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SUMMARY KEYWORDS

caucus, candidates, issues, endorsed, community, gay, houston, city, terri, queer, vote, people, lesbian, job, endorsement, city council, michael, aids, woman, organizations

SPEAKERS

Eric, Michael Crawford, Speaker 2, [Together], Speaker 1, Jimmy Carper

J Jimmy Carper 00:05

The following program contains language or images of a frank or sensitive nature, which may be considered objectionable by some listener discretion is advised. Wow, 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. Here 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 to sit back, relax, and enjoy this week's edition of After Hours.

M Michael Crawford 01:27

Right, you're here at another edition of After Hours. Hello. Hello. There we are now. Yes, it's another edition of After Hours. Yeah, we're back. That's it.

E Eric 01:37

And this is a very special edition I hear.

M Michael Crawford 01:40

Yeah, it's especially because it's our sixth anniversary show. Yay. God, that's all of us. Okay. It's, what's the date?

E Eric 01:50

It's, today's the fourth, fifth.

M Michael Crawford 01:52
Okay, it's a fourth to the fifth, whatever it is.

E Eric 01:54
The day that Arsenio Hall and Paula Abdul, talk about AIDS.

M Michael Crawford 01:58
Yeah, we saw that already. And to be perfectly honest, I didn't watch because it was kind of boring, but Pedro Zamora was on and I think he's just totally hot.

E Eric 02:05
It's also the night that Luis Miguel was in town at the Music Hall.

M Michael Crawford 02:09
The tickets were too expensive. 30 bucks. But anyway, we have a kind of a weird show today because well, first of all, we should probably dedicate the show to Jimmy, who is not here today because he's at home sick with food poisoning. So I think that's, that's a lesson for all of us, we should not eat the calzones in Sharpstown Mall. That's what he said, too, there was a really cute Italian guy who served it. On the show, we're going to be having a phone interview with Terri Richardson, who was recently elected president of the Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus, we're going to be talking about single payer health care. We're going to be having a third part of an interview with Janis Ian, we're going to have lots and lots of queer music, including lots of stuff from Fem2Fem. But first, we're going to have Ray Hill who wants to talk to us about event that occurred in the community a few days ago.

S Speaker 1 03:06
Wednesday morning, about 3:30 in the morning, a young man was attacked in the central parking lot over on Pacific Street at Stanford, he had stopped in next to the, the dumpster to water, the lily, and an old yellow Lincoln, with four people in it, pulled up and piled out. There was like a gun, but it wasn't used. The injury was by a knife. And a couple hours later, over on the other side of downtown, that car was stopped and all four people were placed into custody. Now, the victim was able to positively identify the person that stabbed him. So that person has been charged with aggravated assault, which is very serious charge and the sort of thing that the community needs to address itself. Unfortunately, the police don't have enough evidence on the other three to positively identify them. So what we are asking is that if you saw an old yellow Lincoln with four people in it, and you think you can identify them, and this is not a trick question, and you know, only come forward if you have some tangible information. Sergeant

Ken Wenzel and I would like to have that information so that we can complete the charges in this important case, because all four were in that car but we can only positively identify one of them. And so if you saw such a vehicle, or if you have any direct knowledge as to the assault, please get in contact with me, Ray Hill at 523-6969, and then I'll refer you to the authority so that you can be debriefed on on the subject. But we'd appreciate anybody, if you heard anybody talking that they may know something, ask them to come forward. It doesn't do me a lot of good to get secondhand information, we can't use it in court anyhow, but if there's any direct information that would lead to appropriate charges against these assailants, I would appreciate it.

M

Michael Crawford 05:37

Would you like to give your number one more time?

S

Speaker 1 05:38

523-6969, if you lose that it's listed in every telephone directory on your shelf, in the Yellow Pages, it's under political organization.

M

Michael Crawford 05:49

You're your own political organization?

S

Speaker 1 05:51

Billy Corn and I are only two individuals listed as political organizations in the Yellow Pages. I want to congratulate you, I was, I was, I was watching Michael this GLPC Election Day with squatting rights and tape recording rights. You did a wonderful job, I want you to know the terrorist, Lois Lane has now been discovered.

M

Michael Crawford 06:19

Thank you for stopping by.

S

Speaker 1 06:21

Thank you very much.

