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quilt, gay, panel, people, died, names, project, lesbian, year, place, write, girl, aids, work, jesse helms, week, coming, 1000s, aids quilt, bookstore



00:00

shaking, hands hugging, you can't catch that. I mean, these guys who are dying at age, they want you to hold and hug them because they miss that you really want some loving



00:19

and go inside you know your love of God. But sometimes things don't work out.



00:36

You just have to sift through



00:37

some of the guys very bitter. And they they they couldn't understand why I was helping him. I mean, I was a woman, a straight woman, and an A Catholic woman, and they wanted to know, why was I doing it? And I just put love comes first. And so I just told myself, it's really hard to put it in words because my family comes first. And I want to know, if ever happens to my family, will I be prepared?



01:16

No one is ever prepared for AIDS. I'm Liz volte. And you're listening to the stories of the people who work on the names project. Scott Lago was working in the gourmet foods department at Neiman Marcus before Christmas. Today, he's the national production manager for the largest community art project in the US,



01:36

like the resident historian, if they have a question, Scott, do you remember that panel for little girls see? Yes. Who made it? It was Rebecca that the 14 year old girl who came in here, oh,

yeah, yeah, it has purple paint, and it says little girl, and then see in quotation marks. So I tried to instill in all of the volunteers here that the panel, you know, we need to do everything that we possibly can to preserve the integrity of the panel, even if the person who made it was not very technically oriented, or knew really, the best technique to use to put that license plate on that panel or whatever



02:15

AIDS has touched every walk of life. And those walks of life are graphically represented on this quilt.



02:21

There's one panel that has an entire state of, I don't know sort of like a montage of the entire United States. And it has the Golden Gate Bridge over here and it has the Washington Monument and the Pentagon over here. And then it depicts important events. In the in the person's life from one end of the country to the other. It has a tree with branches, and each branch has the name of a family member or loved one on it. And then it shows his cat and his his love of cooking and his love of it a piece of cross stitch that he made himself. You know, they're very, very personal.



02:57

The patches of the AIDS quilt attached to an impersonal statistic, a name of a person who was loved by friends and family. In some cases, real tokens of memories shared with friends and loved ones are attached to the quilt patches.



03:11

Oh Lord, we have had license plates. Air conditioning vents, Barbie dolls. Teddy Bears, teddy bears, teddy bears, teddy bears. Let's see all kinds of political pins and buttons and bumper stickers, photographs, shoes, crystals, paint brushes. Gosh, and I'm not even thinking of articles of clothing, of course, personal effects, ashes. All kinds of things that you just made and they're made out of so many different things. There's one that's made out of a three foot by six foot piece of leather. One huge piece of leather. There's one that's made out of a three foot by six foot piece of plastic,



04:02

sometimes funny, sometimes touching sometimes irreverent. Always though always personal. These quilted memorials soften the cold statistics surrounding this epidemic. Viewing the patches brings home the impact the personal toll this epidemic has had in our communities all across the United States



04:20

there are there are farmers names with the with the list of the of their favorite cows, or a prize winning goat razor and the ribbons from the from the fair that he won. And there's postal workers uniforms and police badges and Lions Club vests and running club T shirts and medals and medallions and Boy Scout memorabilia and anything that you could possibly use to identify someone as being from a particular part of the country or for Being from a particular walk of life



05:26

buddy keeps beautiful on the floor, my heart is over you the case



05:48

a huge quilt eight football fields big side by side, an enormous Memorial made by those who remember their children, their lovers family and friends. For an organization with a project of national scope such as the AIDS Memorial Quilt. The names project is still an organization in its infancy, founded only last summer, the names project has structured a 20 city tour of the United States on a shoestring budget. The donations have poured in from the simple like cloth remnants and sewing supplies to the miraculous



06:19

well like 15 computers from Apple, two laser printers, I mean, you know, they're, they're doing, they're giving, far above and beyond anybody's expectations. our wildest dreams were were realized, the Flying Tigers flu, the flu, the quilt to Washington and back, the teamsters union offered to drive it for us, the Communications Workers of America installed our phone system for free. The phone system itself was donated by a charity in in Southern California that outgrew it



06:58

easy to overlook is the fact that the names project seeks to affect the AIDS crisis through the Avenue of the Arts. David is a director and writer currently writing the story of the quilt for the stage. Well, initially,



07:09

I was drawn to the project because of the strong commitment I saw that these people had. And what I discovered was that this was the largest community arts project in the world. People were sending panels in from all over the country from all sectors of life. And it was the thing that really drew me to find out for myself, what was being created here in San Francisco, something worth seeing for yourself. You've never seen anything like this.



