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Tue, Nov 29, 2022 9:36AM

32:15

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

queer, gay, houston, work, community, nation, chris, media, bacon, drag queens, activism, activist, older, progressive, young, lesbian, music, women, attitude, homosexual

SPEAKERS

Speaker 7, Eric, Speaker 6, Speaker 4, Michael Crawford, [Introduction], Speaker 2, Scott Lewis, Jimmy Carper, Speaker 5

[I] [Introduction] 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.

[J] Jimmy Carper 00:24

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.

[S] Speaker 2 01:30

Hello, and welcome to the January 2 edition of After Hours, a continuing tradition of queer radio in the city of Houston. With us today, I am your new official co host, Michael Crawford and with me the lovely and talented Eric Deutsch. Say Hi, Eric. Okay, among things we're going to be having for you today we're going to try something a little different. Rather than having just the usual music that's played on After Hours, we're going to try to play the music that we like, stuff that we think is cool. We're also going to be having poetry reading read by Dennis Cooper, who is a totally cool queer artist, one of the hot new transgressive queers. For us, we're gonna be having a discussion. The topic today is going to be 20 something queers versus the over 20 heterosexual, heterosexual acting gay people. So I guess let's start off by getting into the Queer Music Zone. Oh, I'm sorry, This Way Out is going to be at 115. This way out is the International gay and lesbian magazine produced in what California? All right, let's go to the

Queer Music Zone. All right. Hi, it's Jimmy. And it's time for Q MZ. The queer music zone. And you know that we kind of went away for a while in December and we're back again. And I've tried my best to kind of get cool music for tonight. We'll see how good I did. First of all we've got we've got Panzy Division. I know that's a It's a favorite. And we watch out for these guys. That's kind of fun. GarageBand out of San Francisco. So two of the favorites from Panzy Division is "Crabby Day" and "Rock & Roll Queer Bar." So I think we ought to go ahead and get with that right now. Yeah, "Rock & Roll Queer Bar" by Pansy Division, one of the most requested songs here on QMZ, the queer music zone, which incidentally, is dedicated this week and every week to the men and women on the streets tonight in Montrose, the Q-Patrol coming up next, we've got a great, great, great treat. It's two nice girls doing the queer song and you're out there saying those of you who know what I'm talking about, wow, how can they do this? Well, here at KPFT we have friends and this kind of straight guy friend of mine went ahead and did all the editing and got those words out of it so we can bring it to you. So here we go Well, that was pretty cool. That was two nice girls doing the queer song to end up now QMZ for the first show. And in, '93. Thank you, Michael. I'm old and you know sometimes

 S Scott Lewis 05:08

we're tired was the other word you were looking for Jimmy tired

 S Speaker 2 05:12

Thank you bitch or is that Miss Bitch today? Certainly not Mrs.

 S Speaker 4 05:20

Don't get-- don't start

 S Speaker 2 05:25

Anyway, I'm sorry to say I am ending up with with one that Miss Lewis that kind of bring to my attention Fred Schneider doing monster in my pants

 S Scott Lewis 05:41

I wish I could find a monster in my pants or anybody and anybody

 S Speaker 2 05:45

No one will ever find one in yours dear. Okay, we're back on, we'd like to thank Jimmy for the Queer Music Zone and all the exciting music that we had. Now it's time for our discussion on this discussion topic for today is going to be basically what can be considered the generational gap between the older homosexual types, and the 20-something queers. And as part of our panel, today, we're going to have my lovely co host, Eric Deutsch. Matthew Houston, who is

formerly a member of Q-Patrol, and now as a member of Queer Nation, and has been involved in gay and lesbian activism for, I'd say, about a year and a half, we're also going to have the lovely and delightful Scott Lewis, who is also an aspiring supermodel. And basically, to lay a little groundwork, let's start with you, Matthew, is there really conflict between the middle aged older homosexual hetero acting types and between people, you're of your age group?

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Speaker 6 07:25

Well, I think that in terms of activism in the city, there's definitely a generational gap. I see that the 30 something and 40-something crowd, particularly the men are dictating what the direction the activism is going, as far as to queries are concerned. And they're providing all the motivation, and everything that the young people want to do has got to go through what the older people's conception of, of activism has, has to be.

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Speaker 2 07:56

Does that inhibit the the progress of the gig movement?

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Speaker 6 08:01

I don't know if it's going to inhibit the progress of the gay movement, but it's going to take on the characteristics of the older generation and not the issues that are important to the younger generation.