M

Michael Crawford 06:22

Okay, next we're going to play a song, The The from the Soul Mining album, I hope this is the right song, "This Is the Day."

E Eric 06:30
Yep.

M Michael Crawford 06:31
Cool, okay, and no, it's not going. It is going? Okay, that was a new song by Fem2Fem, in case you haven't guessed what the title was it's "Woman to Woman" from the album Woman to Woman. Before that was "This Will Be the Day" by The The from the album Soul Mining and I'd like to say that our Fem2Fem will be in Houston for Labor Day making appearances at JR's Bar and Grill, Texas's number one gay bar. And at Heaven, the most incredible video dance club in Texas. If you can't tell I'm reading from the press release that Scott Lewis sent us. The women will arrive at 10:30 at JR's, 808 and 804 Pacific's to sign pictures, give away cassettes and meet all of their fans in Houston before going next door to H eaven at 810 Pacific. I don't think they're going to perform. But hey, this is a really cool opportunity to take pictures with really cute, cute hot babes. So if you can make it, be there. Are we going to be there?

E Eric 07:56
Of course.

M Michael Crawford 07:56
Yeah, we're trying to scam an interview with them. In case you can't tell because, well, hey, we want to. But what we're going to do next is we're going to be talking by phone to Terri Richardson, who is the newly elected president of the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus. Terri, when I was talking to her earlier today, she told me that she had only been out for about 18 months. Now in 18 months, she's come from being I guess, politically non-active to being what two weeks ago, named newcomer of the year for the Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus to the week after that being named its president. So I think that tells us there's something really good about this woman. So we're gonna go to her. Now, Terri.

S Speaker 2 08:41
Michael.

M Michael Crawford 08:42
Hi, how are you?

S Speaker 2 08:43
I'm good. How are you?

M Michael Crawford 08:44
Very good.

S Speaker 2 08:45
Michael. I never thought of you as Lois Lane before. That was kind of interesting.

M Michael Crawford 08:50
What kind of a terrorist Lois Lane?

S Speaker 2 08:53
I think he really has something.

M Michael Crawford 08:56
So, Terri, let's start off a little bit. Tell us why did you decide to run for president of the caucus?

S Speaker 2 09:02
Well, I thought the caucus needed a choice. Gary Van Ooteghem had announced at the at the last meeting, when Chris Bacon announced that he was going to have to resign because he'd taken a job with the federal government, he said he covered, I think under the Hatch Act, and wouldn't be able to serve out the term which ends in January. And I think it's, I think it's important that people have a choice. I also have, for a long time thought that I had an idea about the direction that I would like to see the caucus go. And I thought it was a, maybe a different direction than what, than what Gary had in mind. Maybe, maybe a bit more progressive, and I just decided to do it.

M Michael Crawford 09:48
Okay. In your speech, you outline some things that you thought, that you thought were important, some new directions that you thought the caucus should take. Why don't we talk about a little bit about those? One you said was that needed to make outreach to other community groups. Tell us what you mean by that?

S Speaker 2 10:05
Well, I think, I think before the caucus is successful at, at really any of its endeavors, it has got

to begin to build a coalition within the gay community and outside the gay and lesbian community into the progressive straight community, as I think it's called now, I'm, I'm not really sure what that means exactly, but I have an idea. And when I'm, when I'm talking about outreach I'm, you look, you look around the room at a GLPC meeting, and you see mainly white men. Women are, are very underrepresented, African Americans, Asian Americans, Latinos, and Latinas and transgenders are all underrepresented from, from where they are in our community, to where they are in the caucus. And I think it's important that, that those people are heard from. I think it's important that they have something to say about the screening and the endorsement process for candidates because those, those communities are affected as much as any. And I just think it's important that we that we do that.

M

Michael Crawford 11:22

How do you think it would be possible to build a more diverse and more representative caucus?

