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SPEAKERS

Speaker 6, Speaker 5, Speaker 9, Speaker 8

 Speaker 9 00:03

Okay, that was the Pet Shop Boys from the very, very new album. Very. The song was "Yesterday when I was mad." Yeah, we kind of hijacking your show, Diane.

 Speaker 5 00:14

That's cool!

 Speaker 9 00:15

Okay, Anthony, you know, I was going to introduce you, but you're standing up kissing on women. Wait, wait, wait, can you talk so we can see for sure?

 Speaker 8 00:25

What do you want me to say?

 Speaker 9 00:26

Well, hey, if you're gonna say it in that voice, say anything you want. First, I'd like you to brag about yourself a little until about how you were quoted in 10% Magazine.

 Speaker 8 00:35

Oh, I'm so excited. That's perfect. Perfect, Michael. Yes. The January issue of 10% Magazine, nationwide gay and lesbian publication. There's an article called The AIDS War. And it's about AIDS organizations competing with each other for money money money Perfect for

AIDS organizations competing with each other for money, money, money... I guess for Christmas, right?

 Speaker 9 00:54

Yep.

 Speaker 8 00:54

All right. Well, they got myself, Anthony Rios, quoted along with Eugene Harrington, Professor of Law at TSU.

 Speaker 9 01:03

And what did you have to say?

 Speaker 8 01:05

Oh, I talked about how AIDS funding doesn't belong to anyone. There are many groups. This whole article really is about how early on in the epidemic, gay organizations that were formed and grew, and were funded to meet the demands that the epidemic was posing. And then in the last several years, like three or four years where other organizations have come into existence, people of color organizations, gender specific organizations, etc. And they're also competing for the same funds. So this article talks about that. And what I had to say was that the money doesn't belong to any to any one particular organization, the way it set up, you have to compete for it. And really, the other part pointed out making the article is about, there's got to be room for everybody at the table, African American, white, Asian, Hispanic, gay, straight, whatever. Because if we don't make room for everyone to participate in not only providing services and treating people and caring for people, but also demanding an end to the epidemic, we're not going to win.

 Speaker 9 02:07

And when you talk about things like this, and it's just like this, it brings up something that has been pissin me off since I don't know since the day I was born. In the way that it seems that everyone seems to think that all queers are white, and all people of color are straight. And those of us who are of color and queer, we kind of don't exist, or there may be one or two of us, and that what we think don't count?

 Speaker 8 02:32

Well, well, I definitely see a lot of that, a lot of it. For one thing, what gets promoted in the media, as far as gay and lesbian, are going to be quite gay and lesbian people. And that's just part of the way the media is run on what gets the biggest bang. And that kind of ties into or

buys into the whole notion of showing how much a like we are, right, you know, and there's more white people than anybody else. So if you show more of them, they're gonna get the message sooner or later.



Speaker 9 02:59

Exactly. And I've seen like, some white, gay and lesbian people go on television, dressed in, you know, in total preppy gear, sit there and say, All we want is to be just like everybody else. And to be perfectly honest, that scares the hell out of me. Because what it's saying to me is, they want to be just like straight white America, and there is no way in hell that I as a black bag, can ever, you know, no matter how much I tried, be like straight middle class white America.



Speaker 5 03:31

What is that?



Speaker 8 03:32

Really? What is that? I don't know what it's like, you know, I don't want to be like, straight America period, no matter what color it is, I'm Mexican. I know what Mexican straight life is like. And it's like, Okay, it's good for some people. But you know, another thing, Michael, is that, as far as gay and lesbian people of color, there are really a handful of gay and lesbian people of color around the country that are outspoken activists out for one, and, you know, in leadership positions in their various capacities. Unfortunately, we don't see a lot of that here in Houston.



Speaker 9 04:06

Right. And I think that there are a couple of reasons for that. I mean, one of that I see is kind of an elitist mentality coming from some white queers, particularly in the gay and lesbian Political Caucus, which is why I'm running for its presidency. And also, I see a lot of internalized racism and homophobia on the part of queers of color. There is an unwillingness for people who are black, Latino, Asian, and Native American and homo, to stand up and say, We're here we exist, and we are going to affect change in ways that benefit us. There's always a kind of a well, let's go party and whatever happens happens, and I don't want to be involved in it.