07:35

The quilt is tied to tradition. evident everywhere around the quilt is the love and camaraderie that surrounds an old fashioned quilting be even how the quilt is unfold. It speaks to ceremony and tradition.



07:47

It's a sort of a synthesis of quilting tradition, and dance and ceremony. As the there's 32 names on in a square. And each, a reader reads the 32 names off of that square as eight people unfold that square, the quilt is folded in a lotus flower shape. And is opened for four corners at a time. Like a like the petals of a flower opening and then lifted and, and rotated and laying into place. Martin Kate Hall has squares are opened in a pattern that suggests the way they were sewn together or the stitches that were used to sew them together. And then the last square is a a blank square. Basically, that it recalls the quilting tradition of a signature sash signature sash was the area on a friendship quilt that was the symbol that the of the unity that brought people together to make the quilt in the first place. And so we've incorporated that tradition in a blank square in which people can come to the quilt and write their thoughts or feelings or the name of a loved one or their name. I was here you know, to witness this. And to me it's that's the most moving part of the entire quilt is to see that that immediacy and the emotion that's contained in that 24 foot square.



09:25

Wade Walker works on the production management team in the names project, storefront office in San Francisco. Like all the volunteers who work on the quilt, wait is never far from a side of his job that he hadn't counted on. When he first came to the names project.



09:39

This man woman came in and they were bringing in their panel and they had been a husband or wife. And the panel was for the only son and he died when he was 19. And he died in 84. And he was only a year older than myself. And it was so nice to see that they had grown From the experience, and reading the letter that came with the panel is that they saw something in their son that they never would have had the chance to see before they actually saw him grow from the experience, despite the fact that he was dying. And it wasn't hard for them to hand the panel over, because it was there letting go and putting it to rest of their only side, and it was harder for me to accept payment from them. Because here I'm taking their last their last time, you know, their last son, it was so interesting, but the letter itself was so moving, that they had learned so much from their son dying never learned before for them.



10:39

The quilt is now over 4000 panels large for every panel of the AIDS quilt. There are eight more people who have died. When the quilt returns to Washington DC this coming October, it will cover the entire length of the Capitol Mall



10:53

35,000 deaths is such a hard concept to grasp for anyone. But I don't know anybody who has seen the panels seeing the display and hasn't been moved by them. And and you realize that something needs to be done because it's a great loss. And I



11:20

never thought I'd feel this way. And this I'm glad I got to say that I do believe I should ever well then close your eyes and try. We do you care?



11:57

Keep smiling, keep shouting. No. And you can always count on me. That's both good and bad times.



12:28

Just sometimes you'll see a panel that you've never noticed before. And you read what it says on that there's a panel that was for a person who died the day before his 23rd birthday. And there was a poem on it that has kind of stuck with me. And it was what if I had all the time in the world? What would I do with it? Bottle like perfume? If I did have all the time in the world, what would I ask that to build me a dream. And that poem has stuck in my head since I first saw that panel three months ago, that always keeps coming to mind because it mimics a lot of the things that I think it's not even 22 yet. And the same things go through my mind. You know what, by the time they're gonna do with it.



13:10

Keep smiling, keep shining, knowing you can always count on me. For sure.



13:21

That's what free



13:27

time in bad times.



13:41

Working on a national AIDS Memorial isn't just sadness and grief

working on a national AIDS Memorial isn't just sadness and grief.



13:45

I expected this to be a very downbeat place. It's kind of like a mortuary. That's exactly the opposite. There's laughter and it's happy. And I've met a lot of people here who I respect. I never thought I ever could. But it's been interesting just to meet the people that are here.



14:02

There are hundreds of volunteers who feel exactly like Wade, they find the names project to be an appropriate compassionate response to the AIDS epidemic.



