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Mon, Nov 28, 2022 4:08PM 42:25

## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

queer, black, chocolate, gay, coordination, montrose, group, women, houston, fundraiser, color, talk, involved, year, michael crawford, white, organizations, community, cowboy, charity

## SPEAKERS

Kay Harper, Michael Crawford, Bruce Reeves, Jeff Mackey

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00:00

That was k.d. lang. Yeah, our rodeo music.



Jeff Mackey 00:03

Yes, we have so many things we have to work in here. Suddenly we have all these, all these things coming together at once we have Mardi Gras, Mardi Gras and Black History Month and



Kay Harper 00:15

rodeo. Yes. So do you have something about like history and rodeo?



Jeff Mackey 00:21

Yes, actually,



00:23

I got a nice subtle segue there.



Jeff Mackey 00:25

Synchronicity being what it is. Actually, this was found for us by another co anchor, Judy Reeves



00:38

don't stumble over that word. Just

J Jeff Mackey 00:42

off the tongue. I know. I know. This was some some interesting information she located from a book about black Texans talking about black cowboys. So I'm going to read, you're gonna do something here, okay. Black men continued to form about 20 to 25% of the Cowboys bronc riders, wranglers and cooks in the cattle industry during the late 19th century. Some established considerable reputations for their ability. Frank, a roper for ad blocker, did not stand Nightwatch because of his specialized skill. James Kelly served as gunfighter for the print olive outfit in the late 1870s. Jim Perry on the huge x it ranch and Matthew bones hooks of the Panhandle gained reputations as excellent bronc busters, Bill Nunn and Bob lemons won a degree of famous Mustang Hunters, and Negro cowboy won the steer roping contest at Moby D in 1884. Bill Pickett of Texas became widely known at the turn of the century for perfecting the technique of bulldogging Earl Jones drove cattle to Kansas 13 times once as a herd boss at John Wallace and ex slave from Victoria, went up the trail first at the age of 17. He began to buy cattle while still a cowboy, acquired land in Mitchell and Navarro counties in the 1880s and became an influential rancher Silas Jackson became a prominent black cattlemen. The farmers improvement society, founded by RL Smith in the 1890s had grown to 2300 members by 1900. It counted over 9000 members in 1907 and expanded to include 21,000 persons in several states by 1909. The society associated itself with Booker T Washington and his Negro farmers Congress and sponsored an agricultural college, a bank, a women's auxiliary fairs and a truck growers union. DW at John Wallace moved about between Texas, Oklahoma and New Mexico or died in Texas on his 10,000 acre ranch in Mitchell County.

K Kay Harper 02:56

Lots of interesting stuff there. Yes. And another note, yesterday was Barbara Jordan, one of my very favorite women. Yesterday was her 66th birthday.

J Jeff Mackey 03:06

Happy birthday,

K Kay Harper 03:07

much belated birthday. I can't believe she's that old.

J Jeff Mackey 03:11

No. She's an amazing woman.

K Kay Harper 03:13

Oh, God. Incredible. Well, the next thing we wanted to talk about this chocolate, oh, food? Yes.

J Jeff Mackey 03:20

Yeah, right up there.

K Kay Harper 03:23

Sweet Charity, which is the annual fundraiser for the owl annual chocolate gala fundraiser for the foundation for interfaith research and ministry, which is usually called firm because it's a lot easier to say is going to be tomorrow at the Pavilion on post oak thing. I have dessert tickets, or you can do a whole evening including dinner and dancing.

J Jeff Mackey 03:48

If you feel like dancing after a lot of chocolate, I actually think

K Kay Harper 03:50

you get to eat the chocolate before you do the dancing.

J Jeff Mackey 03:53

Maybe yes or you'll be beat up enough from all the sugar intake that you are going to realize

K Kay Harper 04:01

that it's going to be incredible. There are lots of interesting people involved in it. Warren Moon Betsy Ballard, sleepy Floyd Melanie Lawson, Hakeem Olajuwon and Mrs. Willie Nelson. You think in this day and age she could be someone so Nelson, but no, she has to be Mrs. Willie. Yes. Well,

J Jeff Mackey 04:19

this is a proper society type event, I'd say. And you can be one of the in crowd, as you see.