Speaker 5 04:45

I think there's an overriding fear of a lot of people. There's an overriding fear that of change period, and if you've been in a straight mentality, whatever mentality that may be, you know, if you're a A Chicano lesbian who has been living at home with her mom, and you're 26 years old, and you're not married yet, and you're living under this, you know, regime that you've been used to living into, it's hard to all of a sudden, say, I'm a queer, I'm a big, big old fat, lesbian, Hispanic dyke, and I'm gonna go out and do those of you know, it's changed. And you know, you may be afraid of losing your job, you may be afraid of losing your love your family, your

loved ones, your situation. And we have to make it, we as people that can be out have to make it a little bit more, okay, for those people. We have to do everything in our power to make it more okay. And to do that some of us take to the streets shouting and screaming. Some of us take, me too, some of us take the positions of power as they can get them within the system and try to work within the system. It's just, it really depends on what you can do, but, but I'm asking everybody to do what they can one step at a time.

 Speaker 8 06:02

Yeah, that's, you know.

 Speaker 5 06:04

Show your strength.

 Speaker 8 06:05

Show your strength. And, you know, I'm a firm believer that you got to give everyone the room that they need to be however they're going to be, there are a lot of, you know, gay and lesbian people that, you know, probably don't approve of the way I live my life. And there's lots of my probably wouldn't approve of how they live their lives. And that's just tough. And, you know, one of the things as gay and lesbian people of color and I've mentioned this several times with some of my colleagues around the country is that for gay people of color, gay, lesbian people of color, you have to look at, for those of us that have been out for a long time and we're in to the-

 Speaker 9 06:41

You're listening to the KPFT Houston. Well, it kind of broke. It broke legs.

 Speaker 6 06:48

Oh, I'm sorry. You didn't have to do it immediately. I didn't mean to cut it.

 Speaker 8 06:53

But you are listening to that very station. That's right.

 Speaker 5 06:55

90.1 FM on your dial.

S

Speaker 6 06:58

Don't you forget it, baby.

S

Speaker 9 07:01

Okay, as you were saying before, I so rudely interrupted.

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Speaker 5 07:03

We're here with Anthony Rios talking about gays and lesbians people of color and New Year's Eve. And being quoted in 10%.

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Speaker 8 07:14

And well, let me just talk about the New Year's Eve thing. Okay. Switch hats here, a whole other subject. People with AIDS Coalition and the AIDS equity league are having a New Year's Eve fundraising gala, December 31, from 7pm to 2am, at the Westin Galleria Hotel. All proceeds will benefit the work of the AIDS equity League and the people with AIDS coalition. Tickets are \$55 each, or \$100 per couple. If you'd like more information or you'd like to purchase tickets, you can call the coalition at 5225428. That's the people with AIDS coalition, 5225428. And buy your tickets for the New Year's Eve fundraising gala. We're gonna have a really nice sit down dinner, raffles. We got some tickets today, Southwest Airlines is going to raffle those off New Year's Eve night at the Westin Galleria.

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Speaker 9 08:03

Can those possibly be used to go to New York for Stonewall 25?

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Speaker 8 08:07

Whilst southwest doesn't fly to New York probably gets some halfway there. You can hitchhike the rest of the way. Via San Diego or something

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Speaker 5 08:16

Kind of along via.

S

Speaker 9 08:18

Well, you know, it'd be a bunch of weeds going that way. Put out a thigh. There you go.

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Speaker 8 08:22

Yeah. And really, I wanted to let people know about the New Year's Eve thing and the event there at the Westin. And if you don't have plans yet for New Year's Eve, and you'd like to make a contribution and enjoy yourself at the same time, come join us at the Westin Galleria. If you're thinking about oh my god, the bars are gonna be crowded \$20 to get into an unnamed bar? No, do I want to do that? No.

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Speaker 5 08:45

I'm thinking that next year, I've got a great big idea happening next year, we get a queer boarding pass, and we make we make it \$50. Now let's let's up it just a little more. Let's make it \$60 or \$75 a person, we rent the bus and we take people from party to party. If you can't spend, you know, \$55 per party on your party of choice. We go from the fundraisers at the Pido VA coalition aids equity league to the lesbians in business party to you know, enact up party to this, that and the other until foundation party stuff. Yeah. And we do the hotel circuit, and we donate like five or \$10 of the tuition to every organization for every person. What do you think because it sounds like something that might happen?

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Speaker 9 09:31

You don't want my opinion?

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Speaker 8 09:34

Just buy some tickets. Michael.