S

Speaker 2 11:27

I think, I think just my, my being president, will, will go some ways for that. I'm a woman, and I think I will, I'll bring women into the caucus. Because I'm, you know, just because I think that happens. I also think that I have time in a more activist community than we've seen, and maybe recently, and I think some of the, some of the more activist elements of our community would, would like to become involved with the caucus. I'm also, I'm also sending out a questionnaire next week to every member of the caucus, asking them, asking each member to, to list what other organizations they're involved with. If they're involved with the the Gay and Lesbian Hispanic Unidos, then we need to know that because that's a natural person to help us build a bridge to that organization. And I think I fit in my, in my talk the other night that, that I think somebody from representing the caucus, and if that's me, then, then that may, should be attending the meetings of LIB and the Harris County Democrats and Glue, and some of these other organizations to just let them know what's going on with the GLPC because the media, the, the candidates, all the political people in Houston, right or wrong, look to the GLPC for, for direction, you know, when they're quoting the gay and lesbian vote, and I just think it's important, everybody have an input into that.

M

Michael Crawford 13:07

What do you see as some of the priorities for the queer community? I mean, we know that we have a mayoral and the city council election coming up, what issues should we be questioning? Are the political candidates on?

S

Speaker 2 13:19

I think the the paramount thing that we need to ask them is, will they sponsor and or support ad anti-discrimination ordinance for the city of Houston. You know, we, we've waited eight years to to raise this issue again, and I think eight years is is long enough. I think that that's the question that should be asked of every single candidate that screens with us. And if they heads on that, or if they don't just give us an outright yes, I don't think they should be endorsed.

M Michael Crawford 13:56
Tell us a little bit about the screening process.

S Speaker 2 13:59
Well, the, Jim Owens, he's a member of the caucus who has been heading a screening for for some time, and he brings together a diverse group within the caucus. And the candidates, and the candidates are invited to screen with us, some of them, of course, decline. And you expect that idea, right. Others, others don't decline and they screen with us. And each candidate, I, I've only sat in on one screening, I was fortunate enough to be on the screening committee that screened the US senator, senatorial candidates this past spring. And each candidate comes in at 30 minutes with the committee and everyone has an opportunity to ask questions. We try to limit the questions to, to our issues. You know, you don't want to really ask about the North American Free Trade. If you know, when there are other burnings things going on with with us that we need to know about. But there's a very elaborate scoring process, scoring criteria, and everyone marks their own score cards and, and those are tallied and, and then that, the results of that screening are taken to the caucus as a whole at th,e at the endorsement meeting and made known to everyone and then there's an opportunity for debate. And then the entire caucus votes on whether to endorse or not endorse.

M Michael Crawford 15:33
Who are some of the candidates that have been endorsed in the past?

S Speaker 2 15:37
Well, Michael, you're asking the wrong person. As far as city wide elections, I, you know, I can I could guess who's been, who's been endorsed. I know, the candidates who have sought our endorsements. And I haven't really been involved in the caucus until this year.

M Michael Crawford 15:54
Okay.

E Eric 15:56
Like [unintelligible] Democrats?

S Speaker 2 15:59
Oh, yeah, for sure. I think Sheila Jackson Lee has been endorsed. I know Ben Reyes has been endorsed in the past. I think that I think they split on the mayor last year with Sylvester Turner

endorsed in the past. I think that, I think they split on the mayor last year with Sylvester Turner and Bob Lanier. I think Eleanor Tinsley has traditionally been endorsed.

M

Michael Crawford 16:20

Right. And I'd like to ask a couple of questions about, particularly the endorsement of Eleanor Tinsley. As you said, she's been regularly endorsed by the caucus. Yet when I phoned her office earlier in the week and asked what has she done for us lately, the most recent action she's taken in the queer interest has been a vote for the failed gay rights amendment in 1985. How is it that someone like Eleanor Tinsley can continue to get the endorsement of the caucus when she does nothing for us?

S

Speaker 2 16:52

I think, I think she has, she has voted on on lesser known issues in our favor. I think my, my shake criticism is that she hasn't taken a leadership role on any of our issues. And she has been endorsed time and time again. She voted for example, in favor of requiring condom machines in, in all establishments that sold 50% or more of their revenue were alcoholic beverage sales. She signed on just 10 days ago to a proposal that ACT UP presented to the council requesting Lee Brown to make the confiscation, drug confiscation money available for HIV education. She signed that letter that ACT UP presented the council and in fact, all council members except for one signed that letter, Helen Huey did not sign, but Ben Reyes took that letter to the other council members and got their signatures for us. And we were, we were thrilled with that. So it's not that she hasn't done anything for us, it's that we don't see her taking any kind of a leadership role for us, and since we have not yet got any gay or lesbian on city council to, you know, raise our issues. We have to depend on our friends to raise those issues. And I don't think she's done a good job of that.

