



Diane Williams 05:00

Hello, hello out there, boys and girls. It's time for the HOMO show. Yeah. You're listening after hours on 90.1 KPFT. Continuing, continuing, continuing



Jimmy Carper 05:17

a continuing to audition.



Diane Williams 05:20

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. Got a lot of really cool people and fun stuff happening tonight. We're hoping some people are going to call in a little bit later and those will be the mystery guests. Also you call great we'll have a lot of callers calling. I want to hear from those of you out there who experienced bad weather day I know I was on the freeway in the middle of hell basically, in the middle of rain and lightning and bad wind and the whole the whole bit so if you were in the middle of badness in the middle of natural disasters today, give us a call and share a Share with us your torment. We also have some guests. We have some guests from wack here tonight talking about feminism and what that means. Oh, to write to what that means. Getting out of here Oh, the guys are leaving now. Just kidding. Men are afraid of feminism. Well you know the Rush Limbaugh that's true Rush is wrong. We hate rush. Sorry if you're out there. We hate Rush Limbaugh. Okay. I have some postcards right here by the Democrats. Larry King said he's paid by the Democrats. Hmm. Attorney he'll turn anybody against a turn anybody? That's very frightening. I'm not sure exactly what that means. But we'll discuss that at length later. I'm sure. Hi, Jimmy. The other Jimmy How are ya? Jimmy number two or number one or something half of Jim square. Straight, Jim straight, Jim. We get a lot of fun stuff. We also have a tape for you tonight. From the therapy sisters. codependent Christmas. How many of you out there have codependent Christmases? Yeah, everybody, everybody we know it. We saw we saw the therapy sisters performed today this afternoon at the mucky duck and that was a lot of fun. A lot a lot of fun. support those women whenever you can. We've got some music coming up for you soon as soon as I poke Jimmy the producer queer Jimmy



Jimmy Carper 07:16

Well, honey, I on a high note that a long time and I can assure you that.

D Diane Williams 07:21

Well, I could do it.

J Jimmy Carper 07:24

I'm scared I can do that. I also want to both end up being very confused. You know, that's

D Diane Williams 07:29

true. It's true. We'd have to really dig through our memory banks. memory banks, we've got some of those to probably mean more than you but

J Jimmy Carper 07:43

this might be the shortest after hours ever.

D Diane Williams 07:45

Well, I don't know if we might be able to drag this out a while. I see. But you like it. Give us a call. The phone numbers are

J Jimmy Carper 07:55

jam KPFT Excuse me. 5265738

D Diane Williams 08:00

Jam. Jam. Is that what you said? Jam Jam Jam. KPFT What is this? The snap queens are here. Yes. Jam. KPFT Okay, cool. Call us at jam KPFT no idea that was called that's our phone number jam. KPFT. That is just totally new to me. I'm Diane Williams. I'll be your hostess with the mostest this evening. I want to say hi out there to jewel gray. Yes, lovely jewel. And if you're at home, what the heck you doing at home? You should be here honey, we miss you. It's true. I missed you this week. Call me later. Don't forget. Also we have some guests arriving shortly and we'll be talking to you more about them in a minute. Coming up. We've got some music I wish I knew what it was so I could tell you doo doo doo simple life. I have no idea who it is Elton John. Elton John. Simple Life.

J Jimmy Carper 08:53

Yeah, another another cool one from Elton John. Hi, this is Jimmy with QM z the queer music. So

right here on after hours. Man like, like the woman said, it's Elton John with simple life. Oh, yeah, Elton. Thank you for that. Another one of Elton's new album, called the one and that that first cut off of it called simple life. Boy, that's pretty song. Um, so here we are. with Elton John, let's say an old gay with new music. Let's try an old gay with old music. Someone we haven't heard from in a long time. She hasn't put out an album and many many years but recently she's been back out among us playing in the gay clubs. And so I kind of want to introduce maybe a whole new generation to some of her music. Some of us older ones remember her very well and treasure everything she's ever put out. It's Jane Alvar. And she's doing stay the night. Be Jane Oliver stay the night. Haven't heard from her in a long time. And I know I am looking forward to some new stuff from Jane Oliver. If you've never heard it, heard that name. Remember it, and you might try to give a look. A lot of her stuff is on CD now I know I know I have it. So you might want to check out some of her old stuff. Now let's say we've done an old faggot with new music and middle aged lesbian with middle age music. Let's try. Young faggots with old music has that. What is it? What is it? Where? Where are they? Here are our favorites. Old eraser? Yeah, they're doing an old Phil Spector number. Yeah, it's coming up right now. And Ellie green Grande, Rhett Greenwich and Phil Spector and somebody else wrote this back in 1966. And Tina has done it and you know, just everybody's done it. And now it's time for eraser to do it with their, their own kind of brand of dance music. And I think it's a pretty good pretty good mix here. I think you're gonna like it. It's eraser doing river deep, Mountain High. Enjoy it. And we'll see you next week with more of Q MC.

