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gay, aaron, call, student, lynch, houston, homosexual, prom, meeting, cumberland, harvey milk, quilt, school, switchboard, peter, project, tuxedo, kids, objection, names

SPEAKERS

Bruce Reeves, Ray Hill, Buddy Johnston, Harvey Milk



00:05

Aaron, would you please tell us why you want to go to your senior prom with another man?



00:10

I feel I have the right to go just like any other student. And I don't understand why shouldn't be allowed to go with Peter,



00:17

do you consider going to the prom to be a political statement?



00:20

Well, I think just by being there, I'm making a statement for human rights. I see it as a stand against the prejudice that Mr. Lynch is demonstrating. And some of the kids are following.



00:30

Has that prejudice made you uncomfortable in school? Yes, it



00:34

has. But I've managed to go about my daily routine. And I can't see why should be separated from the other kids when it comes to the prom.



00:41

Have you ever been separated from the other kids at Cumberland? High because you're gay?



00:46

No. I asked to be transferred at a gym class because some kids are picking on me when Mr. Lynch wouldn't allow it.



00:53

Aaron, do you have any heterosexual friends at Cumberland die?



00:56

Yes. One of them is sitting in the courtroom right now.



01:00

And how did they feel about your decision to sue Mr. Lynch?



01:03

They have faith in me to make my own decisions. They're supporting me.



01:08

Are you involved with any in school activities?



01:11

I'm in the drama club. I just received a thespian Award for outstanding performance in the Thurber carnival.



01:17

Have you met all the requirements for graduation? Yes,



01:20

I even pass PE this year.



01:23

school policy is that if a student meets all the requirements for graduation, you may purchase prom tickets. Is that right?



01:29

Yes. Plus I sold my 10 Sr raffle tickets already.



01:33

Thank you, Aaron. I have no further questions, your honor. Your witness?



01:41

Just to correct you tell the court what is the meaning of the word gay?



01:46

It's the physical and emotional love shared by two people of the same sex. Which is something I have to know about considering I've been gay since I was at least five years old.



01:56

Are you sure you're not bisexual?



01:58

I've never dated girls. If that's what you mean.



02:00

How many days if you haven't met



02:02

objection, just saying.



02:05

Mr. pricks. triadic life is not additional here.



02:08

Yes, Your Honor. Well, as a homosexual, do you really believe you'll enjoy yourself at a heterosexual prom?



02:17

I've seen straights. Have fun in gay bars. I don't know why I shouldn't have fun at a straight prom and you



02:23

don't think your present state will be disrupted? No, sir. Or that you and your escort might be physically harmed? No, sir. Are you planning to clear a corsage to the problem? Am I what



02:34

objection counsel was attempting to intimidate the witness?



02:36

I would like to present this newspaper photograph of Peter Grayson wearing a corsage at a gay prom held for him in Boston. Today, would you put your head on Peter shoulder if you slow dance together?



02:51

Objection. Aaron. Can I speculate on his future impulses? Oh, really?



02:55

I don't know. I just do what comes naturally.



02:59

I sit on you wearing a bandage over your right eye? Would you please remove a Objection your other age,



03:05

bandages enough proof of physical harm



03:09

precise. Aaron has suffered physical harm because of his desire to attend the prom with a male date coaching



03:16

session on suffered this physical harm because he's gay. If I had been afforded proper protection in school, he wouldn't have this scar.



03:24

Before your story hit the news. Have you told all the students at Cumberland high that you were gay? No. Then why would they harass you?



03:33

I guess they needed a scapegoat. And I'm an easy target because in their opinion, I'm obviously gay. They see me as some kind of threat. I'm hoping that if we go to the prom, they'll understand that I'm not. I mean, it will bother some of the kids to have us around. But that's because they've never seen a gay couple before. Having us there will probably widen their range of experience



03:54

widen the range of experience. Well,



03:57

I think if the other students see us at the Pleasant Valley Country Club, they'll say wow, gay people really are human beings with constitutional rights. This problem is



04:06

to be held at the Pleasant Valley Country Club.



04:08

Yes, Your Honor.



04:09

I play golf, everyone. Oh, really? Yes. It's quite relaxing.



