

uhlib_2023_001_ah_20050903_02_edit

📅 Thu, Feb 15, 2024 4:20PM ⌚ 54:51

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

new orleans, people, houston, glbt community, fact, louisiana, fundraisers, astrodome, couple, red cross, talking, town, shelters, water, heard, mississippi, sitting, center, boot, home

SPEAKERS

Roy, Chris



00:00

He's also in the big blacks. Did you want to say a few words about the big blanks? Yes, Darren is also the founder of the Gulf Coast duplex Kodaira.



00:09

I just tell you a little bit about Blue piping. Boot blacking is taking care of leather. That's my fetish is basically serving. I can always be found in some little dark corner on a Saturday night polishing somebody's boots with his tongue, usually with the tone Yeah. Gulf Coast duplex. We are. We are regional club. We have a member in San Antonio, we got a member in Austin, and we have members here in Houston. And they're, they're really eager to work on your boots, and they're not all as sick as I am. But they still do a good job



00:50

they are they do a really good job.



00:53

And many, many times you see boot blacks donating their services for charity. Oh, yeah, I definitely think that a lot.



01:05

Darren and the boot blacks here locally. And I know the ones in Austin as well, when there's a fundraiser they're there. And with the money, you get that boot black that goes to that charity. That's right. So I mean, if you see the boot black out, yeah, tip the boot black for his effort. But

you know, just keep in mind the money you're paying to have your boots done that's going to that charity of none that night. So they're not they're trying to make a quick buck. They're they're trying to help and that's how they help. That's how they contribute. They can't get up on a stage and sing and dance. They don't want to get in drag the way that they don't, you know, the way that they help is they get out there and they bootblack for your dollars. So they can donate that money to that charity.



01:45

So I think that's incredibly admirable. And with that, I think we covered everything we need to jump in here and remind folks that they're listening to after hours, career radio with attitude, right here on good old KPFT Houston 90.1 FM. And down there in Galveston, you can pick us up at 89.5 FM and Chris will fill you in on everything I forgot



Chris 02:13

to say www.kpft.org



02:17

and how do they get in touch with us personally afterhours@kpft.org



02:22

Good



Chris 02:23

we'll transition music before we bring in our kind of Roundtable talking about going over some more of the events that are coming up in the community and some of the impressions over this week. And



02:34

before you denounce that I need to announce that we we've brought the special show because of the circumstances but this is our 18th birthday. Oh my after hours went on the air September 6 1987 My



Chris 02:51

god we're legal Yes, we are legal now. The sad part is you know, to be celebrating that and in the midst of I know all that's going on I



03:05

know that's why this is the first time I've even mentioned it on the cake you be okay, tell me about this piece of music. Yeah,



Chris 03:16

I was looking at the CDs there and you know, this is a song that just kind of works for a lot of different things and you know, I think that the spirit of New Orleans is is kind of guiding everybody what they're doing right now and so we're gonna go a little Syd Spencer chasing that neon rainbow



03:32

and the late great said Spencer



Chris 03:35

and the wind beneath my wings and we'll be back with roundtable. To the spirit of New Orleans out there. I know they're kind of I think I think the spirit of that town is because kind of leading us on and I know after talking with a lot of people who they don't like the term refugee they like the term survivor Hey guys, we're talking we're on the air now. They may not be able to hear it on your bikes aren't on yet but I can hear you is driving me crazy I just love when I'm trying to talk about something serious and you guys just got a screw around so I guess I should be used to it now. You guys I can't seem to get a serious point out of your point.



04:51

Sorry, we've been at the other show all night. The one in the back room.



Chris 04:57

But you know I don't like that. I missed the first part of the show I was still over the, the rip cord during the first of many fundraisers here in the Houston GLBT community, a couple of resources for you to go to to find out about some of the events and some of the things you can do in the community. If you go to yahoo group, and you do a search, you can go to Louis weekend. That's l u e y weekend all one word. Search for that yahoo group that gives you the Houston Council of clubs, many of the member and auxiliary clubs are putting on events. So there'll be broadcast on there. Even go to the rainbow Cross, which is the charter if it's the rainbow cross or just rainbow cross. Houston's rainbow cross is the yahoo group Houston with Houston's with an S, Rainbow cross all one word, check out the Yahoo groups on that. We'll be clearing houses for that we're also have a site on the Houston big men's club.com website. If you go to the website, the on the front page, there is a button that says Houston cares. And click on there. And we're going to have a calendar of events coming up of different events,

fundraisers, fundraisers, and that tomorrow. The Colt 45 have an unprecedented benefit for Katrina. Like I said, refugees, they told us you know, they want to be called survivors. hot sweaty loads of fun with your hostess daddy rose Smith slinging drinks behind the bar. Basically, what's gonna happen is bad daddy Rose is one of the bartenders have an E Jays. And I think most of the other bartenders are also kicking in their tips from two to 8pm. To help out with a really fun, cold 40 fives we'll be accepting new personal items, phone cards, gently used clothing, and toiletries, especially to be donated to GL BT Katrina survivors. And that's the important thing, what you're seeing a lot of these people do is we're gonna find the GLBT community out there who's displaced and that's who we're going to go help. Because there's already been some reports of people who have been harassed, because they're gay in the shelters. And especially when you consider you know, the Red Cross is okay with us. Salvation Army, and, and a lot of shelters are being set up in churches. Oh,



07:37

never underestimate people's ability to rise to the lowest level of



07:45

well, it can be argued in interviews out there.