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Speaker 9 09:36

I will be very honest and say that. Usually when I hear about things for 40, 50 and \$60 A ticket The very thought of it repulses me. I mean, because there are a lot of queers and a lot of people with AIDS you can not afford to spend 50 , 60, 40 or whatever dollars and and I'm really into the inclusiveness thing that I just don't see leaving people out, besides, it's anything that has like black tie optional. I'm just categorically against black tie. You know, just like I'm against suburbia. It's--

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Speaker 5 10:11

There's a lot of people that are gonna go out and spend it. And I would much rather see and spend it on a good cause and spend it on, you know, a bar, an unnamed bar of choice.

S

Speaker 9 10:22

You know what I'd like to see. I think that on New Year's Eve, right before midnight, everyone

should gather at the steps of City Hall in that big in the big, that big area near the reflective pool?

 Speaker 5 10:35

It's not there anymore.

 Speaker 9 10:36

Yeah, everyone should bring all the red ribbons that they've ever bought in their entire lives, they should put it in a big pile and at the stroke of midnight, set that bonfire of red ribbons of flame as an indictment of the lid nears administration complete and total lack of action on AIDS epidemic.

 Speaker 5 10:56

All right. Okay, and then go to the party to support your choice.

 Speaker 9 11:02

Okay, we'll change the subject. So So Anthony can comment. Let's get back to this people of color organizer. Yeah.

 Speaker 8 11:09

Can I take a break?

 Speaker 9 11:11

Oh, wait.

 Speaker 5 11:12

We're still people of color over here.

 Speaker 9 11:14

Okay. Well, you know, what we were talking about earlier, though, about gay and lesbian people of color. One of the things that I always point out is that, you know, for gay and lesbian people of color who are out and open, and what I would want to say live in the, for lack of a better phrase, a mainstream gay society, you know, that. But in order to do that, we had to

give up a lot. Yeah, for many of us, it meant we had to give up the relationship that we had with our families, for our loved ones, whether it might have happened in school, we had to give up friends, you know, on behalf of coming out, and being honest with yourself and who you are. So, you know, there's a lot of things that people have had to give up in order to be gay and lesbian, and live that life openly.

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Speaker 5 12:01

Yeah. And there's, there's some benefits that you can get out of it. And, and, you know, you talk a lot about everybody talks a lot about what I had to give up to do this, or the choices I make, but I want everyone to know that you do have to give up a lot. Sometimes it's been really painful for us that have already done it. But overall, I think that all of us are glad that we did it. And we've received benefits by being who we are, and being able to be true to ourselves.

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Speaker 9 12:28

Well, I'm going to say that there's a third option that I feel is available to people of color. You don't give up on your communities of color, and you don't give up in your core communities, you force both to accept the fact that you're both queer and of color, that you're a part of both communities and that you don't intend on giving up either community. Because it's for me, as far as I can see, the future of the queer movement is dependent on queers of color. If any, if we're going to make any kind of progress that we need to make, it's going to be where queers have to form alliances with communities of color, that can only be done by queers of color, we're the only one that can bridge the gaps between the queer communities and the communities of color. And what, by saying that I don't mean to deny the fact that women feminists are in a very important part of any queer coalition. But I think in order for us to progress in the ways that we need to do, we're going to have to figure out better ways of dealing with people of color, queers of color in particular, and that if we don't face that reality here in Houston, we're never going to get anywhere.

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Speaker 5 13:40

What do you think about the terms, white people healing racism?

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Speaker 9 13:44

Well, if they want to... Well, I mean, I think it's a good idea. But sometimes, sometimes I get skeptical about a lot of stuff. Because you hear, I mean, you can go to a GOPC meeting, and you will hear a lot of liberal rhetoric, rhetoric, about diversity, and multiculturalism, and so on and so forth. But at the same time that you're hearing this, there are no people of color in the room, because they're made to feel unwanted as even as these people are sitting here talking about how we have to stand up for the diversity of the community, and so on and so forth. I'd rather stop hearing people, you know, spot all these words and actually start doing the work that needs to be done.

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Speaker 5 14:21

I think a lot of times that people, you know, I can't speak for you, and I can't speak for anybody else. But I think a lot of times, people have said to me, that it's not necessarily feeling uncomfortable, because they're the only ones there. I think that maybe people are made to feel uncomfortable, not because you're a person of color, but it's because we choose to be more outspoken. I mean, what I'm trying to say is that maybe people don't dislike or or try to put a wedge between anybody because they're a person of color. They're trying to put a wedge because they represent change or radicalism or something that's Not status quo. And that's not necessarily because of skin color or ethnicity. It's more because of its just change in general and having to be, you know, taking something new, like outspokenness.

