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SPEAKERS

Randy Fields, Harvey Milk, Jewel Gray



Jewel Gray 00:01

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



00:15

I am what I am I have my own special creation so come to give me the all the Ovation it's more than I want Bryden and it's not a place to hide lies not worth a damn to you can say hi you've just got an after hours continuing tradition on KPFT



01:12

my goal for want sprays I don't wanna bang my own drum it's pretty bad things from a different angle Dawn life is a sham till you can shout out



Jewel Gray 01:50

am what I am and what I need no excuses I do my own deck sometimes he says no no deposit god damn till you can shout out



02:32

we must destroy the Miss horses Roy shatter them we must continue to speak out. And most importantly most importantly every gay person



Harvey Milk 02:52

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 neighbor you must tell the people your work you must tell the people the stories you shot you



03:18

realize that we are indeed the children that we are indeed everywhere every every lie every innuendo will be destroyed and you will feel so much better



03:59

do my own deck sometimes I will stand up



04:43

you may all come out. Where will you be when they come?



Jewel Gray 05:54

Good evening you've caught after hours this evening. This is KPFT 90.1 Houston. This is Jewel Gray, I'm here with Scott Lewis. And we're expecting a really good show this evening. We're going to hear from Diane Williams who's in Dallas at the MCC MCC mentioned up there. She's going to be calling us and we'll talk to her a little while. We're hoping to hear from Q Patrol. If you're out there and you're already patrolling out there, give us a call and let us know what's going on tonight. I'm expecting to see Randy Peavy in here shortly he's yet to arrive. He's going to talk to us a little bit around 1230 this evening. He's a very active member with queer nation. And he's an alternate on the board of directors at the Greater AIDS Alliance. And he is probably out there patrolling the streets right now. And that's why he's late. He's a member of the Q Patrol. We'll talk with Scott a little bit later about 145 Right after this way out, about take back the streets. He's got a real, whole lot of stuff to tell us about take back the streets tonight. And he's got some interesting information about the problems we've been having with Randles in the community. He's also going to be talking about something very dear and near to his near and dear to his heart. His his working on a new television show for access Houston called queer city. And I can't wait to talk to him a little bit about that. Somewhere. After that, we're gonna do a little tape that Bruce Reeves did recently, when he interviewed Joe watts, who's putting on a three act play over diverse works called Unity in the community. And he's interviewing Joe tonight. After that. We'll talk about some of the stuff going on in the community. And we'll we'll visit with some people and play some music. So stay with us. We're gonna be here for a while we're gonna play your girlfriend. We won't be silent. Okay, we're back. I'm glad you could join us. This is Jewel Gray. And I have something I want to read to you. I found while I was looking through some stuff today. I'll be brief. But I want it to I want it to lead into talking with Randy. And I think it's appropriate. It's by a woman, a PhD Betty bird Zoid zone. And it's in a book called positively gay new approaches to gay life. And you can get this I believe it Inklings or Crossroads are some of the better bookstores will will carry this book and there's a piece in the preface. This woman writes about being developing a positive gay identity. It starts who am I? Am I okay? Two questions that plague all of us eternally. The questions are elusive and ever

changing, clearer and more dependable, and sometimes less trustworthy. at others. We grow older and find new layers of definition in ourselves. Our values change society's values change, or at least shift in emphasis. Our own reference points move and move and move again. We are greatly affected by external events. We in turn affect those events by the way we relate to them. Our lives involve a constant interplay of feelings and behavior, past and present fantasy and reality. We are the sum of all our parts, but only for a moment. Identity is moving, a changing process, not a fixed established point. But this isn't taught this is an intolerable truth. Our sanity requires compromise. We select components of ourselves to relate to and awareness, we arrange them to into a semblance have order and think of ourselves as this configuration as long as it makes sense to us and to those around us. This is what personal identity is about. It's not it is not immutable, is not totally fluid. It is somewhere in between. It's amendable to change by design. It is ours to reorder if we have courage to accept the challenge, it does take courage. It takes courage to consult oneself for the direction to take in life rather than consulting tradition, it is often easier to be defined by what other people expect of you to merge into a stereotype to yield invit individuality to abdicate responsibility for being who you are and becoming what you want to be. But the price for giving up the prerogative to grow is a devastating, it is devastating and spirit, and energy and integrity. Forever, it seems gay people have been giving their power away to others, define me explain me, structure my behavior, decide for me what I can and cannot hope to achieve in my life. Make rules for my precipitation in society, let me know the limits of my of tolerability. If I happen to go beyond the boundary set for me, it takes uncommon courage to reclaim power once it's been given away. And it isn't uncommon courage that is called for in developing a positive gay identity in an anti gay society. such courage has been aroused for many by the accomplishments of new Gay Rights Movement. Many gay people who have been inspired to seek a better life through the increasing self definition and self determination. Many of us are now rejecting tolerance, rewriting the rules, defining the boundaries, embracing the challenge of change by designing and implementing that challenge with personal and political action. And I read this because when I, when I talked to this next young man, on a daily basis, that's how I think about him. And I think about the organization he belongs to on those terms, that they're challenging the anti gay society in the way that they have defined best suited for them. And I've been really dismayed about the reaction I've been hearing lately about the group that he's in. And I wanted to give him and many of his friends and followers and people that work with him a voice on this on this program. So I want to welcome Randy Randy Peavy with queer nation. I told you earlier, that he's also an alternate on the greater AIDS Alliance board. And he just walked over here from doing his part tonight in the Q Patrol. Hi, Randy, how's it going?