07:48

In a in a world where it is true to be said that, not only the best that situations like this bring out the best in people. It can also bring out the worst. Yeah, yeah, just one, I mean, the idea that people would take advantage of a situation as horrible and treat other people badly. You know,



Chris 08:20

you have to look at the history of it. You know, even in the times of, you know, the back of the Holocaust, the lowest peg on the rail was the gay man. Yeah, it was the homosexual that, you know, there is that pecking order. And when you've gotten nothing, when you were that desolate, I guess, in some sense, once you have to say you'll grasp on anything to pull yourself out of there. And if that's what it takes, you know, it's the same bullying mentality we see in our schools.



08:51

Yeah. Yep. in prisons, and



08:55

that refuse to see themselves as all being on the same page in a situation like this. Yeah, I

mean, they're all survivors, refugees, whatever word you they're all sort of all those people who made it out.



09:12

They survived they're not floating around and



09:15

are Black White. It I mean, you



Chris 09:16

know, that's the downside. We know a lot of people will keep referencing this back to 911. But you know, I remember that great quote, after 911. The supposedly was maybe an urban legend, some kid said to you know, look at the people there's no black, there's no white, everyone's Gray, Ryan. And unfortunately, what we're seeing with the relief efforts in especially New Orleans is the fact that the the predominant number of people who couldn't get out of the city who didn't have the cars, you didn't have the transportation or the financially strapped financially strapped, and the majority of them are African American. Right. And what's



09:53

New Orleans in general,



09:57

also a majority



Chris 09:59

but you You know, that's just another part is that people are looking at this going, you know, you know, I'm sitting there watching some of the stuff and the amount of African Americans in there, you know, if they didn't have the word New Orleans printed across the top, you would almost think we're talking Mogadishu Jr. area or Nigeria, you know, or you know, Haiti seeing what's going on there and it just didn't



10:24

look like the United States



Chris 10:30



Chris 10:26

it doesn't look like it's not as active,



Roy 10:28

you know, in regards to the referencing of on 911 on 911. We had some buildings in a very specific location that got destroyed. This is an entire city.



10:45

I mean, the entire city from New Orleans clear up to a Biloxi, Mississippi, even out



10:54

toward mobile and Pensacola to understand.



Chris 10:58

Can you imagine if, you know, all of a sudden here in Texas, you take, you take a line from Brownsville up to Laredo, just basically trace the coast up there. And imagine all of that territory, just decimated Ryan. And you know, I don't know how this is x square miles, but it sounds are close to me. That's what we're talking about is just, you know, the Category Five category four areas. And, you know, we haven't even seen what was hit first.



11:35

No, like, what, what would happen if something like this hit and we had? And all of a sudden, Austin? Or what's the other big city of Dallas, San Antonio, San Antonio, we're suddenly beachfront property. That would mean I mean, think about that. Everything from the gone. And that would be here, we got a taste of that analysis. Right. But here, the waters go away. The next day, the waters start to recede. We get lucky in that. And we still and we lost 23 people there 1000s Who may be dead. Right.



Chris 12:22

I think that's part of what's what's what's kind of hampered the effort is because we as Americans, I've said it before it we're a knee jerk reactionary society. And basically, we need to see the bodies before we do anything. That's what's taken so long to get the relief there. You know, 911, when we saw the people jumping out, we knew it was real. And unfortunately, our news, no matter what size we were called Liberal Democrat, they sanitize it. So we don't see that. Now,



12:56



12:56

I understand the New York Times on its front page day had a picture of a person's body floating facedown in the floodwaters. You know, and



Chris 13:06

that's the sort of thing that you know, Latin America and Europe, they would be showing that, you know, suicide bombers have no problem showing this. They would it when the suicide bombers, you know, they would take the victims just put a sheet over them, line them up and show the world this is what happened. And I think that's why no one's react, why we're getting not the reaction on this is because right now, the official death count is 200 but that there's gonna be 10,000 It's good. Yeah,



13:33

it's gonna be up in the Dallas, Galveston the 98,000. I think 8000 12,000.



13:39

And there's and that's got to be because it you know, they were already there was somebody who was saying that already in their one town in this one little town. They had they had lost over 100 people so you know, 200 people, my but less. You know



13:59

what, what you're getting is the official death toll out of Mississippi because they can visibly count those people because they've recovered those bodies. And New Orleans is hard to recover a body unless it floats up. Yeah. And really New Orleans, the focus is on the living and not the people who are dead.



