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SUMMARY KEYWORDS

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00:02

We are the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, which supports us by about 20%. We get about 90,000 a year, but that's going to be phased out by the year 2000. So we have to pick up that slack. The big kick, we want to remain on the air. Yeah.

00:20

20% 20% doesn't sound like a lot on the surface. It's it's a huge amount, though, when you get to talking about the amount of money that it takes to run a radio. So on yearly basis,

00:32

I know. Tower rent alone is 20,000 a year. See, I

00:36

just can't I can't even I can't even put that in my head. That's more than

00:39

your hair.

00:42

That's right.

00:45

I didn't know that. 75% of our budget comes from the listeners. Yes. 75%. Yeah, waist.



00:51

Waist, we get a huge, huge amount. is



00:55

like I said by the year 2000. It's gonna be 100%.



00:59

And, and we do we do our part here. Everybody can always do more like everybody that you hear here on Saturday nights. From midnight to three on after hours is here of their own volition. Nobody's getting paid for this.



01:16

Can you imagine a radio station that's run by only five full time employees and two part time employees and everybody else is volunteer. That's incredible.



01:29

Everybody else's Jimmy Jimmy does everything else. He changes his voice a lot. Yes.



01:37

Jimmy is the Mary Ramirez experience. So not what



01:42

kinds of what kind of premium



01:47

premiums aren't you? And I can't find that out. Warn me. You got to warn me when you get a bumper. Okay. Okay, for \$35 for \$35 pledge calling in your support. On KPFT. We have a we have a bumper sticker with the the multicolored KPFT logo.



02:06

For \$60. It's a t shirt. And it's the new design. It's red, white and blue. It's it's a Texas license

plate with KPFT on it. And for \$90 you can get two T shirts or a CD case. For \$150. We have the KPFT briefcase, it's got the KPFT logo on it. It's really fab \$75 We still have that spring water. That 16 ounce bottle spring.



02:36

Easy. Yes, it's fabulous deal. It's a fabulous deal. It



02:40

is and I'm still looking for that \$500 leadership circle. That would be great. That would really be great. And that you get like a CD among you get tickets, you get invites to special party see arteria Cydia



02:56

with Jimmy Yeah, well. And this is a two bedroom house. And many other benefits. That's right. If you if you after the tour with Jimmy, if



03:11

you pledge all those other amounts 6090 150 or 75, you get a date with Scott, if you are in the leadership circle, you don't get a date with Scott,



03:20

which would encourage them greatly to get in the leadership. Leadership circle.



03:24

Scott, do you have that Martin do Martha wash?



03:27

Do you want to play that now?



03:28

Why don't we play



03:28

that? And while you're playing that one of the things that we did leave out is the number yes it is 526573852 6k P f t is the number to call and pledge your support to to let the powers that be know that this is the kind of programming that you want to continue to hear on KPFT This is the kind of station that you appreciate having in your fair city.



03:52

Nobody that pay their employees would have Jimmy behind the control of a radio station to send in money now. This is it's not that new but I just found out about it this week. It's off The First Wives Club soundtrack it's Martha wash. I'm still standing which is I mean she just fat and sassy. Hey, hey hey, what would you say about me when I'm going oh, I'm sorry. We're back on Tom. You know if you were the Tweety Welcome back because we need to do a station we have some headphones we're talking headphones dug up. We need to do we need to do station ID before we get going where those headphones and you always know what's going on. We need to tell pick we need to tell the people that they are listening to 90.1 FM KPFT Houston and 89.1 ke O 's in College Station and consider



04:44

a pledge. We are here talking with with two indeed when I say special guests. They truly are. We're talking with dug up church and you have to come pending with you and you have not introduced him come over here to the microphone and introduce your companion.



05:06

This is my partner have going on about three years now Tyler Reeves we actually met over the internet. And he's here with me providing little moral support. I there



05:17

and, and in our other indeed very special guest and we're glad is Doug's father, Don up church. And we're going to try to, we're going to turn a little bit of the conversation over to Don and and we do have several questions. I it Jimmy out there. YES. Jimmy, you wanted to ask? Ask a couple questions here. And, and so feel free to do so there one.



05:49

Yeah, I wanted to direct a couple of questions to Don, about how he reacted to his sons coming out and how he felt and what what went through his mind.



06:04

That came out to us as an adult. And we had dealt with a lot of his troubles. And we've seen

him grow up carefully. And

06:18

did you have any idea? Well, sure.

