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SPEAKERS

LuJack Tyler, Scott Lewis

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Scott Lewis 00:03

No, that's called come inside. And we'll just leave it at that. Two questions for you, Mason first is you did you wrote that? Yes, it did. What is that song about? What does it mean to you?

o

00:21

Um, what's it about, it's about, you know, growing up and just trying to, you know, just try experimenting with different things. In that case, it was experimenting with, you know, the sex, and just not just sex, as you know, have sex and everything, but, you know, actually, the, you know, it's going to be okay, it, you know, calm down, don't be so nervous and just, you know, relax in and let down your guard. And, you know, let everything flow. And that's what it was about.

S

Scott Lewis 00:52

Now, let me ask you from, and this might hit you from the side, and you're not expecting me to go this way with this. But you said the song is called come inside. That obviously being a sexual reference, let's talk about the HIV implications. And is that is that? First of all, is it's not safe to come inside. Right? So is that irresponsible to to send out that message with your music?

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01:23

Well, it's not. It's not. It's it's not? I didn't mean because I

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Scott Lewis 01:26

don't understand that I didn't I didn't listen to the words. So I don't know exactly. I just heard that one little.



01:31

It's, it's more, it's more like, supposed to be inviting. It's not like sex is like,



s Scott Lewis 01:36

I guess you can call it I think that's pretty, you know, but,



01:39

you know, it's more like, you know, instead of like, you know, let kind of let me in, let not like let me you know, come inside your you know, inside you. It's not about that. It's about letting somebody into yourself, and just like getting to know I mean, you know, right being comfortable around somebody. And I can see where you can get that. You know, there's



s Scott Lewis 01:59

well you said it was sexual and so that's why I took that reference, but I understand the whole come inside is more about getting inside you as a person and opening yourself up to another person so



02:09

that that's exactly what I was doing. I was writing the words.



s Scott Lewis 02:13

Now let me ask the Fred's skidding down the road. What's that about?



02:21

It's kind of did you did you write this song Kathy and I both wrote the song.



02:25

I came up with the music first and then Robin got up to work at her menial shop and said that she just came up with some words automatically. What had happened was we were all thinking about buying some bikes, some motorcycles, and we had all the gear the leather pants, the chaps the boots match

s

Scott Lewis 02:46

in that leather jacket.

o

02:50

Leather, and we were you know, in the mood for that. And so she started writing about just riding a motorcycle.

o

02:56

What inspired me was the my home state of North Carolina. If anybody's been there, the Blue Ridge Parkway is a wonderful place to ride a motorcycle. And I went into work one day, sat down, looked out the window and looked over the picture that I have of the parkway and looked out the window and the words just just kind of appeared.

s

Scott Lewis 03:15

We will we'll talk about North Carolina later in the show because Tammy Faye Baker was in town recording an infomercial and I just find that absolutely hysterical. So we'll be we'll be focusing on that later in the show. Do you have introduced for me skin down the road.

o

03:37

This next song you'll hear is by the Fred's called skin down the road.

s

Scott Lewis 03:42

We'll be right back after this on KPFT Houston that was skidding down the road with an I guess that's the best done on a motorcycle with the Fred's now we've got to close up the segment and the first thing that I have to tell everybody is that you are listening to Scott Lewis and rocky be on 90.1 FM KPFT Houston and 89.1 fm KEOS College Station and Bryan , if you rattle that people anymore, they're gonna think I'm doing a top 10 list. And can we say some of the top 10 Let's go before we go. I do want to ask each of you if there's anything that I haven't asked you that you can play your own interviewer and ask yourself a question. And I also want to talk about I want to go back over your dates again. And if any of you have any upcoming dates, I want you to plug yourself

o

04:37

well hopefully we'll be getting a show at heaven. We'll be waiting for that one but we were just working back in the studio right now with getting the new track ready for our show which we should be ready by November



04:49

and we do want to take the opportunity to thank our manager Scott Karns and our assistant manager Missy wood Regus and thank you guys for having us on the show. We really appreciate



s Scott Lewis 04:57

like a big apartment complex they Have a manager and an assistant manager. It's like Jack in the Box place. What did he say?