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Speaker 9 15:12

Well, I mean, I can accept that as long as we don't whitewash it. I still think it has a part to do with with race and ethnicity. But I will grant you the fact that I think that right now what's going on in the gay and lesbian Political Caucus is that they have basically screwed over the current president, Terry Richardson. There is a a cabal of status quo Queens with reactionary agendas, who are out, in my opinion, to maintain the class and rights privileges that come from being a middle class white male in America. Now, if you have women, people of color, poor people, working class people, and anybody who is reasonably progressive, going up and saying, We want to be more outspoken, more visible in this, that and the other than the reactionary forces are going to stick together and try to, you know, of course, prevent any progressive moves. And I think this is what's happening. But, and to be perfectly honest, it was frustrates the hell out of me, it frustrates me that there aren't more people of color, who are actively involved in both queer and AIDS activism, because in a lot of ways, when anything bad happens to queers, it happens. It hits hardest on queers of color, and women.

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Speaker 8 16:26

Well, I'll tell you not so much about activism on gay lesbian issues, but in AIDS activism. And in the national level of doing AIDS policy work, there are a lot of openly gay and lesbian people of color, in agencies, particularly in the larger cities that are in leadership positions, and they are doing good work and the AIDS Arena in those areas. But one of the things I want to point out is that for the gay and lesbian community, of all races, and creeds and whatever, one of the things, obviously, we're in a very tough place. Because if you look at the March on Washington, and you saw the, the really intentional act of trying to present yourself as so normal, right? And then, whereas an 87, it wasn't like that in 87, hey, I was all kinds of stuff walking around the streets, myself included. And yeah, and in this, you know, this year, it was very different, it was very forceful, look how normal we are. So we're in a, we're at a point where we don't know who we are really, as a gay and lesbian movement, no matter what color you happen to be. And I think that's one of the biggest opportunities that's in front of us as gay and lesbian people is that we do have an enormous opportunity to show and demonstrate how people from all different kinds of backgrounds socio economic status, etc, can work together and can make things happen and change everything from local and statewide sodomy statutes to big things like the military, or whatever, the health care reform is going to have to address domestic partners big time and and is going to have to address gay and lesbian health. So there are places for us to really use that opportunity.

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Speaker 9 18:19

And I think the question is, how do we go from just there being the potential or the possibility for that, that creative and progressive social change, to make it a reality? I mean, this is what we haven't quite figured out yet.

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Speaker 8 18:33

Well, we're going to have to stop pointing fingers at each other for one. And that's going to be the toughest one, I think, for any of the groups to get over, is to stop pointing at each other and laying the blame at each other. And realize that we do have a common agenda. And for some of us, that's that common agenda of gay and lesbian liberation and equality, coupled with our agenda for racial equality and equal rights, per se. You know, it really cracks me up when I read things about Washington DC, and they'll say 88% minority, 80% is not a minority. Hello. Yeah, it's like I said earlier about the media, the media, you know, they'll say 88% minority. 80% percent is not a minority.

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Speaker 9 19:21

Houston. It's I think it's 52 or 54% of Houston are made up of African Americans, Asians and Hispanics.

S

Speaker 5 19:29

A couple minority, what they're doing is they're counting the minority group as everyone who's not white. You know, they're counting everyone together and saying that that makes up the non whites. Well, I know a lot of people that don't want to be called non whites. You know, I don't think that if a lot of non whites get together and there's more non whites than there are whites, then that should not make whites the status quo, and being a white person, you know, I'm all for that. I think that that's really ridiculous to say, though minority groups are all, you know, lumped up into one sum together. And that's what we're made to be. I mean, I don't agree with that at all. I want to ask you, Anthony, what do you how do you feel that?

Specifically, one question I want to ask you is, how do you feel the strides that we make in gay and lesbian equality, unity, the strides that we try to make in our own communities with the Political Caucus with the activist groups, with the gay and lesbian, civil equal rights? How do you think that affects AIDS research, AIDS organizations, AIDS fundraising groups and AIDS activism in general? How do you think that they connect? I mean, it's obvious that they do. But how do you think that it's important for us to, to help one another and to maintain an interconnected state? How do you feel about that?