Chris 14:17

And like I said, you're only talking about New Orleans, everything south of New Orleans, underwater. Yep. One of the reasons why the the big ones is doing a lot of the stuff is fact, our president his his parents and his brother lived in Buress. Which for Hurricane Katrina was ground 01 They got hit with Category Five storms. Wow. They were hit for several hours. With that category fives for that town is off the map on Yeah. Now there's some reports coming out. There's some structures for five. They're not 100% sure yet, but they're not even true. Trying to get there the yet. They say they're talking 20,000 People just in that parish,



15:05

that's the thing too is that we don't know the scope of the tragedy in Louisiana yet because the focus is so much on getting refugees out that really, you know, the damage, right? It's hard to

get in there and see, okay, this many people are dead, this is gone, this is still standing, whatever,



15:22

and how many how many people are underneath the rubble. Ryan, how many people have been gobbled up by alligators and other critters?



15:29

On TV? You know, everybody who knows me knows one of my big things is science fiction on a science fiction show in a heartbeat. They can, you know, some alien race can make an entire town and entire planet vanish. This is real life.



15:46

This is a her entire town,



15:48

town,



Chris 15:49

town communities,



15:51

communities, parishes, whatever name, you know, pick the name for the area. They're gone. Nothing left. But what I've started from the body system, you know, scrap,



Chris 16:05

let's put it this way to put it in the simplest terms, the students this year who are in high school studying United States geography. Right, you are the last one to draw the map this way. Because I guarantee that you're going to see the Louisiana part that extends out into the Gulf. That's changed. Yeah, the parts of Mississippi islands are gone in misunderstand



16:36

some barrier islands and Louisiana are gone to completely wiped out,



Chris 16:41

we're talking about, you know, you are going to be redrawing the maps. Your students next year when the textbooks come out. There is going to be a new map of the United States. And new map of Louisiana. It's sobering.



16:54

Really, when you think about it in those terms, though, you know, I mean, here for the last, you know, 300 years, we've been drawing the map of Louisiana like this. And now that geography has completely changed. Yeah, it's, you know, they're,



17:13

you know, you see certain arrogant ideas of, you know, people, you've heard of man over nature and, you know, cog and you know, they can do whatever they want, they can hold back this and change that. And, and nature can come back and say no, yes, again, yes, again, yes. Never all of a sudden their nature another Never underestimate the fact that this planet can wipe out all all our plans, all our stuff. In a matter of minutes.



17:47

Friend of mine, told me one time he says we want to make God laugh, tell him your plans.



17:53

There's a, there was a, you know, the there's an island that's being swallowed by a volcano slowly swallowed by a volcano was a resort island. I mean, just beautiful homes and beaches and stuff. And just and, and 80% of the island is under lava. I mean, the the, the equivalent here, I mean, 80 80% of a city no longer existing as it once did. And people can talk about the history of New Orleans and all of the beautiful things that people would go to see that everything from Mardi Gras to, to the the the old homes with the wrought iron district that yeah, the you know, the bulk round cemetery and the above ground cemeteries. And, and, you know, most of that is gone, gone. Yeah, that was a beaver



Chris 18:56

even to rebuild, you know, that's fine. We can rebuild, we can make it look just as nice as it was. But that's not a 19th century home. No, that's not the character that's not the spirit. Right. That's what a tower Orleans. And like I said, you know, the fact that this town, more than any other more than us more than one of the things that I would get, I would dare to say more than San Francisco, more than New York, opened its arms up to the GLBT community of the world. Yeah. And the fact that they did that, you know, this time that we're gonna be stepping up and like I said, it's amazing watching the people who came out and said, you know, we can do this.



19:40

New Orleans was really more of a melting pot than say, New York or some other big metropolitan area was really, I mean, the French Quarter was kind of a convergence zone of the Spanish, the French, and the other cultures that had gathered there. You know, it was a bigger melting pot than you know New York ever was.



19:59

Have a friend who survived, who'd left before it started. And he doesn't even he did does has no idea of his apartment is still there. There was a young man here earlier. And we were discussing the fact that although all of this has happened, and this will affect life, for a group for years to come, as long, the one thing they can see as a bright spot is as long as you are still alive, all of the stuff, no matter how expensive, the material can be replaced, cereal can be replaced, cereal can be replaced, things can be replaced human key, the human lives that are gone, are gone, you know, you know,



20:52

oh, my thing is, is that me being a young transgender, bisexual is the fact that that was one place where most of the young people could go and actually experiment and and try this out. And now suddenly, we've lost a place where people can go and be their true selves. And I feel really bad about that. But I also feel that Houston has begun to open up more, right and become more of a GLBT center. And it's kind of started to take over the responsibilities of New Orleans. And I hope this continues. Well,



Chris 21:26

the downside of all this stuff is, you know, because of the timing of the event, you know, 100,000 Predominantly, men, were heading to New Orleans for southern decadence. Right, another six to 700 of us were heading there for convergence. And, you know, so



21:45

we're, I think it was a national year 60 British tourists were there.