K Kay Harper 04:24

Yeah. Lots of neat things to do. And it's for a really good organization. Firms been around word firms been around since 1986. And they have over 1000 volunteers from various churches and synagogues in the area that provide hands on care and friendship to people with chronic or

debilitating illnesses such as AIDS, Alzheimer's and cancer. They even do they have a couple of pediatric units or pediatric groups that work with babies with AIDS. It's really interesting.

J

Jeff Mackey 04:57

It has some fabulous fabulous is in fabulous is not a word I like to use a lot but there's no other word to describe some of the some of the desserts that are that are planned for this. Just looking over the list here there was a picture of the chocolate trio chocolate trio cheesecake with glazed oranges, which set my mouth watering. Interesting my fantasy sandbox, I can only imagine what to die for brownies from the house of faiz a Bailey's white chocolate cheesecake with Belgian bittersweet chocolate chunks on a cocoa shortcake crust. That's not easy to say. But I bet it's much easier to eat. Oh, bittersweet chocolate cheesecake with white chocolate chunks, chocolate trifold. Chocolate Bhutan, pecan tart, it's just too many wonderful things. And no, so it looks like a great, great event and lots of wonderful things to eat. And it's for a wonderful cause.

K

Kay Harper 06:01

And for more information, you can give us a call because they're not there to give you information. You can call us and find out about tickets and times and such. And our phone number is what is our phone number 526 4000. I call it but I can't remember what it is. And in the spirit of chocolate, we have chocolate songs. Right now.

B

Bruce Reeves 06:32

Joining us now is Tory Williams Tory is here representing the foundation for interfaith research and ministry. To talk a little bit about Sweet Charity Tory what's Sweet Charity?

👤

06:43

This is the fourth year we've done Sweet Charity. It's a chocolate Gala. Yes. You like chocolate chocolate. We have, first of all a very good cause. We are an agency that's been around since 1986. We train teams of people to go into the home and pay help people who have AIDS or other we're just starting now to take some Alzheimer's patients and some other folks. But basically what they do is in home care, they change diapers, they take food, they drive clients to the hospital, they do all kinds of things that people need. And when I first started with the agency four years ago, like most agencies, we needed some funds and we said what do we do? And I said, Well, everyone loves chocolate. What if we, you know, someone said let's raffle a car and I said oh please put no cars, no raffle. And I they said what else? What do you think? Or what else could we do? And I said chocolate everyone loves chocolate. And so four years later we are doing our fourth Sweet Charity. Basically, all the restaurants in town. Donate on believable chocolate desserts. Right now we have food for over 4000 The Ritz Carlton, Three brothers bread Baker, Four Seasons Hotel all Cafe Annie all these different people arrive the chef's arrive on Sunday afternoon and bring these unbelievable chocolate desserts when you we had a three foot cowboy that was hand carved out of different by the Thompson at the Four Seasons hotel. I

B

Bruce Reeves 08:22

know last year I got there late and and there was nothing really any. But there was still I think but between Judy and I we both brought home plates that were mound a foot high and it was like after a month. Like throw that stuff in the garbage can. Yeah, it's like you can only eat so much chocolate. But that was I was amazed even even with the list of all the people that were donating and everything it was just you know, I mean it was like chocolate for miles.

👤

08:57

Just tables and tables. Each restaurant gets their own table and they decorate it any way they want. And chocolate

B

Bruce Reeves 09:03

cheese cake and there was chocolate chocolate and there were chocolate cakes and chocolate pies and chocolate pecan pies and mounds of chocolate. Piles of chocolate and rivers of chocolate. I mean that was just it was it was amazing. Yeah, that there's can be that much chocolate and it raises a lot of money

👤

09:24

too. Yes. As we affectionately say put your diet aside for a good cause.

B

Bruce Reeves 09:32

Well buy a ticket and come and just enjoy take chocolates, all the friends that you hate that are online

👤

09:43

but that's true. And if you're really on a serious diet, take a plateful take it home, put it in your freezer and you can eat it later.

