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Mon, Nov 28, 2022 4:11PM 22:53

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

hate crimes, switchboard, hotline, gay, people, call, song, reported, lesbians, talking, gathering, referrals, broussard, statistics, rebecca, somerville, hear, project, hip hop, started

SPEAKERS

Kay Harper, Harvey Milk, Jeff Mackey



00:02

The following program contains language or images of a frank or sensitive nature that may be considered objectionable by some listener Discretion is Advised



00:19

ah I am what I am. I have my own special creation. So come take a look give me the hook or the Ovation



00:34

it's my



00:37

old Hold on I want little pride in my old and it's not a place to hide lies not worth a damn to you can say hi you've



01:01

discovered after hours a continuing tradition on KPFT



01:14

I am what I am I don't want to die I don't want to bang my own drum something is pretty buying things from a different angle Dawn life is a sham until you can shout out am what I am and what I need no excuse to do my own deck sometimes not damn till you can shout out

H

Harvey Milk 02:35

we must destroy the myth versus Roy shatter them we must continue to speak out and most importantly most importantly every gay person must come out you must tell your immediate family you must tell your relatives you must tell your friends if indeed they are your friends. You must tell your neighbors you must tell the people your work you must tell the people the stories you shopping once they realize that we are indeed their children then we are indeed everywhere. Every every lie every innuendo will be destroyed you will feel so much better.

♂

03:55

Off I am and I do my own deck sometimes.

♂

04:45

You may all come out where will you be when they come?

K

Kay Harper 04:59

By Good morning.

J

Jeff Mackey 05:54

Good morning.

K

Kay Harper 05:56

This is after hours a continuing tradition. And I'm Kay Harper. And you are. I'm Jeff

J

Jeff Mackey 06:02

Mackey. And we're here tonight and we are what we are.

K

Kay Harper 06:07

Isn't that clear?

J

Jeff Mackey 06:09

... - - - - -

Yes, yes. That's, amongst other thing,

K Kay Harper 06:11

amongst other things. And we're here with you until three o'clock. And tonight we're going to have a very deep program.

J Jeff Mackey 06:20

Yes. Yes. We're going to try to squeeze several things into it.

K Kay Harper 06:27

Here on KPFA, Houston,

J Jeff Mackey 06:28

yes, we can get that in. Yes. Well, amongst other things, we're going to be talking about hate crimes. We'll be talking with Gary Lee, who is the president of the switchboard gala has been switchboard.

K Kay Harper 06:41

Does that have to do with hate crimes? Well, they gave like far referrals. Well,

J Jeff Mackey 06:45

they do that too, of course, and do it flawlessly as always, but they've also started a new hate crimes hotline project for gathering statistics on hate crime. So we'll be talking about that and other things. Good. What else might we wander into this morning?

K Kay Harper 07:02

Well, um, unfortunately, we've had a lot of losses recently to HIV. So we're going to spend a little bit of time talking about a couple of people who've died recently, and do a couple of musical tributes to them. And we'll do some some funny stuff in the middle, just so it's not a real heavy depressing show. Yeah, yeah. And they tuned as always this way out at 115, of course. And possibly, maybe Ray Hill, maybe he said he was coming, but I haven't heard from him. So I He may be a surprise. Drop in guest.

J Jeff Mackey 07:44

Yes, that's true. One never knows quite what to expect on this program.

K

Kay Harper 07:48

Where to what to expect with Ray Hill? Just, you know, a little bit of stuff. Okay. And here's Jimmy Somerville. And that was Jimmy Somerville with why. And that was the beginning of the next song. I'm doing Somerville. This is not my night for engineering. I don't think the next song is one that actually was the inspiration for the hate crime segment of the show. Because that's not really something that is light and fun. And something I really want to talk about. Yeah, because it's something that's near and dear to my heart. Yeah. But it is a growing problem in this community. I mean, Paul Broussard murder this summer, a lot of other I mean, just minor incidences.

J

Jeff Mackey 08:56

Yeah, that's, that's the thing we tend to hear about occasionally, and not always the more particular ones. But to me, it's just a daily problem. And so much of it is never even reported or heard about. Oh, yeah.