Chris 21:50

Yeah, I mean, there was a lot, but these were people that were heading there that were gonna be there this weekend. And the fact it was the fact is that a lot of people who are going to this their first, the first thoughts were, you know, of the loss of the event, not the loss of this town, the loss of of what this town meant, of why you were going there, you weren't going you weren't, I don't really think I mean, you can go to any town, and you can throw together

something where you can drop your pants and do do the things you do at Southern, you can do that. And you can find someplace to do that in any town. Really. I mean, but it was the spirit of New Orleans. And unfortunately, a lot of people just thought of it as now that, you know, oh, we've lost out on this. But you know,



22:45

I mean, put it putting really not even a whole if not just specifically a GLBT thing. Well, yeah, now the word but although we have this is how much we have. The I mean, think about the the historical things that are born there. I mean, there was one of the true only true American art forms, jazz.



23:14

Americans classical



23:15

music, you know, the amount? Yeah, I mean, is, you know, the home of that is the blues, the blues to have, you know, where all of these things were born out of and there, and all of that, while the history the memory of that history is here, the home of that, you know, the physical, physical home of that is gone. You know, really



23:40

a lot of people, you know, did an interview a couple of nights ago on Nightline. And they were saying that, you know, New Orleans isn't dead, it's still alive in their hearts and, you know, in their memories. You know, it's still very much alive to them.



23:54

You know, and it's just a question of, now, you'd you start over? And no, it's not what it was. But you start over and you try to do something new. Take



24:11

your cues from Houston after Allison. I mean, look at how many, you know, the loss of life is minimal, but the loss of homes, businesses, etc. was huge. You know, and here in New Orleans, it's almost flip flopped, where it's loss of life is massive. You bet the lost property is, you know, even greater.



Chris 24:29

Yeah, hopefully what hopefully, what, if anything, New Orleans is gonna come out of this is, you know, there may have been, I don't know, the history of New Orleans. I don't know, you know, the history of the racial struggles in there. But I think what they're going to have to do is look at this and see this tragedy and see what happened after the fact. You know, hurricane, the Hurricane Katrina didn't knock out New Orleans. Beans. It wasn't the wind. No, it wasn't the tornadoes. That's what took out Mississippi. It was the filling up of Lake Pontchartrain right? It was the lovey lovey breaks and the Mississippi River backing up into the city. If those things would have held, you know, then it could have been, you know, it, maybe New Orleans would have actually survived more if they are I would have hit directly over it. Because maybe the wind, the water would have gotten out of there sooner and didn't fill up as much was a lot of this if Well,



25:36

the thing is, indeed, and the IFS in the end, you know, don't end up mattering worth, you know, a Fiddler's damn as this goes, you know, because you can't, you know, if doesn't matter, here's what we have Ryan frogs



25:53

had wings, they wouldn't be bumping there as



25:55

well. What I don't understand is that I mean, up till just before it hit, they knew it was gonna hit and they knew what was gonna, you know, basically, except for the levees breaking and stuff. They knew what was gonna happen. How come the US government wasn't prepared for something like this? Because the



26:10

Army Corps of Engineers had funding cut



Chris 26:12

short the short answer. And to the the entire it's the entire administration was on vacation. Yeah, that's it's



26:22

just ridiculous. I



Chris 26:22



Chris 26:23

mean, the President was in Crawford, a



26:26

privacy at the



Chris 26:30

his head secretary Andrew Carr was in Maine. Cheney is still in Wyoming. Condoleezza Rice was sitting in New York watching span a lot on Broadway on quickness.



26:43

The governor of Louisiana was on the news tonight. And he said that he's been trying to get trying to get food down there. And



Chris 26:52

Nagin or bla bla bla bla bla, which one is it? If



26:55

you see he was on Nightline tonight? Okay. It was African American, no white, white guy. He might have been



Chris 27:03

lieutenant governor, the governor of Louisiana is a woman. Yeah, okay. Well, there was a she was, oh, wait,



27:09

it was a guy that she was a little ticked off.



27:12

I think it was somebody representing a lot of the parishes down there. Okay. It could be a parent, it could have been a parish president. And what it is, is he's been trying to get food down there. And it's just sitting around here. And everything. I



Chris 27:23

think I know who you're talking about. I saw I saw him on. He was on the one press conference, right after the governor tore down or Dennis Hastert a new one.



27:37

I mean, this guy ready to go in there. And he's talked to the I think it was the Red Cross and a couple other Red Cross channels, national Cardinals still sitting there. And it was there for since yesterday. And it's still there. As far as I know. That's ridiculous. Well, I mean enough food to feed all those people in that convenience. Easier to get people



27:57

phone call he made food was food got to tsunami Viken victims quicker than he did Katrina victims. If you'd look at it.