06:20

I mean, that's the thing when you when you through through his teenage years, he was he was always a unique individual. He was very studious, he was very intelligent, he and he, but he didn't like the athletic things. And so you don't know whether your child is just tends to be not athletic and tends to be more intellectual and artistic? Are if that, does that mean that they're gay? And you don't know and you don't want to ask as a parent. And, and as a, as a vessel, program to parent if you will. You, you have your expectations and you keep those expectations that everything's gonna be just the way you thought it was gonna be, you know, wife and two children and live happily ever after. So you keep that in your mind and you think that he's just artistic or more intellectually inclined, that's. But you always wonder, well, maybe

07:31

Don Whittington, but when he came out to you now. Now I have heard several parents say, Well, we have to come out the closet to maybe that's a little difficult for me to understand because because really, my my parents never did except dogs. But that was either. Okay, that was their problem, not mine. But did you also have problems dealing with Don? Well, I didn't have a particular problem in my relationship with Doug. His we have a problem with him being gay.

08:06

His mother and I love him very much and what he's the same individual that that we knew and love the day before he told us he was gay.

08:14

Okay. Can you repeat that? Because there's a lot of people out there that need to hear that

08:20

dog is is the same wonderful individual. The day after he told us he was gay, as he was the day before he told us he was gay. And it's just inconceivable to his mother and I that that we would reject Him as our son simply because of this factor, which he had nothing to do with. This was just, you know, the nature of his life what his orientation is,



08:49

but a lot of parents have. Certainly



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a lot of a lot of people don't want to think about these things to the degree that they try to understand.



09:01

Don't if, if, if a young brother and sister out there would contact PFLAG and say, I'm wanting to come out. I've come out to my parents are having a hard time. What can PFLAG do to help ease that? That process?



09:21

PFLAG can support their parents more than they can the youth PFLAG by virtue of our does that is super important. Yeah, it deals with people aged over 18 years of age. So PFLAG addresses the parents in the in the adult but carefully with hat works closely with the youth and so that's where we try to to team up but our emphasis is helping parents understand the issues, support them in the process of understanding the issues and try to grow in their awareness of them. What? being gay and being lesbian is all about? Where is it? What is it? Because it in many times takes causes people to have to change their basic fundamental beliefs which they perhaps were taught by their parents is the fundamental biblical beliefs perhaps. And in order to, to question those issues, you really have to be very thoughtful. And you have to, you have to spend time and energy, trying to say, How can I still relate this as a Christian, and as a loving parent. And when it's contrary to what I've always believed all my life, and so you have to spend the time the parent has to spend the time to learn first. And to do this in PFLAG is in an environment where other parents who have done this can support you and help you we have libraries, videotapes available, so that the parents can, can come experience the journey of understanding and growing to deal with this different expectation. I mean, it was not my expectation that Doug was going to be gay. And so that was my expectation. And so I had to, I had to learn to deal with that. And that's where PFLAG can help. How did



11:25

you get involved with PFLAG?



11:27

Doug invited us, Doug Got it. Got involved with beef all around us. And, and we have enjoyed it immensely. It's a wonderful group of people. You just can sense the love and the care. And the giving. It's an all volunteer organization



11:49

familiar with,



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we would like some time to visit a PFLAG meeting, would we be welcome.



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Certainly, you'd be welcome. We meet on the first Sunday of every month at Christ Church, downtown Texas and fan and on Sunday afternoons at two o'clock. And we have a one hour general program session. And then we have the heart of the P grant PFLAG effort is our small group, we break up into small groups of eight to 10 people, with a facilitator and we share our experiences and support one another in that way. And that's that's really what I was



12:27

just going to ask you, if I went to a meeting, what would what would happen? What could I expect?



12:33

tomorrow's meeting is on ex gay ministries. And Doug Wow, John Bush, timely that this is on tonight. Doug and John Bush will be presenting the program tomorrow on ex gay ministries. Would



12:46

you give us that address in time again, please? It's



12:48

the Christ Church, that they drove downtown Houston on Texas at Fannin. It's 2pm. Sunday afternoon. It lasts till about 430 It's, it's a great place to come and, and share and



13:05

get some answers. Maybe because maybe this is the parents coming out. I mean, the child has spent years dealing with being gay. And and Yeah, well, we know you know, it took you 12 years to to come to grips with it. And we can't expect our parents to do it in five minutes. Yeah. When the child



13:28

comes out the parents go in the closet. Yeah, yeah. I don't want to admit it to their family, their friends, their co workers. And the interesting thing is that in my experience when I have when I have opened this issue opened my closet door and talk to my friends and and others have had the same experience. Our friends are very supportive. It's Oh, well, my nephew's gay are Oh, my sister's a lesbian. Wow. Yes, you just start networking this thing to where people understand it's not this terrible thing. It's it's part of our society is it's these are wonderful, loving people who need to be valued and not pushed aside one of the



14:21

billboards that PFLAG had put up on the freeway and they were so Oh, yeah. And and I wish that you had let us know more about that in advance. Because we would have been more than happy I mean, send us a notice to the radio station. While they are now come and throw a rock in our windows do something to let us know guy right but but one of the billboards that that I liked was everybody knows somebody that's gay. That's right, you know? And I liked that.