05:07

Melrose



s Scott Lewis 05:09

Place? That's that's, that's Caleb Teresa and LISI from music box, Diana



05:17

Yes, I would like to thank my manager Scott Callahan so much for being there for me through thick and thicker. And I would also like to thank my other manager John for being there. And Amber, his wife, they're always there for me. One question I like to ask myself, how soon Am I gonna make it? That's it. I can't play the lottery forever.



s Scott Lewis 05:40

There, Fred's.



05:42

I would just like to thank all the friends we are eight months strong now we're young band. And thank you. And we've had a lot of good luck come our way. And we anticipate more in the future. All right. Thanks for everybody support and thank you for having



s Scott Lewis 05:58

Mason. Yeah,



05:59

I just want to say thanks to the two producers. I've been working with cat Jones and Mike iceberg. And hopefully we're gonna make it and just keep the support and keep the faith and that's all I want to say.



Scott Lewis 06:11

You know, you would think I just given everybody in the room and award I want LISI I want you to sing me something on the way out to in the segment and what we're going to do let me tell you because we're gonna get Lacey we're gonna go straight from you into an artist that you probably are all familiar with, who started much like you all did. And she went out and she performed her butt off in gay clubs. And she has had Is it four or five number one records now? She is internationally known. Friend of mine, a good friend of Rocky V and a good I've party down and she just parties. Her name is DJ. She is absolutely flawless house Diva and she started much like all of you did. And so I wish you all the best of luck. We're gonna get right after LISI I want you to sing us out. And after LISI we're gonna go DJ has a new single out and it is called off me get up off me which I will never be singing at my house Lacey sing a little so do you know a little Selena?



07:15

Very well, I



Scott Lewis 07:16

was I was I was a Mary J Blige or some TLC or some some brand new.



07:22

I don't have it clear.



Scott Lewis 07:25

Where we good Halloween magic. Another segment I can sing for you sing it to me.



07:30

Tell him the awesome. Really,



07:33

you can call me at? Okay. Let me give you what you need. And baby I will guarantee the loving

me will set you free, free as you want to be. I don't need to waste no time, Baby please make up your mind

 Scott Lewis 08:08

Ooh, and we're back. That's a new single from DJ who has been very loyal to the gay clubs. So you all need to go out and buy her album. It's called Higher Power and is absolutely flawless. We are going to completely shift gears now. Yes, we all lose. Jack Tyler has joined me and I am in the room with I haven't been in the room with people this conservative since I was a Republican in high school. I don't know that. I mean, I don't know how conservative can a gay Republican be

 08:40

overweight and conservative.

 Scott Lewis 08:41

So not really, LuJack Tyler, start us off. You start us off and I'm just going to follow

 LuJack Tyler 08:49

alright big boy, as I'm sure a lot of the outsmart readers have known. In February of 95. I wrote an article called dealing with Tom, in which at that time, I felt that all gay Republicans were gang Uncle Tom's. Since then I have had the fortune of discovering that there are good and bad that it's not being good or bad, Republican or Democrat but it's being a good or bad individual.

 Scott Lewis 09:15

Let me stop you because a lot of or a percentage of people that are listening are going to be young enough that they're not going to know Uncle Tom reference. They're not going to know what you're talking about. Alright, and I'm surprised you're kind of young to know what Uncle Tom you started your history my grandparents raised me so tell the layman who has no clue tell him about Uncle Tom.