M

Michael Crawford 18:34

How do we get political, our political officials to do a better job on our issues? I mean, once once the GLPC gives the endorsement and then you know, presumably all queers are running out voting in a block. And we're all voting for the, the endorsed candidate. Once the candidate gets in office, it hasn't been a really, I mean, queers have not been exactly good on holding our elected officials' feet to the fire. How do you see us encouraging them to fulfill on the promises that they make to us?

S

Speaker 2 19:05

I think we have to be, we just have to get tougher, Michael. And what exactly that means, I don't know. We, we have got to follow very closely, their voting records of council. We've got to make phone calls to them. We've got to appear at city council on Tuesday morning, and tell them what we expect of them. We've got to do a really good job of getting our voters out in block to vote, first of all, but I'm not in favor of endorsing candidates in order to get invited to cocktail parties, which I think you know, has been some have always, always gotten through some of these people in the past.

M

Michael Crawford 19:47

Let's talk about AIDS a little. I mean, I know you've been very involved with ACT UP and AIDS activism. How do you see the city's performance on AIDS related issues?

S

Speaker 2 19:57

I don't think the city has done nearly enough. I think, I think, for example, when an ordinance is proposed, such as the one Ben Reyes proposed about, about condom machines in bars, which is really what we're talking about, and ACT UP, presented counsel with some I thought very good information about, about why this was necessary. And, and how far this could go for AIDS prevention. The fact that they balked on that. And that it, you know, it really it went nowhere just enrages me. I mean, that's, that's one of those gimme things that you just expect that, you know, if they are in tune at all with the, with the situation in the city that they would, that they would vote for. We're lucky now. Glenda Gardner, who is the HIV director for the city or for the city health department. She has, she's really doing an amazing job over there. And I think without a lot of at least a lot of vocal support on city council with some of the literature that she's getting into the schools that I, they're not, they're not doing that, nobody's doing enough about AIDS. I mean, let's face it.

M

Michael Crawford 21:18

We know that our city, for example, spends less in local tax dollars, on AIDS and in the other city in the nation. How do we create a situation where the city council and the mayor are forced to take actions on important issues such as AIDS, or such as a queer civil rights bill?

S

Speaker 2 21:37

How do you make, how do you get people to take action? If you can figure that out, Michael, you will be very famous and very rich. I don't know. I think organizations like ACT UP that, that do go a longer way to keeping their feet to the flame are necessary in the city, I would like to see Queer Nation revived and tackle some of the, some of the issues of discrimination against queers in the city. But, you know, we've got, we've got to stop just supporting them for lip service. And we have to require them to do what they tell us that they're going to do in order to get our endorsement. If you know, I would, I would be in favor for not endorsing anyone if, and we've got, you know, just, just them telling us in an endorsement meet, in a screening. This isn't enough, we have to follow through, we have to pay attention to how they're voting and what they're doing. You have to come out very strongly in the community. And even if it's someone who has been perceived as our friend, if they're not doing the job, you know, where do you get them besides the ballot box? I don't know.

M

Michael Crawford 22:49

Exactly. I think we have to get to the point where where the candidates who endorsed are endorsed because of their words and their actions. And not just because they know to use the words gay and lesbian rather than the word homosexual. One of the things, another thing you

words gay and lesbian rather than the word homosexual. One of the things, another thing you talked about in your, your announcement speech was visibility. And you talked about the need to go beyond the the lowkey, discreet, or whatever you want to call it presence that GLPC has had in the past? How do you propose to do that?

S

Speaker 2 23:21

Well, one of the things I mentioned was, I would like, you know, you go to, you go to these Christmas parties, or you go to fundraisers that all the candidates have to have throughout the year. And at these functions, people are introduced, elected officials who are in attendance are introduced. Billy Corn, if he is there, is always introduced, someone from the GLPC and you know, the president, if that's the person that it needs to be, needs to be introduced with these things, people need to know that we're here, and that we're paying attention and that we're following the candidates and following them around. And, and I don't mean it in a toxic way. But, but that we're, that we're paying attention to what they're doing. And I think that kind of caucus visibility is what I was talking about the other night, we have to be everywhere. We have to let people know that we are viable, that we're strong, that we're that we're paying attention and that we're, that we need to be reckoned with.