D

Diane Williams 11:45

Wow, I was just handed a tape of some really, really cool music and it is called Voices for life. We hear that shortly. I'm sure. Well, we've got guests in the studio boys and girls. Yay. And the guests are reported uh, they're just dying over they don't realize that this is radio and they can't like make faces. People out there. Don't see the faces. Okay, well, you know, I just realized that I made a little faux pa earlier. Oh, no, that's hard to believe. But we're not wack women tonight. But we're all most of us are like members of wack or we go to wack. But that's just one way to express our feminism and who we are and wanting to get active within the community and wanting to be voices for change. If you guys if you guys listen to me, you're gonna just kill me about that. If you women would introduce yourself. Donna. Good morning. What's your name? Donna Rafferty. Donna Rafferty, Donna Rafferty, also our lovely friend, Karen. Hi, everybody. Hi, Karen caste. And. And hi, Polly morning. Good morning. Good morning. Good morning. Good morning. Good night. Good morning depends on if you've just woken up for bed or if you're up for the evening. If you're working the graveyard shift. I want to talk to everybody male and female who's on the graveyard shift tonight who's on that that late night shift working hard in whatever capacity that you're working. If you are working in hospital work in the dispatch if you're if you're working with the police department, thank you for pulling me over today. By the way HPD appreciate that gave me a minor heart attack with all my activist stickers and bumper stickers in the back of my car was terrifying. But you guys are wonderful. So you're very nice to me. So I guess I can't say too much about it. But I want to hear from you. If you're on the graveyard shift. Tonight I want to talk about a little bit about what it means to be an activist specifically for women's rights and inequality, gender wise, and how that relates to your business day to day, life. Whatever you do for a living in, in the general mainstream world. Anybody? What's it mean to be a feminist to you, women? You guys, you women?

o

14:23

Well, to me to be feminist is somewhat of a lifestyle and a philosophy. I know some somebody could probably know who said this, but years ago, one of our older pioneer sisters said that feminism is the theory and lesbianism is the practice. And so I guess in my everyday living, I try to practice my feminism as a radical lesbian that I am. And works. That means to me it's just respect for everything you know, when you get into the equality, because feminists like to talk about equality in economic MX send all of that with your life. So I think it's just your everyday living respect for everybody treat people as you would like them to treat you. It's pretty simple.



15:09

Yeah, I agree. I'd like to turn feminism into a positive word. Yeah, me too. So negatively. It's been it's been labeled, or it's been labeling us as striding towards negative or is bra burning, angry.



Diane Williams 15:24

And every feminist is not a lesbian and every feminist that is a lesbian is not bad. No, we really would maybe like to see a lot of the feminists to be lesbians by



15:34

feminist males. Yeah,



Diane Williams 15:36

there's lots of feminists, I know. Lots of them. I've met lots of them in through the other groups that I work at. And people are always asking me, you know, don't you hate men? Or do you dislike manners? How come there's no men allowed? Or how come there's no men, whatever. And I'm like, well, because men have their own groups, basically. And we do things together, as well as separately, and we get along just famously, most of the time.



15:59

Well, I think one of the things that that I would appreciate if people try to understand is the fact that when women do have groups by themselves, you know, I've heard some men refer to that as reverse discrimination. And I really don't feel it's that way, with a lot of the women's groups. The thing is, is, women have been oppressed by the patriarch, which is male based. And in order for us to be a healthy example for our community, we have to make sure that we're healthy. And in order for us to grow and heal ourselves. Sometimes we need our own space without the presence of males. And it's, it's unfortunate, but the mere presence does oppress us. And a lot of times with the social upbringing that we've had, it's real easy for women to turn the floor over to men, and men like to have the spotlight on them. And so there's that conflict. And I think that's why you know, as a feminist, it's necessary that I have my time without males, and have a woman space, until I feel that my sisters and I are strong enough to just stand up and be healthy enough to allow all others in.

D

Diane Williams 17:04

Yeah. I think a lot too, is based on those in power, want to stay in power, whoever you are, and for whatever reasons, once you get a particular amount of satisfaction, or comfortability, or power, it's hard making any kind of changes, especially changes that will put you out of comfortability, or power or whatever kind of strength you have in that. I want to know, specifically, what did you do before or what kind of what kind of avenues do you have now of activism? I mean, what do you what do you do to express your needs to do to make a difference?