 LuJack Tyler 09:33

Well in night in 1852 and anti slavery, feminist author Harriet su wrote and published a controversial novels how Uncle Tom's Cabin in which she can sit up, but which was criticized because she considered slavery to be a national sin. One of the main characters and Uncle Tom's Cabin was Uncle Tom, a dignified old black slave. The story describes Psalms experience says with three slave owners, two of them, treated Tom kindly, but the third abuse Tom and Anna, and has him brutally beaten. When he refuses to tell him where two slaves are hiding, the term Uncle Tom has come to stand for a black man for, for selfish reasons to, or the fear or

the fear, who adopts a, a, a humble manner to favor whites. And at that time, when I wrote the article, I felt that that's what many of the gay Republicans were were doing instead of through fear or whatever. They were catering to the, to the ultra conservative, Phil Gramm and Bob Dole and, and those clowns. And so that's why I wrote the article. And that's what Catan is,

 Scott Lewis 10:54

and you sound like you've changed your opinion.

 LuJack Tyler 10:56

I haven't changed my opinion, as far as those individuals, who are whom are Uncle Tom's who just happened to be Republicans, but I take I officially take back claiming that all gay Republicans are Uncle Tom's. And, and because there have been a few recently for whom I have discovered or not. And, and I don't think that that our guest tonight, our Uncle Tom's, and I, first of all like to congratulate Dale Carpenter on his log cabin state presidency. Dale has has since I've known him been at the forefront of a lot of issues and has tackled on a lot of things. In fact, Dell, you were on the radio a couple of weeks ago, you want to tell us about that.

 11:47

A couple of weeks ago on one of the local daytime radio talk shows we had a an hour long segment on a Friday dealing with the subject of gay marriage. And I was lined up against a man from Hawaii who is in charge of a group called stop promoting homosexuality America. Which seems to me rather like saying stop endorsing toenails America, it's an odd thing to say that someone would be endorsing or promoting something that is not a matter of any individual choice. And that segment lasted for an hour. And then it was followed up on on the Monday after that Friday by a call and format, where we had people from the community from Houston call in and ask us questions. The callers were actually very balanced, which was a surprise and a delight to me. It went very well.

 LuJack Tyler 12:48

All right. Dell, I like to ask you a couple of personal kind of sort of deals. Recently, it's been brought to my attention that that a lot of smart people really don't know you and and by not knowing you, they have called you cold. They've called You heartless. They've called you money type. They've called you egotistical and opportunists. And, and so my experience with with you, I don't necessarily know if I would call you all of these names. But but but I would just like to ask you a couple of quick you asked hiree because people's conceptions of Republicans, especially Gay, gay ones. Are those also affirmative action doubts, Harry talk to us?

 13:41

I actually think that affirmative action is appropriate. If it's understood as a need for the country, to encourage participation by people who have been shut out for one reason or another from government from employment from participation the value of diversity to no

another, from government, from employment from universities, the value of diversity to me racial diversity, ideological diversity and so forth, is an important value. And to the extent that affirmative action encourages the development of that value, I actually think it's a good thing. I think it can be destructive at times. And I think that the President, one of the few things I think the President has done wisely, is to review the affirmative action programs that we have to find the places where it has been destructive. But Tyree may have a different view.

14:36

I take a little, a little more of a right stance in that. I think affirmative action is discrimination. And in many cases, reverse discrimination is still discrimination. And so that's something we're trying to end and so I would probably say that there are a few circumstances where affirmative action is a good thing and in those places I hope it would stay. But for the most part, I would like to see us get beyond affirmative action.

s Scott Lewis 15:05

Are you openly gay on your job?

15:07

I am openly gay at my church, my family, my extended family, my job everywhere, everywhere.

15:16

As Mr.

L LuJack Tyler 15:18

All right. Well, that's nice to hear. Bob Dole in the check. Tell us about that.

15:26

Well, which position do you want we've counted

s Scott Lewis 15:31

for Bob Dole got a check from the Log Cabin Republicans power \$1,000. He actually up to Boston, you actually have to back up a little bit before that Bob Dole solicit Alicia he personally solicited a choice at a fundraiser contribution. The Boston Globe, I believe it was had a reporter that was going to write a story or, or write in a story not specifically necessarily about that, but in a story was going to, to make public that he had solicited the cheque or accepted the

cheque. And at that point, a campaign staffer made the decision to return the cheque, or he personally did because he, in the aftermath, defended that position. Then this week, he has come out and said that it was a mistake to return the check, obviously, a printing bill came due or something. And he said it was a campaign staff made that decision, and it never should have actually happened.

