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## SPEAKERS

Merlin, Chris, Dionne Redman, Chris Harrison, Jimmy Carper

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00:00

Just a one is a finger prick that we're doing just like to do a diabetes test, you prick the finger, get a little speck of blood put into solution 20 mins lady, it's a bit it's a preliminary test, it's a preliminary positive show that HIV is present, which we would turn around and still draw blood, okay, okay? The mouse or the mouse, and they're both 20 minute tests. So who has the choice in that the client and if they still want to get a VENA punctures they want blood drawn, we will still do that. So we do offer other forms of testing. Because I need to say this, we still we still drawing blood for syphilis and hepatitis C, we still have an STD that had a fight that if you had syphilis, it raises your risk. Okay, due to the sores. And that comes from a from syphilis and some of the other STDs.



Dionne Redman 00:46

So for those of us who are needle phobia, yeah, um, you know, I got a choice, I can go and get the swab.



00:51

Yeah. And with that as a front end of testing, because the readiness, I mean, if you're not ready to know, in 20 minutes, we don't want to put you in that position. We don't want to change your life in 20 minutes if you're not ready. Okay.



Dionne Redman 01:03

All right. So counseling will be available is pretest. And post test, always good to hear because that was not the case back in the day. This day, it is okay. Okay, good to hear. Good to hear. What are some of the different websites that we can go to for more information?



01:19

Well, of course, we want you to go to the WWE dot it's real houston.org. That's the new campaign that we have. And you can go to the city of Houston Health Department. For any HIV questions, also, and CDC always set up disease control. Okay, either.



Chris Harrison 01:39

Yeah. CDC cdc.gov. Would you ever first and unfortunately, because we're getting close to the end, our last caller, thank you have the evening. Let's go. Caller you are on the air. This is Jerry.



01:53

Yeah. Yeah. Hi, Dan. Chris. Hi. Yeah, I just wanted to make an observation to you have y'all looked at y'all ever look at the RAND Corporation site?



Dionne Redman 02:04

Alright, Andy,



02:06

Andy ran corporate Corporation.



Chris Harrison 02:08

What is how does that affect with our it's a think



02:11

tank and they do studies on that stuff. They did a study and they found out that the one of the things that they found out was that like the funding went flat, as soon as anti retrovirals became available. And things like that. They focus on a lot of the same issues that you guys seem to be concerned about, they have a special thing. They have a special site or a special area where they do just HIV studies, but they also focus on how communities of color are different groups are getting served by to help.



Dionne Redman 02:48

Okay, all right, well, good. I'll definitely look into that. Is





02:50

there anything there online? Okay. Rand Corporation. ran.org. Thank you for the R and d.org. Oh,



Dionne Redman 02:57

great. We can add that to our research information. Thank you. Yep. Thank you, Jerry. Thank you. I like colors. I like colors. We'll definitely look into that website. One more time contact phone number for you are



03:11

okay contact number for me is 713-650-0595 extension 4121. Amber David at the bread of life, Inc. and the website that we'd like you to visit is WW dot. It's real houston.org for the new Houston. It's real campaign because it is real.



Dionne Redman 03:33

That's why I truly appreciate your time tonight. We've had an excellent topic, some good discussion as well. Feel free to give us a give us a call or give Amber David a call if you have any further questions that that were not answered today. Next month, July 15. We'll be back. I'll be back black on black. Okay. Close it on out with another Beyonce song. And thank you for joining us tonight.



Chris Harrison 03:55

Thank you, Dion. This is after hours queer radio with attitude. And that was Beyonce part of our black on black segment. And now to shift gears as we do, unfortunately, we're not good at our segways and transitional things. It's it's 230 in the morning, so welcome, Diane.



04:24

Thank you very much. Welcome to the Diane rose show. And good morning out there everybody. We've got a very special hour tonight. Tonight. Joining us is Su level longtime activist, longtime Houston community working person has done a lot for our community. Not only that she knows the history back behind all the struggles that we've been through over the last 2025 years. Welcome, Sue.



04:48

Thank you. I think that's a nice way of saying you're getting old too. We all we are. I feel oh this late in the morning. Now



04:57

I'm telling you it did this catch up with you When your age, but we've got a lot to talk about tonight. And so I'd like to start off with just give us a little bit of the background of some of the things that you've done in our community. Okay.



05:10

Well, I am, I got really involved when in politics when Kathy Wittmeyer was running for comptroller that was in the late 70s, early 80s, I owned a printing business and offered up free printing and somehow stumbled over to what was in the gay political caucus meetings and I was like, Look, I just, I don't really want to do anything. Don't get me involved. All I'll print your newsletter for free. But that's where all I'm going to do as far as it was as far as it's gonna go. And of course, it wasn't,



05:45

of course not.



05:46

When I when I went in and, you know, listen to Ray Hill, you know, was, was very active then I in fact, I was just a roster at his retirement last week, which I believe it when I see it that way is retiring. But you know, just listen to the people there and the struggle and they were really so courageous about being out and and that's when they need a Bryant when it needed Brian, it just came out. And we were all boycotting orange juice and had a march. So I just more and more became involved, ran for the board was the first woman vice president, the organization and then became the first woman president. Wow. And in a nice Parker, at the same time, became the first woman chair of the board. So we were both leaders then. And it was when women went my art was was the mayor. You know, at that time, they were still writing gay bars. Oh, yeah. And weekends. And that was one of the things that we went out and helped Kathy to become mayor was just to stop. Just to stop the bar raise. Like they go back before when Eleanor Tinsley ran for council member for people that are really Oh, she ran against a long, long term, incumbent named Frank Mann. And it was the first time that the gay Political Caucus had endorsed and gotten involved heavily in a campaign and we were the margin of victory for her and Frank man called us odd wads odd was odd was so the I had the button still it says another odd word for Eleanor. You know, I mean, they're still waiting for hours. It was still your labor.



07:27

Yeah, they've flashlights. Everybody ran to the back bathroom and turned around their jeans. So they zipped up the bags. So you weren't impersonating man,



07:34



07:34

right. So anyway, in Easton, I worked very hard. And, in fact, there was a anti discrimination ordinance that was passed. Before Council in who knew it was like throwing a match and a gasoline it. There were people in the city that didn't like wittmeyer people the chamber. And they use that issue really, to try and get back at Kathy, but in doing so, we had a referendum and we lost 41. And people in the city thought we were just dead politically. The lot the year after that referendum, nobody came to seek our endorsement. And everybody was it was just, you know, we're done politically. We've worked, you know, we're done. But of course, people came back. And about that time is when AIDS hit. And I became involved. I was one of the founding board members of what is now the AIDS Foundation, Houston. It was originally the chaos committee. In fact, you know, AIDS was called Grid, originally gay Related Immune Deficiency, and became involved and was on that board for 12 years. And I had my youngest brother died of HIV in 1988. So amongst many, many friends, but it was interesting, I watched this community mature. You know, in other states, you would go and the government's the state governments and city governments and health departments. Were doing something here, there was nothing being done. And part of it was because we just come to this referendum. And none of the politicians including wittmeyer, wanted to touch this issue, because they were afraid of the backlash. And so we suffered here for lack of funding for many years, but this community really dug in and found the resources. And most people don't know but the first ever aids booklet was printed here in Houston, Texas. The money was raised by an organization named che, I owned a printing business. I printed the booklet. And we distributed and we were very frank, about this was a sexually transmitted disease. We were working with the people at MD Anderson, Dr. Peter Mansell, and then that that was sort of on the cutting edge of this disease. And we were really blasted all over United States by the gay groups. For How dare you say this is sexually transmitted? Don't you know you'll take us back to the dark ages, but of course, we were telling the truth. And and then we did the first ever safe sex campaign here in Houston. Again, because we had to do something because we were getting no help. And we went all over United States, training other aids organizations, how to do safe sex trainings. And, and I'm very proud of that this city is part of this history that this it's not talked about. But Houston does a lot of things first, because we didn't have the resources from government that other states had. We had the first food pantry right over here on Westheimer because we had so many people that were coming to us that needed needed food so we put together stone soup food pantries,