R

Randy Fields 12:44

Great.

J

Jewel Gray 12:45

Great. I'm glad you could come. I'm really excited about some of the things we want to talk about. I wanted to ask you first, because I think that's the most important thing is what? What spurred you to join queer nation and get involved like this?

R

Randy Fields 13:00

Basically, because I got tired of people having to be ashamed of who they are. I got tired of 12 years of republicanism. I got tired of gay bashing, I got tired of seeing my friends die.

J

Jewel Gray 13:13

You know? And you decided to do something about it. Yeah, that's right. And tell me about the limit. You're willing to go to affect these changes that you're involved in with coordination?

R

Randy Fields 13:25

Well, I'm I'm willing to go pretty much as far as it takes short of physical violence.

J

Jewel Gray 13:32

I know you were recently over at the west end clinic doing some anti demonstrating, anti demonstrating I think that's interesting, anti demonstrating, standing and escorting women into the clinic there. Yeah, that's right. I was impressed with that. Because I just didn't picture that as a queer nation kind of thing. And it kind of made me wake up and look a little deeper into Queer Nation and, and its motives and reasons for being there. What do you think about Queer Nation? What? What is it to you?

R

Randy Fields 14:12

I think it's a wonderful organization. I consider coordination to be for those of you who are familiar with the civil rights movement of the 1960s. I consider coordination to be Malcolm X to some of these other groups. Dr. King, I consider us like, the bad guys who everybody's afraid of.

J

Jewel Gray 14:34

And and you've been getting some bad. Bad Press lately. What do you what do you think that's about?

R

Randy Fields 14:41

Well, I think basically, it's people who are ashamed of who they are and would rather sit in the bars 12 or 14 hours a day than fight for our rights.

J

Jewel Gray 14:51

And that's what you intend to do you in the people with coordination is fight for our rights. Yeah, that's right. What do you say to someone who says you know what? First thing I hear usually is Oh, I hate that word. What do you say to someone when they say that?

R Randy Fields 15:05

Well, we've taken the word queer, which has always been a negative had a negative connotation and turned it around and made it something positive.

J Jewel Gray 15:15

And and if they still disagree with that, well how do you how can you handle that?

R Randy Fields 15:23

I'll just say to anybody just come out of the closet get out of the bars and start fighting for our rights our people are going to be annihilated.

J Jewel Gray 15:31

And you I'm sorry, you recently we're I think weren't wasn't que quiere nation walking at the tail end of the gay pride parade. Yeah, that's right. What kind of reception did you get there?

R Randy Fields 15:47

Well, we until we got to the HPD storefront on Westheimer. It was it was pretty positive. And then we had two people are obviously intoxicated, making rude comments to us.

J Jewel Gray 16:02

Seeing the T shirts around, where people are, like, have this sign, what's the queer nation the anti queer nation t shirt? Can you tell us where that comes from? Where do you think that started and know what's going on with that?

R Randy Fields 16:13

Yeah, I know exactly where it came from. It came from somebody who, like I said, is a self loathing homosexual who's ashamed of who he is? And doesn't have anything better to do than to pick on us and he wanted to sell a few T shirts.

