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Tue, May 23, 2023 2:03PM 32:15

## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

quilt, people, caucus, gay, call, week, girl, hear, lesbian, endorsed, houston, dialing, listen, aids, 1000s, died, involved, spencer, read, real

## SPEAKERS

Buddy Johnston, Jimmy Carper

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B

Buddy Johnston 00:00

And now that's why it'll be funny. We'll hear all these rumors about what we said about the G RPC. I love the GLP. See, I will never go to another meeting, because they turned me away at the door when I was a full paid up member and all that. But that's another story. I recall it. Never go back. They can do whatever they want to do. I wish them luck that they can't they endorsed a Republican. Well, now I may work. We're doing this on the outside. We haven't heard all the ins and outs. Where did you hear that? Somebody told me the VIPs the gay, the gay. Here's gay. The huge lands Gay and Lesbian, Gay, gay, gay, gay and lesbian. Clayton Williams, you hear that? Gay Gay, gay. Homosexual law. That means I violate the sodomy law. The one on the books in Austin. Every chance that I get. We all do. I love every minute of it, by the way. Yes. Well, this is the gay Yeah. Houston gay and lesbian. Political law. That's an important word Political Caucus. Right. It's not the Democratic caucus. No, no, no, no. And it's not that other one. They don't use the word gay and lesbian in the near town association or what do they call it? Marian closet Alliance? This is the gay and lesbian Political Caucus we're talking about now. God help us. They endorsed a Republican. Oh, excuse me. Is Dennis Spencer on the phone? Have they forgot obably will be shortly here. I don't care. He can come down and tell us why he will be in this. In fact, he's going to be here. Why? Oh, he is. Let's say get that on the calendar. Yeah, we're talking about the Houston gay and lesbian Political Caucus that just read endorse two Republicans. Republicans, by the way, who hate our guts. Yes. And had to see us all die very quickly. And at the rate, they're funding AIDS research. Kids were dying pretty fast. In three weeks. There'll be here okay, we'll ask him on the 20th I promise I won't say anything. Tober the 20th like gay Yeah. And lesbian Political Caucus. Good God, girl. Good God. Gertie, let's call them hang on a minute. Who are you calling? Nah. We'll call them up baby who that gay and lesbian Political Caucus they're not there at this hour. Find out is just the right number five. Yes. Said that number. Is that the right number 5211. are calling the gay and lesbian Political Caucus that just endorsed I think not not Hello, thank you for calling. Please remain on the line. The next available telephone Secretary will be with you shortly. Oh girl your patients can't be there. Five to what? Five to one 1000 were attempting to call the gay and lesbian Political Caucus turn curly, she got the right number. Well, we better check on that. I help you. I think we got the wrong number. Sorry. Girl. That can't be right. five to nine 1000 Now it's not that girl we're gonna have to check on that number. We play a little tune. Why don't you want to wait a

minute here? I can. I'm looking. Give me this number. Please understand, I don't have anything against these people. I just can't understand why gay people keep stabbing each other in the back and why are we doing this? Why don't we Why did we endorse Republicans? Did they not read the Republican platform baby? Well, I don't know. We really shouldn't care what they do, but we do so we're gonna find out. They're looking for the number. Now they'll be mad at us. Although they've been mad at us before. Oh yeah, that's right here we go. Five to five to one 1000 00 Are you okay? You are not a 971000 Swear to god caucus and 1976 It's probably a Republican volunteering five to 11000 Busy I think everybody's calling it now we've got him what is that okay what number are we dialing? 5211000 is that right? Fine what does that say? It says I got it from the twit. Right here on the back. Now what's this five six lesbian 521 1000 526 1000s One of our faithful listeners said girl I got a heavy breather down there somebody better wait okay, we'll get this straight once and for all okay skip you have to Houston by the way, trying to get the number. Hi there. How are you? Okay, this is KPFT radio. We're trying to find the number for the Houston gay and lesbian Political Caucus please, sir. Oh, that's listening. There's no listing for Houston gay. about gay and lesbian political. Okay, how about gay and lesbian Political Caucus? What radio station KPFT okay, I found it. And the number is is it 5221521 1000 Okay, thank you, sir. That's enough. We've been down. Thank you. All right. Try it one more time. Five to one right. Yes. 1000 That's what you're pushing. Right? Is that what we're dialing? Three eyewitnesses in the control room Hello this is Bodhi at KPFT and I guess we're cut off Now Mary Do you think there's something wrong with their answering machine or something that it's doing that Yeah. Feminine sexual experience? Well, yes. That's busy. Do you know we're in real trouble now? Why? I'm trying to call him Mary. I have a heavy breather on you have to wait for the phone. Answering machine to is that not the number we're dialing? Yes. I have to ask Denise Spencer who does their messages Oh, no more breathing. Catch you off. The phone answering machine has to has to do its thing. Yeah. I have got to play this tape back for Dennis Spencer. Well, I'm sure he be very surprised to hear this machine has got a heavy breather. There must be something wrong with the machine. Oh yeah. Or maybe they're at the end of their tape. When when mine gets at the end of the tape, doesn't it breathe heavy for you know, Oh, okay. And after that good. I'm tired of dialing them here's Jimmy Somerville. Yes. Is it read my lips Jimmy, Jimmy, where are you? Oh, he's gone. He'll be back. Hang on a minute. We'll be back in just a second. Yes. Hello. Girl. Are you here? I'm