17:48

To make a difference, I make a difference. By being who I am, and I don't say that lightly. I work very hard at my feminism is not something that came natural to me. It's something that I couldn't even define for quite some time. And that's the tricky part of feminism, it's going to have different definition for different women for different men. I think the key to it, however, is recognizing that part of feminism, at least for me, is dealing with the feeling levels, which are typically not seen as a positive trait within the patriarchal world, feelings or emotions, or I've been discounted before because I may be feeling too much or crying or whatever. To me that's, that's part and parcel of being a feminist. allow myself to realize that I do have those feelings, and to try to put them into words, you know what, what I've got to check in with myself and ask myself what what's going on? What's, what's happening? What's, what's important today? What's the right thing to do? That's probably one of the things that I always ask myself, what is the right thing to do? And if I listened to the feelings that I'm having, I typically do the right thing. And that is extending myself to other women to other men. And help me out here women.



19:27

I would concur with what you just said, with the only additional statement on an individual level, just projecting a positive image on a day to day basis. Because I think it's the the negative images that are projected so easily through the media tv shows anybody does a TV show on feminists activism, you know, and it's always the worst possible pick of the litter that they could bring on TV. And it's it's battling that constantly to get the mainstream of America to look at The good side and not just always the bad side. And that was just an individual just, they like being being a positive image.

D

Diane Williams 20:09

A lot of people, I think we spent a lot of our time I know, talking about the difference between good and bad stereotypes and getting defensive. Because that's what we're programmed to do. In a large way, during many protests, what you see in protests and celebrations, what you see of, of gay and lesbian people, what you see of of activists in general, are armchair tattooed people. And we tend to think on that as radical and almost bad, you know, we tend to say that, Oh, why do they always have to show those people? Well, those people have a right to be as wild as they want to be. And we need not get defensive about it. As long as those people are

projecting also a positive attitude and atmosphere about them. And we need to make sure that all parts are represented equally, not just orange haired activists, but school teacher activists, and housemother activists and young people and the older people and everybody so



21:23

well, that would just stress the importance of lesbians and gay males coming out. And try because I know the media is trained to focus on sensationalism, they're not going to focus on your boring everyday person. So in typically when the as a celebration and people are out, it is the more radical people that step out people who are fearful, fearful of losing their jobs or fearful of having strife within the family or whatnot. And so that just reinforces the need for people to come out. Because if all the normal gay people and lesbians came out, then the media wouldn't have any choice, but to focus on everybody. And I think, you know, here we are wanting equal rights and not being you know, I mean, I really get upset when people say, you know, well, special needs, you know, I mean, I don't think an equal right is a special need. But I think that's why we all have to make efforts to come out in our own individual way to show the positive aspects of gay and other alternate lifestyles. And that's the only way we're going to get equal rights is to be visible.



Diane Williams 22:30

Can you tell me a little bit about well, two things number one, your family situation if how your family and you can define that however way you wish relates to you and your your lesbianism, also, if you can, I love to do this to people kind of put them on the spot to have a coming out story for us.



22:55

I don't really have a coming out story because I don't think I was ever in. I mean, I was I was married for 10 years, I got married at age 18. I have two sons, hetero sons, I come from a total row



Diane Williams 23:06

sons of a lesbian parent, everyone listen,



23:09

and you know, it wasn't easy for them. I mean, you know, they are 12 and 10. They were visibly being raised by a lesbian mother. And you know, society doesn't have many support groups for children with lesbian mothers. And my sons are straight to my knowledge, most of my family is straight. I don't have I don't have parents. So perhaps that makes it a little easier. I don't know. You know, I didn't have to deal with parental stress. Am I coming out? But I left. I left my marriage and got involved with the lesbian next to up before you know, and, and I just knew that that was right for me. When you kids supportive? Yeah, I see with children, I think as long

as the parents, okay, the kids be okay. And we were in Boston, Massachusetts, and not New York folks. And Boston is well, Inner City, Boston, where I was raised. I mean, I never felt the homophobia to the extreme that I felt it in my movies about. And, you know, my son's friends knew that Roger and Robert had a mother and the mother had a girlfriend, you know, and, you know, it was just pretty

 Diane Williams 24:24

well accepted. Probably the cool mom on the blog. Well,

 24:27

I'd like to think so. My house was always the one where the kids hung out at you know, the guys in the friends used to hang out Pauline, and I always played Scrabble. And the guys would come in and you know, it'd be awkward trying to play Scrabble with, you know, like eight adolescents hanging around the table watching you play Scrabble. And it was a joke, you know, I tell you know, I would say to my son's Well, Pauline, and I have shown your friends what lesbians do, you know, you'd say What's that? And I'd say we play Scrabble. And I have no doubt that you We certainly were visible to their friends. And I take great pride in that because we were positive representatives of the lesbian community. It's great, you know, and I know a couple of their friends had, as they got older, we had different things to deal with. But I think, you know, I never got harassing phone calls from any my son's friends are and I would believe that they liked both Pauline and I, you know, we never had problems with them. So and that's all part of being comfortable with whom what you are.