S

Speaker 8 21:01

Well, there's a really a lot of questions in that one question. But I firmly believe, and you can see, just by looking at it that, you know, obviously, at the onset of AIDS, gay and lesbian issues, and AIDS go hand in hand, and they still do today. Now, as AIDS epidemic spreads into more

and more communities that are not gay, what we have to do, as gay and lesbian people is, it's going to always be part of the gay and lesbian agenda until it's ended. So what we have to do is be able to keep moving forward with our gay and lesbian agenda, and not forget about the AIDS agenda. But we also have to provide the kind of leadership to other groups that are, so people of color organizations, organizations that provide services to women and children. As part of the opportunity I was talking about, we, as gay and lesbian people have an opportunity. So we started a good organization and got it funded, and it runs now and it's got an infrastructure, we know how to start something from scratch. Now, it's our time, exactly, we took care of our own the opportunity for us to now go to an African American or Hispanic or whatever agency, okay, this is how you do it. You want to take care of your own. I don't want to tell you how to do it, you know how to do it. And this is, but this is how you set up an organization from scratch.



Speaker 9 22:21

Exactly.



Speaker 5 22:22

We took care of our own and this is how we have to do it. We are going to take a call now. We've had some calls, and then we're going to find out what this young person has to say.



Speaker 9 22:34

Hello, you're on the air.



Speaker 5 22:37

Maybe?



Speaker 9 22:38

No.



Speaker 5 22:39

Can't hear you Sorry.



Speaker 9 22:42

Lost ya, bye bye.

S

Speaker 5 22:45

We'll take your call in a minute. If anybody has a call for you. Please give us a call at JAM KPFT.

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Speaker 8 22:52

Got all kinds of hot topics here tonight.

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Speaker 9 22:53

Yes, we have. Well, we have color, we're hot by definition.

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Speaker 8 22:58

Right?

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Speaker 5 23:00

I'm a non color. Does that count? I mean, I'm kind of beige and off white, but I'm still white.

S

Speaker 9 23:04

You're a woman. That makes you hot instantly? Yeah, exactly. Certain people are just like hot, just like as a matter of course. Okay, now, Anthony, this is a question I have for you. We've agreed that people of color who are queer, gay, lesbian, harm, or bisexual, whatever, need to get more actively involved in both the queer and the AIDS movements? How do we do that?

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Speaker 8 23:27

Well, the easiest way is that for those gay and lesbian people of color that want to get involved is just to pick yourself up and go down to an organization, that and whether it's Hispanic oriented or not, whether it's the AIDS Foundation, whether you go to office, whether you go to Alma, which is the Association for the Advancement of Mexican Americans, it doesn't matter. And find out what they're doing, because everyone can use volunteers in the AIDS effort. Now, if that's something, go ahead,

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Speaker 5 23:52

There's Asian groups, and there's African American groups, and there's all kinds of other people to, to contact somehow, some way. And if there's not a group, start one.

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Speaker 8 24:00

Start one. But you know, the other part of it is, as far as gay and lesbian issues. A lot of people aren't going to want to, you know, there are people who they'll get up and they'll go rant and rave, and they'll chained themselves to a building, or they'll go down a city council or whatever, and that works for them. But there are also lots of people who that's not going to work for them. But they do want to participate. Well, how can you how can you participate? Well, you can write letters to your city council members, you can write letters to our elected officials at the state and national levels. You can contribute money to campaigns, you can do something, there's lots and lots of ways to get involved without, doesn't require you. You're not going to have your face on the camera and that's a big concern for a lot of people.

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Speaker 9 24:41

Well, and you know, I'm more than willing to put my face on the camera. So even if you want your face on the camera, you would have to deal with me.

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Speaker 5 24:47

Well, I know that there's one thing to that if you're a person sitting at home alone tonight and you haven't done anything that has any gay or lesbian content to it, you can still write a letter to your congressman and that is very powerful tool, and it's important that we try to get it done.

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Speaker 6 25:03

Okay, we're going to try this one more time with the phone system. So I'm going to ask that caller to please call back the numbers and anyone else who has a question tonight, the number is 5265738.

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Speaker 9 25:19

Okay.

S

Speaker 5 25:21

So pen, pick up a pen, grab a piece of paper in longhand, you don't even have to write your own name, you can write somebody else's name, you can write a fake name, you can write the name of the designer of your kitchen table. And it would be really good if you can write on on that letter, what your voting precinct is, say I have to be anonymous, because I'm afraid of my job or my family or my religion, or my whatever. But the bottom line is, write some money. That's something you can do from the privacy of your own home.

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Speaker 8 25:53

— And if you don't know the address of your congressman, it's in the blue pages of the phonebook in the business and government pages. It's a big blue section.

S

Speaker 9 26:01

Do we locate these pages here? Now? Let's start writing campaign against Bob Lanier demanding our queer Civil Rights Ordinance. Okay, Jimmy, you go off and find the business pages and the address and get ready folks, we'll tell you exactly what to say.