B

Bruce Reeves 09:49

Don't keep almost indefinitely. That's right. So fun

👤

09:53

event and it also gives us an opportunity to draw the media to you To the work that our ~~volunteers do. I think that's really important that other folks in the community know what we~~

volunteers do, I think that's really important that other folks in the community know what we do we do more than have fun with chocolate. And so we often get a lot of new volunteers around this event. Melanie Lawson is there and she usually brings a TV camera, and she always cuts the first dessert at 7:30am.

B Bruce Reeves 10:22

Nice. So if if I guess people can probably buy tickets ahead of time.

10:27

Yes. Let me tell you a little bit of it's Sunday, February 23. There are two ticket levels at 530. There's a cocktail buffet, and those tickets are \$100 apiece. But for most of us, the dessert part is available for \$25 apiece, and that starts at seven o'clock. So what people do is they call the office 6825995. That's 6825995. And you can either do a credit card charge over the phone or get our dress and send us a check. But it's getting so close to the event right now that probably people would rather call and charge or you can certainly buy tickets at the door. Okay, great. Is it pavilion on post oak, right there near Lowe's movie theater? A lot of people know that movies hear.

B Bruce Reeves 11:12

Great. Well, is there anything else you'd like to share with this? Just it's good to see you again. It's good to see you too. It's always nice to have you on the show. And you've got so many interests in the world that day. Yeah. And chocolate seems to be the I usually wind up talking about but thanks for coming on the show this morning Tori and we look forward to seeing you at Sweet Charity and we hope that everyone listening will try to find it in their their best interest to try to go to Sweet Charity as well. That's right, so you're listening to KPFT after hours a continuing tradition here on KPFT at 90.1 FM Houston

K Kay Harper 11:55

that was Sweet Honey in the Rock, not sugar song but a sugar group singing

J Jeff Mackey 12:00

sweet things. Yeah. Sweet. Have you in the rock? Wonderful group?

12:03

Yes. Neat, neat stuff.

J Jeff Mackey 12:06

... 12:00

Oh my Well, besides Sweet Charity. You know, that's one of the big fundraisers that's that's happening tomorrow. There. Actually a number of fundraisers are happening tomorrow. There's just so many things happening. We have so many things to talk about. Well, everybody

K

Kay Harper 12:23

figures you've gotten over your credit card debt from from Christmas and now it's time to get money again.

J

Jeff Mackey 12:29

That must be that must be it. Other than that Sweet Charity, there are several other fundraisers happening tomorrow. One of them there is the UFO show.

∅

12:44

What is a UFO? Well, I know what are you? Oh, you UFO. This

J

Jeff Mackey 12:47

is not the normal UFO. You think this is an unidentified flaming object. Oh, my UFO show is happening tomorrow. Beginning at three o'clock PM. And it's happening at the Briar Patch.

K

Kay Harper 13:06

is down sort of mid center. It should. Yes. 2294 Holcomb just like Holcomb and Greenbrier

J

Jeff Mackey 13:14

Yes. Yes. And this is to benefit the Montrose activity center.

∅

13:19

Yes, get us a building, get us a building. He's

J

Jeff Mackey 13:21

pleased we need we need that. That's something I'm really I took my vacation this past year to New York and went to the community center there and was so impressed. I'm really hoping that we can get something like that going here. So that's the benefits monstrous activities. Here's a UFO show. Yeah. And

K Kay Harper 13:39

another thing to benefit Ray Hill, who is running for community, he is our community candidate for justice of the peace. He's having a fundraiser hosted by the Gay Lesbian Political Caucus and the Montrose palace at guests were the Montrose palace. Surprise. Really, that's so strange. They'll have food there and they ask you to dress casually. I think you have to dress a little more for some of the other events like a sweet charity. And God knows you want to be something flaming to go to the UFO show.

J Jeff Mackey 14:15

Exactly. Exactly. So you can dress either flaming Lee casually or or to the nine.