10:46

I've done a benefit for stone soup many years ago and



10:48

then Malcador house which is over here on California Street, which is now I think the parking lot for Jr's and, and over them Pacific street, but it was the first ever aids residents house it was named after Michael maca. Dory, who was the first president of the AIDS Foundation for people that were tossed out there people were throwing people out, because they had HIV fear. And it was a transitional. Right. So we have a lot, a lot of firsts. But I think the best thing is the thing I'm most proud of is the the Texas V. Lawrence case, which for many years, I was a part of the Texas Human Rights Foundation. And we fought 2106 which was the sodomy laws. You know, we we, we went to the Supreme Court. First we lost on the Bowers case in Georgia, but we had

a case the Baker case. And then we went to the Texas Supreme Court Morales V. Morales and lost on that. I mean, we were fighting this thing all the way down the line. And here comes, you know, the Lord's case and there's really an interesting history on the Lord's case. You know, we'd raised all these money found all these plaintiffs over the years to do away with this law. And, lo and behold, one night, you know, John and Tyrone were in their own apartment and somebody was, you know, pissed off at him and decided gonna call the cops, you know, as Deputy Sheriff from, you know, out and kiss was Pasadena out in East in Harris County, you know, walks in on him and arrest them in their underwear. Now, here is where connections and being out and people knowing people is really responsible for this. This, this Deputy Sheriff that arrested them, took them back over to the jail. The the justice of the peace whose core this was going to be the case would be heard in his judge Mike parrot. Mike parrot happens to have somebody gay on his staff, whose boyfriend was a deputy reserve Deputy Sheriff on reserve, and was having to serve his keep his reserve status. He was working in the jail that night. And in walks this, you know, I think that it was deputy sheriff Quinn was the guy that arrested them, but he comes walking in. Well, he goes, Oh my God, what are you doing with these guys and underwear? And he says, What I I'm arresting them for sodomy in with



13:12

her underwear. Yeah. Oh, my goodness. And, and immediately he



13:15

clicked. So he calls his boyfriend, he said, You aren't gonna believe this. But we need to let the judge know, because tomorrow morning, these guys are going to be in front of him for sodomy. So they then he then calls his friend of my show up, Hello, who is just a good old bavette redneck that I've known forever when I served on the state Democratic executive committee and says, You aren't gonna believe this. We got two guys down at the jail and underwear being arrested for sodomy. And you need to get a hold of the judge. Cheryl had enough snap to realize, you know what this case was about. And it made some phone calls. And they were able to contact lawyers in our community that put things in motion. So they could have some defense, but she had to go in the morning, very early in the morning to her judge and say, You're not going to believe this. But here's what happened. And you have to convict these guys. And he's like, convict them. I can't convict them. I'll be like, elected out. I mean, it's been part of the Democratic Party platform for years to be against, you know, 2106. She says, No, just trust me. But you've got to do this. And he was like, really, really nervous about it. But he did it. When they went to court. It was in Harris County. So there had to be at this assistant district attorney from Harris County was assigned. Now, as far as I know, there's only two Assistant District Attorneys down there. They're lesbians. And the luck of the draw was we got one of



14:49

my goodness. So she goes



14:54

telling you is divine intervention indefinitely. So they go and of course the judge is still nervous and Cheryl's Look, you're gonna do this, you're not going to be elected out, just trust me, but you got to do this. They go in, they convict these guys they give him like a \$200 fine, they walk out. And somebody realizes that in order to appeal this case, there has to be a \$250. Fine. So luckily, we have, you know, an ADA who's friendly, they go back and say, Look, we have to go back and erase the fine, would you mind going back in and doing this? And she's like, that was fine. So I went back in and reassessed the fine. And that sent this case on its way. Perfect. And then we freed I mean, we free to nation. Oh, yeah. We did after many, many years. You know, we don't get enough credit. It's like East Coast, West Coast. They all act like it was them. Oh, yeah. But it was really here. And it was really because, you know, we had reached out and you know, in Democratic Party politics and gotten to know people and help people and made friends. And, you know, and I mean, every time I see Sharon, she's a good ol redneck. You know, you fried every gay person, the United States of America, girl. You know what a good redneck you are definitely, you know, and actually, she's very, very proud of of doing that. But she'd be proud. So, you know, I did serve on the state Democratic executive committee after being involved in gay politics for a while I got involved in Democratic Party politics, and I was the first openly gay person from Harris County to serve on the state Democratic executive committee. And then, my good dear friend, Billy Carr, who was my godmother, and politics, was on the DNC, and she retired and asked me to run for a seat. So I became, I'm on the Democratic National Committee. Now I'm the the only in first person from Texas to to be out and serve on the DNC. That's excellent. So I'm doing that. Now. I'm running for city council again, fantastic. Cause raising a family. In the meantime, I'm



16:58

telling you coaching little league coach a little late, which by the way, they're doing fantastic. They're going to be starring in all stars game first game coming up this Thursday are



17:06

very excited about that. So in the meantime, probably one of the best things I ever did was, you know, was raised three, three good sons. They're good boys.



17:15

They aren't good boys.



17:16

They are. So it's been a lot. I'm



17:19

telling you. We've seen a lot of two level ladies and gentlemen, she has been through it. She's taken us back on a short journey and actually informed me of a lot of things grid high gate,

what



17:30

was it gay Related Immune Deficiency?



17:33

I had no idea. I'd never heard of it called Grid



17:35

before. Yeah, the community just raised such a ruckus about it that they they changed the name. But it was an amazing time. It really was. It was a an incredible time in our community.



17:47

And we were the first ones to have



17:50

the I have the original boards. Yeah, I'm trying to actually to see if we can get them into the Smithsonian. Because it's, it's historical. Absolutely. It is, you know, and again, nationwide, Houston doesn't get



18:04

now it's better thing. Texas in general. We get bashed pretty, a lot being thought of as backward. However, the little known fact, some of the things we talked about tonight, we're at the grassroots of creating a whole different nation. We are and it's because of people like Sue, that gets there. Well,



18:24

thank you. Thank you, me and a lot of other people, but it's amazing over the time, you know, I've been doing this for a long time to see the changes in our community, in how I mean, when I was, you know, when we were young women in the bars together, you know, the thought that we you know, that having children was a possibility. You just didn't think about it just did not come in to your thoughts. And now. I mean, I was so lucky. I'm so lucky to have three children. But I'm amazed now by how many couples have children or children are a part of their plans or



young, young teen gay teens young people. Part of that dating process and interviewing process is, do you want to have children? Yeah, the explosion of children in this community has just been tremendous. It's just been an incredible thing to watch.