K

Kay Harper 09:07

I was reading that, that hate crimes against gays and lesbians can be as quote unquote minor as being followed. Or having somebody chase you. Yeah. And that's, that's kind of scary. That's true. But um, there are two guys out in San Francisco. And believe it or not, there are actually at least two out in San Francisco who are not gay. Really? Yeah, these this is a straight couple Toke? Not couple. But a couple of straight guys. How's that? That sounds better. And their names are Michael Franti and Rona say Tse. I think you say it say. And there are a group called hip hop, hip hop. Grisey I can't hop resi Thank you. I kids just cannot get my

J

Jeff Mackey 09:58

head around that on a race but I can say Hip Hop Pretty good.

K

Kay Harper 10:01

And it's a song called language of violence and it's a rap song which is also something you don't hear a lot of on after hours. It's true. We're I guess too old or something

J

Jeff Mackey 10:11

scary thought



Kay Harper 10:12



Kay Harper 10:12

I know. But let me go ahead and play it for you. It's it's kind of an interesting song if you can hear the words listen. And if you don't hear call and we'll make sure that you get the idea of what it was about. So this is hip hop, hip hop piracy. Yeah. And the language of violence and that was ABC with one better world in case you missed the name of the song somewhere in there. Yes, it



Jeff Mackey 10:53

was kind of hard to avoid one better word that's what we're all hoping for. Hoping your yes as well as what? How's this for a segue what the switchboard and the hate crime hotline project is trying to achieve and we will be talking to the one that smoke that was very smooth. talking to Gary Lee from the switchboard about the hate crimes project. Very shortly,



Kay Harper 11:18

just after this song by Romanowski and Phillips.



Jeff Mackey 11:26

That was romanovski and Phillips with homophobia with which is connected with our subject this morning. Which is hate crimes. We have with us Gary Lee from England's been switchboard Houston. Good morning, Gary. Good morning. It's good to have you here. Thank you. I guess first thing why don't you tell us a little bit about what the switchboard does. To start with



11:57

switchboard is mainly a referral service for the community. People from out of town call we can tell them what's going on with the bars are we have some referrals professional referrals for people in town counseling, dentists, attorneys general information they people also can call and get information on if they're making a trip. Where you know what, maybe the switchboard number in the city they're going to or bars that. Are there. Just mainly information gay community.



Jeff Mackey 12:37

Is it also available for people who just might need to talk to somebody? Oh, yes. Yeah,



12:43

peer counseling. We will we don't make any in depth counseling. will listen.



Jeff Mackey 12:50

J Jeff Mackey 12:50

That's good. A lot of people that's that's what they really seem to need. And if someone wanted to call the switchboard, what number would they be calling

12:59

five to 932 11?

J Jeff Mackey 13:02

Yes. And when? When can they call?

13:07

We are staffed pretty much from three till midnight, seven days a week. The three to six shifts you may find vacant at times because it's hard to get people there. That early off work but always till midnight every night.

J Jeff Mackey 13:27

Good. You're the president of the board of the switchboard. The switchboard is understanding all volunteer organization. Totally. Okay now the switchboard has started a new project which is a hate crimes hotline project now what what does that entail? I mean, is it what what is the function of the hate crimes hotline

13:58

uh, we're working. Ultimately, we'll be working with the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. And they are gathering statistics nationwide on hate crimes within the gay and lesbian community which is getting K said earlier on the rise, hate crimes actually are for all segments of the population are on the rise not just gay and lesbians. But we can only deal with one one part of it. And we've been doing research with the National Gay Lesbian taskforce on developing forms and what kind of things we need to be gathering. And that's finally in place. We worked on it for about six months. The ultimate goal is that I would like for this to be a short lived project.

J Jeff Mackey 14:49

Yeah, we all wish that. And what what does the taskforce do with the with the statistics?

14:57

Mainly they're using them in going To the people who are writing laws and using them to say,

look, this is what's happening out there. Yeah. And so a lot of the hate crimes go unreported because? Well, for various reasons, some people don't want to say that they were harassed because they were gay. And so they don't report it to the authorities, but they would be more comfortable maybe reporting that to us.