16:31

Yeah, I mean, we've counted at least three different depending on how you count them maybe four different positions by dole or by his campaign on this issue. It illustrates a number. It illustrates a number of things, I think. First, it illustrates the power that the religious right and particularly the Christian coalition has over the Republican presidential primary process, if not, for their influence, DOE would never have felt any kind of need to distance himself from a group like log cabin. And the second thing though, that this this episode illustrates is the changing attitudes I think of a wide variety of Americans, including Republicans, about discrimination against gay people. When he returned that check and distanced himself from log cabin, he got a lot of criticism from moderate Republicans and Republicans who believe that gay should be included in the party and should not be discriminated against. And as he began to feel that pressure and began to get questioned about it at campaign appearances across the country, including by Tyree right here, when he came to Houston, he saw that it wasn't necessarily a politically wise thing to do. And now he's tried to reverse himself again, for dole. It's been an absolute disaster. But for gay Americans, I think there's actually been some gain in this various flip flopping because the final position he's come out on is that he shouldn't have returned the money in for a lot of cabinet but we have to wait and see what happens.

18:08

And for long cabinet has been a lot of great free press.

18:13

It was the best it was the best \$1,000 We never spent. But But sorry, I mean, Loo Jack, I am cold and cruel and heartless, all those things are true. Not money tight enough, as my lover will tell, you

LuJack Tyler 18:29

know, just stating the facts. They'll no big Philip Graham, how do you feel about him?

18:37

I'm not a big fan of his and I wouldn't vote for him if he ran if he wins the nomination.

LuJack Tyler 18:41



LuJack Tyler 10:41

All right. Bob Doe and Phil Gramm are the supposedly the front runners and of the Republican. What am I trying to say for the nomination for president for the nomination for president. And so since Bob Dole sent back the check, and no one's big fan of Phil Gramm, who other log cabins considering nationally since you were the State President Dale, who are they considering endorsing?



19:07

Well, there there will not be a national log cabin endorsement as far as I know, and the primary process because the next convention of the log cabin, Republicans will not take place until August of 1996, at which time, the group will decide whether or not it's going to endorse the then chosen basically de facto chosen candidate of the party. This state organization could endorse a candidate in the Republican primary in Texas in March of 1996. That decision has not been made, and no votes have been taken on whom we might endorse. I think you can guess the list of candidates it would be very unlikely that we would endorse but I should say that of the of the candidates currently in the race. There is one Republican who has been extraordinarily gay friendly in both his voting record in Congress and in his public statements. And, and that is Senator Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania. I don't have a I don't have a statement, the one that he issued very recently about including gays and lesbians in the party, but it was very gay positive, and and represents, I think, an opening in the party. Now he is far back in the pack. And for a variety of reasons, not just because of his certainly not just because of his views on gays and lesbians. So he's not necessarily a candidate that's going to end up with a nomination. This may be a year in which gay Republicans will need to focus their talents on races more farther down the ballot, where we have had an extraordinary number of successes, I think around the country, and in Texas, and even here in Houston, most recently in the elections in the fall of 1994.



21:01

I know that the \$1,000 of Bob Dole return was sent to Arlen Specter and Arlen Specter was the only Republican that sent a representative to our National Convention, which was in Cincinnati. So I'm not sure writing a check as a full endorsement. But I know that Arlen Specter, does have \$1,000 of log cabin money.



LuJack Tyler 21:20

One more presidential question. He hasn't decided and he hasn't. He doesn't even know if he's going to run as a Republican resin independent. What about the Great General Colin Powell?



21:33

I'm troubled by Powell stand on gays in the military. He said some more sympathetic things recently. But it is too early to I think it's too early to judge Colin pals. overall appeal to gays and lesbians. And so I don't really have had much to say about him.