19:12

Yeah. And, and still, there's, there has been a recent threat, the house joint resolution six and 19. Wherein they're trying to make marriage be between only a man and a woman. And then last month we had this was leaked, his name was Taliban, a Pasadena representative Dalton Thompson, that did not want us to be foster parents. If you can imagine that. His quote was he thought it'd be better off in Auburn orphanages than with a loving gay family.



19:42

Well, Robert Dalton has really it's an unnatural obsession with gay people. And it's very unnatural. It's reminds me of the days when we talked about the referendum and there was a people that ran the state is straight slate and guy named Steven Hotsy. And they were obsessed with us and it's just, it's not natural to be suffering. As with one group of people now, I think there's something there's something there fighting other demons other than us. I think they're their own demons in their own head. But I will say that it was amazing to see in the legislature when he brought up on the foster parent issue that many, including lieutenant governor, and many, many people, Republicans, that were like, No, this isn't right. The sponsor of the bill was like, Look, this is a separate issue. We're trying to redo Child Protective Services, this doesn't have any place. So it was amazing. Because, you know, I can remember if he'd have done that 10 years ago, it would have passed, because people would have just been appalled by the thought the gays and lesbians were going to have children. But now, I mean, many of them, have, you know, gay parents in the schools where their children go when the PTO is in a little leagues and their neighborhood and the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts and all those organizations. So I think that had a lot, a lot to do with it.



20:58

Yeah, I was reading somewhere the other day, there was a Catholic private school that two men had her child going to, and they created some new rule where they could not come to the child's function as a couple together, for which I thought was, Wow, that's what kind of messages that sent in to everybody.



21:17

here and the amazing thing is, you know, having children they think they're saving the kids from something. But you know what? Those kids already know what's going on? Absolutely. They did them. It is nothing really offensive to most children. It's just not, you know, when you look, you know, on TV now, I mean, there's just gay people on TV and gays talked about and it to them. It's just not a foreign issue at all. They're not. I think it's the parents wanting to save themselves from something but not the children. Yeah, most of the kids are pretty accepting.



21:54

Yes, they are. It's our society that's teaching them the shaming in that trying to keep us in the closet is shaming a secret is shaming, otherwise, it wouldn't have to be a secret with it.



22:10

You're listening to the Diane rose show on Saturday night. I think we're about to take a little bit of break here.



Chris Harrison 22:16

Sure. We can pop in here a little music here. Oh, that's right. I got that one queued up. Another one of the artists you're going to be hearing at the Pride festival here next Saturday morning. It's girlfriends and the song is called want we'll be right back.



22:44

Are you bursting with pride? Are you a KPFT volunteer KPFT is a proud participant in the 2005 Pride Houston Parade and Festival being held on Saturday, June 25 2005. Now you can show your KPFT pride by volunteering during the week of June 19 through 25th. Have fun and take pride in working the KPFT booth at the festival and show our fabulousness to the GLBT community. If you're interested in working any of these events with KPFT pride, please email Gina Miller at [gina@kpt.org](mailto:gina@kpt.org) or call 713-526-4000 extension 316 For general information about 2005 Pride Houston Parade and Festival. See the pride Houston website at [WWW dot pried houston.org](http://WWW.priedhouston.org) You're listening to KPFT



Chris Harrison 23:47

and this is after hours queer radio with attitude here on listener sponsored commercial free Pacifica radio for the Gulf Coast que PFGE 90.1 FM, Houston 89.5 Galveston and always the World Wide Web at KPFT dot O R G as it is after hours and this is the Diane rose Show.



24:06

Welcome back, everybody. If you're just now joining us, we're having su levels tonight as our special guest. We've been talking about a lot of history with our city and some of the great things that we've done that's affected the entire nation. We're gonna get back to one of the other stories that Sue has to tell us about an anti discrimination issue. And back in the 80s



24:27

was it it was in the 80s I was in SC the referendum was an 85 We'd pass the ordinance and at 84 It was the anti discrimination ordinance very simple wittmeyer was the mayor we had had

or it was the anti-discrimination ordinance very simple. Wittmeyer was the mayor we had had had very progressive Council and it only pertained to city employees but it caused I mean just this just this huge, you know political explosions what it was. You're talking the break I remember sitting in City Hall The day that it that it passed and being so proud for our community. But at the same time out in the end, I mean that the Council Chambers was packed. But out in the foyer were the, which was then became the, the radical right in Houston, they this was the first time they became organized around this issue. And then there were people that didn't like Wittmeyer. And were using the issue to get it Wittmeyer. And then there was people from the KKK, and they were out in the foyer, just, you know, chanting, there was police officers everywhere. I mean, it was, it was scary.



25:32

It really when they had on there full of white hats. And



25:38

and, of course, you know, they went out and gathered the signatures, we had a referendum, we got our best kick four to one. And, and it was really difficult. And, you know, for a nice and nice was the chair of the board, and I was the the president of the caucus, it was, you know, it was a huge failure. It was very disappointing. And, but after a nice reading for city council three times, and finally being successful and getting on council, and in her second term, when Lee Brown became mayor, they reinstated this anti discrimination ordinance and for city employees, and we Student Council in Easton I did that day course it was like, what, 10 years? 15 years later. Yeah, and it was like no big deal. The press were like, okay, okay, this happened and move on, and how different it was, you know, between then. And then when Lee put it on the agenda in the past. I mean, with really no controversy, the the change, but we were very glad to get it back. Because it was something we felt like we had, you know, we lost and we wanted to get back to the community. So it was a very proud moment. Yeah,



26:51

I can only imagine 10 years is, is not a long time. And in the big picture. However, in the last 10 years, I think many more of us become visible, which means that many more of the others have recognized that we're not monsters, we're not weird, we put our shoes on and socks on, just like they do in the morning. So there's, there's less resistance to us being treated as regular citizens. And it's important, I think, for everybody, one on one, to talk about the issues with the straight side. So everybody can know one of those guys to no one of us is to love us. That's true.



27:31

You know, not be scared of us. Yeah, I you know, I think that's just been a big difference in the fact people in the city have come out. I think that how we handled the AIDS crisis. We got a lot of respect in this city. And And finally, there was straight people that that came in and started helping in that interaction and, and that shared grief, because, you know, when we lost a friend, someone was losing a brother or son or an uncle or you know, and that shared grief, I

think bonded and brought a lot of people together in the city, and brought us a lot of respect. So there's been a lot of changes, I think a nice Parker going on city council really helped. Because she went on there. She's a terrific council member. She did a really fine job. She had a lot of respect. And I think this whole issue of there's a gay agenda just wasn't there and it sort of diffused all that. And you know, now she's a controller and



28:27

now and doing this. Yeah, that would be fantastic.