J Jewel Gray 16:28

Do you? Do you want to be a little more specific with this person?

R Randy Fields 16:32

Yeah, his name is John bushland, and he's the owner of TNT t shirt shops on Fairview.

J Jewel Gray 16:38

I think we talked about consulting with him and seeing if he wanted to come down and talk with us one time, would you? Would you be willing to do something like that?

R Randy Fields 16:49

Yes. As a matter of fact, I'd like to challenge him to debate me on this program. At any time.

J Jewel Gray 16:55

I'd like to get both perspectives of this. I'd like people out there to to hear both sides. That's one of the reasons I invite you on the show this evening to hear both sides. Tell me about some of the activities you've been involved in. I know you were up there in The Woodlands Weren't you up there in The Woodlands with the

R Randy Fields 17:14

I moved here. I moved here after the woodlands thing happened. The first thing I did was a picket George Bush on Halloween night. Halloween night. Great. Isn't that? Isn't that isn't that an appropriate time to be in town on Halloween night?

J Jewel Gray 17:28

So on Halloween night, were you there with Axl Rose with the call? Yeah,

R Randy Fields 17:34

we were there about the basic instinct that was there for that, too.

J Jewel Gray 17:39

And what do you feel about participating in all these things? Do you think your words getting out? Do you think people are hearing you and what do you think about?

R Randy Fields 17:48

.....

Well, we've been we've been we've been getting more positive comments recently. We were at a at a Randles. Friday. We went picketed Randles. And by the way, I want to tell everybody out there that you should have seen the police presence at Randles. There were 40 police cars there. And we counted about 80 Cops. And some of them have some of them had riot gear and there was a helicopter flying around over here the whole time we were there.

J Jewel Gray 18:12

And how many of these peaceful correlations? Nationalist were there that night?

R Randy Fields 18:16

That were about 20? So well, we figured out the ratio was for cops to each protester. And

J Jewel Gray 18:22

did anything occur?

R Randy Fields 18:24

No, not at all. One One, a person was gonna get arrested. And he walked in the store and passed out leaflets for about 20 minutes, and they didn't ever do anything. So he left and then he went back in and

J Jewel Gray 18:39

say you can't get arrested.

R Randy Fields 18:42

We were we were planning to he was he was planning to get arrested and the police followed him around the store. And they kept telling him turn this way turn that way, which of course he didn't. He could didn't understand because they were behind him to two of them, knocked him on the ground. And they took him upstairs and borrowed the media from the store.

J Jewel Gray 19:05

Naturally. Tell us a little bit about about what's going on. Randall some of the people out here. Haven't been following this as closely as as you and I might be. What's going on with Randles?

R Randy Fields 19:16

Well, Randles has a long history of discrimination against gays and lesbians. They've they've refused. They they finally After long negotiations agreed to put a anti discrimination clause that included sexual orientation their contract hasn't been that long ago that they fired Steven little because there was a rumor that his his roommate had AIDS

J Jewel Gray 19:41

so you guys are pretty mad at that at Randles. And what have you guys been doing? Other than this last incident What have you been doing me yourself and Queer Nation I know that you sometimes even step outside of Queer Nation and and take on certain issues.

R Randy Fields 19:58

Yes, well, we we go Over there on a regular basis just you know, you never know what night we're going to show up or which rentals we're going to show up at. But uh, we just walk around the store holding hands and the managers are really intimidated by it. I mean, they always call extra managers they whenever they think we're going to show up.

J Jewel Gray 20:17

I can see him see, was 60 over the last incident at Randles? Pardon? Explain. Explain. Oh, okay, I got you. I got it says go over that. 60 over. Okay. The last incident Randles you guys went down there to to protest. Just a regular night or was there some special agenda?

R Randy Fields 20:43

No, it was just a Friday night. We figured it would be a good time to get in there and pick it. It was completely peaceful demonstration like all our demonstrations are peaceful. And the police just completely overreacted.

J Jewel Gray 20:57

And I'm getting furious notes here. It says What did Randles What did Randles do? What was what what did they do that precipitated coordination come down there. You said they fired Steven little the

R Randy Fields 21:10

FARC Steven little and they still carry the green sheet we asked whatever the thing happened with the green sheet. I know y'all remember that? Most people do. Yes. We we asked every store in Montrose to not carry the green sheet. 39 agreed. And Reynolds absolutely refused. And they still carry the green sheet. They most recently, about four or five weeks ago, they decided that as long as the Houston press carried two or three gay classified ads a week that it was no longer welcome and Randles.