S

Speaker 5 26:13

I'm gonna have a question here, too. Didn't I mean, you didn't somebody talked to Bob Lanier mean, wasn't I in on a meeting with Bob Lanier way back when Bob was trying to get elected first time around? Let me just ask you one question. Did he say, Oh, I have a lesbian representative on one of my advisory panels. Oh, that was this woman.

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Speaker 9 26:30

Wasn't it Kathy Barton?

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Speaker 5 26:31

Yes. But who was Kathy Barton? And where is she? And how can we haven't heard her name? And what is she doing? Is she still there? And is she telling anybody she's lesbian? And is she doing anything for the lesbian community? I think not.

S

Speaker 8 26:44

Okay, I think in the same way that we were bamboozled into believing Bill Clinton, some people chose to believe Bob Lanier. Now I personally didn't believe him. And I wanted to, to demonstrate around AIDS funding on the inauguration of his very, when he was first inaugurated into office as mayor, of course, all the queers told me, We can't do that, we have to give him a chance, we have to see what he's going to do. Well, while we've been sitting around giving him a chance, I don't know how many people, thousands of people died of AIDS? You know, and people keep saying, Well, we have to give them a chance. We have to give them a little while we have to wait until they do something wrong. And I keep saying, you know, people are dying, all the while we're sitting there waiting. And it's not a question of I don't think of them doing anything wrong. But I think the question we should be asking is, are they doing anything right?

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Speaker 9 27:36

You know, that's, you know, brings me to a whole nother point and that whole discussion about AIDS. One is, like Michael said, we have been fooled by President Clinton. And, you know, it's

almost been a year that he's been in office. And his overture to AIDS was during the campaign, some right at the beginning of his presidency. And then we didn't hear about it again, until World AIDS Day when the President and every Cabinet member had some type of speaking engagement on World AIDS Day. But I'm telling you, that's not enough.

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Speaker 5 28:11

And talk's cheap.

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Speaker 9 28:14

Really ,talk is cheap. And the one thing it's, you know, I'll tell you, there was a meeting back earlier this year in the fall, and I saw this on Charlie Rose, he was interviewing Larry Kramer, Larry Kramer went to this meeting at the University of Wisconsin at Madison. And the meeting had activist Larry Kramer, people from Gay Men's Health Crisis, top researchers and scientists from pharmaceutical companies, the big 4 profit one's scientists and researchers from the National Institutes of Health and their job there. And they met with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, Donna Shalala. I have opinions about her too. But anyway, the meeting was about what's happening in AIDS research. And I don't know if it was a one day or two day meeting. But what the result was at the end of that meeting is that there ain't nothing coming down the pipeline as far as drugs or vaccines for AIDS. And the federal government has not acknowledged that yet. So if you want to hint on something to write about when you write that letter, there's nothing in the pipeline. Millions and millions and millions of our money is being spent. And there's nothing coming down the road.

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Speaker 5 29:21

You're saying that we know nothing.

S

Speaker 9 29:22

Right.

S

Speaker 5 29:22

We're spending millions of dollars to write papers saying that we know nothing. We're not spending millions and millions of dollars to find out what we know nothing on. That's what we need to be doing.

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Speaker 8 29:32

So one of the one of the whole conversations around aids that has gotten dropped out is ending it. People don't talk about ending AIDS anymore. And that is very frightening to me. And so thousands and millions of people that live with HIV is that you don't hear anybody say anymore,

we're going to end it. Back in the mid 80s, well, early on in the early 80s. Up till about I'd say 1987, 88, people talked about ending the AIDS epidemic. You don't hear that anymore. What you hear now is talk about maintaining the epidemic. And I for 1am, not interested in maintaining this pandemic. And I hope you aren't interested in maintaining a pandemic, either. Because sooner or later, all you're going to see is this. Really though, you've just looked at the obituaries and death notices. There'll be maintained at the same rate. So those are the kind of things you could write about. If you're upset. It's like, hey, you know, dammit, let's end it.

 S Speaker 5 30:28

Yeah.

 S Speaker 8 30:30

Okay, and everybody look at me now.

 S Speaker 5 30:32

My phone's ringing now. You know, I just read an article, and I have it here. It is here, photocopied somewhere. And the article talks about the second wave of AIDS, and it's been charted in San Francisco.