14:11

A lot of people you know, wonder how you know, how can you do it? Isn't it hard, isn't it, you know, depressing. I'm not gonna say that there aren't times that that it's difficult and there are times that we cry here we do. But there's a lot of joy in this place too. And there's a lot of hope and people coming together and working together and working through that grief. You know, we've all got that common thread, if you'll pardon the expression of of having lost someone



14:51

Yeah,



15:05

The names project and the National AIDS Memorial Quilt is a passionate act of public caring. The viewing of the quilt is a profoundly moving experience. It's been compared by many to the intensely personal moment of finding a loved one's name on the black granite wall of the Vietnam Memorial in Washington. Some will know at least one of the names lovingly stitched into this great quilt. And even those who do not can share in the collective grief that binds all in our community, whether they're black or white men or women, gay or straight.



15:35

It's a job that is very meaningful for me, and it's the most important job that I've ever had. And at the same time, I'd be so happy to put myself out of the job. By seeing the end of all of this, the end of the epidemic and the end of the need for the quilt.



15:52

The AIDS quilt is currently on a 20 city tour of the United States. Any money raised while the quilt is on tour will go directly to support agencies doing direct service with AIDS patients in the

quilt is on tour will go directly to support agencies doing direct service with AIDS patients in the cities where it will visit. If you need more information, just call us here at the radio station. This program is dedicated to all those who are currently battling with AIDS. Our hearts are with you.



16:16

2170 names must be someone that you know woven together in a clue brain named loved ones won't let go. And I know that my name could be there and I feel pain and fear and love Do not make us all same. We are counting not as numbers but as names. This program



17:05

was written by Danny Lemos produced by Scott Swenson, executive producer Patricia Bob. It has all been made available to this station through Pacific vision I'm Liz Fulton.



18:09

Roger Iyin to me Driscoll, Larry Madison, Miss camp America. Daniel John Ray Driscoll Charles Purcell, Jr. Wayne, Oswald. John Anthony. Go Miss Spencer McAdams. Ronald Dennis Samuel Rizzo. John Bush, Louis J. Valdez. Bobby Lake. Rod. Charlie Gotti. Charles Lee. Thomas. John graves. John market. Jack Bogan. Mike Mitch Randall Clark, Douglas Paul Turner. Ron robic with eternal love and much pride. I read our son's name Eugene Earl uns.



19:51

Miss Ewing's, call me on October the 11th 1987 when we We're doing a broadcast from Washington DC. We being Pacifica while about 700,000 of us gay and lesbian people gathered in Washington DC, and our nation's capital and the largest demonstration this country's ever seen. The other media was busy showing you reruns and other things. And they didn't bother to report on it. Pacifica was broadcasting five hours of that live from Washington DC. I was sitting here a while myself and I got a phone call from Mrs. Ewing's. And she said, our son died. And we just heard his name read on the radio as part of the names project. In 1988, we attended a leadership conference at the University of Houston. And Jack and Scott from San Francisco, were here to tell us about the names project. You got very involved in it. And we watched as it was unloaded and unfolded and as people walked on it, and then as it drove away in the truck, in 1989, last year, we took the quilt back to Washington. And our president, and his lovely wife, Barbara, gotten their helicopter and flew over it as they left the city. Once again, slapping the gay and lesbian community in the face refusing to acknowledge that we're hurting because 1000s of our friends died. And we live in a society that number one doesn't like us anyway. And we're dealing with a government that is just really glad those faggots are dying, just not dying fast enough. What I want you to understand is that in since 1981, we've had under 100,000, maybe 70,000 deaths. And if you follow the Kinsey reports, which says that 10% of our population in any population 10% of any group is gay or lesbian. Over a million people die each year to cancer. So 10% of that million 100,000 would be gay and lesbian people if you follow those statistics. So you lose 100,000 gay and lesbian people a year to cigarettes and cancer. Yet, we're still smoking baby. Because Jesse Helms is still wrapping those cigarettes out, we're still puffing away. 100,000 of us die a year. We don't even have statistics. I work for the police