21:55

I just hope he doesn't run as an independent, because from the way that the electoral college is tallied. Again, it will screw up the process. And we'll end up with Bill Clinton as president again, which is something that I don't support. But if he runs as a Republican, I think it's great. I think it'll add competition and all those marvelous things to the candidates. But my greatest fear is that he runs as an independent and that all surely reelect Clinton.



S Scott Lewis 22:24

I find it interesting and confusing that you would have a problem with Colin Powell because he, because of his stand on gays in the military, when that whole parties stand on gays in the military, was exactly what his if not more staunchly opposed.



22:38

Oh, absolutely. I mean, the Republican Party's position on gays in the military was awful. But there were also a number of Democrats who, most prominently Sam Nunn, who stood against gays in the military. And in fact, Sam Nunn was the host of the Potemkin village hearings that we had gays in the military, when they journeyed through the submarines and looked at this close spaces in the bunks and the close quarters in the showers and so forth. Look, the reason we're in the party, is because we oppose the party's positions on a wide variety of gay issues. But we support the party's positions on a wide variety of non gay issues. And we are in the party because we want to change its position on gay issues. We want to be at the state convention, when all of those groups get together and have their little cocktail parties. We want them to know that gay and lesbian people are not Hydra headed beasts that they have to be afraid of. And we also want frankly, the Democratic Party to know and Democrats to know that we are a diverse group. And that we cannot be taken advantage of we cannot be taken for granted as a voting group.



S Scott Lewis 23:51

The I find that interesting analogy. The I went to a strip club called Blue Planet out on I think it's on Richmond. And because I was dancing with another man, I was thrown out, they didn't want me there. I don't want to go there and force them to like me, I don't care. I'm not going to give them my money. And I don't really understand why I would go to that club. And this is just putting it on a club level. Because this is the only example that paralleled in my mind. Why would I keep going back to that club to force them to accept me when there are clubs here and Montrose that I don't have to worry about? Would it be unfair to say that your homosexuality is not your main concern politically? And that maybe it's like economic issues and things that more concern you and the welfare system or something like that and not civil rights



24:58

are two things one, I'm a gay civil rights advocate first. And that is that is the most important issue to me. It's not the only issue, but it's the most important. Second, let me let me talk about

your analogy for a second. Because I think it's a very good analogy. If if the club blueprint planet were passing laws for the city of Houston, that affected your rights as a gay person, and there were no other club or one other club that was doing the same thing, it would be important for you to be at that club to have a voice in it. And to affect the policies that it was enacting. There is no other club that gays and lesbians can go to, when the Republicans are in power. This is the only game in town. And if we don't have a presence in a party that now controls both houses of Congress, and May next year, control the presidency, and is increasingly controlling state houses across the country, then we are going to be out, we're not going to be on Richmond, we're not going to be on Gessner we're going to be somewhere outside the Beltway in the boondocks. And I want us to be in the room when the decisions are made, no matter which party is in power. And that's why I think it's important for us to be involved in the party. It's not everybody's taste, I don't expect every gay person to come in and join the Republican Party. But it's important for some of us to be there. The best analogy I can think of, is the position that black Americans found themselves in in the Democratic Party in the 1940s and 1950s. At that point, it was a segregationist party. But African Americans stood their ground and the Democratic party refused to leave. There were nasty, nasty, nasty national conventions that the Democrats had, in which they refuse to seat black delegations and black delegates. But they stayed, they stood their ground. And the Democratic Party is a much different party today, in part because the Civil Rights Movement stood its ground, stayed in the party and fought. And that's what we're trying to do in the Republican party today. Far from being Uncle Tom's, as some people might want to refer to us. We're actually the people who are fighting prejudice in the place where it is breeding most hotly today. But

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Scott Lewis 27:11

And would you agree with the fact that the a lot of or a good portion of the reason that the Republicans have taken over or have won a lot, especially local elections, is by gay bashing.