04:13

I can imagine that being a judge has a chair of pressures.



04:16

That may be a gigantic understatement. Does the defense have any further questions? No.



04:26

It's going to recess until 1030 tomorrow



04:28

morning. Everyone needs me I can be found in the Pleasant Valley Country Club. Dad, what do you do?



04:42

Don't look so surprised. I just thought I'd drop by and give you some moral support. We we haven't talked very much since this thing started.



04:53

I know.



04:54

Thanks for coming, dad.



04:56

Well, it was the least I could do. You. Do you see? Are you hungry? Yeah. I'd love to get

well, it was the least I could do. You DO you see? Are you hungry? Yeah, I'd love to get something. Well, there's a place around the corner. That's not too bad.



05:06

That sounds good to me.



05:11

You really handled those questions. Well,



05:13

I feel like I've been working on the answers for a long time. Like about 18 years.



05:19

beginning to understand that now. Aaron, I, I don't know how to say this. But well, when I saw you on the stand today, I felt proud. I was proud that you had the courage to say the things you said. I only wish it hadn't taken me this long to find out how you really felt. Tad,



05:47

you can't blame yourself for that. I didn't want you to know.



05:52

I was afraid of what would happen if you did find out?



05:57

Well, I'll say this much. I never thought I'd be sitting in a restaurant with a homosexual telling him I loved him. I love you, too, dad.



06:12

Mr. Lynch, Could you summarize your reasons for denying Aaron's request?



06:17

I'd be glad to. First of all, I was worried about it and safety. Secondly, I was concerned about

the negative effect this homosexual interaction would have been a problem.



06:29

If this court ordered you to protect our infringer. Wouldn't you provide that protection?



06:33

If I was ordered by the court? Yes, I would. But I couldn't get into their safety. Not even with adequate security. I don't know how much is adequate. And I'd have to look into that.



06:44

All right. Did Aaron tell you about the violence against him in gym class? Yes, he told me and yet in effect, you refused his request for a transfer. Therefore, subjecting are under the possibility of more violence?



06:57

No, no, not intentionally.



07:01

Mr. Lynch, you mentioned negative effect the problem? Could you be more specific?



07:06

Well, the or the presence of an openly homosexual couple might encourage the other students to misbehave or there could be excessive drinking, vandalism and so on. There could be but you don't know for sure. Well, I'm not 100% Certain No. But I saw what happened last year at the junior prom. When Peter Grayson tried to attend with his male date. The students couldn't handle the pressure that became unmanageable. One student jumped into the lake with his tuxedo. Wasn't that



07:45

the older brother of the student who gave Aaron the weld under his eye?



07:49

Yeah, yes. Yes. As a matter of fact, he was.



07:57

Do you allow girls to dance together at the prom?



07:59

Yes, we allow girls to dance together. But that does not represent homosexual interaction. The two boys dancing together does. Well, that's interesting.



08:11

I'm curious, Mr. Lynch, whether you have any homosexual acquaintances? No. Do you know anything about the homosexual lifestyle?



08:22

enough to know that I disagree with it.



08:26

Would you say you strongly disagreed with it?



08:28

Yes, I'd say so.



08:30

It's really, are there any homosexual teachers at Cumberland high?



08:34

No, there are not. Oh,



08:37

Aaron has received a letter from a substitute teacher at Cumberland high who's gay and whose name naturally will be withheld. Mr. Lynch I have here at the Cumberland High School. Hey, would you please read the underlined passage for us?



08:57

Prejudice, as a byproduct of ignorance is divisive and inimical to our nation's traditions.



09:06

Do you agree with that statement?



09:07

Yes, I do.



09:09

Thank you, Mr. Lynch. I have no further questions, Your Honor.



09:16

So we're really going through with this.



09:18

Why? What's wrong?



09:21

I'm sick of it. That's what's wrong. There were reporters calling me every 10 minutes. And some guy threatened to kill me in front of my building. was kind of hoping they call the whole dance off heater.



09:34

We're so close to winning. The prom is only a week



09:39

away. No. But I guess I never thought it would get this far.



09:44

Maybe I never thought it would get this far either. But it has. I mean, every gay person in the country is watching what's happening here. I can't stop now. Listen, if you don't want to go, that's okay. Off find somebody else to go with.