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Speaker 2 08:14

So basically, what's happening is there a lot of people who are willing to do some work, a lot of people who are 20 something and may not have a lot of experience in our activist experience, but they have that activist energy. And these people are being inhibited by the gay establishment who have come to a point of being comfortable with the way things are.

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Speaker 6 08:34

I don't know if the older establishment is comfortable with the way things are. Because there are a lot of really great activists who are in the 30s and 40s. But the way they go about it, and the issues they they're addressing are specifically issues that affect gay men between the ages of 35 and 45, in particular, number one AIDS, which, of course, there's a lot of activist work that has left to be done, but there's so little work being done on true queer issues that are facing the young people who have come out really early in their lives and, and you know,

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Speaker 2 09:13

Right I mean, there's no support system for queer youth in the city. They basically been abandoned that was up until the time when Hippie came into being and even when you do

come out as say, and 19, 20, 21 year old, gay or lesbian or bisexual person, there aren't very many social outlets. Scott, you're sitting there looking lovely. How do you think this kind of oppressive oppression from the older gay establishment affected you?

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09:47

I don't know that. I would necessarily say that I-- Well, okay. I would. I was gonna be kind of soft there and try and disagree with the whole oppression thing. I don't know. But it's intentional oppression. But I think that that we, the younger generation is kind of overlooked and ignored. There's an attitude with the older activists that I work with that, um, well, they're young, they think they know it all. They think they can come in and take over. And that's not the way it's going to be. Because I've been doing this for 10 or 15 or 20 years. And I know how it's done. And it's sort of like a parent's attitude, your parents, my parents anyway, my beloved mother has the same kind of attitude that she knows that this is the way it should be. She's been through it before. I don't know anything, because I haven't experienced anything, because I'm just a kid. And so I see some of that mentality and some of that attitude. And certainly that oppresses. I mean, that's the attitude that many of us left home over,

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Speaker 2 10:45

Right. And they particularly come into this issue of knowledge of queer history, where they come up to you, and from the word go, they instantly accuse us of being ignorant of our history, when they never take into account the fact that we go to hetero, heterosexual dominated schools, and they don't teach queer history in the public school system. And another problem is we don't see the older queers, the older homosexual types, you know, making an effort to teach us about what went on before Stonewall and so on and so forth? And to be honest, quite a few of them don't know what's going on. Eric, you're sitting there shaking your head agreeing with what I was saying. I mean, I know that in talking to you, some of the things that have frustrated you about being a young gay man in living in Houston, in particular, is a lack of a really progressive social scene. What are you looking for?

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Speaker 7 11:43

Well, it isn't Stonewall.

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Speaker 2 11:47

True, we don't have drag queens, we got bashing cops, and so on and so forth. But, yeah.

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Eric 11:54

I think that it's true that they do fail to educate, and they tend to dictate. And, yeah, they discount youth a lot. But socially, I wouldn't want to go out with them anyway.

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Speaker 2 12:07

No, not not, that's dating them. But like, the whole bar club scene. I mean, to me, it looks like it's something that's been stuck in the seven days. And, you know, they seem incapable of coming up with anything that's more progressive than what's going on Pacific Street. Well--

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12:27

Okay, so it's true that the way that people look is no different than the way they looked 10 years ago.

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Speaker 2 12:34

Right. So while activists in New York, for example, are all you know, when they were doing the whole cut off 501 rolled up at the knee thing with, of course, the, you know, the de rigueur, Doc Martens, we were still dressing the same as we were in the 70s. Not us, in particular, because we are all flawlessly dressed. But the older people. Are there ways that we can change the situation to create a situation where maybe the young people go in and get together as a group and take over some of these political groups?

O

13:08

I think that's exactly what we're gonna have to do. Because you have organizations like, the organization that comes to mind as the Gay Lesbian Political Caucus, which is run by the exact people we're talking about, it's run by an older, tends to be a little more conservative segment of our community. And I think the only way that we're going to get the recognition from them is to go in. And I don't want to say take over but maybe ruffle some feathers. People, people don't like change, and they've had it their way there. I mean, these people, a lot of them are the same age as our grandparents. And so they have those same attitudes, as our grandparents that, you know, I don't know, you live with your grandmother, so I'm sure you hear from her a lot different things. Well, why do you do this? Matter of fact, she's told me that on the phone several times, why, you know, and so it's those attitudes of this is so far out, and why do you do this? And that doesn't make any sense to me. And these are the people who are in the position of the good queer to the outside world.