K Kay Harper 14:21

Yes, but Ray Hills fundraiser is going to be food. There's going to be well brave refreshments. And I'll know how heavy refreshments are. But that's tomorrow, or later on today, depending on whether you've gone to bed yet or not at the Montrose Palace from four until 7pm. And the Montrose Palace is at 1505 Nevada. That's the corner of Nevada and Commonwealth. And then the third fundraiser fourth, fourth, fourth fundraiser you can get weren't enough felts all over town. This one's in the far southwest, not Oh far southwest, but not close southwest. Yego are actually gay lesbian Hispanics, commonly known as blue, are having a fundraiser for the Yego National Convention, which is happening in May here in Houston. And that's going to be down at energy. And I've talked to a band and he says it's just going to be a flawless show. It's a go Tejano theme.

J Jeff Mackey 15:25

So so this is a different dress code now. So yes, you can like wear for different outfits tomorrow, or try to hit all of these places, you

K Kay Harper 15:33

know, did the tuck shirt with with string tie, a string tie in and Anna something to go Tejano

J Jeff Mackey 15:41

blue jeans and a feather boa perhaps and just hit all of these places

K Kay Harper 15:44

that'll work. You could do your feather boa and red, white and green for the Mexican flag.

J Jeff Mackey 15:50

An idea? Hey, here's an idea.

K Kay Harper 15:52

We can dress you. Not only can we anchor so we can be fashion consultant to the stars. Yeah. The year ago fundraiser starts at seven. And that's also going for a good cause lots of good causes. Now, what am I supposed to do? I forgotten what I'm supposed to do? I know what's going on? We're going to have a repeat of last week's interview with Michael Crawford. Because it kind of got a little messed up last week. And anyway, Michael is on the front page of the Montrose voice. No, the new voice. I keep calling it the Montrose voice. And so this is a very timely interview. We did it before the newspapers got to him.

J Jeff Mackey 16:36

Yes, that's that's the great after hours edgier.

K Kay Harper 16:41

Yeah. After hours of continuing tradition, cutting edge, Public Affairs, a nice little prod. We're good people here. Michael Crawford is a Houston coordination member who was recently interviewed by advocate the advocate for an ad article on Southern activist. And he is a black man who is very involved with coordination and has a lot of very interesting things to say.

B Bruce Reeves 17:16

here listening to after hours here on KPFT continuing tradition 90.1 FM Houston. Joining us now is Michael Crawford. Michael's a blank member of queer nation. And and I say that because partly because we're celebrating Black History Month, and partly because we're going to talk a little bit about how Michael sees blacks interacting in the overall gay and lesbian community because there obviously is a problem. Many times of getting all peoples of color to participate in, in the gay and lesbian community. So good morning, Michael.

M Michael Crawford 17:52

Good morning, Bruce.

B Bruce Reeves 17:53

So I know you called me and wanted to be on the show this morning to talk a little bit about Black History Month, and it's great to have you here again. Maybe let's let's start with what

does Black History Month mean to you? Maybe that's a good place to start?

M

Michael Crawford 18:11

Um, well, I mean, I generally don't celebrate Black History Month. I'm black, and I just celebrated all year round. Well, that's good. I think what happens is an instance. Generally, history in America has been dominated by whites. It's just a special point set aside to celebrate the achievements of black people like Gay Pride Month is celebrated achievement of gay and lesbian people.

B

Bruce Reeves 18:36

Right. Great. Okay. So you're obviously a member of Queer Nation. You're you've got your Queer Nation t shirt on. I love that shirt. Yeah, one of the many. But and obviously, you're active in the in the black community and have taken a very, and very active in the gay and lesbian community. And I've taken a strong interest in trying to get other people more involved. How, how can how can I say, as a white person go about when I'm working with with an organization I know I've been co chair of Pride Week. And we we tried to have a person who was like our liaison with all the groups in the community. And we tried to get more people of color involved, but there always seemed to be a wall there that we couldn't get behind.

M

Michael Crawford 19:29

Well, there is that hesitancy because most of the groups and we'll all the groups in fact, are dominated by whites. And there's still this feeling that whites don't take us seriously. I mean, what, like you, I am involved in queer activism, but only as a member of coordination, right? Because there is no other group in the city of Houston that I would feel comfortable in as a black person. Because, generally we're pushed off into something called the minority people, people of color committee. And we're expected to sit there and just deal with that, while the overall agenda of the group is dealt with by whites, and I'm uncomfortable in a situation like that. Whereas in coordination, everybody has a say in anything. And you know, it doesn't matter if you're black, it's good. And they want to present a diverse face.