 S Speaker 8 30:44

It's really funny because we've been hearing like the second waves for like, the longest time the second wave was first supposed to be women. Then the second wave was supposed to be teenagers. And then the second Now the second way, God, I hate Fox Television, it's it's almost it's really embarrassing that it's run by a fag. Yet on that goofy front page show. They had the stick, they had this news story, where they made it seem like every heterosexual young person in America was so concerned about AIDS, that it was like the number one problem in their lives. But all the fags in San Francisco and all across the country, were going out willy nilly having unsafe sex, because they didn't give a damn about whether they live or died.

 S Speaker 5 31:27

Not only because they didn't care, because, number one, they felt helpless and hopeless. And we have to reverse that right away. I mean, we have to do everything we can. Because now the people who have HIV are almost out numbering. They think that it's in, that that they're wearing their HIV status as if it were a Red Badge of Courage. They're wearing their HIV status as if it was some great martyrdom to be worn on their sleeve. And it was some thing to be cherished, and it gave them a new insight on life. And I know that there was a time when I thought that I needed to be tested. And the day that I got tested is still to this day, been one of them, the very first time, be one of the most important days of my life, because it changed the way I looked at my own mortality. And I think that that's true that it does change people's lives. And it changes the way we think about everything. And the first time we have a friend die, it

changes the way we think about something. Sure, but we don't want to be careless. Just to get into that clique of those people who've had their lives changed. We don't want to get careless and hopeless, just because we think that we're gonna get in anyway.

S

Speaker 9 32:37

Well, I'm gonna say that I don't agree with that. I don't think people are just going out having it just to be a part of some clique. I think there's a whole host of social forces that are working here. I think we have a phone call. Can we take it now? Jimmy?

S

Speaker 6 32:52

Let's try!

S

Speaker 9 32:53

Run Jimmy. Ron. Ron. Jimmy run? Yes. That milk? Nope. I don't think that works.

S

Speaker 5 33:16

I know what's wrong?

S

Speaker 6 33:18

What's wrong?

S

Speaker 5 33:21

Know what we're getting ABS signal instead of the phone. Hi, we're just out there playing with you folks. We're not really trying to do anything. We're not really trying to take your phone calls.

S

Speaker 6 33:30

I don't understand this at all. I

S

Speaker 8 33:33

t's a new system, isn't it?

S

Speaker 5 33:35

I want to know about this article that you have in front of you, Anthony. Tell us about this article.

S

Speaker 8 33:39

This is premier magazine, the movie magazine, brand new January 1994. The cover has Tom Hanks and Denzel Washington. And they're talking about the movie called Philadelphia which opens next month in theaters all over the country. And speaking of this really besides it being an AIDS film, it's also a film about coming out of the closet. Hollywood is coming out of the closet. Can you believe it? It's about time but they've got straight actors playing gay people. But hey, it's a start. Okay.

S

Speaker 5 34:12

The director said he would never have dreamed of casting a gay person in this role. Why? Why? My question is why? What? What would have stopped him from casting a gay person in this role.

S

Speaker 8 34:22

But the cover looks great. I mean, Tom Hanks looks so gay. It really does. Denzel Washington is just to die for.

S

Speaker 5 34:29

I think they're both gorgeous and I'm a lesbian.

S

Speaker 8 34:31

Oh, they're beautiful. Beautiful. was great, because there's this article about Philadelphia. And then there's another article about Will Smith know the Fresh Prince of Bel Air and his new movie that he's doing, where he plays a homosexual street hustler.

S

Speaker 5 34:45

So why are we, why are we bitching Will. Tell me why.

S

Speaker 9 34:48

Because well, Will is a jerk. I'm sorry. I mean, I read articles where he said he could not go through with kissing a guy in this movie, which he was supposed to do, because according to him his fans wouldn't accept it. And I'm like Well if you call yourself an actor you sorry ass

..... this I can't accept it. And I think, well, if you can yourself an actor, you sorry ass bastard, then you would have gone ahead and kissed the person. I mean, I think it's insulting to us to, to have some stupid jerk, like Will Smith going out playing major queer roles, yet, of course not doing anything that's queer. And I'm really sickened by the fact that, that a lot of people are getting really excited about these movies coming out of Hollywood, but queers never touch each other. They're never any sex scenes. They're never any kissing. There's never any of the stuff that we do when we are with people who we're doing these things with. But you know, and that makes me mad.