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Speaker 2 14:10

And in speaking of ruffling feathers, Matt, a lot of the stuff you've done with queer nation has ruffled feathers, not only of the heterosexual community, but some of the gay establishment. How do you feel about that?

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Speaker 7 14:23

Well, it's hard to say, I realized that a lot of stuff that I want to work on, and the techniques that I want to use are controversial. And I really think that it's it's really not helpful to get a lot of backlash from the established, quote, unquote, established queer community or gay male

community, particularly, as Scott mentioned that the Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus, which seems to in terms of the heterosexual world, they seem to look to the Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus as what the gay community is all about. And and I've gotten A lot of yeah, I've gotten a lot of backlash from that that organization, not personal, not personal tax, but through the work with Queer Nation, that, that we shouldn't be doing what we're doing. Right.

 Michael Crawford 14:27

I remember when, uh, Queer Nation while I was at University of St. Thomas, when the showing of the names quote was there, and Queer Nation was there to protest the fact that the University of St. Thomas would not allow safer sex information to be given out or condoms to be given out. And I noticed that there were this group of older white gay men who were there attacking Queer Nation.

 Speaker 7 15:13

That's, that's true. And I those those people, of course, are not associated with the Political Caucus. But that's that's an important issue to raise that that there are certain, you know, groups of 40 plus year old gay men that are that would do anything just to to trounce Queer Nation in their, the image they have a Queer Nation as being a whole bunch of, of young, really young people, which of course, wasn't true ever.

 Speaker 2 16:06

And I remember that I reading like some of the things Chris Bacon has written, he's continually referred to Queer Nation as being childish or infantile and throwing temper tantrums, despite the fact that a lot of the work, a lot of the things that have been accomplished by the queer community over the last two years have been done by Queer Nation. Scott, you're leading up to the mic.

 16:27

The problem I have with with that, and the whole portrayal that that Chris Bacon has has given to the media and for our community to everyone is that he is portrayed this lily white image of what the straight community wants us to be they this whole image of how much alike we are to the street community, that we're all white lawyers that live, you know, in the suburbs, or in the mantras, and we have townhouses, and we all drive Cadillacs. And that's just playing into the stereotypes. And I have real problems with that. We are very different from heterosexuals. We are a very different and very diverse community. And I have real problems with squashing it's the whole the old mentality of hide the drag queens hide the drag queens, the drag queens started this movement in 1969. I mean, if it wasn't for them, where would we be? And I'm sick of trying to hide the dirt. You can't hide the drag queens. No matter how hard you try, and we shouldn't want to, you know?

 Speaker 2 17:21



Speaker 2 17:51

Yeah, I mean, I agree with that. And I think it because I think other people are beginning to feel that same way. I mean, I know from reading [unintelligible], what's his recent column in The Advocate. The column itself was entitled, recruit, recruit, recruit. And it started off with her telling about how she was going to be on the Montel Williams Show, and how she was taking the line, that it's all about recruitment, that children should be taught about sex and school, they should be talking about gay sex in school, regardless of whether or not the fact that some of the kids may be, you know, convinced to try it, because they've come in contact with it. And one of the things that I thought was most interesting that she said was the final line of her column was "provoke the right." You agree with that? Oh, absolutely. Um, how should we provoke the right?



18:28

What people you know, it's like a, an article that was in the Chronicle last weekend over the Colorado boycott. And Chris Bacon had quotes in there saying, if we encouraged city council to boycott Colorado, or would we all we would be doing was encouraging the right wing to attack us once again, Chris, we we don't have to encourage them, Chris, they're doing it, honey, they're coming after us. And they're coming after his heart and what people don't, what they're not sitting up. And notice, I guess they know this, that they're planning ballot initiatives. They're doing petition drive there, every way that they can to attack us. And it's not about us going to city council and saying support a boycott of Colorado. That's not what it's going to take for them to come after us. They already are. And so by us sitting on our butts and doing nothing that's just saying, Okay, well, we don't care that much about our issues. You know, we'll pick our battles real carefully, and the ones that just where you really get us, then we'll get up and fight for those, but we're not going to fight for this over here. Because, you know, it didn't it didn't really affect me because I don't live in Colorado.



Speaker 2 19:38

Right and and there is a real tendency among gay people to hide from the media to not come out unless someone has attacked us. All except for Queer Nation and Act Up. Media visibility seems to be a really big part of what Queer Nation does. What's the point of that?



Speaker 7 20:00

I am sorry, I missed your question.