10:02

No, I don't want to disappoint you. It's just one thing. What's that? Do you think you could find two lavender tuxedos,



10:15

see what I can do? Let's wait for the judges decision. Who knows we may end up having a problem all by ourselves.



10:28

After considerable thought and research, I have concluded that even a legitimate interest in school discipline does not outweigh a student's right to peacefully express his views and an appropriate time, place and manner. To rule otherwise would completely subvert free speech in the schools by granting other students a hecklers veto, allowing them to decide through prohibited and violent methods. What speech will be heard? The First Amendment does not tolerate mob rule by annually schoolchildren. In conclusion, I find that the plaintiff has established a probability of success on the merits. And accordingly his request for a preliminary injunction has been granted.



11:13

Does that mean what I think it means?



11:15

It means that we've just won your case.



11:19

We won.



11:21

We won.





11:27

You're listening to reflections of a Rock Lobster exclusively on after hours. KPFT Houston. 90.1 FM



11:41

excuse me, I'm a reporter for The Herald American. I'm asking students what they think about this whole thing. One more thing. You know, the senior prom tonight.



11:48

Oh, hey, make me sick. Homosexuals don't even belong in this earth. Much less than our problem. Really? Then you're against what's happening against it. I'm ashamed to be a Cumberland student anymore. If homosexuals were waterbucks I'd stop on them. You're not Aaron Frick by any chance.



12:11

How did you ever get all right



12:21

Peter, I was getting worried frame



12:23

was late. Aaron, you look fantastic. Well, I



12:29

should after all, it's a night of my prom. Come on upstairs. I've got a tuxedo did you get the lavender ones? Did you really think I was tacky enough to wear a lavender tuxedo? Well, I am



12:45

I got blue. This lovely dark navy one's yours. And equally lovely Powder Blue Mine. Cumberland high school colors. I thought it would be patriotic of us.



12:59

Peter, you really look good. I'm glad you're here.



13:02

I'm glad I'm here too. And I think we're going to make a stunning couple. What's that? Those are TV lights. And look at all those people.



13:16

Are you nervous?



13:17

Yeah, a little.



13:18

So am I Well, we made it this far. It ought to be easy for me here



13:43

Dear Peter, after the prominent everything I thought you'd like to hear our graduation went in other ways wait until the end to call the names of the graduating seniors. For when they finally call my name. People started booing from the bleachers for my stomach tightened up. I knew it would be bad, but I didn't think it would be that bad. But then I heard a fainter sound. The sound of applause it was coming from the senior class. They were cheering me love Aaron in there



Buddy Johnston 14:40

yet. So what do you think should we come out? Yes. Why?



14:48

Like he said he will feel



Buddy Johnston 14:49

so much better. But feedbacks coming from somewhere. Yeah, well, we're fixing it. Anyway, he's right, right? You got to come out, come out, come out of the closet. It's imperative that has to happen. Nothing else good is gonna happen until we do. And we can't stress that enough. If you want to find out about what's going on in the gay and lesbian community in Houston, you can call the switchboard at 526 4000. Roger, compare five to six 4000. What am I saying the

switchboard is not five to 6000, my husband just came into the studio, and I'm all excited about that. He's going to tell us about something going on at the Georgia brown Convention Center. And



15:38

no, I'm, well, I'm sort of helping here and there, wherever I'm needed. I'm a project I love. And it's what I'm working on a special project for Mother's Day. It's going to be a very exciting, uplifting, uplifting experience for people uplifting in more ways than one in more ways than one. And it's going to tie kind of time Mother's Day in with the names project. It's we're going to have mother's read the names of the new Houston panels. And then we're going to have a mass balloon release of 3000 Balloons



Buddy Johnston 16:17

3000 Balloons going up all at one time as



16:21

music is played something like maybe up in a way. And it's kind of it's different from the somber mood of the opening and closing ceremonies. And it's going to it's going to be very exciting. It's going to be fun and enjoyable.



Buddy Johnston 16:36

What's going on down at Parkway, Parkway? Oh,



16:40

everything's going on at Parkway. The name is Project panel workshop is open. It's over. Okay, so I came out to my parents today. Everyone knows on the air that I had not told my parents and I mean, but he's reminded everyone enough times.




