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SUMMARY KEYWORDS

aids, gay, christmas, son, ken, merry christmas, ruth, lover, sanford, parents, year, russ, gay men, families, levy, houston, music, talk, lesbian, gay community

SPEAKERS

[Music], Speaker 7, Speaker 11, Speaker 3, Speaker 12, Speaker 6, Speaker 4, Speaker 15, Speaker 2, Speaker 1, Speaker 13, Speaker 14

5 Speaker 4 00:06

Ah yeah, a friend of the gay and lesbian community Garth Brooks doing a rousing version of Nutella on the mountain. Yes. And I'm looking at a sweatshirt and it says on the back of it communication is vital among families, lovers and nations. That that was said by Garth. That's the Garth Brooks sweatshirt. Okay, thank you, Garth. He's been a friend to all of humanity, and a friend to the lesbian and gay movement as well as Kathy Mattia, who has been instrumental in putting together fundraisers for gay AIDS organizations in Nashville. So those two names remember: Friends of the gay and lesbian community, there's lots of friends of the gay and lesbian community in country music, we we just need to kind of dig them out a little bit more. Before that was our, oh, our own Elton John "Stepp into Christmas." And we started out with the 12 Gays of Christmas by Venus Envy, you'll be hearing more Venus Envy. This is not exactly the QMZ because we're playing friends and we're just mixing it all up friends of the gay community and just all kinds of fun Christmas music and coming up as girl group from the 60s, I kind of dug way back for doing, just you know, I don't know from the 60s but a lot of people like the Supremes but I really went for The Ronettes and they're doing a really really awful version of Frosty the Snowman, but it's it's fun.

5 Speaker 1 01:57

your shirts, if you liked the sounds that you're hearing, you can reduce music and other hip hop music on underground culture that you won't hear anywhere else. But here are real radio 90.1 Each and every Sunday as we do it to you from midnight to 5:30am Monday morning, but you will hear GT cipher WR rad Richard mad Matt and yours truly the gray haired kid himself baby gramps well radio 90.1 KPFT Houston.

[Music] 03:01

really really really high

S

Speaker 1 03:42

Only on late nights KPFT Houston

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Speaker 2 03:57

The people who are non violent what we are not non violent with anyone who is violent. I want to say good evening, everybody. My name is Reverend Judah and Boni and this is from the front line

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Speaker 1 04:33

dialogue with the Reverend Judah and bony as he deals with issues that affect your community from the front line. Sundays 11pm to 1am 90.1 KPFT Houston

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Speaker 2 04:48

and join us here on the front line.

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Speaker 4 04:54

Okay, some of the other find programming go here, here, here, right here on KPFT. Houston, and I just want to talk about a couple of songs we played before that that was "Dyke the Halls" by the unknown group. I just happened to have the, the tape of it and you know, yeah, of course. And before that was "Walking around and women's underwear" by the Bob rivers comedy group isn't that funny? And started it off with a really bad but fun version of Frosty the Snowman by the Ronnettes.

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Speaker 3 05:27

Ah,I think I just let a Nazi in.

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Speaker 4 05:33

Oh, great. Okay, that's fine. We still have, we have lots of music we can go to?

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Speaker 3 05:42

Well, first, I want to what do you have to at first, I would like to really thank David and Paul and Lee, for coming down this late at night on Christmas night. And well, wasn't a Nazi. Thank you.

And talking to us about their group, and I promised them that I would give out their number again Doc?

 Speaker 7 06:00

Yes.

 Speaker 3 06:01

So if you got a pencil handy, and you're a veteran, or you're interested in joining their group.

 Speaker 7 06:05

Yeah, you don't have to be a veteran.

 Speaker 3 06:06

That's right. They have associate members. And you heard these guys at articulate, diverse, committed. And God, They were handsome. I'm telling you. Yeah, I really had to hold Jimmy back.

 Speaker 4 06:21

You really did. And it's just I was getting real nervous. I just got into the music here.

 Speaker 3 06:26

And I promised you and I promised them that I'd give their number out again, you and there's a machine at the at both numbers. So you can leave a message and they will get back to you. You can call 3593720 or 7809917. So that was for David, Paul and Lee. And boy, I'd like to have those guys back down here. We really just got carried away.

 Speaker 4 06:51

Yeah, that was good.