28:08

It's like the tsunami ended up causing and the tsunami hit. You know, more than, you know,



28:19

you don't get it we're just getting means that they've already estimated the damage at 35. Point 5 billion, and all Congress has given us is 10.5 1/3. Of



28:30

what say that is a down payment on three. So



Chris 28:34

that's the beginning part. Yeah, the fact that they came back from from their summer vacation does show at least something. Yeah,



28:42

I don't know if it shows much, but it shows something. You



Chris 28:46

know, one last bit of basketball cheating on this one. Emotion backing is, you know, we're in the

know, one last bit of basketball shooting on this one. Emotion bashing is, you know, we're in the middle of a gas crisis. And Bush went from from Crawford, which is just outside of wake up. He flew at a low level over the affected area, went to Washington, gave a couple of speeches. And then he flew back to the area. Why in the world is all this extra fuel being wasted on that? He should have been there from the start.



29:18

Yeah, but it wasn't secure. They were shooting planes. They



Chris 29:22

weren't shooting planes down. A bunch of one small arms fire shot at a helicopter and



29:28

there was snipers. There was snipers. That's why they had to get it secured. That's where the army came into their



Chris 29:33

Bucha Well, the Army, the Army military,



29:37

that army's not doing anything good because they're all they're doing is treating people like criminals there's a whole convention center froze by women and children that it's they're just treating them like crap.



Chris 29:49

Yeah, I'm tired of you putting your two cents on. We can't hear you on the



29:54

rainbow. Well, I mean, if you've got a veggie full of women and children and sick people Then medics and and all the military is doing is holding them hostage because they think they're looters. Well, I treat victims like criminals, you got to realize,



30:08

I realized that there are going to be people who are going to take advantage of a situation.

Right now. You have to put the people get their butts on the vehicles, get them to the shelters, the homes, the what the whatever, whatever. And, and yeah, maybe it sounds a little naive and all that. But save the lives first. Yeah. Then deal with



30:34

because they've already because the law breakers are really a very, very minut part of



30:43

it. Some of the looters are actually part of the people that are in the convention center. And what they're doing is they're taking food back to the conventions. Yeah. And passing it out to everybody. There. There is the looting. That's there.



Chris 30:53

Okay. Yeah. There is the other element part of this, you know, there were people that were saying that, you know, there were there Yang's people getting ready. Yeah, it was Hurricane Katrina was hitting, going, you know, we're gonna go and get out of this place. We're gonna loot this place, we're gonna take care of it. That's gonna happen. It's gonna happen. Any one of these places that you have that warning? And the fact is, there's no, there's not gonna be astounding that these people who are you saw walking out of the one appliance rental place with the big screen TV. Yeah,



31:26

those are those are the people that they should be prosecuting the ones that are taking food, and they



31:31

can forget forgive food and water. But like anything above that was going to be pretty much non negotiable. I mean, they will.



31:40

I mean, you got a hurricane coming at you. I still a TV. Exactly. I mean, I'll get some food, go get some water.



31:44

There was a was somebody who they showed plucking through the debris of her home. And she said, I lost my pictures, and I grabbed a DVD player and a TV. And she doesn't see the logic in it

now that she's lost her pictures which are irreplaceable. Now. You know.



32:02

It's like people, people in this type of situation. They realize what their priorities are. And suddenly it's a life changing thing, because suddenly their priorities aren't the important thing. Right.



32:11

And you know, the whole thing down there has gotten so desperate that even one of the parish police precinct had to leave their regular station house and move into the local Walmart, where they've been there for the last for the past week. And they've had to literally look to Walmart for



Chris 32:35

that. No, technically that's that's allowed under law. Under the state of emergency, there's declared



32:41

there's one police officer that he actually got fired from the police force for doing this. He used his cruiser, he had an SUV with a snorkel to go get food for that convention center out there. He specifically did that because he got sick of seeing these people starving,



32:53

there's been any of the police that are walking off the job, quit their job.



32:57

What was it? The police chief, one of the police chiefs quit Recently, because of what was going on? I mean, is that it was ridiculous. I mean, that



33:07

which is beyond their control, they need the the army the to come in and take over control. And like criminals, I mean, trained in this area.



Chris 33:19

Well see, the problem is it can't really be the army because what's referred to as Posse Comitatus, we do not allow United States law does not allow for the United States military to be used upon its own citizens, except in extreme circumstances. So in



33:37

extreme circumstances,



33:39

you're talking about military law that just creates more havoc.



33:43

Well, why the martial law



Chris 33:44

is what the problem is, is situations like this are traditionally done by National Guard's troops, right. And where are the external guards, owls and members of the Louisiana and Mississippi National Guard are high and dry. In Iraq? Yeah. And in Afghanistan,



34:06

there's a couple of National Guard units in Iraq that aren't doing anything right now.