14:56

I think it's important to from a from a gay person's perspective. That's Talk about PFLAG because you know, PFLAG is often seen as the group for parents and for family members. And for me when I came out when the end of my journey when I finally said, Hey, changing my sexual orientation didn't get to work. I was actually kicked out of the church I was involved with we were all my friends were, I had no friends left. And so the only thing I had was I started going out to Jr's meeting people there happened to fortunately meet somebody there who took me to the PFLAG meeting the next month, he was on the board of directors, a gay guy, one of my best friends now, but I when I got there, it was the first time I had ever been in a room of people straight, gay, lesbian, you name it. But there were people that told me that it was okay for me to be gay. They could accept me for that. And for the first five months, because it was six months before I told my parents that all of this had gone on. For five months, PFLAG was my only source of support. And that in that it was the it was the place where I could be myself. And so PFLAG, although its its primary purpose will always be for the families and friends. Its secondary purpose, and especially here in Houston is our chapter has grown tremendously. Now we have roughly about 150 folks that are meetings every every month. But But what's, what's interesting is that it is it has a very, very large percentage of the population of the meetings are gay and lesbian folks, their parents may or may not accept them, they may or may not have a good relationship with their parents, they may or may not have told their parents yet. They may or may not have come out to anybody but the PFLAG group at this time. I mean, it may be that their own coming out process



16:36

and donor this is if a gay man or woman contact you and say, Can you help me with my parents? Okay. Do you send material to the family? Do you contact them by phone app? We can do that



16:56

we can send literature to the family, we can personally contact a family which is more effective. I think you can talk one on one, I would think so. This is an issue that that like like most things that are hate related. You hate the things that you can push away from you and don't have to personalize. Call it a thing. Yeah, this is I hate that thing. But when it's my son, or my daughter, or my co worker or my neighbor, it's personal. I know this individual. This is a good person. Now I have to deal with this issue and myself about or why do I feel that way? We'll see. Well, we can contact the parents, we can try to encourage them to come to PFLAG. We can send materials. There are over 400 chapters of PFLAG around the country and in 11 foreign countries. If your parents don't live in this community, there are other PFLAG chapters around we can put them in touch with. So there's over 65,000 families represented through the PFLAG organization. And that's hundreds of 1000s of people.



18:15

That something you said just a little while ago. I want to I want to ask you about it. You said you walked into the PFLAG room. And there were all these people who accepted you How did that feel? I mean, it's like the first time you're ever in a room with all of these different people.



18:35

I cried a lot. I really did. It was a it was a pretty amazing experience for me because it was number one. Oddly enough PFLAG meets in a church primarily because it's the biggest place that we can find for the cheapest amount of money to meet with all these folks. But here I was in the church, and there were straight people. There were gay people, there were people that frankly, look just like people that were in my church that I just gotten kicked out of three weeks ago, before this, and it was it was just the most amazing thing. In fact, when I told people what had happened to me, I remember one mother that's still in the group now. And she just, she looked at me and we were in small groups, and she just got up out of her chair. She came over she gave me a hug. She gave me a hug. And I just said, I mean, it's just amazing. She goes, I can't believe you've been through that. I'm so glad you're here. And I lost. I mean, it was it's a very I mean, it's a very, it was a very emotional time for me and I'm so that's part of why I'm still in it. That's why I'm giving back to it now because there's so many people that can benefit from what that group has to offer, especially in our community. Yeah, I mean,



19:45

it, Jimmy, it seemed and Dawn especially, it seems that that it's hard for for people like myself to to relate to that, as much as I want to do this program is geared toward saying we'd love you, and we care. And not only saying it, but meaning it and showing it. And, and, and, and this is why I think that we've been wanting to try and find somebody from DX gate ministers, because we know from things we hear from things from read that it has destroyed many lives and has led many of our young people to simply go out and commit suicide. Okay, that's what to get gay ministries have done to, to a lot of our brothers and sisters. And so it may be hard

within within us to relate to these experiences saying, Wow, I finally walked into a place that accepts me because we ourselves have learned to say, To hell with you, I'm going here where I am accepted. Okay. Okay. Whereas that was not true in bonds case. I mean, in Doug's case, okay. And, and maybe it's a little difficult to relate to that. But that's why we are super excited about what Doug is doing, simply because here we have somebody that has experienced it. And it says, and can say with us, I do love you, I do care. Here's a way out. Right,

21:32

Doug? If this is too personal, you don't have to answer it. But when we first started, or even before we started, I mentioned that people's spiritual lives are very important. And you've kind of been the gamut. What's your spiritual life now?