28:32

You know, I'm running for city council and I would love to serve on city council with a nice being the controller it would be that



28:38

would be something that would be great to to out lesbians working for our city. I can't think of anything better, except maybe three or four. You out there, step up to the plate. It's a lot of responsibility. And Sue certainly has stepped up to the plate over the years. Outside of our gay issue, she's done some other things that are first for Houston like our dog park. The dog park Well,



29:04

I'm the the president of urban shoe Park, which everybody calls Dunlavy Park, it's at Dunlavy in the Southwest Freeway, and I was involved with we didn't have a little league in Montrose near town and was one of the people that helped start the Little League and find the money to you know, build the field. You know, if you if you gone over there six or seven years ago, it was the park was in terrible shape and raise the money we found the money and you know, put up a fence and built a really nice park. And at first the neighbors were really upset that we put the fence up they thought it was taking away park space. And then they decided they really loved the little league field because they could bring their dogs over there and closed the gates and let them run. So it became sort of this battle between the Little League people and the dog people. And not that we were against dogs. It was just that the dog has dug holes in the field that was dangerous to the kids. And not everybody left with a souvenir. So that's why. So, you know, we sort of got together and there was a place in the park that wasn't being used. And we said, look, if we go to the parks department and, and get them to allow us to have a dog park here, you know, you go raise the money for the fence and, and put it up. And I said, Sure. So I went to the parks department and, and the people with the dogs went and raised money, I think it took them about two weeks to raise about \$6,000. You know, I mean, within probably about six weeks, we had the fence, and the dogs were running in, you know, so we have the first dog park and I'm really proud of the park we put in some soccer goals. And if you go to that park now you'll see activity we've in saved the pool over there, it's one of the last swimming pools in this area available, there was a pool, tuck back there. So anyway, um, I'm very proud of our dog park and solving the problems at the park. And, you know, now it's a big

asset to the neighborhood. And I just became, you know, having children become involved in neighborhood and different issues and literally coaching, literally coaching. And, in fact, I go to St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, and I noticed this was, you know, very selfish on my part, but I live right down from linear middle school and it and there's just a lot of middle school kids after school that were wandering the streets looking, you know, I mean, getting nothing to do. And that's when the gangs come recruit them, because they have nothing to do. And, and you could see it happening because you see people driving by in cars and giving them a ride. And so I went to the Araneta Helen havens, one night at Fiesta, actually, right before close, we were shopping. And she said, you know, we bought the old Arnold electrical building, which is right next to the chocolate bar. And I said, Man, I hope you're not going to tear it down. It's like an old 40s building. She said, What do you think we should do with it? And I said, you know, I think we need a community center in this neighborhood in this area where small groups can gather. But you know, we need an after school program for middle school kids. And she said, you know, there might be some money available through pickable charity. So I recruited one of my neighbors, Joe Milton, to donate his architectural services, and we found the funding and fix it up and put in an after school program for middle school kids, and they can go there after school, and there's computers available and organize activities, and they do field trips over to the museum and different things. And it keeps them off the street, of course. I mean, it was full immediately. And then and so we're trying to expand it now. So it's been very popular but very selfish. On my part. I didn't want them well in my neighborhood.



32:46

Those with middle school aged children, how would they get involved in the community center? Who would they call to get the programs that they're having called St.



32:55

Stephen's Episcopal Church and ask for the community center, they'll give you the number scray and, and we're doing things in the summer with kids. And then we were you know, I mean, there's a lot of Hispanics and mantras. A lot of people don't know that. But there's actually a lot of poor Hispanic families. And we were able to reach out to some of the women, the moms, who, you know, the husband's went off to work every morning, the kids went off to school, they were left home with little ones with no social life. So we started doing things with them over the community center, inviting them to come and socialize with each other and help them with problems with their kids. A lot of them don't understand about homework or you know, that their kids are getting in trouble and what can they do and what resources and in the language barrier. Exactly, we have a health fair, a lot of them have never had a mammogram or an eye exam or anything for themselves. So we're able to reach out to them. And it's been very rewarding. They're actually very delightful people and, you know, learned a lot from from them. That's



33:58

great. We're all just people, doesn't matter where we're from. We're all people, all loving people. And we've all got needs, and reaching out in a diverse community. That's not only includes gays and lesbians, but all the other diversity in the area. And let me tell you, I

remember middle school, middle school was not a fun time to go through and having a community center where you can go in and share and enjoy and have programs available to you makes all the difference in the world. It does.



34:26

It's amazing new elementary school, there was a lot of attention paid and and, and then it seems like when you get out, you get into middle school. It's it's a much more difficult time. And it's a sort of a transitional time for kids.



34:40

Yeah. You're trying to find your niche in life. Right. And that's the most crucial time because, like you said, the gangs are sitting there saying, Hey, I'm your niche Come on. Well, there's



34:50

nowhere to go after school. You know, parents think that they're old enough that they can come home and be at home and be responsible and they are but they also get bored and quickly. Yeah, so quickly. It's a time when you got to grab them and keep them busy.



35:05

Well, you've also done some work in in building and getting some grant money to build a training center, and a childcare center at the Houston Community College.



35:15

I have actually I worked for the mills corporation that developed Katy Mills Mall. And I was hired there to to design and implement a Welfare to Work program. When I went to work there in 1999, the unemployment was down at a very low level, and we built malls. And we had merchants move in, a lot of times they couldn't find employees. And that was during all the welfare reform days. So we designed I designed a program and found grant funding where we went out and recruited anybody coming off public assistance, and Houston Community College became our main training program. And but then, of course, we discovered most of most people on welfare women, and they have children, and they want to go to work, but they don't have anywhere for their children. So I went along and found some grant money 1.1 million actually from the federal government to build a childcare center. It was the first time the Economic Development Department of Commerce administration had ever given money to build a childcare center. But we convinced them that if you're going to train people to go to work, you just have to have somewhere for their children to go, or all that training goes to waste.



36:25

11

36:33

Absolutely. Forsman. Absolutely. Or your whole paycheck goes to childcare.



36:39

Yes. So you know, we went and the company I work for is wonderful, and they donated land and the college, wrote the grant and used it as the match and got 1.1 million, and we put in a childcare facility for 125 children. And then next to that a career training center. So the people can come after work, it's right there, right next to the mall. And they can take management classes or ESL classes, or, you know, any any sort of certificate classes that can help them further their career. So it's been a big success. We won the Houston metropolitan award given by U of H and Rice University, and we're very proud of it. So fortunately, the meals Corp kept me on. And that's what I do. Now I travel around the United States setting up these programs where we're building in different sides. So we're doing San Francisco and New Jersey, and we've done one a Baltimore and Nashville. And so it's been very rewarding.



37:36

Definitely, definitely has been so far reached all these other cities,



37:41

you know, if you can take all your skills and how people go to work, and it's not even work, you know,



37:45

it's very gratifying



37:47

that you realize, when we opened the mall, there were 300 women standing there who had do we're working for the first time, and a lot of them because the the grand opening at the malls are big events, you know, and a lot of them brought their children with them. We'd encourage them to bring their children with them. And they were, you know, standing there all dressed up watching their moms go to work for the first time. You know, it was pretty, pretty incredible thing.