34:10

I understand that they actually flew some back from Iraq to come and help out with the relief effort. I don't know if that happened or not, though. It is.



34:18

But all they're doing is guarding empty buses that should be taking people to shell or



Chris 34:22

you get situations like, I was just reading a thing on here, you know, a bunch of buses came in and they thought it was going to be going to the Superdome, it drove past the Superdome and went to the Hyatt and picked up 700 guests and employees of the Hyatt, the Hyatt Hotel, who

you know, they've been without food. They've been out water and they've been without electricity for the same amount of time. But, you know, I'm sure those the rooms at the Hyatt are a lot better than the floor of the Superdome.



34:54

Yeah, there's one of the things about tragedies like this Which sort of is an interesting thing is that tragedy can be the great equalizer disease, that whatever. It's there is tragedy there is this thing wiped out the big homes. The small shacks, the little cardboard boxes hard Gorter. Yeah, I mean, the little cardboard shanties, the, this this thing, there was a million you know, they made a point of reference talking about a multimillion dollar home that was just got obliterated nothing but no slab it was sitting on the numbers



35:44

or all of that was to save the French Quarter. Yeah,



35:47

the the numbers are right now that it's about 87% of Gulfport gone 90% of Biloxi gone 100% of New Orleans, gone.



Chris 36:02

French, but the fact is, is there's going to be seems to have first quarter it may not have gotten the water damage of you know, 10 foot swells. The fact is the amount of water that's sitting in there, because basically the the composition of what all the buildings are sitting on are super saturated, they're not going to support the weight of the buildings, that by the time



36:25

the water out, it's reclaimed. Not much better than here in Texas. So



Chris 36:29

by the time when when the world when you know, they get the water out, and that area starts to dry, and the ground will crack and will crumble. Those buildings will probably come down.



36:42

Well, there's only said it a couple of times, but they are telling people that this area is on habitable. They you can't Well, there's no returning back to New Orleans or go that well.



Chris 36:55

No, they can't return to say unfortunately, you know, you get people like Dennis Hastert who, who said they're, you know, they can, they can go in and they can rebuild, they can go in dredge out another couple of feet out of Lake Pontchartrain and take that dump it into New Orleans, you know, they take two foot off the bottom of Lake Pontchartrain, they put it on top of the New Orleans, you've now got four foot difference. Well, what



37:16

they're trying to do is a great raising that they did in Galveston over 100 years ago to the storm. And yeah, it should have been done sooner. But you know, I don't see how that's going to be a band aid solution to a larger problem really is what it is. They



Chris 37:32

need to build up the town. Right?



37:35

If if anything, you know, ranting on about why this happened and whose fault you know, the levees. That's not gonna not gonna get us anywhere. It's getting it is at this point, right now. What do we do? Now? What who's that we help? Now? How do we make what happens from this point forward, better for those who survive this dead end. And that's what's gonna make this and in whatever form it takes.



38:10

And that's what the ending of the show was about.



38:14

And that's an interesting way of putting it, Merlin because basically what the victims of Katrina are concentrating or now are most of these people have been separated from loved ones they've they've their brothers and sisters and dads went one direction the mom and grandmother and uncles went the direction



38:30

and there's no communication still being split up even now. Still, we're





38:34

going on we're going on early Saturday morning. So they know where their families are, they still don't have any contact of if they're alive if they survived if they got out. Last, it's not confirmed. But in St. Bernard Parish, there's a warehouse with 2000 evacuees that were there. And for some reason, last year I was able to get a hold of was that they're not evacuated. There. They can't not not because they don't have the resources. It's because these people now have to be quarantined.



39:04

Yeah, a friend of mine tonight was who, who's from New Orleans was saying that, you know, and we were talking about that, where it's, I mean, he, he managed to get I think he's managed to get a hold of his family members. But all of his family members, homes are gone. Families are okay. But everything they had, all of their possessions are gone, but they're alive and as long as they're there. They have at least the possibility of rebuilding something that will run you know, yeah.



39:40

I'd like to get your guy's opinion on something real quick. Okay. My mother. Some of y'all may know her from by net, her name is Rose. What it is, as she called me last night and said that their construction companies are hiring like crazy for reconstruction jobs. I mean, what is your guys's opinion on that? I mean, personally I'd love to go down there and help. But I'm not sure about because they're saying 10 \$12 an hour for this. It's it's an 80 hour



40:08

week. Yeah, necessarily reconstruction, what it is, it's cleaning, you're going to be pulling debris breaks. Really,



40:15

I think our focus should be more here on the people who are here now, help them out as we can, while we can, and worry about, you know, all that later, because that's that's minor. They're here, they're alive, let's



40:32

say, ones out of there that are still



40:33

not buying homes or those who



40:36

rely on these people aren't even concentrating on long term plans not coming to the realization that they're actually going to have to sit here and stay here for months, up to six weeks.