21:51

But my personal perspective is I consider myself a spiritual person. I believe that. For me, Faith is an important part of my life. I would not say that I'm a regular churchgoer. However, I believe that, that I don't believe that any. Let me see, I want to phrase this. I believe that religion can be used as a good thing. And it can be a good thing, I believe, unfortunately. I but I also believe it's a very personal issue. And I believe that people have to make their own personal decisions. My partner and I even have different perspectives on this issue. And we're very happily reconciled with that. He happens to come from a Mormon background, and is no longer has any interest in that, in that that church or that ground. So we have a we have a pretty diverse background. But at the same point in time, I have many gay and lesbian friends who are Jewish, who are atheist who are Christian and more power to them. For me, I found that I can do the most by helping others by reaching out to other people. And that's almost I guess, my form of spirituality. That's pretty

23:07

spiritual.

23:09

No, no, no, we talked before the church about the relationship of PFLAG to the ex gay ministries. Okay, so I understand it. But I have a feeling there's people out there that is ready to ask that question right now. Could you tell us is there a relationship between PFLAG and and Doug's, ex ex gay ministers?

23:31

Well, let me first start, Tom, by just saying what it is that I'm doing. That's something that may be more that that might be a good start. Yeah, that would be about a couple of months ago, I started realizing that there was a real lack of information out there on what these ex gay ministries do what they believe, and more specifically on the damage that has that occurs to

gays and lesbians who go through these groups, only to realize afterwards that number one, trying to change their sexual orientation is not possible. Number two, that they've wasted a large portion of their lives typically on a very futile quest of changing sexual orientation. I happen to be in the computing industry. And so I decided that the easiest and quickest way for me to start getting the word out was to create a website on the internet. So I've created an internet site that is out there called x dot x. And its sole purpose is to provide personal stories of people that I have made acquaintance with either personally or on the internet to have their personal stories of what they went through in these ex gay groups. And so what I'm doing is really trying to just get the word out right now I'm doing it through speaking doing it through the article that appeared in this past January issue of outsmart also through being here tonight. I mean, it's really just getting the word out because frankly, there are very few people out there that have been willing to speak up and talk about it, and there's not a lot of real open, honest and personal Information. What's that computer

25:02

address? Again?

25:03

Yeah, the website address. I didn't know what to do that now or not?

25:06

Oh, yeah. Anytime to say.

25:11

First of all, let me give the email address if you want to email me and you just have email, you can do that. It's E X, E X, gay ex ex gay@aol.com. That's E x E x gay@aol.com. The website address. And if you're on the internet and can get to a net internet browser, you just need to type in members memb ers.aol.com. Forward slash, E x E x gay. There's no www or anything like that in this one. It's just members.aol.com forward slash x x gay E x E x game. And if you just get the email address xx xx gay@aol.com. I'll make sure you get the information you

26:01

need. Oh, that's great. Yeah.

26:04

I think it might also be appropriate to mention too. We were talking about this earlier. And I wanted to bring it up is that one of the things that the those folks that are out there that are on the internet can do is also take advantage of the resources that PFLAG has on the internet. We

have a tremendous amount of brochures that we put together that are what read this before coming out to your parents, those kinds of things that are available on PFLAG Houston's website, which I also maintain. And that's at WWW dot PFLAG PF la GHTX. That's h Tx for Houston. texas.org o RG. So www dot PFLAG H tx.org. And that's PFLAG Houston's website. And there's a lot of great resources out there. For those of you that are wondering about how to tell your parents or if your parents don't know what to do when once you've told them there's some good information for them there too, as



26:54

well. If you weren't able to get that information down, I guarantee you we'll give it a couple more times before we get off the air and contact them learn what they've got understand what they've got. Because we do care.



27:17

time we want to want to say thank you and if you want to continue but we need to do a little pledge drive. You're right.



27:25

Okay. Yeah, it's



27:26

because we we got we got people to thank man. Yay, we have



27:35

y'all help bring us in some money. We Okay, that's fine.



27:40

Thank you guys for coming down.



27:42

Doug. And Don, thanks very much for coming in tonight.