38:14

Everybody was proud. Yeah. Well, that's great. Man, you've done so much for our community. Oh, thank



38:21

you. Thank you. Yeah. 50 of you. There are they're just, you know, not out there like I am. There's a lot of people in this community that every day do things that nobody knows what they do. They just quietly go about their business. You know, I've been in more visible, you know, positions. sometimes good, sometimes bad. You know, after the referendum, I spent I gay pride under police protection, because we've gotten threatening phone calls at the caucus and really turned them over to the police department, they determined that maybe we needed some protection that there are some crazies out there. So Oh, my



39:03

goodness, yeah, it was pretty, you know, as crazy when you got the kick AK March. And I remember vividly that March. And our community had decided to pretty much boycott we didn't want to give it a lot of tension when they came through mantras. And I was in the videotaping business at the time and I had to take history of course, but me and maybe four or five other people were the only people down the street given them any kind of attention whatsoever. And it was it was scary to think that it was mid eighth 1986 I believe it was at that time for the kk k to even exist much less be marching down this meeting



39:41

last week in Tomball. Where they were sort of your we're still here and let's educate you about who we are. And I mean, they're still around and they're still active. That's amazing. It's amazing, truly amazing.



39:56

Wow. All right, you guys Have you ever heard a place called Social notes is a website it's a headed up by Carol Wyatt, who does the twice a month parties at media and a lot of other things for our community, especially this Gay Pride Week, she was the chairperson for the gay pride parade last year. And she's created a website to help share information in our community of the going on in our community, specifically to the lesbians. The website is [www dot social notes houston.com](http://www.socialnotes.houston.com). On there, you'll have a calendar of events, and we're also wanting any kind of input. If any, you organizations out there are having an event, please log on to the website and contact Carol, she'll be happy to post it for you. Right now we're about to take another break. And we'll be back shortly. This is the Diane rose show with Sue level. And



Chris Harrison 40:49

oops, hopefully it'll work with my CD player saying sleep. What a wonderful idea. Hit is the am after hours queer radio with attitude, and it's not going to to the to the system to the demons to them all make them pay. That was a another day of cruelty. And that was scot free. So there's a you're only ever gonna hear on shows like after hours. And we're back with Diane and Sue.





41:31

Welcome to the Diane rose show. We've got Sue level tonight. For those of you just joining us. We're talking about some interesting topics, a little bit of history about our city and this kickoff day of Gay Pride Week. Speaking of which, are you planning on participating in this year's parade as you have every other since they have



41:49

been in every one? I mean, not everyone but I've seen every Yeah, everyone. This year since I'm running for city council, we're actually going to have been a convertible. And actually my my oldest son's gonna be driving the convertible, he's



42:04

driving now. You're your insurance.



42:10

I can't believe it. So when they were little they used to go the older ones would love to go to the parade, the two older ones would die for condoms, and the little one would die for beads. Now it'd be riding they like to ride and wave and, and he's gonna be driving. So we'll be in the parade. But miss it.



42:27

I'm telling you, our parade has come a long ways. We were talking on the break about remembering when it used to be at three o'clock in the afternoon. And it was so high



42:36

and we walked Oh, yeah, you know, we used there was initially it was big floats is a big parade. And then when when when AIDS hit it, you know, everybody scaled back and use the money to help people. And it was more of a walking kind of right and there we were walking three in the afternoon and that heat that somebody got smart now we're



42:58

not on who it was. But thank you whoever the same as Lee Arrington is that it was really, it was a nighttime edition of our gay pride parade did



43:07

he badgered the pride committee for a couple of years. And finally they relented and move forward and now we get this wonderful night parade.



43:16

It's fantastic. And this year promises to be bigger than ever. It is how many floods? I think there's close to 200 If I'm my goodness, it's about 25% more floods than last year. Right. So this is huge.



43:30

And I live here in Montreux. So I mean, everybody in Montrose goes, is like a Mardi Gras parade.



43:36

And they're expecting 150,000 people in the West hammer.



43:41

Oh, my goodness. Y'all get here like,



43:45

I'm gonna go get your seats now.



43:48

And get staked down.



43:48

It was 136 last year.



43:50

Wow. Wow, we've got a lot more participants this year in the parade teeth. We were talking earlier that it wouldn't be thought of to have the police march in the parade or the fire department, much less the mayor. And now I believe this year all three of those will be in the parade. So as



44:09

other council members and majority of the council members will be there and I think Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, I think I saw her name on the list and she'll be there eight, so she'd be a great parade.



44:23

Habitually wouldn't have done it three o'clock in the afternoon. I wouldn't do over that. Nighttime. Those of you that have never had the opportunity to come to the gay pride in Houston, let me tell you, it is a fun time. People go all out on their floats. There's a lot of dancing in the street and organized last year. Did you see the fan guys so the they were great. They had it together? I'm telling you I get to watch them all night long. And it's



44:51

amazing along the route. You know, it started out there at Woodhead at linear middle school and from bat Woodhead down to Mandel. It's a lot of the neighborhood A three C lot of the families for the neighborhood, they're with their kids. And you know, and then as you move Get down closer, of course, tomatoes and Westheimer you know, the crowd changes, but



45:11

never on Westheimer the wild is out. Right?



45:15

It's great. But if you've never been to one, then you should come out and and, and wants to pray because it is incredible. It is absolutely a lot of work and hats off to the pride committee for for all they do.



45:26

They do a lot. Who's the Grand Marshal this year of the parade?



45:31

I don't know. I can't remember either. I don't know who it is that somebody that's certainly worthy of it. Absolutely.



45:40

- . . . - . . . - . . . - . . . - . . . - . . . - . . . - . . . - . . . - . . .

So the gay pride parade, for those of you that haven't heard yet is the 25th. Next Saturday night at nine o'clock. We're encouraging all of you though, to be there early. And when I say early, I know I'm coming at seven to get staked out in my favorite spot, and socialize a little bit, there'll be a lot of organizations HRC will be there. You name them and organization, they're gonna be there at some at some capacity, they're signing up people on the side of the road or in the parade, something you definitely want to expose you in any of your friends, too. It's a great time to bring your straight friends down to give them a flavor of what we celebrate, and why we celebrate. We've come a long way. It's time for all of us to celebrate and be proud. As far as we can. I know, I am extremely proud of sea level. Thank you. So you've done so much for our community. I'm just grateful. I'm, I don't know what else to say. I'm great. Thank you.



46:35

Well, I'm grateful to be a part of this community. It's been. Yeah, it's an incredible community. And I'm very proud to be a be a part of it. And we've been through good times and rough times. But, you know, Houston's unique in that other big cities just get, you know, they get a lot of support from the government. And, you know, and, and a lot of funding, and we here sort of have that pioneer spirit of we can do it. And, you know, even if nobody else helps us, we all dig down and make it happen. Yeah, incredible community,



47:09

and we do it together as a community. Some communities are more divided. men versus women. And yet, even on the 25th anniversary of Stonewall, there were two separate parades, because they couldn't decide on the starting point between the two groups, whereas Houston's always been united as a community, male or female, gay or straight bisexual or transistors trends, trends. up sorry, I'm getting tongue tied, transgender, transgender. We're all united as a community. And that's one of the other things that we should be proud of. And no infighting goes on and gay pride.