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27:29

Individual Republicans have won in individual races by gay bashing, but most Americans and even most Republicans support the idea of non discrimination against gay people who are with gay people? Right. And certainly gay people, as President

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Scott Lewis 27:44

Clinton announced his support of a federal bill today, yesterday, I believe is right, necessarily the best PR move, but Oh,

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27:52

no, we'll see what happens. But most most Americans do support it. And the Republicans won in 1994 on a document called the Contract with America, that had to do entirely with economic issues. It had nothing to do with the issue of homosexuality. In fact, when the Christian coalition

which is an anti gay group, by anyone's estimation, published its own contract, it left homosexuals off the list. And the reason for that was quite simply, they had done their studies they had done their surveys, and they found out that nationwide it just doesn't play

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Scott Lewis 28:27

and hopefully their vote on Medicare this week is gonna send them the way of the Democrats and 94 out of office

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LuJack Tyler 28:34

that have questions about Medicare which which also has something to do with being a gay Republican in our community we have a huge problem with HIV and AIDS and and Medicare and Social Security are and other fun things like Ryan White are needed by are needed it by individuals in our community Republicans in the House and Senate and otherwise have made it their personal business to to harass old people to with Medicare to make cuts with Ryan White and they threatened not to fund it and and and Social Security and and all these other wonderful things and you have just Jesse Helms May God love him stand up and and said the reason why gays get AIDS is because of you know, they're an abomination of God or what have you. You said that you were trying to change the party, Dell and Tari I don't understand how, how you can change the the general attitude of this party because Jesse Helms has been there. He will be there and until he chooses to retire like Mr. Nunn has recently done he will continue to be there. And there will continue to be dozens and dozens and dozens of people who who support him in both of those places. Phil Gramm supports him I haven't heard of Bob Dole denouncing ever in my life's career or or Alan Specter. So,

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30:08

you ever heard of Governor Wallace? Yes, I

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LuJack Tyler 30:10

have got shot 68.

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30:12

Yeah. Before that he stood. Before that he stood for segregation. Yes, he did. And African Americans fought against him in the south politically, and culturally, and one, and he was reelected, governor of Alabama, in the 80s. With the black vote. attitudes can change, but you have to be willing to fight. I want to I want to make one very quick point. Before you talk about Republicans, you have to get your facts straight. You're wrong educate me that Ryan White was cut Ryan White funds was increased this year, they the Senate approved the Ryan White Act reauthorization by a vote of 97 to three, that is a Republican controlled Senate. And the reason that it came up for a vote as early as it did, is that log cabin, nationally lobbied Bob Dole, who controls the calendar to get the early vote, and make sure that it was reauthorized in

time so that people would get their money. Now, maybe that would have happened if log cabin hadn't done any lobbying. Maybe it would have happened if we hadn't had a presence in the party. But we don't know that. But we know that because log cabin was there, it did happen.

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Scott Lewis 31:30

I guess your point kind of is that there are some bad seeds in the barrel. But that the Republican Party as a whole is not something that the gay community should be avoiding?

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31:43

I don't believe so. I mean, I think the basic philosophy of the party is one of limited government and individual freedom. Neither one of those basic philosophies is contrary to the notion of gay civil rights. But I've talked too much all at Tyree.

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31:57

Well, it started off being a Medicare question. And as I understand that LuJack, Medicare will spending will actually increase over the next seven years. It's only he tells me the the rate of growth, which has been trimmed back to bring it more in line with inflation. But I mean it mostly

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Scott Lewis 32:14

now there you go with statistics though. No politicians, politicians will lie with statistics. They're wanting 6% of Americans believe so

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32:22

there are lies, damned lies and statistics.

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32:25

But if you're spending more next year than you are this year, then that's not a cut. What you've done is you've if you're going to spend 6% More instead of 10% more. That's not I mean, you've cut the rate of growth, but if you if you would believe

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Scott Lewis 32:41

increasing prices excuse me, hospitals haven't cut their rates of increasing