Chris 40:46

A lot. A lot of the thing is this, you know, you're at a point where some of these people, you know, they they have been in a news blackout. They have they've heard rumors, this they've heard rumors that, you know, you've seen the devastation of rumors and cause you heard what happened in Iraq. So I'm gonna start a rumor and in a matter of minutes, 900 people are dead. And the fact is, you're hearing stories, someone's hearing well, this is happening in this town, you know, we're gonna I mean, in Baton Rouge, there were so many of there's going to be there's a gas shortage, a food shortage, and there's vans of looters running around. And that's the only news they've been getting. And now they're getting out to the safety, they can actually see what's going on and finding out what's happened in their community. It may not have hit some of these people get that, you know, they're screwed. You know,



41:35

it was an interesting thing, the, you know, newscasters are supposed to be by nature supposed to be detached, and just deal with what's happening and some, I've seen some posters casters coming apart at the scene, there's one that actually



41:51

had his annotation helicopter fly in food for the convention.



41:55

And sometimes newscasters are sitting there going to hell with my job. I got to help somebody getting in there and



42:03

try and become the story, you know, in journalism class, but it's hard to avoid becoming the story when you're in the middle of it, and usually, you're the only resource there is for them. waynedale Tofino was in Louisiana, okay. And he was having to share his satellite phone with, you know, the police, the fire, you know, EMS, et cetera, because that was the only satellite phone available.



Chris 42:32

I mean, the most, the most powerful thing I saw was watching on channel 76, they had a reporter go up in the helicopter, and was giving a aerial tour of New Orleans. And you know, how in the world he was able to keep it together? Yeah, I watching all the coverage on channel 76. I've only seen one of their anchors break down. And I mean, she got it together in a couple of minutes. And then better than you see. Was it Robin Roberts on Good Morning



43:00

America came just families there.



Chris 43:03

Yeah, it's just just fell to pieces. You can even find out Hold on. We were



43:07

talking earlier. Houston is gearing up to help people now here. And one of the things you should all remember out there is the number to the game lesbian switchboard, which is 713-529-3211 not only for emergency stuff now. But they're also putting together a section for jobs because that that's next, they're going to be emergency stuff is taken care of. And we've got people in at least temporary housing, they're going to need to get jobs and then the other board is gearing up. They've already they've had people come to them and say, you know, hey, we want to hire some of these folks. We've got things going on. So they're



Chris 43:59

doing the database. They're doing the database work, because not only for people trying to match up for jobs, they're trying to match up volunteers and are trying to match up housing. Yes, yeah. If you've if you've got room and then the you know, contact the switchboard, and they will get you they'll get you set up, you know, screen people back and forth and you have to screen each other to make sure you're going to be compatible so that you're not in a shelter. And you know, if you're openly gay because we've had the issues or like I said the ones one shelter already, where you know, there's been some borderline hate crime activity going on. And this is a safe way of where you can be to get out to get out of it.



44:41

What I wish I wish we could get the KPFT get up enough money to get some of these abandoned warehouses and and release them for a while and set up beds and stuff for the GLBT community that way they have some place to go and stay



44:56

loyal to those of us in the community.



44:58

Correct me if I'm wrong did At the state didn't the state what is his name Perry Carey ferry to the governor of the state of Texas, Dan, he ordered that all available short income housing be made. They're



Chris 45:09

working on stuff like that, you know, yeah,



45:11

those are those are things that are still in the works. They're rumors, whatever, until it's confirmed, until



Chris 45:17

it actually happens. So people are gonna start moving on right now. You know, here in Houston, we've got the Astrodome, we've got Reliance center, they're doing Park,



45:27

Lakewood Church. Well, of all that space.



45:31

Lakewood is really what they're doing is they're collecting money. Right. And they're collecting, you know, food at center everything they can to help people



45:43

already are the television stations were emphasizing on the fact that they as a station, they cannot promote people moving in and staying with other people



45:54

because the legal issue, that's also the thing that red cross it is that we cannot right match people with people besides shelters





46:01

that are set out. We hope that we can they can't because of legal issues and things if something happened and



46:06

if there's a built family in this place,



Chris 46:09

would you be he's in there talking? That's okay. I



46:14

can hear him in the if there are empty buildings in this place, that are sitting there that are not doing put people in them. There's no right. It's not the best thing in the world. But it's a whole lot better than sitting out in the lake that used to be their home.



46:35

People camping out it's outside the Astrodome right now. I mean, there's warehouses right near there that are open and empty. I mean, you can have construction crews go into the Astrodome and start taking out seats to make more room. I mean, yeah.



46:49

There's even Palmer Palmer Memorial Episcopal Church is serving dinner. Now they're located right at the base of the medical center, but they're serving dinner from what 6730 I've got it in the notes there on page two.