47:47

Right. And all week, there's events, there's a, I think you can go to the power, right and get into power this,



47:53

again, down at the Georgia brown convention center.



47:56

There was events tonight, and there's events every night and you should take advantage of it and enjoy. Check



48:01

out one of the local magazines, there's something going on, like Sue says every single night this week. As you can also log on to social notes. Carol's got a list of events happening, the Empower program down at the Georgia brown Convention Center. Many, many gay owned businesses will be down there along with some great entertainment going on both Saturday and Sunday. Well, so our hours about it has been great. I certainly do appreciate you getting up this early in the morning to come down here and share a little bit of your history. Well, I



48:37

was laughing because you know, there was nights I can remember when we were just starting home and



48:45

say where are we gonna go for breakfast? Right. Didn't want to cook



48:48

party and demand and so it's a little different, but I'm really glad to be here and and thank you for inviting me this evening. Well, thank



48:55

you so much. I wish you the best of luck in the upcoming race. Well, thank you got a good feeling about it. I think you're going to do well. But



49:02

if anybody would like to know about the campaign, you can go to sue level.com that amazes me. I have my own website zillow.com and learn about the campaign and which is November and commercial information



49:14

on Grand Marshal. Okay. We got the information here. Hot off the press who's the grand grand marshal? is Deb Murphy. Oh, good. Female grandma's the female grand marshal the male grand marshal is Weldon. Here's the thing think. Okay, well, I arrived, I think is HC Hickey. And honorary is Dennis and Evelyn suave, great. Bayou City bought Byron city boy.



Chris Harrison 49:43

Bay Club is the honorary organizational. Okay.

Boys Club is the honorary organizational. Okay,



49:46

great. Thanks for good info. Appreciate it. We have quite the staff here.



49:52

I'm telling very snappy.



Chris Harrison 49:54

I was online but it wasn't paying attention.



49:58

Again, thanks so much for join us tonight. This is the Diane Rocha. We'll see you in a month. And we're



Chris 50:04

going to wrap up the the segment here and go into our world infamous roundtable discussion. And you know we're gonna play a song you hear the beginning of our show every week and just found out we've got a copy of the entire song. The name of the group is called Ranson, this is about the only song I've ever put out. And it's time to I love to be queer



Chris Harrison 50:42

that was pansy division and cowboys are frequently secretly fond of each other. He Hall reminds me Is there a gay rodeo thing coming up here soon? Hey, just reminded me of something. Speaking of gay rodeo. A comic who uses that joke in his office there is in town this weekend, Scott Kennedy is down at the Comedy showcase. We've had him on the show several times. He's still begging to be written. But if I get a hold of him there, there's a group that will help him I know he's down working down there. Now often you have an openly gay comic out there on the on the run and especially when he's willing to make comments about the size he is and he's willing to hold you down and do whatever he wants to.




51:34

He's Jesus




51:36


 51:50  
was who? Who?


 Chris 51:37  
Scott Kennedy. The reason why I made the joke with the doesn't work. The gay rodeo thing as part of part of his routine it comes out of he has to go everyone go wish and everyone goes out because that's how we sound like the gay Special Ed rodeo. Funny, it's a funny guy, you know, Houston, Candy talk Houston native of for rally was used in a lot in the community and a lot of fundraisers over the years. So, let's start off with who's in there, starting the left and work it.


 52:12  
This is Joshua. David


 Merlin 52:14  
Merlyn.

 52:16  
Jason. Steven,

 52:19  
well go on.

 52:21  
I don't know who's Latina.


 Chris Harrison 52:24  
Oh, yeah, get get the straight woman in here. We're equal opportunity. Oh, wow.


 52:30  
That was great people here then. She


 52:33


seems to know who's gay and who's not though.

 **Chris Harrison** 52:37  
And they're racially male with a really wealthy rappers.


 **Merlin** 52:41  
Hershey Kisses chocolate. I could be worse. I could be in here with one of the bags from the candy machine.


 52:52  
Not here tonight.


 **Merlin** 52:55  
I didn't say anything about old bags. Well said candy bag.

 **Chris Harrison** 53:01  
Can you feel the love in the room? With


 **Merlin** 53:04  
speaking of old bags? Where is Roy this week? Oh, home. Poor Barry.


 **Chris Harrison** 53:10  
How is he out in the sticks? Yeah, it's


 53:13  
until big Chris find something to talk about.

 **Chris Harrison** 53:18  
Unfortunately, no,




 Merlin 53:19  
the Is he not feeling well? Or is he just not able to get this far? Yes. Yes, yeah.


 Jimmy Carper 53:28  
Well, you overdid it today. So he's resting up.


 Merlin 53:31  
Do you mean

 53:33  
yourself? Yeah.


 Chris Harrison 53:34  
That's the important to take care of yourself. Hey, I'm trying to find if there's certain things I'm not allowed. Jimmy doesn't want us to cover. We can't talk about someone who beat it.

 53:45  
To the rap. Michael Jackson.

 Chris Harrison 53:50  
I had him it was weird. I

 Jimmy Carper 53:51  
think he's innocent. Well, yeah, due to the money. I know. He wants everybody's

 53:57  
guilty till proven that actually they

 Jimmy Carper 54:02  
are legit. Even if you wanted to have sex with these boys. I think he wanted to be them. Right. Yeah. Because he had a happy child. That's right. And he's he's, he's strange. I'll admit that but

I think he's trying to recover that youth that he lost.



54:19

In Ranch, you know, Peter Pan never wanting to grow up there.



Merlin 54:22

I don't I yeah, I mean,



54:25

ever land. I



Merlin 54:26

don't think he do. I think Michael Jackson is a freak. Yo, yeah. Do I think he's that kind of freak? No, I think that I think the whole thing was because for I think the whole thing was a money deal. Publicity, publicity and somebody wanting to make a buck off of him. And I know this, that if it had been my mother, if my mother had if somebody had done that to me when I was a little and my mother had, yeah, that there wouldn't there's not an amount of money that would have stopped my mother mother from cracking open that person's chest with her bare hands and ripping their heart out



55:12

who leaves their young boy at a house



Merlin 55:16

with a 40 plus year old man for wings?



55:18

Who know has been known for this exact thing



Merlin 55:22

for being a little kind of freaky. Leaving your kid



55:26

at Michael Jackson's place, you're taking a little bit of a risk, calculated risk to begin well,



55:30

I think anybody who crossed I mean, I just think he has a doesn't have a firm grip on reality. I mean, anybody that can stand up there with a straight face and said I haven't had that much stuff. Plastic surgery is not dealing with any kind of reality that I'm familiar with. And you know, I accidentally saw a bunch of E entertainment things on the different Jackson family members, and the whole Latoya, where she talks about, about abuse, when they were kids and everything and who knows, and Mom will sit there with, if you will look at her face. One eye isn't sort of her two eyes look like they're from two different people. So there's something very strange going on in that woman's face. She flat out denies everything. So I don't think anybody's gonna ever actually know. Maybe next century



56:25

I watched an interview on Michael Jackson, he actually denied being black. He denied it and said that he was white and people asked him black and he goes no, I was not I've always been white. I just don't



56:36

think the family has a real good grip on reality in general. So who knows?