B

Bruce Reeves 20:17

Okay. So I guess well, if you were going to make a prescription for the other groups in town that wanted to, to increase the black embalming in and in general, the people of color involvement in their organization, what would you tell them,

M

Michael Crawford 20:34

I would tell them to get over themselves. There is this real tendency among whites to assume that only whites can speak for the queer communities, for example, into care hospital, is putting together a proposal to do gay awareness training for HPD. Now, in the in the board of people that they got to set up this thing, there were only white men. And I think God,

there was a queer nation person involved in this. And he said, you know, he spoke up and said, Where are the people of color? Where are the women, and he was told not to make waves. And that, you know, it really, really didn't matter that it was politically correct. Now, I'm very happy that he was there and that he said those things, because now there are Blacks, Hispanics and women involved in this. But as a black person, it offended me that. I mean, I was at every coordination planning meeting, and every action where we demand it, you know, that we have awareness training for the police department, and then to have white gays say that it doesn't matter that I have a say in what goes on. offends me. I think basically, white gays need to get over the feeling that only they can speak for queers, and that only they can be leaders.

B

Bruce Reeves 21:51

Okay. Okay. I know, obviously, one of the many things that some of the groups have tried, and I believe the March on Washington is trying to next year is, you know, there for lack of a better word. I guess they're they're enforcing quotas. You know, they're saying that all the representatives for the the district boards and the state boards and the National Board for the National march on Washington, which is coming out next April, will need to have X number of people of color and X number of pupils that are women to try to resolve that is or is that the way to go about it? Is it?

M

Michael Crawford 22:33

I think it helps but I'm still uncomfortable with the whole thing about quotas? Because I mean, I want to be chosen to do something not so much because I'm a blind person. But because there's someone thinks that I will do it. Well. While I think they are a good idea, and it is bringing in people of color and women which is desperately needed. I'm unsure if that is the ideal way, it may be the best of a, you know, a tenuous situation.

B

Bruce Reeves 23:03

Okay. And so what would be a better way? Well, I mean, if you were in charge of it, what would you do maybe charge?

M

Michael Crawford 23:13

Well, one reason that I really like coordination is that we don't have leaders, okay. And I understand that that won't work with all groups. But in our particular situation, it's participatory democracy, and everybody votes on every thing. And we discuss everything, and we talk about everything. I think that is the best way to let people know that they actually have a say in what's going on. Because too often, when you have the groups that have a hierarchical structure, we know that white gay men will be at the top of that structure. And it seems to me that in a lot of the groups here, the sole, the sole goal is to maintain that power, you know, consequently keeping women and people of color out. But if you had a structure that was less hierarchical, or even non hierarchical, I mean, where people actually felt that they were

participating. If they had to say what was going on, then that would bring in not only people of color and women, but younger people and older people and people who, you know, would have never joined a group to begin with.

 Bruce Reeves 24:17

Okay. Let's say that a group in town wanted to change the way they're doing things. Maybe they really don't feel like that they are being discriminatory, but for whatever reason, they've never been able to get that kind of input and whatnot from the people of color community. Where do you think would be their first step? I mean, should they come maybe the coordination and talk fair or are there other organizations that could go to that would be,

 Michael Crawford 24:50

I think the thing to do would be to listen, because I mean, to bring people of color in one Men and an ask, why aren't you joining our organizations? What is it about organizations that make you uncomfortable? And then listen, because a lot of times, white gays will say, they won't listen, they will talk. I mean, I've actually had a situation where actual couples have situations where white gay men have told me point blank that I did not know what black queers thought, and then proceeded to lecture me on what black game was mean, people, you know, thought and did in this that any other and I'm sitting there excuse me, I am aware some shows. Yeah. So it's, it's still, I mean, it still needs to get over the presumption that white gays know everything. Because we have a lot, I mean, people of color, and women have a lot to offer. And if we don't, if we're not allowed to have our input, then the queer movement as a whole will not succeed as rapidly or as fully as it can.