J Jeff Mackey 15:29

Yeah. Yeah. I know that a lot of hate crimes go unreported because people are afraid of exposure, for one reason or another. Now, I know that last year, last April, in fact, President Bush signed the Hate Crimes Act, which authorized the Justice Department to start gathering figures on hate crimes. Is this connected with that in any way?

♂ 16:01

Only peripherally, we will be getting reports that we can check our statistics with to make sure that everything has been reported to the police, or that they just in basically, we can Yes, we can verify that everything has been reported. Or not that everything we don't know about the ones that don't call either one of us. But, you know, we can see the police are not getting these things. And so, and we anybody that calls our hate crimes hotline, we we encourage them to also report it to the police. Yes. So that there will be because that that carries a little weight to the police statistics.

J Jeff Mackey 16:56

Yeah. Okay. We're going to take a short break here. And we will be hearing, Jeff Morgan, with a song called what part of No, and then we'll be right back and talk a little more about the hate crimes hotline.

♂ 17:25

Rebecca and I went camping, we made camp. We spent some time eating, we were laying down by stream, and all of a sudden they were shocked. My arms exploded. Rebecca was hit twice and started to bleed to death. tempted to carry her clothes on successful. The entire walk out of the woods, I believed myself to be hunted. My name is Claudia Brenner. We were identified as lesbians by a stranger with whom we had no connection. He will spend the rest of his life in prison. But Rebecca, who was 28 years old, is gone.

♂ 18:04

Homophobia can kill. Education is the only lasting weapon against bigotry, which is why the lesbian and gay public awareness project wanted you to hear and think about this message.

♂ 18:18

For more information write us at Post Office Box 65603 Los Angeles, California 90065.

J

Jeff Mackey 18:29

was a rather well known graphic, audible reminder of an actual hate crime from a few years ago. Before that, we heard Jeff Morgan with what part of no of CD feeding the flame songs by men to end AIDS. And we're back with Jerry Lee from the switchboard talking about the hate crimes hotline project. What brought about the the project what was the impetus for for starting a hate crimes hotline?

o

19:09

Well, there had been some talk probably for over a year, initially with with Charles Armstrong actually, I guess, closer to two years. And it was just sort of seemed natural for the switchboard to start the project. We already had volunteer staff trained, answering phones, we had phone banks, and so basically entail adding a phone line. We've added a lot of training to the the switchboard training to deal with hate crimes calls. The financially Charles Armstrong had a couple of fundraisers, and raise money which we were using for an advertising campaign. We've posted Did some notices in all of the bars about the hate crimes hotline? Yeah.

J

Jeff Mackey 20:08

I know last year we had a rather spectacular local incident with the rather brutal murder of Paul Broussard. We which happened shortly before this, was that possibly some of the motivation for for beginning this at this time

o

20:30

probably sped things up and got we got a sort of really moving dead center on it.

J

Jeff Mackey 20:37

Yes. When did the hotline go into effect? When did it start operating?

o

20:45

mid December? I would say we were fully operational January one

J

Jeff Mackey 20:51

is the number for the hotline the same as for this switchboard? No,



20:55

it is not. It's five to 990 615-529-9615



J Jeff Mackey 21:02

Okay. Have there been many calls yet? On the line?



21:08

No, thank you.



J Jeff Mackey 21:13

I guess that's part of the reason for the the advertising that the advertising is just just starting recently. Yeah. Right. Yes. Okay. If someone wanted to get involved with the hotline, how would they go about that?



21:31

Call the regular switchboard number and anybody there will be glad to sign you up for our next training class, which will be mid June some I don't know the exact dates but it'll be in mid June.



J Jeff Mackey 21:46

Okay. The Did you say it's, it's now part of the regular switchboard training? Or is there a special class just for that it's part of the regular training. Okay. And calling switchboard the switchboard number, again, five to 932 3211. What do you see the future of the hotline is being I mean, is this will it become more actively involved in hate crimes prevention or is it primarily just for statistics gathering?



22:25

Well, primarily starting out for statistics gathering but I would like to see it as a preventive and I would also like to see sort of not happen.



J Jeff Mackey 22:38

Right. Right. Well, we all certainly hope that will that will come about Well, thank you for coming in this morning. Once again the the number of the hate crimes hotlines, five, two