Speaker 2 20:01

What's the point of Queer Nation attention getting actions? Why are you guys such media whores?



Speaker 7 20:09

You guys? Come on? You've been out there with us? Well, a number one is that no one ever

you guys. Come on. You've been out there with us. Well, a number one is that no one ever forgets that they're queers around. And I think that's, that's the most important reason that we're a media horse, as you put it, that that, that young people who listen to this program that the old people who would rather not think about, you know, their uncles and aunts who are who are queer, and you know, those funny people, you know, the number one thing is to get, to make sure everybody realizes that there are queer people out there,

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Speaker 2 20:47

right, because I know, one of the things that helped me come out and help me become more accepting of being a fag was seeing our news reports on television and on radio. And in the newspapers of all those absolutely, totally fabulous fags and dykes from Act Up New York. Yeah. How do you think this the whole thing with the media visibility fits in with the good homosexuals versus the bad queers?

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Speaker 7 21:16

Well, I think that's a problem with the media itself. And the paradigm that the media works under which is they, they have one representative representative of a minority community, and that could be the African American community, or it could be the Spanish speaking community in Houston. And, and each radio station or television station or newspaper, has their one representative that they go to whenever that issue comes up of that community, that minority group and and that's something that it's really got to change. Because as far as, as queer activism is concerned, the person that they pick is going to be the Christopher Bacon, who's you know, the conservative lawyer or and even other activists like Brian Bradley, who's got his one agenda, which is AIDS. And so there's a lot of, you know, a lot of problems with with just going to that one person and cuts down the number of voices that get heard.

W

22:12

And you know, the real problem with the media having one spokesperson from the gay community at this point, it seems to be Ray Hill if it's a man, and Annise Parker, or if it's a woman, and Chris Bacon, if it's political, that you know, even more so a problem with that than it is in the African American community, or the Hispanic community, or the women's community, is the fact that our community is more diverse than any of those communities, because we are also a part of all those communities, right? This community includes Hispanics and blacks and women and Asians and Indians, and so on and so forth. And so it's essential that our diversity not be denied.

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Speaker 2 22:53

Exactly. I think like sitting in this room, despite the fact that we don't have any women here today. And I would like to apologize for that. Don't hit me, I did try to do the thing. I tried to get women. But most of the women I tried to get were already involved in activist thing, or were involved with other women. But right here, we have what, two Jews three, three Jews and an African American. And I think in a lot of ways our perspective are not heard, not only as people who are African American or Jewish, but also people who are young. Are there ways that you

think that what affects us as 20 something queers, 20 something fags and dykes that are different from how they would affect, say, Chris Bacon or Ray Hill or any of the other older people?



23:47

I think there's big differences, I don't think and I might be speaking, you know, out of turn here. I don't know if I'm a little off here. But you know, I don't think Chris Bacon would understand what a 17 year old who has been thrown out of his house because he just found out, you know, he just came out to his parents or had to because he's HIV positive and gets dumped out on the streets and is having to hustle down on Avondale just to get by. I don't think he understands that because he works for Vinson and Elkins and I'm not attacking him. But I'm just saying, I think that that's something that the Political Caucus needs to be concerned about. And I haven't seen them be because it's that whole hide the drag queen mentality is hide the hustler because they're a bad segment. This whole bad queer good queer thing is it's not it's not a healthy thing for our community. And we need the caucus needs to be in there fighting for the agenda of the little 17 year old HIV positive homeless hustler just as much as it does the 60 year old woman or the 45 year old man attorney, or whoever.



Speaker 2 24:59

Yeah, I think that what I find especially surprising about the queer communities, is that it's the only the only group of people that does virtually nothing to help its young people. I know that as an African American, I know that when I was in high school, you know, other African Americans came to me and said, "You're bright, you're talented," you know, how can we help you and gave me advantages that I would not have had otherwise? We don't do that for younger queers. Are there ways that we can say, manipulate, what is the gay media, to get our issues across?



Speaker 7 25:37

Well, I think that we've tried to do that. I know that the Queer Nation has done some networking with other organizations, and has attempted to put together an agenda to address queer youth issues. And I know that you are heavily involved in that, Michael, I think that we need to, I think we need to come up with some creative ways of tying the needs of the queer youth community to the needs of the older generational homosexuals. So that they're, they're more interested in working on those things, that there's coming out, there are commonalities in the way that we are all oppressed, being queer, that we can work on together. And that would encourage the older people to do work with the younger people, get ideas from the younger people, and also try to help out the people who are in their teens that are not coming out. And we see that that's, that's a major, a prevalent thing we went on these days.