 Bruce Reeves 25:59

But I think maybe to some degree, I know, it took me a long time. I grew up in Mississippi, for whatever reason, wound up going to a private school, and didn't have a lot of interaction with people of color at all until I moved to Texas. And I was Scoutmaster of a scout troop for three years, in which well over half of the kids in the scout troop were black. And I learned an enormous amount about Black culture in those three years. And, you know, I like to think that, you know, I grew a lot from that experience, I hope I grew a lot from that experience. And I know, then I came out. And so then I was thrust into gay culture, and what gay culture was all about. And it's like, all these concepts are foreign to me. You know, as growing, I never felt like I had culture, I guess, growing up, you know, and now I've got this black culture, and there's Hispanic culture, and there's gay culture, and there's all these different cultures that we're exposed to. And I think a lot of times, it's easier just to kind of say, I don't want to deal with that. But we can't do that.

 Michael Crawford 27:07

Yeah, it's particularly in the queer communities. I mean, and I really don't use the term gay community. Because for me, that represents sort of a white male kind of thing. There isn't just like one community, right? I mean, we cannot afford to sit and say, well, blacks are different, or

Asian, gays speak a different language, or women are different that we don't want to deal with them. Because obviously, I mean, queers are probably the most diverse minority on the face of the planet. I mean, it's not some PC buzzword that we're using just to be politically correct, right. It's reality of who we are. And if we can't deal with that, we will get nowhere to think that we're gonna get, you know, achieve queer liberation. And not. And not include black and Hispanic and Asian and female queers in that is a fallacy.

B

Bruce Reeves 28:01

Okay. I've supported Queer Nation on many occasions, but I've never actually managed to drag myself down to the Montrose Palace on Tuesday nights. Is the makeup of Queer Nation, fairly good. I

M

Michael Crawford 28:15

mean, it's not like representative of the city of Houston as a whole were a little over 50% of the people are people of color. But I would say approximately 20% of our meetings are people of color. Let's go. Yeah, that's good. I think that probably start, it's probably better than most organizations. And I think one of the things about coordination that attracts people of color is that they, I mean, we know that we're going to have a say in what goes on in coordination, because everyone does. So it's good in that way. Yeah. I mean, a lot of, but I mean, there's something else that has to be done in order for, you know, people of color or black queers to get involved is that Bucky will have to take the response, some of the responsibility upon themselves to actually go out and say, you know, we're here, we're queer, we're black, get used to it. We're going to be a part of your organizations, we're gonna change them, we're gonna remake make them reflect our agenda as well, you're gonna guess until Yeah, so we can't not just sit around and go to the bars, where, you know, we're discriminate against it the bars or hanging out in these little social cliques, we're gonna actually get involved to make things change.

B

Bruce Reeves 29:30

I guess I've seen that maybe more on the national level, I was involved with the national organization and backed up for about a year and a half. And ultimately got out of it, because I felt like there were so many political issues from within the group that we weren't accomplishing anything, but a number of the things that they did, I thought were very good. You know, of course, again, there was the quota issue of, you know, we've got to make sure that we are including everyone. So we're going to enforce these quotas on the web, which angers a lot of people. But at the same time, I think it's necessary, because if you don't say, you know, we will make this effort and this will work. You know,

M

Michael Crawford 30:19

I think I think making the effort is good. But I mean, even I am uncomfortable with the idea of enforcing quota. I mean, well, again, back to coordination, which is the only group I've been involved in. I mean, obviously, a black, you know, core national would be here talking about

this, right. But in the general scheme of things when we're choosing spokespeople, queer nation is the only group that I've seen that have regularly pick black hispanic and women, you know, to be spokespersons, not because of Black, Hispanic, and women but because they think we will be good at it. Right. So, I mean, so I'm a bit uncomfortable with being pegged for something solely because I'm black. Right,

 Bruce Reeves 30:58

I can understand that. And I know, it's, there are times when, when I feel like, you know, well. It's when that when I get involved, I guess like in the state and national democratic process and caucuses and that kind of stuff. It's like, you know, well, I'm a white male, and but I'm also gay. And I feel like sometimes that makes me a little more knowledgeable or better than some of the other white males that are straight and don't know anything about the world. But I also don't know.