27:45

I just want to give one phone number real quick is the PFLAG helpline number. This is for those

of you that aren't on the internet, but you at least have a phone 8679020 as 8679020. That's the PFLAG helpline and that number is monitored machine that's monitored every day. So you can call me the message. If you want someone to call your parents and talk to them. They're having trouble dealing with your sexuality. Or if you want more information about PFLAG. It's a great place to go. Thanks for your time you guys.



28:12

Thank you for coming in guys got I have one thing it will take a couple minutes to put up final thoughts on this. And I am hoping that these thoughts are will be encouraging to you I thought about them long and hard in our society. For one man to show compassion, concern and love toward another man is considered a natural and unmanly for one man to share love with another to embrace the kiss the love is called queer. But the Horse of War and hate the practice of deceit and to endorse state sanctioned murder is often called wholly to lie and willfully endorsed the distortion of truth is translated as an act of God. To give up our search in faith for knowledge, is considered an asset instead of a liability. Somewhere, we have lost the meaning of love and tolerance. We feel our deeds must be witnessed and praised by others to hold any meeting to hold any value. We've witnessed time and again the actions of Christians to store not only the basic American freedoms, but the ordain human rights of the Creator, often sugarcoating off the server coding their deeds as often sugarcoating their deeds in the name of that creator, for his man that You are mindful of him with the Son of man that you have visited him. You've made him a little lower than the angels, but your crowning score and often with glory and honor is often lost in the belly of the bigot. In Genesis with the declaration of Let Us make man in our image, have ads come to mean that God is made of flesh and bones. Thus truth. The truth, as we see it is often shackled from our faith in our ever searching hope, for hope, knowledge, and faith. God is the Spirit, they worship, painless worship in spirit and truth was the words of the Teacher that we call the Christ. We are in Dear brothers and sisters of all the absolute truth that ever is, this one stands out above all others. We are great spiritual beings. But when you allow fear and doubt to be the controller of your soul, of your conscious of your mind, then you begin to lose the power of the great treasure that is called love. That is often that more often than not, is rooted in faith and hope, and nourished by knowledge. You are not evil because you're gay. Now to the contrary, that's ridiculous and stupid and irresponsible to teach such a thing. You were given a gift with more than all the gold of the silver, and all the precious stones that have ever been found by man. You were given the insatiable gift to know, to want to know, to understand, to love and freely field and to give compassion. You were given the special gifts that gay people have the gift to be truly and honestly a very, very special person. We'd love you all. And we really do care. And and later on tonight, we will give the dogs numbers again and so forth. And also PFLAG. Let me thank you. And dawn. We appreciate you guys. I could do a whole lot.



32:09

Yeah, Doug and Don, thanks very much for coming in. Tom. Thanks so much. We appreciate your your being with us tonight and having Doug Doug and dawn on. We got some we got some people to thank. Thank goodness we've got Mark calling in from Houston to show his support for KPFT and a monetary manner he says it's a great show. He says his nephew evens

listen even listens to the show who is 14 years old. He bought the book for your mind after listening to after hours on KPFT Good for him. We got an anonymous pledge who says the reasons that he called are just too darn medievalist and doesn't use it. You are one of them.



32:56

I have no doubt.



32:56

I have no doubt and nor do I have much doubt that you weren't. We also had a call from Wayne



33:06

says he's literally wouldn't Elmo when Henry will be donating tomorrow. Oops, sorry. Go ahead.



33:14

There's apparently some discussion about this whole Elmer Wayne Henley thing and I've got my opinions. Wayne, who is in Houston and not in a nice Texas prison is listening to us right now. wants everybody to please call in and give their support. And we got another anonymous pledge from out Seabrook way and says he really enjoys listening to after hours friends. It's your turn



33:49

these announcements I think are people you've slept with and oh, just send the money to the station.



33:55

Then we should be getting a whole hell of a lot more money.



34:00

\$60 pledges they've all pulled together. Anyway. Oh, we do have a song to go to D ream. Things can only get better you can.



34:20

That's right, folks. Things can only get better. And that's Peter Hakuna from de rrim en de Reem Antoine, that's the original. And the money is coming in. And we do thank you that the

phone number is 526573852 6k PFT. And I want to thank Mark for his pledge. And he asked for a piece of music and he also said he thought it was a great show. His nephew even listens to the show and he's 14 years old. Plus Mark bought the book Free your mind after listening to this show and boy what a great book that is. What Yes, thank



35:07

you you know you really didn't need to listen to the to the show when you're out in the lobby flirting with the guests that are leaving. Yes. I've already been through that. Oh, well then. Thanks again mark,



35:19

but then I need to play the song donor. Well,



35:22

yes, apparently



35:22

you did. Okay, well, let's go ahead and play it. It's gimme, gimme gimme a man after midnight.