Speaker 2 26:34

Right? I mean, one of the things I see, particularly in the queer youth groups around the city, which are for the most part adult led, is that the adult queers are still working out a lot of the

which are for the most part adultized, is that the adult queers are still working out a lot of the issues that they had to deal with when they were young queers. But what they fail to realize is that, you know, this is '93 and times are different. It, you know, people are coming out at younger and younger ages, there is more media attention, you know, focused on queer people, so that there's more to know about us. I know that Eric, being the fashion queen that you are, one of the things that you've expressed frustration with is the lack of a progressive, queer fashion sensibility. What are you looking for? What do you want to say?



27:24

First of all, I'm not a queen, I'm a queer, fashion queer, I'm sorry. But anyway, I think what is really important is to address membership, I mean, it is to address a progression that needs to be made, we need to have change. But what we're not remembering is that we've seen Queer Nation go to about a membership of 100, which was dominated by younger people. And you saw those stayed, older generation people that were like the original ACT UP, who were being active in their 30s. And now they're in their 40s, and 50s. And they're, and now they've pushed all of us out. And I think a few of us remember that transition period during the summer where they push the younger people out. And now we need to think about rebuilding our rights and, and progressing back into a movement and building up Queer Nation again, to like a younger point of view, and doing things and making ourselves known, seen and spoken and heard. And that's what's not happening. We're not being heard, because we're not being seen. And we're letting them dominate us and it needs to be a revolt, like a revolt against our parents. We need to say we know what we're talking about, we know what we're doing. We're going to do it. And we're going to succeed because we're going to learn our lessons. And we're gonna you know, make some mistakes, but it's gonna be positive. Right? And I don't know the way we look.



Speaker 7 28:44

We definitely dress right. Yeah,



Speaker 5 28:47

We should all shave our heads and wear Doc Martens.



Speaker 2 28:49

Well, I mean, I think it's, it's really easy. I mean, you can go into you know, any bar and you can instantly tell you know, pretty much tell the age of a person by what he or she is wearing. Yeah, I mean, look at Scott he's he's very stylish. You would not mistake what Scott is wearing, which is very hip and very progressive, for what Chris Bacon usually where it says, you know, tyrel books, say Mel Brooks presents



29:17

Don't even say, don't even talk about Chris at the Ripcord five nights a week.



29:23

Okay, well, now that we're comfortable, let me just say I've done two members of the GLPC and they don't understand the younger generation.



29:34

I've done no one in the GLPC and I plan to keep it that way. Of course, I've done no one.



Speaker 5 29:42

We're not going to get into this but but no, no one GLPC, certainly not.



Speaker 2 29:47

Okay. You know, each of you has mentioned the necessity of building up a more vague, I hesitate to say youth based movement because that implies that we're being agents against people who are older than us. And instead I'll say queer. And queer being defined as not gay, not homosexual homo, but have a more in your face out progressive kind of attitude. How do we find the younger, cool, politically progressive, non racist, non sexist, you know, queers, how do we find each other?



Speaker 7 30:23

We go to Seattle, or New York.



Speaker 4 30:28

They're not here.



Speaker 5 30:30

It is here. And we need to get together?



Speaker 7 30:32

It's bred out. It's bred out of Texans, I think and, and we, maybe if we do look to the imported crowd, but among young people that the people that are young in Houston, or, you know, were born raised here, and yeah.



30:46

And just the feeling that things can't get done, that we're so separated and so diverse, like the school districts, or the way that the cities laid out that they're small groups of progressive youth, who have political statements to make who have ideas, who want to do something, it's just that they're not connecting. They're not getting together and in towns like New York, LA, Seattle, San Francisco, they're small places and people hang out in certain areas, and they're easy to get to. That's not possible here. And I mean, we need to think of a way to make it possible like a lot of queers don't go to shows and Mosh. I mean, you can't pick up well, yeah, you can't pick out the queers in the water. Yeah, they're the ones that are feeling the guys crotch is more but something needs to happen. We need to think about what we can do here rather than yes, it's going on in other cities.



Speaker 2 31:38

Okay, one of the things that's going to be coming up and that I know Scott, you're involved in the planning of is in June of '93. A gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender all town meeting to set the agenda for the queer communities in Houston and Harris county. What do you see as ways of getting 20 somethings together to have an impact, not only on this particular conference, but on the political scene in Houston.