 Michael Crawford 31:34

I think that that's a myth. Because I have been called nigger, and all kinds of I mean, for example, the 611 Club on Hyde Park, you know, dead some did some racist things to another group, and queer nation went in to try to help the situation. While we were standing there with our picket signs and stuff. I mean,

 Bruce Reeves 31:58

I'm dreaming of a white Christmas. Correct. Like,

 Michael Crawford 32:03

I mean, people, the patrons of the 611 called this an agriculturist, wetback, you know, said really bad things about the women, a couple of employees of the 611 said that they hope that we all get AIDS and die. And all the while the owner was sent in just a smiling and the queer medium, refused to cover the issue. You know, so I mean, how does that supposed to make us feel?

 Bruce Reeves 32:28

Pretty bad. I know it it, it made me very mad when I heard you know, what had happened. And I think it makes a lot of people in our community mad. I think there are a lot of people in our community who are a lot more understanding of the needs of all of our community, not just the white community, and not just the gay community, but the the people of color. And but I think at the same time, there needs to be more people that are concerned, I think, many times I've been in organizations where I felt like, you know, I really would like to have people of color involved in the organization, and I've taught to, to this person of color or that person of color. And I've never really gotten a clear cut idea of, you know, what do we have to do?

M

Michael Crawford 33:19

I mean, I think the responsibility can't be placed solely on white gays. I mean, while I do think that white gays can be more open, and sit down and shut up, and listen, sometimes, I do think it's gonna be necessary for people of color to get up and actually say something. A lot of times a lot of black gays I know, feel that it's a situation where you have to choose between being black. And between being queer. I mean, it's almost really difficult to be both. So a lot of the black gay people that I know, go off into the black movement, because they say they don't want to do anything to benefit the white gay movement. And I constantly get slagged for being a part of coordination, which they constantly refer to as a white gay organization that it's just going to totally leave me an alert when you know the revolution occurs, right? So it's going to be necessary for black people to stand up and say, you know, we're here we're queer, get used to it. To be all over the place.

B

Bruce Reeves 34:19

Okay. Let's take a short break. You're listening to after hours a continuing tradition here on KPFT 90.1. FM, Houston.

Ω

34:28

Reflections, black on black.

B

Bruce Reeves 34:35

The philosophy of black nationalism only mean that the black man should control the politic, and the politicians in his own community.

Ω

34:46

You know, psychiatrists always want to understand the why of behavior. The patient comes to my office and says, why Dr. Wilson, am I doing this

Ω

34:56

money that attracts you? You're not thinking about this. out to your people. You don't have a social consciousness. You thinking about them big. Tell them that they can't listen to people. Jesus had just scoped he put it down, he said you the bad, guys, you won't come in the kingdom. And you got to take more than anywhere else.

B

Bruce Reeves 35:22

You learned reflections black on black, we bring you the speakers and issues you want to hear

Sunday evening to 8pm and reflect with us black on black KPFT Houston 90.1 FM



35:51

KPFT Houston



Bruce Reeves 35:56

you're listening to after hours here on KPFT continuing tradition 19.1 FM, Houston. We're back. Now we're still talking with Michael Crawford, who is a black member of queer nation. And we're talking a little bit about Black History Month and how to maybe break some of the stereotypes down and get more people involved in in different organizations. And and I know Michael also wanted to talk about something specifically I believe this is national condom week.



M Michael Crawford 36:27

Yes, it is. And some of you may know that Queer Nation has been involved in distributing condoms, particularly at high schools. We had a very successful one yesterday at the high school for criminal justice and law enforcement. What basically one of the students fathers had died of AIDS. And she asked us to come in to give out condoms and AIDS related information, we were able to give out over 1000 Condoms and a bunch of leaflets and everything. So but giving out all this kind of stuff is expensive. So what we're doing is we're asking people in the community, to make donations to coordination so that we can go out and you know, we give out condoms at high schools, we give them out to sex workers, we give them out basically, everywhere we go, the cute patrol gives them out, except that it's getting kind of expensive. And we really can't afford to do it on our own anymore. So we're asking people to, for example, call the queer nation Hotline at 5292969 to make donations, we can it's we have a tax exempt status. So you know, you can claim it on your tax return. You can either call the coordination Hotline at 5292969. Or you can call Brian Bradley at 7941901. Okay, great.