Chris Harrison 56:42

Yeah, let's do Yeah, it's just one of those things. It's



56:48

the best thing about the trial getting it over is that we don't have to like have it on TV in our face all the time anymore bothers



56:53

me. So I like kids, but not in the wrong way. I do like kids. And the Michael Jackson thing is really a terrorist way apart. Because as a child, I like to have an up I read out Alice in Wonderland. And he was accused also a Lewis Carroll of inappropriate thoughts about young people. And but it was



Chris Harrison 57:19

accepted. It was somewhat acceptable. Danis it was somewhat acceptable for



57:23

me. I don't I can't be around young people without being accused of being some sort of pervert



Chris Harrison 57:31

Well, at least Lewis Carroll was accused of something else.



57:37

I would like to, but he also brings out the fears that doubt that a powerful man like him. Could could hurt kids. All right, let's



57:48

see you're on to something. Wonderful. Governor. Which one Rick Perry



57:56

is a terrible TARDIS.



57:58

The the ever missing Rick Perry who? the ever changing mind Rick Perry? Well,



58:05

it's lovely to think that the Republican Party is not going to let Rick Park get reelected. When




58:12


he got into office, he signed the the hate crimes bill that had the same sex gays and transgenders added to it





Chris Harrison 58:23


you're moving further and further away from the microphone, so I'm gonna force it down your throat


 **Merlin** 58:29  
and you wouldn't be the first person to come across


 58:35  
says yeah, that's the scary No, just think about it.


 **Merlin** 58:41  
i At this point, I'm never shocked when it's the straight guy who comes out with the gayest thing to say on the mic. is


 58:52  
we've been there done that

 58:59  
me up to speed because I don't understand what you just said. He's straight.

 59:02  
Okay. Oh, yeah,

 **Merlin** 59:04  
there are two straight people sitting at this table No kidding. These

 59:11  
couple and me and yeah, like

 **Merlin** 59:13  
I said at least two straight people are yellow. Oh, no.

 59:16



Okay, what



59:17

let's go straight people I hope so.



Chris Harrison 59:24

Dennis, Dennis. Well remember, we remember what you said earlier? Which I ran into you at the bar. Let's see. Here's a nurse and then we've got everyone's talking nowadays about the blog online. Journals and teen group they got a Tennessee teen is claim claiming a ballgame. He was forcibly admitted to an ex gay camp by his parents after he came out as being gay. Yeah. So he was sent to a camp refuge refuge associated with the love in action. So ex gay ministry and is credited. It's an accredited group by Exodus International and supported by numerous area churches in the Memphis, Tennessee area. They wouldn't confirm you know, if Jean was enrolled and a friend wouldn't confirm his full name of he would have been keeping an eye on this story of what he what he's being what's being said about it. You know, this is an interesting thing, someone during in the process of just something interesting. You need to go to the, if you want to find out about this blog, you need to go to the Houston voice website and find the story as [Houstonvoice.com](http://Houstonvoice.com). And they should have a link on there because this is just way too long of a name. If you just go to [blog.myspace.com](http://blog.myspace.com). And I'd like to hear barbells interesting power. But I mean, it's Arizona, someone's going to write about what is going on. And it's about as he is because it's a 16 year old who is being forced into a reeducation camp. Yeah, let's let's call it what it is. It's reeducation camp didn't work for me.



1:01:12

Yeah, when I can I when I was college age, high school age back in seven, early 70s. It was pretty common for parents to put their Yeah, Rowdy daughter or gay son in in a mental institution for quite a long time sometimes, when all they were doing was being somewhat different are military straw. Yeah, but I mean, yeah. They were really mental institutions were pretty common.



Chris Harrison 1:01:38

Well, back back in the 80s. That was, you know, the standard practice was, if you can't handle your child, you know, we'll use your insurance and will institutionalize your child for until the end. Oh, yeah. Remember?



1:01:55

Boys Life magazine from the 60s, they had military schools. And I've known people who are subjected to



1:02:03

something that was like 80s up.



1:02:10

People, if I was gay, I'd rather go to a military school than a mental institution.



Chris Harrison 1:02:15

Well, the fact is what you've what you have is, you know, how society has changed with itself. The back back in an old Yeah,



1:02:23

when old people talk.



1:02:25

Talking about just playing with the historical context of people. I don't want you to go having read.



1:02:33

It's not even a new idea. If you want to have older reference look at you know, movie reels from 1939. You know, you might not understand it, because it's in German. That's still



1:02:45

ad stuff. I said, like.



1:02:49

Okay. Like we were saying.



Merlin 1:02:55

The ad so even even in the 80s people ended up in, you know, parents were putting their kids in institutions. The Yeah, okay.



1:03:13

So, we're gonna, do y'all know what Rick Perry did earlier? No,



1:03:17

what did he do? Yeah, what was the what was coming, he made some that come out. And



1:03:23

he signed the bill. Or he signed the whole thing, that amendment to the Constitution that's going through that didn't need his signature to go to vote. It didn't have to have a signature, he signed it anyway. And then when the people the democratic or the people for the gay rights, asked him, What are you going to do about the troops that are coming back from overseas, that are coming back to a state that doesn't approve for them at all? His quote was, there are other states in the union that do and perhaps those states better suit them? So I mean, basically saying go to another state



1:04:05

sort of say, oh, America, love it later. It's Texas love or leave it?



1:04:10

That's brilliant.



1:04:11

Yeah. Tell me about it. And then he's gone from the the hate crimes bill, that bush wouldn't pass because the gays lesbians, bisexual and transgender were tied to it. And he actually went to James Byrd Junior's mother and said, if you take the gays off, I'll sign it in a heartbeat. And she said, No, I can't stand on the back of these people. And push it through and cut them out of it and good for her. Yeah. So he came in signed it passed it. And that was like his big thing to get elected. And now he's stabbing us in the



1:04:44

back. Yeah, buddy Perry.



1:04:46

Yeah. I'm on a bandwagon tonight. Which wagon would that be? Don't go there. And also with their





1:04:56

well they used to be yellow but



1:05:00

Yellin Ford, we're talking about earlier Ford Motor Corporation. And they released that they are 43% funding funding the Republican Party. Wow. They are they one of the largest funders of the Republican Party and they are sponsoring the same sex marriage, things there big time pushing it. So it will be really interesting to see where that goes. Yeah.



1:05:25

Well, a company like Ford is probably operating in terror of alternate fuels and the and the fact that there are viable alternative fuels that could be developed. I mean, the whole idea that that could become a reality must be terrifying to a company like that, because they're so locked up and an oil is



1:05:47

another big no,



1:05:48

absolutely no, because you have to do is design the new engines. Yeah, they won't



1:05:52

change that. They won't. But now they've



1:05:54

started makes propane driven. Really easy, do they? Yeah. Natural gas LP. They've also got they're working on nitrogen, cars,



1:06:03

revenues, everything from their pickup trucks all the way down to the tourists and escort and even in other countries the focus Good. Well, they're



1:06:11

they're also big time against the biodiesel made from vegetable oils and stuff, which is really good. The Willie Nelson camp are now his birthday party coming up in a couple of weeks. The they're a real big supporter of it, too. Okay, so yeah, but um,



Merlin 1:06:30

you know, the bigger the company, the less likely they are to want to make some change that might actually be good for things.