J

Jimmy Carper 11:27

here. And I'm queer.

B

Buddy Johnston 11:31

So, boy, Jimmy just kind of ended their Disney. Yeah, well. Okay, what have you what have we got going here? Well, do you know that today Sunday is a birthday. Good old Truman Capote was born this day in 19 and 24. The Oh bitch would have been 66. Let's all shout hallelujah. Hallelujah. Should we try to go? She LPC number? I'd rather we did now we won't. Wow, what? Okay, girl. That was tennis. Funny though, wouldn't it? That sounds strange. I'm sure something wrong with their machine. Yes. Yeah, there's something wrong with our machine. They were endorsed to Republicans. Way back in a minute.

O

12:25

15 I can't litigate wake up. Wake up. Wake up. Steve. Come on, man. No, no, no, don't put your head back on the pillow. No, get up. Get out of bed and go to work. Okay, okay. Let's see. I need a shower. Take a shower every day. Today's a day so maybe I am singing in the shower. Towel. Where's my towel? Okay. It's better man. I'm awake and live alert. Clothes. Got to wear one leg at a time their car keys. Always using my car keys. Open the door. Close the door. Lock the door.



12:58

Oh, no. 15 minutes. I'll never make it. Yes, I will. Come on Dr. Dr. Dr. Step. All right. Good all day, man. That's pretty nice car. Oh, yes. Come on light green. stay green. Come on. Come on. I can make it I can make it stay yellow. Come on red ribbon.



13:13

You're late and trying to make up time and the unspeakable happens. You kill somebody. And now you're the one who has to live with it. Don't wreck your life. A reminder from the State Department of Highways.



13:51

For the latest and progressive sounds student to beatbox every Thursday morning, from 230 to 5am. With me Kevin Harrell. And remember beatbox is only available on KPFT Houston 90.1 FM



Buddy Johnston 14:08

Yeah, that queendom come in. And do you know what's funny about this thing? Working with Devin. Oh really? Yeah, you know what's funny about this DLP see thing we're gonna be they're gonna be real mad at me because they're answering machine didn't work. They'll say you shouldn't have How can I gay group endorse. Why? Well, Ray weeks we'll find out. Yeah, Dennis Spencer be here next week. We have. We have PFLAG yay. That's gonna be fun and that great. I want to play. We're going to listen to the names project tape here in just a second. But I want to play another song on this from this album if that's okay. Yeah, from Michael Callen. This. This album was really really special for me anyway, because it's got some really pretty stuff on it. And my father just died in April. We've talked about that before, and this is a song that we played quite a bit. In fact, I think we played it that morning when when we were talking about my dad. But Michael Collins first album was called Purple Heart. And this is the dedication in it. It says these days, I have two main goals in life to live long enough to be eligible for membership in sage, which is the senior action in a gay environment. And to help make the world safe for queers, I thought maybe music was a good place to begin. The one final thought, our diversity is our strength. But it may not also be our weakness. And one of the reasons I wanted to read that is that last Wednesday night, about 22 people gathered at the dignity center for the first meeting of gay lesbian Pride Week 1991. And at that meeting, we elected Felix Garcia, to chair the Pride Week committee. There was not a female co chair elected because no one was running. There was a young man elected as secretary and this there was no treasurer, elected because there was no one there running. And one of the participants who