 Speaker 3 06:52

It really was. I was happy they were here. I want to take a few selfish moments. It is after all Christmas. I want to be selfish. Okay. I wanted to buy myself a VCR but I didn't. So I'm going to take these selfish moment. I have a I have a short but lengthy Christmas list. And I want to wish

some people Merry Christmas who have been supportive with me and supportive and my commitment with the radio station and my commitments. Erstwhile, is that word in that word?

 Speaker 4 07:23

That's the word.

 Speaker 3 07:24

Erstwhile in the community. I'd like to wish you a merry Christmas to Robin, Allen, Steve, Buddy and family. I'd like to wish you a merry Christmas to Diana Maggie. Diana and Maggie. Bubba, Ima and Dolly. Dolly if you're out there, I really miss you.

 Speaker 4 07:39

Oh, I miss dolly too.

 Speaker 3 07:41

I want to wish Merry Christmas to Pat, Layton, Marcia, Ashford in Powderly, Texas. I hope they're getting us. I want to want a special Christmas wish to the men and women at the Bering Church care center, especially the staff Ron, Lindy, and Arthur, who, with myself today put on a spectacular lunch at the care center for about 100 people. And we really had a special day and I'm so glad and so proud to be a part of it. I want to make a special wish for Steve Haney who was supposed to be here tonight but after working all day long at this dinner, could not drag himself from bed. And believe me, he couldn't do it. Neither could I so he stayed in bed. I want to make a special Christmas wish to Gabby who is my official groupie and I adore. To Cindy in Pasadena. To hope and MJ and family, to Matt wherever you are. And to Tom, Tom just showed back up. Tom wherever you are a special special Christmas Merry Christmas to Polos, who has been very supportive of our program and has been there for us.

 Speaker 4 08:50

And given us a lot of material.

 Speaker 3 08:52

Yes, he has and as a personal support my, is a, is a support to me personally as well as to my commitments in the community. And I'd like to wish Janie, Merry Christmas, Judy Flynn a Merry Christmas, Ricky, Andrea and Troy and my baby, Janie. I'd also like to extend Merry Christmas to the men and women of the gay and lesbian switchboard. To Iggy and David, and I'm glad that they're working things out. This time this holiday. I'm glad you're working things out. But But last but not least, my wonderful lover Evelyn, who supported me through the toughest month of the year. At the care center. We have a huge dinner and Thanksgiving. And then we

follow it with a huge birthday. Christmas party on the 17th and then another huge dinner Christmas dinner. And it is actually been hell month for me, it's the most rewarding month of the year for me, but it is also the hardest, toughest month of the year, we also have a house guest. And that's not easy at this time of year. And I wanted to tell my lover that I love her very much. And thank her for supporting me, and Merry Christmas. And I think I got all everybody. And then it was, did I say to all of our listeners, thanks for being there for us and, and supporting us. And when those ratings come out, and they say you're listening to us, it really, really is special to us. And we're looking forward to more of that and more connection with you guys in the future. In the in the year to come. I was telling you earlier about the year to come. Some shows I like to see put on and want to see if you know how y'all feel about it. These are just ideas I'm tossing around, you know, like the you know, calling and live calling report from the KKK letter. So we can kind of follow the cross burning and, and gay bashing as they're going on. Right. And I was also thinking about getting a live caller report by Suzy sexpert, who can give us lessons in the solo, in the art of solo sex.

 **Speaker 4 11:08**

Solo sex?

 **Speaker 3 11:09**

And we'll make that a call in show and see and see if she can answer these questions about you know, the and you know, really get to the truth of the matter. Like, you really don't grow hair on the palm of your hands and you really won't go blind and, you know, she would give us, she would give us the meat of the subject.

 **Speaker 4 11:27**

Oh my.

 **Speaker 3 11:28**

So that's a kind of a call-in that I'll be thinking about doing in the future next year. There are a couple more as I've been thinking about that I'll throw out there as the evening goes on. If you have an idea for a neat little segment to our show something that's, you know, light and whimsical or it can even be serious. Give me a call. Let me know we'll talk about it. And that is JAM-KPFT and I love that JAM-KPFT Yeah, you know what I'd like to know. I'd like to know if you like our opening. Did you hear it tonight? That opening it's what is it coming out.

 **Speaker 4 12:03**

Coming out?