M

Michael Crawford 24:23

Is it true that the caucus is forming a media committee to be more aggressive in terms of getting media attention to play to our issues?

S

Speaker 2 24:31

There, there's been a motion that, that that, Matthew, I don't think it was media committee but an issues committee I think that he was talking about. I would, I would like to see the caucus take a more proactive role in informing our opinions about our issues. I don't want to wait until the Houston Posts calls me and asks me what I think about something, I would like to see the caucus get a press release out immediately, every time one of our issues appears, or every time we learn about something, whether it be from, you know, releases that we've gotten from the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, or, you know, articles that we hear that we see in the gay press, that might impact something that's going on, in Houston. I would like to see the caucus coming out with its own press releases and its own stories, and, and try for a chain to get its own slant on something before that's already done for us.

M

Michael Crawford 25:32

What do you see as the GLPC's role in state issues? I mean, we're not in Austin, so we can't exactly you know, you know, meet with Ann Richards on a weekly basis or whatever. But what role do you see that we here in Houston can play on issues at the state level?

S

Speaker 2 25:49

Well. I think I think getting involved in the. again. the endorsement process of our local state

officials, the state senators and representatives from this area, I think we need to follow them every bit as closely as we follow what what goes on in city council. I think we also need to support the LGRL. And I don't, you know they're looking for a new director now. Laurie Eiserloh did an amazing job. And I think we have to have very close contact. She, she knew what was going on minute by minute in the legislature. And it's important that we know that and it's important, I think that we disseminate that information to the community, not just to people in the caucus, but somehow get the information out into the community that, that Warrens isn't, you know, stood up and said something stupid about sodomy today. Or, or that, or that, you know, John Whitmire said great courage today. And whatever it is, the community needs to know that and I think the LGRL is in a good position to do that. But we've got to keep in very close contact with them.

M

Michael Crawford 26:57

How would a prospective GLPC member join the group or find out more about the group?

S

Speaker 2 27:02

They can call 521-1000, which is the GLPC phone number. And they'll get an answering machine but they can leave their name and number and we'll get back to them. The, you can you know, you don't have to fund your life away to join. I think there's a sort of a form that you fill out with your name and address on it. And these I think are \$30 and there's an \$18 due for people who can't afford the 30 and then you're a member, 30 days after you become a member you can, you can you have full voting rights. And go on from there.

M

Michael Crawford 27:43

Okay, is there anything else you'd like to mention?

S

Speaker 2 27:46

I don't know, Michael, I'd like for everybody to wish me luck.

M

Michael Crawford 27:49

Well, we do wish you luck. You know, which is why? You know, anytime you need to promote something or you want to talk about something you can call us here. Our mics are always open.

S

Speaker 2 27:59

I appreciate that very much. It's gonna, it's gonna be fun working with you.



M Michael Crawford 28:02
Okay, well, thank you.

S Speaker 2 28:03
Thanks, Michael.

I [Together] 28:04
Good night.

M Michael Crawford 28:06
Okay, that was Terry Richardson, newly elected president of the gay and lesbian Political Caucus. You were quiet.

E Eric 28:14
Well, I have a feeling that she doesn't need luck. Because whatever she does, she totally puts herself into and comes out with the best things. So I'm really glad that she won the election.

M Michael Crawford 28:28
Yeah, so we're gonna go to a song now. No, I didn't mean it that way. I always send you waiting things. Okay. This guy called us up and told us to play something outrageously seductive. Well, I thought Fem2Fem was outrageously seductive because I find lesbians outrageously seductive.

E Eric 28:46
Probably was talking about Metallica.

M Michael Crawford 28:49
We don't have any Metallica. But we're gonna play this song from Jimmy Somerville called "Coming" on the Orlando soundtrack. Yeah, the Orlando soundtrack, which is what, still playing at the River Oaks?

E Eric 29:02
Yes, it is.



Michael Crawford 29:03

Which is about a nobleman who I don't know lives, for what, 400 years and somewhere in between in the middle of that wakes up and find out he's turned into a woman.



Eric 29:14

Everybody read the Virginia Woolf, no.



Michael Crawford 29:17

I haven't called me stupid. This song is coming from Jimmy Somerville.