Buddy Johnston 16:59


Everybody in the world that knows us and knows that we were together and knows that we've been together. I





17:04


came out to my parents today. They handled it rather well. I was a bowl of jelly. They held up much better than I


 **Buddy Johnston** 17:13
did. Yeah. He called me and woke me up because I was sleeping to get ready to come to do the show. And he was I thought Who the hell is that? What happened? cleared?


 17:25
cleared my sinuses. Now what was the


 **Buddy Johnston** 17:27
hardest part? The three little words that you said you condense them into two words.


 17:33
Yeah, I can practice I said, I'm gay. Now I am gay.

 **Buddy Johnston** 17:38
So is it better? Or have we been lying to people all along? Should we stay in the closet? Maybe? No. No, no.

 17:45
I'm being me. Listen to Harvey Milk.

 **Buddy Johnston** 17:48
Yeah, listen to Harvey Milk. So Come on kids, five to six 4000. We want to hear from you got a whole studio of people waiting to talk to you. Speaking of Harvey Milk, Bruce Reeves. We're going to try to get together a little group to go down to City Hall on November 27. That's a Sunday and have a memorial service a candlelight vigil type service for Harvey Milk. Yes.

 18:11
Um, the 10th anniversary of his assassination anniversary of his assassination.

 **Buddy Johnston** 18:15
Also coming up in two weeks, the names project quilt will be at the Georgia brown.



18:22

It's my name, Mac and Dory. Panel, Max. Lord Mac Dory thing that at the far end of that quilt was a movie. And I know there are people out here listening to me who saw it off.



Ray Hill 18:43

There are a lot of people listening this from all kinds of people listen to the after our show insomniacs people in their place. And so I want to say something that that perhaps will help those people that didn't experience the growth as you are having experience losing someone to age is everyone in this room? Hey. Let me tell you, I am 47 years old. I have lost more of my friends to AIDS and violence than my mother has of her friends. And she's 74 That is an unnatural environment. That sort of thing ought never in the history of humankind to happen. But I have learned more about life. From the direct experience of learning about death and know how precious every minute that I have has. And I know how precious every minute that I spend with a friend is to my hope and the world. I want to invite you to start planning now to make time available We're on Mother's Day 1988 so that you can come and experience the rich tapestry of people young and old, straight and gay, and have died in at least some small part of the hope that never again will be hate one another. Never again will we waste our lives.



20:28

We see the quilt, you understand how it began with one name, sung with love, and grew to 1000s of players, stitched with memories, surrounded by favorite things. Each name is a proud inscription with all of them together make a national monument to those who died of AIDS, a monument that says remember me



20:58

British Consulate here in Houston to protest clause 29. A new law which goes into effect on that date, the United Kingdom, which outlaws anything which positively promote homosexuality. For more information, please contact Bruce Reeves at 9612905 This is time for Houston to act up. Dateline Houston,



21:28

Ron McDonnell resigned.



Buddy Johnston 21:38

Brian Keever Thank you, Brian, for that wonderful, informative newscast. Was that informative? Clay? Yes. Clay Harper. Good morning. Good morning. Clay is going to be joining us each week with the community bulletin board telling you about what's going on in the Montrose area.

Right? Yes, he got some force.