12:06



12:00

I want to know if you like our opening. It's different. It's new. It's up. And boy has it by some sexy, sexy women. Yeah. But I was just curious, being one of the producers down here, how you felt about it. If you're out there, you're not so full of holiday cheer that you've zonked out. We're still early in the morning. The bars don't close. Well, well, yeah, they closed off 10 minutes ago. If you're in your car, stop, call me and tell me what you like about the show. And if you like our new opening, and maybe a segment that you'd like to see on our show, and you're gonna go to

**Speaker 4 12:44**

I'm gonna go to some more Venus Envy. All right, and the title cut "I'll be a homo for Christmas."

**[Music] 13:06**

Dreaming tonight of the girls even more than I usually do. And although it's been I may never be way I promise

**Speaker 4 13:35**

Oh yeah, Venus envy with "I'll be a homo for Christmas." It's really great. We were talking and I realized that this was the last show of the year and before we

**Speaker 3 13:52**

Before we Yeah, yeah. Okay.

**Speaker 4 13:54**

We're still there. We wanted to we wanted to get this in. It's a it's a great piece of tape about parents remembering their gay sons who died of AIDS. It's called Give me those moments. It's by Bert Weiland. Who does stuff for This Way Out.

**Speaker 3 14:14**

I think Christmas is our real last chance of reflection before we start thinking about our new year

**Speaker 4 14:18**

Absolutely.



Speaker 3 14:20

I I'm I'm really a party pooper when it comes to Christmas. I just I'm real upset with commercialism. With the and stated expectations that people have for Christmas, and the disappointments to come everybody wants to courier-nize Christmas. It doesn't exist. So you know, people are disappointed.



Speaker 4 14:38

That's right.



Speaker 3 14:39

And I think that the best way I can spend my Christmas is remembering those people that I have loved dearly, who are no longer here. And that's why I'm really glad you wanted to play this this last show. Yeah. As a way of reflection of the people who are no longer here.



Speaker 4 14:56

This runs about 30 minutes. So we're gonna we're gonna go to it now and we'll be back at quarter off because we've got more stuff we want to talk about before the end of the you know, before--



Speaker 3 15:06

And I'll be taking some phone calls in the lobby.



Speaker 4 15:09

JAM KPFT Yes, yeah, yeah, 5265738 If you don't know your alphabet,



Speaker 3 15:18

I forgot and it was not intentional. And I'm very sorry to wish happy Hanukkah to Karen and Rhonda.



Speaker 4 15:27

You know, something wants to Kwanzaa starts today.

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Speaker 3 15:31

Right Kwanzaa to whoever does Kwanzaa Kwanzaa.

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Speaker 4 15:34

Yeah. And I know a lot of people here at the station do and that's the that's how I heard of it.

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15:39

And happy holidays to those people who are not of the Christian or any. Yeah. Happy holidays.

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Speaker 6 15:49

Tuesday was the solstice.

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Speaker 4 15:51

Oh, yes.

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Speaker 3 15:52

To our moon people.

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Speaker 4 15:53

Right. My lover painted himself blew and ran under the moonlight at midnight.

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Speaker 3 15:57

That was him?

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Speaker 4 15:58

Yeah, it was. Boy, he's big. Yeah,

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Speaker 6 16:02

Happy Solstice to Barney Hoffman. Ah, okay.

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Speaker 4 16:05

And now, give me those moments. Parents remember their gay sons who died of AIDS.

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Speaker 11 16:13

AIDS. Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, a modern day plague that has killed over two and a half million people and infected an estimated 14 million around the world. At its dawning, AIDS seemed only to infect gay men. Scientists baffled by mysterious symptoms and unable to find any known agents of infection linked the disease to sexual orientation and named it Gay Related Immune Deficiency, or GRID. As the Jews were blamed for the spread of bubonic plague in the Middle Ages, so gay men were blamed for the spread of AIDS. Anti gay religious extremist called AIDS God's retribution for homosexuality, encouraging further torment rather than compassion for the sick and the dying. People with aids were fired from their jobs and evicted from their homes. In some towns, homes occupied by people with AIDS were firebombed. Even in the gay community, lovers left lovers, friends deserted friends, parents abandoned their gay sons. But the plague years have also brought accounts from families affected by AIDS of great courage and enduring love. These are some of those stories. Before aids, many gay men chose not to share the intimate details of their lives with their families. In many cases, gay sons moved to faraway cities, so that parents inquiring minds wouldn't learn of their secret lives. For many aids meant not only dealing with devastating disease, but also facing the shame that some parents would inevitably feel upon learning of their sons homosexuality. Ruth and Sanford Levy's son Ken lived his adult life in New York City, about 90 miles from his southern New Jersey Home. Ken's success in life, especially his financial success, brought his parents a great deal of pride. The Levy's believed they had a perfectly honest relationship with their son, but Ken never told them that he was gay. Sanford sometimes wondered about his son's sexuality, but never questioned him.