will remain anonymous rainbow the clown said that they should have invited that other lady that was there a couple of years ago, and they had 1000s of people show up. And I wanted to say something then, but I didn't, because those people don't really care what I say anyway. So I thought I would save it for you. Because apparently you do since you listen, I would like you to get real involved in Pride Week 1991. Because we have to force these people to understand that that parade and that week is ours, didn't belong to the gRPC didn't belong to the Community Alliance doesn't belong to KPFT than belong to any of the bars anywhere. That's our week. And we need to be involved so that we have all the input, not some of the input, but all of the input into what happens during that week. Last year, they had an open microphone at the star 90 Festival, which was supposed to be open for all members of the community. In fact, I had some stuff I was going to read down there you remember Pat Parker poor, I decided I wasn't going to do it. Because again, those people, whoever they are, I don't really give a damn what I have to say. So I didn't want to get up and talk to him. Well, as it turns out, it really wasn't an open mic. No, because I understand someone else who's been very involved in the community got up to speak and they refused him the chance to speak. And all I want us to do is get involved because that we that parade that rally has got to be ours, the People's. And if it's not, it's just as big a crock as it was. Two years ago, when certain people said you have to have on Speedo type bathing suits, and we're not gonna live in a drag queen, they're not gonna do this, we're not gonna do that. It's our week, it doesn't belong to the Houston Post. We're not doing it for CNN. We're doing it for ourselves. So get involved. I would go I took off last week, so I can go to the meeting. On overtime. I can't do that. I can't read it the next meeting because I can't afford to take off from work. No, I'm taking I'm gonna, I'm gonna be at that meeting. But please, please, please get involved and get behind Felix and give him all of our support, and put your input and so that we can have a wonderful parade next year. So that if we have a rally somewhere, it will be a community event. It won't just be a caucus thing or a KPFT thing or be a community thing. This is an area where you can help and you can make a difference. And if you don't get involved, then, as Michael Callen wanted it to be a better world for queers. It's not going to be it's going to be a world like Clayton Williams wants us to have were only the the few benefit and the rest of us pay for it. So please, please, please get get involved and get behind the Pride Week people and let's make this a wonderful week. And the other way of looking at it is I know working at the switchboard people are constantly calling and saying, Where can I go to meet people that's not in the bars or is it's not political baby, this is the place to do it. You're going to meet a lot of people. You're going to have a good time there's going to be some work a lot of hard work, but it's going to be fun, and I can guarantee that people will be upset and people will misquote what we have said we've got just about every word we've ever said on this radio station on tape. There's been a little scuffle as to what was said about some things that happened on Pacific street. But none of those people over there have ever asked me what I said. I went down to a local shop and one of the the owners said something about it. And I said, No one everybody's working on rumors. Until I see money come across the KPFT banner, I don't know those people anything all I always you because you listen, and you support us with your financial donations. This is your program and your station. And that's the way it will be. And I don't have anything I don't regret anything I've ever said on this show, except the dirty words that the FCC could get onto us about Same here. And I will stand by what we say because I believe that the truth is what's important not making any political group happy. Not making any bar happy. Not making any individual happy. I'm smiling because we have done a lot of things just to make those that has has made those groups very unhappy. And it's not that we did it on purpose we did it to we did it less people know what's going on, make them think make them we did it just like they're just did now calling this the hot the phone number for the caucus and we get their record. Of course their records are screwed up. We know that they don't have a heavy breather on the line, or we hope that they don't maybe they do. I don't know. I'm not a member there. I was a member. I tried to go to a meeting they wouldn't let me

and it's a big long story. Maybe someday I'll tell you that story. I wish them well, to me shaking his head because he don't want me to tell you that story. No, I don't. That's That's my problem. It's like, I think Clayton Williams is stupid, you may want to go out and vote for him. That's okay. That's your right. It's not my job to dictate policy or ideas to you. All we come on and try to do is tell you that gay and lesbian people are wonderful people. And if we don't get our act together, maybe we're all gonna go down the toilet together. We're just nobody's fool anymore. And that brings us back to Michael Keller. This month is going to be real hard. October because my dad's birthday was October 28. And as it is, when you lose someone that you care about, it's always that first birthday, and that first Thanksgiving and that first Christmas, so we'll manage to get through it. And it's even harder for us as gay and lesbian people. When we lose our parents, especially our parents, we never had a relationship to lose with them anyway. So I want to share this song with you. And then we're going to listen to program all about the quilt. This is from the album Purple Heart. And it's called Nobody's Fool. And shortly after that song will listen to the state program. Let me tell you a little bit about this program too. It was recorded in 1988 to introduce the national tour of the names project, and although maybe a couple of the dates are wrong, all the information still the same. So you'll really enjoy it. And by the way, you're listening to after hours on KPFT Houston 90.1 FM. Right, right. And girl. Yeah, you didn't tell me the CDs of things on things on them. 12345678 Well, it is live radio girl in it. Wow. You can't hit one and expect the song. Let's call a caucus again. No. We'll hear all about that later. Hang on this wonderful programs coming up about to quilt so get your recruiter ready. Okay. We'll be back in just a little bit. It's 10 minutes or so until three o'clock.



