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Tue, Jul 25, 2023 9:31AM 11:10

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

broussard, queers, remain, silent, people, hall, gay bashing, graham, resorts, pray, attacked, federal judge, member, democrat, son, fag, mother, paul, act, outlawing



00:04

Whenever you're ready, we're ready. Okay. Go ahead. I'm not feeling too terribly proud of myself today. Let me explain. Recently I wrote about Linda Morales, the Democratic activists who was a lesbian, and it was the grand marshal of the gay pride parade. The next day, I got a call from an admirer, who urged me not to write any more about the fags, because my readers were upset. I remain silent and let him go on talking until he realized I was not pleased with this call. Over the next several days, I got several letters, some unsigned, from religious zealots, quoting the Bible to the fact that both Morales and I will end up in jail. They use words such as queers, perverts, and despicable creatures. One person gave me 40 days to repent, and vowed to pray for my destruction if I don't. Again, I remained silent. The next week, a co worker suggested we go down to Montrose to beat up some queers. Because I knew he was joking and because I thought that it would be less of a hassle. I remain silent. A few hours later, he repeated the same remark, and again, and remain silent. But Sunday morning, as I read about Nancy Rodriguez, the Georgia woman who had come back here to pick up pick up the body of her 27 year old son, Paul Broussard, I decided that I have remained silent way too long. If you have not heard about Paul Broussard, don't feel embarrassed. This newspaper, which has been conducting a search for justice crusade for several weeks, relegated the story to the local news section, as did the other paper. Broussard and two friends were attacked around 3am Thursday, as they walked from a gay bar in Montrose. He and one of his friends were beaten with nail covered two by fours. By 10 or so young men. Broussard died several hours later. It has been labeled a gay bashing incident, another in a series of hate filled attacks on gay people. But it was the killing of a human being cold and cowardly. It was an act of pure hatred committed by the 10 young men, but also by the parents, their schools, their churches and their communities. Gay Activists say that if it hadn't been further efforts to alert reporters, Broussard's death might have gone unnoticed. Because the police were acting as if it were just another murder. It might as well have been for most of official and religious Houston reacted to his latest act of brutal oppression with a thundering, deafening silence. Had had been some white kids attacking a member of a racial minority group for the sole reason that he or she was a member of that group, or vice versa. The city would have been up in arms, and the story would have stayed on the front page for weeks. Every elected official and would be elected official would be out roaming the streets in search of a TV camera instead of reluctantly talking about it when cornered in some hallway. But in the eyes of many Broussard was a queer. He was a fag. He was a despicable creature, and he probably deserved to die for the fact that God made him prefer men. The right to lifers apparently feel that Broussard had no right to life, because they too were silent. That he was a loving son, and an earnest employee, and that he loved to read books meant nothing to this group of maniacs who attacked him. And it apparently means

nothing to most of us. His mother told the post that she couldn't understand how such things can happen. Well, I can. I can understand because I know that such things are, are a result of the silence of people like me. Paul Broussard died because we were cowards. We prefer to sit in our cubby holes. and spend all our efforts keeping our sinking boat steady. The gay rights activists are right. Silence does equal death. When we fail to speak up, we are sanctioning the hatred or ignorance of people like my coworker and my correspondence. And it is such hatred and ignorance that tells stupid kids that it's okay to go around beating up the poor of resorts of the world. I did not know Paul Broussard. But I am not going to let Houston forget him or how he died, or why.



06:01

I lied. I should have known better, I should have known that there would come a time when I would get a letter that cried or begged to make it into print. This was one of them. And I'm quoting here, thank you for your column appearing in today's paper. Thank you for speaking out against this hate crime of such horrible violence. I also ask you to continue to inform the readers of this newspaper have such issues as gay bashing. It was just one month ago that I found out that my 27 year old son was gay. He claims he knew this about himself, since he was a little boy, but just could not confess it. He wanted to protect his family from the embarrassment and shame of having a pervert in the family. Nevermind that he like young Paul Broussard was loving and kind, that he loved music and books, that he was well behaved, never causing anyone trouble or hurt. He has carried his shame silently all these years, keeping his own unhappiness, and aloneness to himself, finding joys of life only in helping people along his path. Now, I admit that is that as his mother, I have every very ambivalent thoughts and feelings. The biblical applications that attach blame and sin to the subject really caused me much pain. But this is my son, and I love him. And I want to protect him from hurt and harm. I am afraid that the other members of the family will withhold their love and companionship when they find out the truth. And what is the truth anyway? Maybe through you and others like us, the general public will become educated about these people who readily admit that if there was a pill to change their bent, that would take a bushel of them. They really did not choose to be the way they are. And most have struggled against this part of their life or their lives. I rejoice in His goodness and kindness, his gentle strength and pray for his protection. This son of mine really taught me about unselfish love. And I also pray that I remember that only our Lord has the right to judge any one of us. And I pray that soon everyone in our world, and especially our state, which was built by some pretty bad characters will also come to know this. Thank you again for speaking out as only you can. My condolences to Broussard mother, and I share her pain. Of course. I must remain anonymous to protect my own son. And that was the end of the letter. But I go on. Of course. What is this Mother's alternative but to remind remain anonymous in a world filled with idiots like the right honorable Sam Hall federal judge from the Eastern District of Texas. Hall is a former idiot congressman from the first congressional district in northeast Texas, who on Wednesday said in a Beaumont court in front of a jury that homosexuals in the Jefferson County jail or quote a bunch of queers and quote and added as if it weren't obvious that he does not like homosexuals. This state until recently had laws outlawing homosexuality is a district judge in Austin declared it unconstitutional, unconstitutional, but it is being appealed and I have little doubt that it will be reinstated. Unfortunately, neither the state nor this country has laws outlawing idiocy like halls. If you're wondering how Hall became a federal judge, let me enlighten you. Hall, a Democrat, was recommended by Republican Senator Phil Gramm and nominated by former President Ronald Reagan. It was not that these two staunch Republicans wanted to reward a Democrat, not at all. You see, Graham had come up with this brilliant idea that by moving hall to the bench, he

would fill his vacancy with a Republican. But Graham's best laid plans when arrived when voters sided with a Democrat, Jim Chapman, who was still in Congress, despite Graham's repeated attempts to get rid of him. The damage however, has been done. Hall was do nothing, no nothing idiot in Congress, but he was one of 435 members, and therefore was harmless. Now he's a no nothing idiot at the federal judge with immense powers to do great harm. Thankful Graham for that, the next time you see him