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Speaker 12 18:43

I really was not sure. I had suspicions. But I wasn't really sure. Because, you know, there are a number of gay people in their manner of speech, many times, you can kind of, well use you shouldn't prejudge somebody, but you get an inkling. Now, Ken did not have that type of an affliction. He didn't have feminine ways about him. He was like one of the boys. And the only suspicion I had to be very frank with you was that he had a lot of girlfriends say an awful lot of girlfriends. And some of them were really the most beautiful girls. I mean, I just I'd look at him and I say, gosh, if he married that girl, boy, we're gonna have a beautiful daughter.

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Speaker 11 19:45

Mark Frank never really left home. He had a loving relationship with both his parents Ken and Sandy. And he lived with him all his life, except for a brief time when he lived in an apartment some 25 miles away from home. After college, he built a successful career in radio. Both Ken and Sandy asked Mark whether or not he was gay, long before he broke the news that he had AIDS. Despite a trusting and straightforward relationship, Mark couldn't bring himself to share his sexuality with his parents. Even when they asked him point blank,

S Speaker 13 20:20

We had sort of suspected, although, I mean, you know, that just normally we had suspected.

S Speaker 14 20:29

I think, excuse me. I had discovered some books that I really think he left exactly where he knew I would find them because it was in his clothes drawer. And I always put away his clothes when I had laundered them. And I had once asked him if he was gay, and he said, No.

S Speaker 13 20:52

I, I had once asked him, I guess about five years before this, or four years before this, I remember exactly where we were and what we were doing. We were going to a hardware store to look for a piece of something to fix something. And after all, he wasn't dating. He was in his mid 20s. Anyhow, I said Mark and then I asked him, I said, Are you gay? And he said no. And it's funny because Mark, I won't say he never lied, but he couldn't lie.

S Speaker 11 21:26

Ruth Glenn's son Russ came out to her as gay when he was still a teenager, Ruth was absorbed with her own marital problems at that time, she's still berates herself for not being what she thinks Russ needed when he was struggling with his sexuality. But the two became best of friends. Ruth had grown up in pre feminist times. As Russ grew older, he nurtured his mother's sense of confidence and self sufficiency, and helped her through a painful divorce. Far from having misgivings about her son's homosexuality, Ruth became a part of Russ's social circle, often escorting him to gay social events.

S Speaker 14 22:03

He told wonderful jokes, and he was the life of the party sometimes. And many times he would tell the same jokes over and over, because he told them well, and many times there would be people at parties who hadn't heard them. And of course, I knew what was coming. And they were always funny to me. Oh, I think I must have been his best audience.

S Speaker 11 22:28

Hunter Muir died of AIDS at the age of 25. And late summer of 1991. Hunter's mother, Ajavia, like Ruth Glenn had no trouble accepting her son's homosexuality, but for quite another reason.

S Speaker 15 22:42

I'm a lesbian mother and, and Hunter and I used to joke about, we were going to be the first lesbian mother and gay son comedy act. Because we were both very active and he had been

very active in the gay youth movement in Philadelphia and quite a number of different things. And I was very proud of him. And he was the kind of man that I think men should be in this society, sensitive and caring as well as an exasperating person he was also

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Speaker 11 23:22

Ken Levy leave he was 33 years old when he broke the news to his parents in November of 1988 that he had AIDS. For Ruth and Sanford. This meant also dealing with the fact that their son was gay. Acceptance of his sexuality was one thing. The reality of Ken's probable death due to the disease was quite another. Sanford in particular held on to his denial, even chasing a preacher from Ken's hospital room, whom he thought had come to prepare his son for death too soon. Ruth and Sanford recall bedside pep talks