B Bruce Reeves 37:48

Obviously, that's a very important project. And it's something that that we have to keep can keep doing everywhere. It's it's



M Michael Crawford 37:56

particularly since the city of Houston has not spent a dime on anything AIDS related, you know, in the, in the what the 11 years of the epidemic.



B Bruce Reeves 38:05

It's pretty sad. I've completely lost my train of thought here.

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Michael Crawford 38:13

I mean, I'd like to suggest a couple of groups that, okay, queers of color might want to check out, you know, to get involved in and make our voices heard. Obviously, tops on my list is coordination, right. And I am a bit biased in that respect. But coordination is has been, you know, is really good, and really open to having people of color and more people involved in general, just

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Bruce Reeves 38:36

short. What is coordination? The short synopsis for those uninitiated people?

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Michael Crawford 38:41

Queer Nation is a direct action group that does the actions around homophobia, heterosexism, and queer invisibility. We've said in City Hall at City Hall to protest hate crimes, we protested against the Houston posts when they fired one plomo for being gay. But we do more than that. I mean, a lot of the stuff we does we do get into the media, and a lot does not for example, we're doing a queer read awareness training for the guidance counselors at HSD next month, in an effort to make the schools a safer place for young queers. So basically, anything that you know, you decided you want to do, you can come and repost the Queer Nation and we can help you find people to go out and do it. That sounds great. Another group that careers of color might want to get involved in as a Q Patrol. And the Q Patrol is kind of like a queer guardian angels, and that they go out and they patrol, the Montrose on Friday and Saturday nights between 11 and 3am to serve as a visual deterrent for gay bashing, and so far, they've been doing absolutely fabulous work. My understanding is that like for the month of January, they helped get at least 12. Gay bashers would be gay bash was arrested and cluding people armed with knives, guns and baseball bats. Wow. So if anyone wants to get involved the Q Patrol, they can call mark at 6455252 then, you know, the switchboard always needs volunteers. Aids Foundation always needs volunteers. Basically, I would suggest that black queers, you know, figure out what's important to them, what they would like to be involved in, and then go out and do it. You never get anywhere by sitting on your butt.

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Bruce Reeves 40:27

That's true. And, and I guess if you know, if Pride Week is important to you, or you would like Pride Week, you know, to be more maybe more proactive, you know, join Pride Week or join any of the organizations in the community because he may have to fight a little harder. But, you know, get in there and make a difference, right? Because he feels good. It does. I feel like I've made differences, and we can all make differences in the world. And then that's kind of what we have to

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Michael Crawford 40:55

do. Right. And, I mean, there have been, for example, Perry Watkins, who was a black gay soldier,

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Bruce Reeves 41:02

still is.

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Michael Crawford 41:05

He's done a lot to help for the cause in terms of overturning the military's ban. I'm queers. You know, James Baldwin, very openly homo, you know, very big, wonderful essayist, and very, you know, very involved in the black civil rights movement stood up and said, Yes, I'm queer, darling, and you better get over it. It's these kinds of things and these kinds of people that that really helps the, you know, the rest of us to overcome.

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Bruce Reeves 41:32

Okay. Um, is there anything else you'd like to, I guess, to leave us with this morning?

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Michael Crawford 41:39

Anything else? Basically, I think that my all it's my opinion that everyone in, in the city of Houston, every queer should just come out and scream at the rooftop that you clear that once we do that, all our problems will be solved, because they will they will be so awed at the strength of our numbers, that they will just, I mean, homophobia will just fall to its knees and we will have achieved our goals.

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Bruce Reeves 42:05

Okay. We thank you for coming this morning and talking with us. Thank you. We hope you'll come back and talk to us some more. I'm sure we've got many topics we can talk about. And you are listening to after hours of continuing tradition here at KPFT 19.1 FM, Houston.