21:56

Is there what you got? Okay. Monday, April 25. gay fathers of Houston will be meeting at dignity. That's on Fannin. Opening April 29, Seoul survivors, a play directed by Joe watts, presented by the group produced by Marion Coleman at Kindred spirits. Sunday May 1 10am. Names project Houston host committee will be meeting at George R Brown Center entrance C. at 8pm. A prequel party will be held at the Brazos River bottom Saturday May 7, a workshop entitled life at life after diagnosis, diet, Gnosis Excuse me. Compassion cooperation understanding will be held Saturday May 7, from six to 8pm at bearing Memorial United Methodist Church. The workshop is free and open to public. For more information call the names project Houston at 5243850. Jack valinski at 5291223 or Sharon Lynn at 5228818. May the seventh and eighth names project Houston will be here george rr Brown Center Saturday May 14 8pm Heartsong will be in concert at the First Unitarian Church on Fannin. Sunday May 15. Church at the Rock after their services we'll be having an ice cream social. All are invited 6pm on the 15th Pride Parade committee will have a meeting upstairs at the barn. May 16. At heaven of what's it worth option, benefiting the Pride Parade committee for more information call bursaries at 9612905 June 1, time to be determined civil disobedience at the British Consulate consulate to protest of clause 29 in England. For more information, again call Bruce at 9612905 June 11 Saturday at 930 Lynn lavner will be in concert at rumors in Dallas. And just another little reminder that quilt workshop is at Parkway athletics from 10am to 9pm. Monday through Friday 10am through 5:30pm on Saturday and Sunday. Bearing Care Center is now open and looking for PW A's are in need of assistance. For more information contact the care center between 7am and 6pm at 5207070 Hair Center is an adult daycare facility for PW A's whose principal caregivers are at work. And that's about it for now.



Buddy Johnston 25:08

It's it said bursaries, the only phone number you got. That's about to call for everything.



25:15

For everything else switchboard at five to 932 11 Sounds good



Buddy Johnston 25:19

Thanks, Clay.



25:21

Praises of pride, written and read by Joe watts. The cry to unite is in the air, fear death and dying, even despair. But hopefully determined we will survive by keeping the flames of our faith alive. A cry to unite is in the air singing praises of pride. A cry to unite is in the air a time to celebrate to love to care forever United We must stand or divided we will surely fall Listen to

the cry rise up stand tall a cry to unite is in the air singing praises of pride the cry to unite is in the air bonding of souls and hearts everywhere our dream to unite must come true the courage to face the world as you cried to unite is in the air singing praises of pride everywhere

B

Buddy Johnston 26:38

Okay, all right now here's bursaries the only gonna say queen. Kids if you can see this guy he's like I'm like a munchkin compared to this guy. you've ever seen that? That commercial? The Jolly Green Giant thing? Well, that's how we look standing together and the little guy going and they got butter all over him and he's the big guy in the background. slave auction it shoots to benefit stone soup. So I just handed me a note. This is a hot note. Is flash newsflash. It's gonna be a slave auction. It shoots to the online phone.

o

27:14

Someone who knows about it.

B

Buddy Johnston 27:16

They want to get on the air. Yeah, well, let's see. Hello. Oh, hi there. who dis? hiker Craig what's up?

o

27:30

There's gonna be a slave auction. Yeah, it's gonna be overseas to benefit the kitchen.

B

Buddy Johnston 27:38

This is April the 30th at 10 o'clock. Right. And shoot is located at

o

27:43

30 T with Palmer. One block west of

B

Buddy Johnston 27:46

Dunlavy. Sounds good. We'll see you there. Okay. That sounds like fun. Yeah, we want to talk about the parade. I want

B

Bruce Reeves 27:55

to talk about the parade and just clear up a little misinformation that came out in our press this

weekend. The Montrose voice on the front page had pictures of the grand marshals, Eleanor monger and Don St. Clair. Unfortunately, they went to press with that before that was confirmed after we had asked them not to. Don Sinclair was unable to accept our Grand Marshal. Our other nominee had been brown McDonald, who has also declined to accept so the Executive Committee met late Friday evening and selected a third person and since he has yet to accept, but probably will, I'm going to decline to mention who that is. But I just wanted to let everyone know that Eleanor monger has accepted so we do have a female Grand Marshal. That's great. And we have an honorary female grand marshal who is Sharon Kowalski, who is the woman who was in a car wreck several years ago whose lover lost a custody suit with her parents. And Sharon is now in a nursing home not doing real well because her parents basically just let her alone. Do we have an

B

Buddy Johnston 29:03

honorary male Grand Marshal,

B

Bruce Reeves 29:06

we have one, possibly but the executive committee's got to talk about that this week as well. So we'll know more next weekend. Find

B

Buddy Johnston 29:14

out about this executive. So the names project is going to be at the Georgia brown Convention Center.