 **Speaker 8 35:04**

But let me you know, Michael, and everything you say. No, and everything you say, you know, I don't have a problem with. But what I what I will say is that it points to the and it says the same thing in the Hispanic community, but it's all in the Hispanic and African American communities, the communities as a hole, that are unwilling to deal with the fact that there are gay and lesbian African Americans there are gay and lesbian, Latinos and Latinas so that Will Smith would, you know, get paid whatever kind of money he's getting paid to be in the movie, and whatever money he's gonna get, you know, in royalties, and it's a good career move for him and all that kind of stuff. The fact that he wouldn't kiss the man, and it's part of your job as an actor, you know, there are things that you do and acting, and that's one of them, that he refused that, but for me, lets me know that he's bought into that whole African American consciousness of, oh, well, there's no gay and lesbian African Americans, give me a break. Did you see the Billboard Awards? It was RuPaul presenting. There's Queen Latifah of ambiguous sexuality. And so it's like, Give me a break. You know.

 **Speaker 5 36:46**

Look at the headlines in this article. Read this headline,

 **Speaker 8 36:50**

Okay. It says Smith says Denzel Washington, told him quote, don't be kissing no man, end quote.

 **Speaker 5 36:56**

And this one?

 **Speaker 8 36:58**

Let's see. This is a Will Smith being quoted: "To do a scene where you have to look at a man and tell him that you love him. You love him, it was ah." So that's the mentality.

 **Speaker 5 37:12**

This is the mentality. This is what appears in Premier magazine, on on this one page about Will Smith. And the fact to me the fact that this is on there, and they give him space to say this is both repulsive, and an opening, you know, eye opening to me, it's not eye opening to me, but I hope a lot of people will read this and say, What a jerk, this is your job. And I don't I don't know that they will. But I'm hoping that this will not be the norm. I'm hoping that somebody will write them, maybe me, maybe next month and say, you listeners. That's right. And the address will be Premier magazine, are we guilty later to write them and talk about this? Because this, I'll say, this hurts my feelings. Because it does. I mean, it hurts who I am.

S

Speaker 8 38:00

Well, I mean, it's amazing. Because, yeah, it's amazing, because they're gonna make a lot of money on these movies. And there are enough queers in the greater Los Angeles area that could turn Hollywood on its ear and make whatever kind of movie they wanted to make. And it's, you know, same thing. You can look at it in the different cities in LA, it's that could you imagine if all of the queers that are in the motion picture business really came out and it really took control? And they could, but they would all come out.

S

Speaker 5 38:26

But see, this is another African American playing a street hustler. I mean, it's not an African American business person. It's not a gay African American car salesman.

S

Speaker 8 38:35

It's not, you know, so that's not a stereotype. Come on. Right. Now they have Denzel playing on attorney. Now that's become the latest rage on TV for African Americans. You know, what's her name on The Cosby Show was an attorney.

S

Speaker 9 38:49

Well, and they also get all these rules as judges have you noticed like an LA lots, where all the major characters are these white people. Except for Eva Martinez who is really cute. They have the only other people of color you say are like as these judges who never get to say anything other than guilty or something like--

S

Speaker 5 39:09

And I'm black love me.

S

Speaker 9 39:11

Yeah, something like that.

S

Speaker 8 39:12

Funny.

S

Speaker 9 39:13

But I am looking forward to seeing this movie The Philadelphia with Tom Hanks and Denzel Washington.

S

Speaker 5 39:19

Have you seen any cuts?

S

Speaker 9 39:20

I have not. And that's from it. Well, that's what Jack was telling me the other day. He said he saw some I think he saw the whole thing or parts of it. So he was real pleased and there'll be parts of it that we'll have to get over and they'll be parts of it that will love but go see it and love it.

S

Speaker 5 39:32

Well, I saw that Tom Hanks talking about it.

S

Speaker 9 39:36

Well, Jimmy gave me this look that said bits Get your ass off that microphone. Because it's time for the queer music zone.

S

Speaker 6 39:43

Yes. All right, QMZ.

Q

39:47

Right after these few messages. Hello Houston. This is Jimmy with the QMZ, the queer music zone heard well, except for last week, every week After Hours, continuing tradition, and I want to play as much gay lesbian Christmas music as I can but gosh, you know, there's so many other things too. And I want to start off with a request that Sally called in and we've been talking about Sally and that we hadn't seen her in a while. She asked for a Melissa Etheridge. And of course we got to play Sally's favorite Melissa Etheridge. And oh, let's see. In addition to

that, we want want you to know out there that Inklings will be open on Mondays for the holidays. Oh, cool, cool because they're usually closed but for the month of December, I guess they are open. Stop in and see Sally and listen to her favorite song by Melissa Etheridge. Right now.