J Jewel Gray 21:45

Let's just take a second for those who don't know about green sheet and the anti. What was it the anti discriminatory area that queer nation was declared in the Montrose area? Can you talk about that? And then we'll go I mean, and then that leading into the green sheet and the green sheet leading into Randles?

R Randy Fields 22:09

Yes, well, we we most of the stores in most of the of the businesses in Montrose have antidiscrimination clauses Kroger's has one apple tree has one all the businesses hire have gay employees. But Randles I know that Reynolds has got gay employees but they until recently, they did not have an anti discrimination clause we asked him to change that and it took it was it took a big fight over that it was a big fight over that with him.

J Jewel Gray 22:40

And then the green sheet refused to run gay personal ads or anything to announce gay events or something and and Queer Nation took on that. And and that culminated with the Randalls right now as the iron anger that Queer Nation is feeling for directed at Randles.

R Randy Fields 23:00

Yeah, exactly. Right. Exactly.

J Jewel Gray 23:02

Right. Well, I know that there's some other things I know you felt very strongly about. Basic Instinct. So I know. Randy is one of the few men that I know that I'm comfortable talking about sexism with, because he has a very unique perspective and a very, probably one of the least sexist men I've met. And I really appreciate being around him. How did you feel about basic instincts?

R Randy Fields 23:31

Well, I thought that was the most misogynistic movie I've ever seen. In my life. I didn't see the movie, we wrote a script. But it was, every woman in that movie was some kind of ice Pitt killer. You know, if it had just been one woman, that would have been one thing, but every woman in that movie was was a lesbian and an ice killer.

J Jewel Gray 23:53

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And how do you feel about the people who are the family, people, brothers and sisters out there? Who would, you know, go to a movie and promote is by purchasing a ticket, promote and tell somebody? Hey, I want to see this kind of stuff again?

R

Randy Fields 24:09

Well, I think I think I think they ought to be ashamed of yourself. I mean, it's not too much to ask, to not go see a movie. I mean, they're usually about 15 movies playing at a time. And, you know, all I can say is if we want to continue if women and gay people and all minorities want to continue being oppressed, just keep it avoiding our boycotts.

J

Jewel Gray 24:33

And how many boycotts do you have right now going on? I mean, I know I keep in touch with quite a few of them. And, and I know that I'm not always politically correct. I mean, I occasionally throw away my aluminum cans. And I miss some of some liquidation events. I hear about them usually after they've occurred, but I'm a real real fan. What other kinds of boycotts are they're going on now?

R

Randy Fields 25:01

Well, obviously, we're boycotting Randles. And we're still boycotting the green sheet. We're asking people not to buy anything from the green sheet or run any ads in the green sheet.

J

Jewel Gray 25:13

And how about TNT? Yes,

R

Randy Fields 25:15

well, well, there's there's a semi boycott of TNT. I mean, we're not, I'm not gonna buy anything there. And I would I would appreciate if anybody supports what Queer Nation does, please don't buy anything from TNT.

J

Jewel Gray 25:29

You know, the first time I saw the T shirts, I want to get back to that momentarily, because it made real strong and lasting impression on me. I was at the I was at the quilt at the St. Thomas. And I was sitting at a table for the mastery workshop. And I saw someone come up a friend of mine who came up and said, I will see my T shirt. Don't you just love it. And I told him, frankly, no matter if it was inappropriate to be battling each other, standing over the quilt of our dead brothers and sisters and people that were HIV positive, I thought it was inappropriate

to be fighting with each other over some petty differences. We talked earlier about the spectrum of people involved in coordination, not everybody is aggressive, or we were talking earlier or to the left as you aren't great nation. Is that, is that true?

R

Randy Fields 26:20

Yeah, that's right there there. There are people of various political stripes in Queer Nation. I'm pretty sure we don't have any Republican members. But if any Republicans want to join, we would certainly be willing to educate them.

J

Jewel Gray 26:33

Okay, I need to take a quick break right here. We're going to well, you know, I really need to let you know what we listened to a little while ago, we listened to the disposable heroes of hypocrisy during the language of violence. And we listen to Tom Robinson, dude, glad to be gay. And we're going to listen to Leah's Akari No. Obviously, we're not going to listen to Leah's Akari