B

Bruce Reeves 29:20

May 7 Tonight, two weeks from yesterday, and today, two weeks from

B

Buddy Johnston 29:24

yesterday in a beautiful, beautiful, beautiful, beautiful, beautiful quilt. Go out and experience the love and all the energy that's going to be going on there. You can get involved with the names project by calling them I'm not really sure the number it's listed for 3850 Thank you sir. And the Pride week meeting is going to be May the 15th at six o'clock at the barn. So we got just about 10 minutes left if you want to give us a call. It's five to six 4000 Stand together.

B

Bruce Reeves 29:55

I come out of the closet



B**Buddy Johnston 29:55**

come out of the closet ACT UP, ACT UP action cool Alicia to unleash power forming in Houston, the Houston chapter getting ready to take off like a rocket from the Johnson Space Center. But we'll be meeting at a location to be announced soon our first little gathering will be a protest at the British Consulate here in Houston to protest the clause 29 legislation that goes into effect in England June the first. So if you want more information about that 961 2905 You can always call the after hours Hotline at 5294636. For all information about the Lesbian Gay Pride Week festivities, the community give us a call at the switchboard five to 930 to 11. Right. That's right. Thank you, thank you, you know,

B**Bruce Reeves 30:46**

if you're planning to participate with the civil disobedience, we are planning a civil civil disobedience training on Saturday, May the 21st, it will be from 10am to 6pm. At a location to be determined, you can either call me at 961 2905 or Cali after hours Hotline at 5294636 and leave a message and we'll get back to you as to where that will be.

B**Buddy Johnston 31:08**

And don't be afraid we're not gonna go out running, yelling and screaming, we're gonna go down and work with the police chief and police staff and everybody and everybody's going to know what we're going to do. That's why it's called civil civil disobedience, it's going to be very well planned, very well taken care of. We may go to jail. But you know, sometimes you got to do what you got to do,

B**Bruce Reeves 31:27**

when and we need volunteers to do things besides get arrested, we do need people that are willing to risk being arrested. But we also need people that are willing to work on the outside and keep track of the people that get arrested and just basically be there to be a volunteer work with the press. If you're a press person and want to get involved, I've got a great job for you. Also, we're trying to establish a bail fund. So we'll be working on that in the future as well. So if you can help with any of that, give us a call

B**Buddy Johnston 31:57**

right now other than the parade, the most important thing of course is the names project going to be in the Georgia brown Convention Center. Two weeks from today, it's going to be beautiful on this program next week. Don Sanders with the American gay atheists is going to come in and talk about the gay theists and what they're facing and fighting and struggling for and who knows what's gonna happen, it's gonna be interesting. And then a week after that, we're gonna have a lot of special stuff for you especially May the Fourth on Open Journal right here on KPFT from noon until one that's May the Fourth on Open Journal, from noon to one we're going to have a very special program all about the names project quote coming in on this program Sunday morning, of course on after hours, and I'm sure Wildenstein breakthrough and everywhere else they're going to be talking about the quilt do is you stay tuned to KPFT

because May the 14th is spring marathon time. And we're going to be offering that as a premium for our wonderful listeners, which are you and a lot of other wonderful things here at the station. If you want to find out about KPFT and what's going on, give us a call at 526 4000 We'll send you the brand new May and June copy of the program guide. It's got a beautiful article on page 10. All about after hours and Lesbian Gay Pride Week and everything that's going on. Plus a beautiful, beautiful picture the names project will display in Washington right looks great. And all I can say is thanks for listening. Hope you enjoyed reflections of a Rock Lobster tonight all about Aaron Frick taking his boyfriend to the high school prom. And a 16 year old called and said he found us by mistake tonight. And he cried after the end of the show because he was so touched and all I can tell you baby is it's gonna get better and better and better and better and better. Just stay tuned to your Pacifica station 90.1 FM after hours and every other thing you're going to hear here will tell you about life and how wonderful it can be until next week for Bruce and Terry and Mike and Roger roger, I love you for going to Bel Air and telling your mom and daddy today and they called the making here. Okay. There's just going to be a wonderful week. So five to 930 to 11 is the switchboard number. We gotta go see you next week kids.

H

Harvey Milk 34:14

We must destroy the Miss Swinson for shatter them. We must continue to speak out. And most importantly, most importantly, every gay person must come out. People all over this country to do one thing. Come out. Come out America.