 Diane Williams 25:29

So how long have you guys been together? Women been together?

 25:31

Thank you. Eight years? Yeah, five years

 Diane Williams 25:35

8.5 8.56432 or something?

 25:39

It's been well, well, congratulations

 Diane Williams 25:40

on that. That's, that's always fun seeing a couple that can stay together. I know that it can be worked sometimes. But it's worth it.



25:51

I've always been a lesbian. I didn't know what that was for a long time. But even as I have memories of being five, six years old, and just having a natural affinity for women, always wanting to crush on a babysitter. Oh, well, we didn't have babysitters where I grew up. I mean, I grew up in a very traditional very Catholic household. My folks really went out. I came out I guess when my mother saw me kissing another woman. We didn't do it. But I had this this incredible need to tell all of my friends, certainly all of my family that I was gay. It was important for me to have them accept me for who I was what I was. So I went on a crusade in my 20s. To, to put it out there let people decide whether or not they wanted to continue the friendship. And I must say the risk taking was certainly well worth it on my part. It strengthened me in a whole lot of ways. And most people were generally supportive



Diane Williams 26:58

of it. Yeah. What was that? How was it for you being with your lovers children? Or are they your children? Or how did y'all handle that when you first got together?



27:11

I've been co parenting for years, I've raised two sons, two sets of children. I enjoy kids stepkids. I learned I learned a lot. I learned as much from them as I hope they learned from me, therefore ever challenge challenging, and they're putting you on the spot all the damn time. And if and if there's, if there's a weakness, or if there's something that they think they can drive a wedge through, I think they're gonna go for it because they got to know where their boundaries are. I think one of the things that both Donna and I have gone for one another was that we have really strong communications, I've learned how to communicate. I grew up in a family where nothing was ever verbalized. It was just, you got a certain look.



Diane Williams 27:58

The look of dead look of death, that guilty love. And I said,



28:01

I will not live my life like that I need to know and have to know what's going on with the other person. So we both work real hard at talking to one another. We're giving you



Diane Williams 28:11

this look, because I think you're doing something.



28:15

Exactly, exactly.



Diane Williams 28:20

So that plays a really, I think that plays a really vital role in standing up for who you are. I mean, that's, that's the, you know, the nuts and bolts about it. That's who we are as as people and what we do day to day. Karen, you have a coming out story for us. As she giggles



28:37

story. No. I had been out to everybody. For the time I was really young except my family. And



Diane Williams 28:47

was that hard keeping it separate haul?



28:49

It was horrible. It was it was a torture. Even when I think about it now, especially about holidays, I think that's one of the two. You know, it's like you can't ever be with your family and bring your significant other vice versa because the family either doesn't know about them or hates them or something horrible is going on. They're



Diane Williams 29:10

a bad influence on their baby. Pauline used a



29:13

word risk taking. And that's basically what it was the day I made up my mind to tell my mother was that I was well into my 20s and had been with somebody for eight years. That was 27 years, my senior and I had five children. Your age. The two youngest ones were twins and they were four years younger than I was. But risk taking I went to my mom's house that day. And my other half had told me that I was forbidden to tell anybody because that of course would mean that someone would know. And that's usually how that works. But I couldn't lie anymore. I couldn't I couldn't pretend I couldn't lie. I was tired of being asked if I was dating. I was tired of being asked, you know, when my hair was this long, it was like, leave me alone. And I really for my attitude that day was she's there nothing ever gonna speak to me again. Or it's gonna be okay. But I was willing to take that risk. Yeah. And I love my mom to death but and it's been

great ever since it took a little while. She asked me if there wasn't a pill I could take or something to fix it. The little pink pill she and she was never going to tell anybody and she told everybody like within 24 hours my whole family was calling me.



Diane Williams 30:37

They try to cure you.



30:39

Um, did they try to? Yeah, I guess they kind of tried, but obviously it didn't work. My brother's wife had a brother who was gay. So we weren't allowed to see my nephew. I mean, it was it was bizarre, but it's good. Now. We have a real open. Ai we're closer now than we ever were. Yay. All right.