1:06:37

What if Ford wants to spend 40 or support for its center with political party? You know what, that's fine. That's their prerogative, because at least they pay taxes. What bothers me is the churches who say, we're gonna get into politics, but not pay the price of admission, like everyone else. Yeah.



1:06:52

Another thing that I'm still trying to figure out where the church and state separation went wrong, Brian, is establishment terriers. And that's



1:06:59

where it went wrong.



1:07:00

There's a I don't know which one it is. But there's a huge Republican Party, I'm sorry to say that my great grandmother's part of, and they have these big get togethers about five, six times a year. And, you know, to get in it's \$1,000 entry. \$4,000 plates. And, you know, she takes her three or four friends that pays. And, you know, you understand these Republican parties, you know, you know, little spindle rooftop plays downtown, the top floor of its for them only, and, you know, they pay the rent for that top floor, and it all goes towards the Republican Party and the amount of money she gives towards them, and I'm like, Wow, I'm just gonna sell that towards me. But no, I'll be a car, grandma. Yeah. Buy me a house as much as she gives to them. She could buy all of us a house. That's



Merlin 1:07:47

insane. They, you know, we have I have lived in Texas 15 years now. And I have noticed that religion in this in this town, is a business. It is it is, yeah, look at the Catholic Church. I mean, every, every Sunday, every station has at least one, if not two, or three, like, sermons going on,

about something. And they and they cost money. And, and their and their spouse and and on national and on local television. They're spouting all this stuff. You know, we'd like hold on wholeheartedly believe there is



1:08:39

a Southern Baptist in place in the woodlands that is going around there. It was sent out to like all the other churches in the area, basically saying, for the congregation to go to the school, and find out if they support GSAs if they do to take their kids out of the public school system. And



1:09:00

they look at the Lakewood Church, if you want an example of a corporation. They're paying \$50 million to have a brand new stadium to where they can do more TV show and get more money from advertisement. They're the ones that are doing the they're



Merlin 1:09:14

turning the summit in church. Do you know do you know?



1:09:18

To tell a true Christian Church, okay, I used to work at a club like not even, you know, two blocks down the road. We were there first period. They built that club has been there for almost 10 years. They built the church two blocks down the freeway. protest in front of the club to club no move your church. First Grace Community Church, right? Yeah,



1:09:43

but Lakewood pulls in \$50 million.



1:09:49

I was actually shocked because my mom actually accidentally listened to him on Sunday morning. She's you know, he's really just a nice guy and my mom is always been fine with me. He gave my whole family has always been. And I was like, really? Because I mean, I didn't



1:10:04

watch it. But you got it very well,



1:10:07

I read it, I listened to a really in depth interview with him. And I have to say to be fair of the different preachers around town, he really is very inclusive. He's not he doesn't talk against anyone. Well, and he's very much I've Let's all try to take care of each other.



Chris Harrison 1:10:26

It's not. I have, I have heard and I haven't confirmed any of it. So I haven't made any comments about it. I've heard somewhere where he did supposedly make, at some point in time, some anti gay comment. The



1:10:39

only still, the majority of what he says is not his belief,



1:10:43

because he's not condescending he doesn't. He doesn't judge if you actually read what he says, that's why



Chris Harrison 1:10:49

I'm saying this was and I'm not a



1:10:50

religious, that kind of religion person, but I was shocked at how much you know, you could, you could actually kind of go by what he seems to be saying and be a pretty open minded decent person,



Merlin 1:11:02

I don't have any problem with the everybody. When people vote for stuff when people make their decisions, they are often very often based in what they truly believe. And some of those beliefs are based in their religious beliefs. So



1:11:23

I think that that's





1:11:24

on the surface, he seems to he said he claims he doesn't worry, I understand that.



Merlin 1:11:31

However, we still by the law have a separation of church and state. So when you say when in situations like the marriage thing, when you let let there be that legal difference, that you are making it based on a legal thing? Sure, not based on your that that God's covenant with anything, or anything that cannot enter into any morning in a



1:12:05

law Jerry seminoe has a beautiful speech over that exact thing. MaryLu



Merlin 1:12:10

because because then then you muddle the line between church and state in any situation, no matter what the subject is, and where your beliefs lie in the death penalty and gay marriage and you know, alright, take that in consideration



1:12:25

in your decision but don't make it right and we aren't gonna start letting the churches being a part of politics fun, let them do that but let them start paying taxes the Catholic Church alone that's right. Debt, right and one year just for the real estate, yeah, if they started paying taxes on just the real estate, let



Merlin 1:12:42

them back in a percent that churches argue



1:12:44

the churches argue among themselves much less with people who aren't even Christian or whatever,



1:12:50

right not just the real estate the church the Catholic church owns in America and Wyoming or Debs



1:12:55

one thing to say the only thing I don't like is when I see these guys on TV who have more jewelry the jewelry on the body is worth more than my neighborhood imagine with four Bentley's a Lamborghini and you know my house and they're telling me God you know a you know you're supposed to be support the church and the people that why do you have all this money in



1:13:19

excess and gluttony



1:13:24

you know, it just doesn't make any sense those are the type of guys I see on TV I just despise them now the guys are on TV with a nice nice suit and everything they look good you know they're actually trying sure I appreciate them okay,



1:13:35

I can understand little gadget that was there. It



1:13:38

just it just goes into our ear first and first of all is really neat little thing



Jimmy Carper 1:13:42

no 501 C three organization can take any political stance no lose your 501 C three status.



Merlin 1:13:52

There's a whole bunch of people who should be technically screwed that




Jimmy Carper 1:13:55


this right





1:13:58


here is neither right nor left. That's right.


 Jimmy Carper 1:13:59  
That's right. That's right. We cannot go on the air and say vote for so and so I knew that


 Merlin 1:14:06  
was that was that secret voices way of saying that our show is almost over


 Chris Harrison 1:14:12  
from it. That's the secret way of saying ahead of time. 30 seconds

 1:14:18  
means that we've got to say goodbye now.

 1:14:21  
Ciao.

 1:14:23  
Bless it be neuesten and all surrounding areas.

 1:14:27  
It's been real it's been fun and a stray gun.

 Jimmy Carper 1:14:45  
You have been listening to after hours queer radio with attitude, a continuing tradition here on KPFT don't

 Chris Harrison 1:14:54  
forget to check out our sister program queer voices every Monday night 8pm to 10pm We'd love to hear from you, our listeners. We want your your story ideas discussion topics, event announcements, love mail, hate mail, dirty pig. And there are two ways to get it to us. Snail





Jimmy Carper 1:15:13

mail is after hours care of KPFT 90.149 Love it Boulevard Houston, Texas 7706.



Chris Harrison 1:15:26

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



Jimmy Carper 1:15:39

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



Chris Harrison 1:15:49

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