47:08

I know that I know for a fact that the Houston Apartment Association has already sent out word to all the apartments in their association. You got a vacant apartment. We need it for more these evacuations are



47:24

their thing too is that I've heard that on the International Association of shopping centers or some organization along those lines is asking for shopping malls, shopping centers, etc. With large empty spaces, empty department stores, whatever, to hand that over to refugees. The

Red Cross uses a shelter. I think JC Penney, Northwest small was one of those places they targeted. But I never heard anything more about it the rest of the day. So I don't know where we're hearing.



47:55

I was at the Red Cross headquarters, where they're coming in from Louisiana and Baytown. They had there was three different families that were offering their homes to evacuees, Red Cross wasn't given them any influence or any recommendations. So they were out in the parking lot just waiting to grab up the first family. They couldn't just take them in there. So the need is as slow as it is it is trying to be met the I think everyone's going for long term housing. I



48:24

think all these friends the seven or eight bedroom houses need to open up I mean, thank you. I mean, this is ridiculous they hiding in there. So



48:32

I think what we need to deal with is that these here's the situation, here's what needs to be dealt with here is and, you know, toss rules, regulations and all this stuff. These people need some place to be right. And there's even parking and yes, I realize that and the best thing that is you in an emergency room situation, is everybody going to do everything? absolutely perfectly and beautifully and wonderfully. And and is it all gonna go smoothly? No. But you just gotta try you, you. You know, people have to do the best that they can to help the situation, the situation you know, the best that they can whatever that is



49:31

they call the situation at the Astrodome controlled chaos because they were handling so many people and having to process volunteers at the same time. You know, well,



49:41

I'll say this, that Houstonians, especially here in the in the gay community. I have never been so proud of my community, as I am this night, after hearing the early part of the show what the what this community is doing You're hearing Chris giving his call and thing from from the report and he's other people and I'm getting a rap upside from Jimmy. Well,



Chris 50:10

we're gonna go to the end here and what I want to do one last time is want to throw out some of some important numbers for people so grab a pencil and paper real quick. I'm pulling down mics here so we can just get this out to everyone. Important numbers there. You've heard

about the community switchboard number. Montrose clinic is going to be having emergency medicines and clinic hours this weekend. For more information, the the hurricane lights 713-830-3047 or on the web at mantras clinic.org Houston's rainbow cross at Yahoo. groups.com We'll be clearing house for information. Montrose Counseling Center you heard some of the stuff going on there. That's mantra is counseling center dot O R G, Houston GLBT community center 3400 Montreux suite 207 is looking at having volunteers to come in and man the phones and there's gonna be some fundraisers coming up with their movie night. Check out the website Houston GLBT community center dot O R G don't forget tomorrow at the EJ is Colt 45 is going to be doing a fundraiser. cash donations tipping to the bartenders bring stuff hygenic products hate the 99 cent stores. hit them hard. Get the most bang for your buck because these people need the stuff there. And like I said, it's even a special little toys that you can pick up so that you can



51:46

what I just want to mention real quick I noticed this on my way home from work. There are families sitting on the side of the road asking for money if you see one. Give them what you can because these people have no money. They have no money for food. They have kids, they have family members and they need something to keep them going.



Chris 52:03

Okay Rhesus the turnout show on Saturday, September, September Saturday tomorrow 7pm at keys West will be going to the relief on if you know one of the refugee survivors who are hearing impaired. Contact the Astro Alliance for the deaf. And there'll be helping out with getting interpreters palms Memorial Church, the Medical Center's gonna be doing at 6221 South Main from 6730 they'll be having serving meals for everyone. Assistance Fund is helping with medicines at 713-579-4788. We've got plenty of resources out there like I said on the Yahoo groups Houston's read a Houston's Rainbow cross.on, the yahoo group, Louis weekend Lone Star activists, you can go to Houston big men's club.com and click on the Houston cares button. And we will get this out and we will we'll show the community at large what we can do. We we've done it with the HIV AIDS crisis. We're going to do it with Katrina. We're going to help ourselves if we have to, and we're going to bring everyone else along with it. For those guests of New Orleans in Houston, welcome to Houston and hopefully we'll make your stay as pleasant as possible. We'll be back next week.



53:29

You have been listening to after hours queer radio with attitude, a continuing tradition here on KPFT don't



Chris 53:38

forget to check out our sister program queer voices every Monday night 8pm to 10pm. We love to hear from you our listeners. We want your story ideas discussion topics event announcements, love mail hate mail dirty and there are two ways to get it to us snail



53:57

mail is after hours care of KPFT 90.1 FM 419 Love it Boulevard Houston Texas 7706



Chris 54:10

Our email address is after hours at KPFT dot o RG. If you missed a show or want to share a part of a show with a friend. Check out our online archive at KPFT archive dot o RG we



54:24

will be back next week and hopefully you will be able to join us on behalf of the crew of after hours. Good night and have a great week.



Chris 54:32

This is listener sponsored commercial free Pacific radio for the Gulf Coast KPFT 90.1 FM Houston and 89.5 fm Galveston, you can always find us on the worldwide web at KPFT dot o RG