23:59

Why?



24:18

What's your listening to took place at dawn on October 11 1987. As the sun rises majestically over the Capitol Building in Washington, DC, under the silhouetted spires of the Smithsonian Institute across the Capitol Mall, the inaugural unfolding of the largest community arts project in the world taking place, the unfolding of a huge quilt for our football fields in length assembled from three foot by six foot patches from all across the United States. Slowly you begin to realize that most traditional American quilts shouldn't make you cry. This one does



24:54

saw that quilt go down and it was a dawn and people were reading the names and the name And the names of all people that have died and all the talent gone in the lives lost and it simply became an overwhelming experience. It became a lot more than just my son,



25:15

Richard Anderson Gary Barnhill.



25:26

David Paul Garro.



25:31

Bobby Campbell,



25:33

it was a very overwhelming emotional experience more than I had even anticipated that it would be in part of that was because of the personal nature of the project to myself and having created several panels for people that I knew the sense of accomplishment was wonderful in the sense of the power in the sense of the drama of it and it really did its job. Parents



26:10

picks each panel of the quilt displays the name of a person who has died from AIDS. As the quilt has unfolded, the names are read aloud. That's when you begin to understand that AIDS not only affects the lives of those who suffer from it, but the lives of their family, their friends and their co workers. Krauss Barbeau. Richard Brower, Gary Rijsttafel Randall.



26:53

Most important thing about this boat is it shows the humanity behind the statistics and it shows the number of people who've been affected, not just the people who have died, but the people who are making the quilt.



27:08

I'm Liz Fulton for the next half hour you'll be hearing the stories of the names project, the people who are taking the AIDS quilt on a national tour of the United States to 20 cities and crossing 12,000 miles to carry the memory of loved ones who have died from AIDS home again.



27:25

You don't be discovered



27:38

in a world full of people, you can go set up



27:48

but uh See y'all I see y'all that's why.



28:20

We had a good time making it and it was fine to remember David and he brought a lot of joy into our lives and we think about him with great fondness. But it was important to do something we thought that was connected to a larger expression of loss in the country from AIDS.



28:44

You know, love me, and I'll see y'all



28:55

later, what I love about this pink fabric is it reminds me of Arturo's cheeks. They were so beautiful and Rosie always



29:20

there is a panel



29:23

for a man by the name of Sean. And the image, the colors, everything on that panel that just works and it jumps off the fabric. And you sense who this person is. And there's there's a great amount of love that you can see that went into making the panel and it's it's it's very moving and it's hard to walk away from the quilt



29:56

is a powerful display of the human toll taken by a It's In addition, it's a colorful loving tribute to those who are currently battling the disease. Peter has AIDS. We were with him the first time he walked on the quilt and stopped near the patch for his brother cap.



30:15

It brings up a lot of sadness for me. It's the first real memorial of cap that we have and, and seeing it, it surprised me. I wasn't sure how I'd react. But seeing it just brought up a lot of sadness for me. But being here seeing this quilt it's just amazing seeing on television and seeing photographs is not the same, but actually walking through and seeing it. It makes me feel really good. It makes me know that we won't be forgotten.



30:43

actress and comedian Lily Tomlin was there also standing on one of the walkways that criss crossed the quilt as she told us how she felt



30:51

well, what it's, it's so it's sort of overwhelming, just the, the the kind of pause is the positive quality of it, I think because the the fact that so many individuals put so much care and attention and carrying into making these these squares and then to make each one is so what leaps out to you is that each one is so personal, you know, I was driving over here and I was thinking about their crosses at Arlington, you know, and the and the huge collected but anonymous quality of it and how profound it was. And this is so much more individual and personalized, you know, and every each one of these individuals you know, is a living person to your you know, in their little mementos in their shirts, and there are little symbols that reflected something sweet and dear about them to the people who knew them and love them.



32:01

I'm Liz Bolton, you're listening to the stories of the people who work on the names project. Cleve Jones founded the names project as a grassroots organization