department. We can't even begin to provide you a statistics on the number of gay and lesbian people that have been beaten to death or murdered simply because they were there. There was a young man walking home from Kroger one night I don't even know if he was gay. He was stabbed to death a block and a half from my house and left to die on a cold January morning. Only because they thought he was a faggot all alone in Montrose. And nobody seemed to care. He lay lay there and died 1000s and 1000s and 1000s We don't even have statistics of gay and lesbian people have been the victims of gay bashing and abuse in this country forever. And we've lost 70,000 people or something called AIDS. Lau Cantrell. A man I met in Omaha, Nebraska who took me to the bars in the bowels of the bookstores. Little boy from marketing sign the big city of Omaha now, finding all that wonderful sin when Lyle's job found out that he was a gay man. They fired him. His family kicked him out. And he drove out into a cornfield and took a gun and blew his brains out. We don't even has statistics on the numbers of gay and lesbian people who have taken their own life because they can't deal with living in a world full of people like Clayton Williams and Jesse Helms. I need a Brian. You know what we're talking about. The only reason these people win is because we sit on our families and do nothing because we believe that sooner or later they're going to come along and give us what we deserve, they're not going to give us nothing. And as long as we continue to follow the yellow brick road we're just gonna get, keep getting beat down with the bricks that make up the road, baby.



25:24

You're absolutely right. Freedom is never handed out to anyone. It must be taken.



25:32

Dr. King said that. If you don't have anything worth dying for, you don't have anything worth living for. Lots of people live. Lots of people exist. But most people don't have anything in their lives that they feel like they would die for. We have something that we know is worth dying for. And that's the truth. The truth that they can't deny the truth that gay and lesbian people have made a contribution to society as a whole, that they can't even begin to measure. The truth that when political people like Clayton Williams can't stand on their own merit, and they find it easier to bash somebody else. They make that the headline,



26:30

bash everyone else.



26:34

And I think it's sad that we live in a society where we're just going to take the crumbs they throw at us and be happy with that. Well, I'm not happy with the crumbs, and I'm not going to take them anymore. This past week, I was watching the Joan Rivers program, or getting ready for work. And I saw Rosa Parks on the show with her. She's still very, very old. But she still agrees that in 1959, on that cold December morning, when she was on her way home from work, that she did the right thing when she said no. Nine years after Rosa Parks said no.

President Johnson signed legislation into law protecting blocks in hiring and living space. And now as we began in the 21st, year after Stonewall, we're still fighting about whether we should endorse this Republican because he just might be on our side. Or this. activists from Dallas, because they might believe that this certain beer company is not really doing things in our best interest. Or this certain radio guy becomes he comes on. It's really funny the parallels with what's going on here. And what is happening in South Africa is it's so true to life. And if you don't believe me, just watch CNN because we as gay and lesbian people are no different from the people who live under the oppression of apartheid in South Africa. The only difference is down there. They're killing each other, physically by the hundreds. And the South African government sits back and laughs And here we're killing each other. And watching our brothers and sisters die by the 1000s. And if you don't believe that Clayton Williams is laughing if you don't believe that Jesse Helms has gotten a big chuckle out of it. Listen, I know there are those at the police department who hate me and would like to get rid of me. They can't do it because I stand up for myself. I stand up for what I believe and that's all I'm asking you to do. Is stand up for yourself. Stand up for what you believe in. Don't let the bastards get you down. That's a good place to play that. But we won't. It's about who, what? 17 minutes until for the blues ladies are coming up. Blues for you. Have you seen the quilt? Have you got something to say about the quilt that you'd like to talk to us about in the next couple of minutes? Give us a call at five to six 4000 Or five to six KPFT and we'll talk about the quilt. You want to do that? Maybe Yeah. Yeah, five to six 4000 Or five to six KPFT and we'll take your calls. We'll talk about the quilt. It'll be here next week. Right, right. And it'll be at the Georgia brown Convention Center at 730 Right and baby you got to go see it five to six 4005 to six KPFT we're waiting to talk to you the higher your bill your barrier college and all



30:18

logging in written by Labby Safar Safra. How do you know that? Because I remember it from last week. A South African written for or against apartheid oops, word again, such a wonderful song can be applicable to any type of oppression. Well, even when we beat up on straight white males, we have we done that there is a certain amount of oppression and you know, when they have even their



30:50

when they had the quilt in Washington, they, the news media didn't put it on the TV, but if they would have taken a club, a big stick, and people walked up and said, Are you gay or straight? And they said, I'm straight. Right in the head, maybe just knock them out. And just like pile up the bodies they had to put us on the news. girl would have been on the news.



31:13

Well, yes. However,



31:16

I think we should all eat some Twinkies and go down to city hall next week.



31:29

Sick Yes, it is. Okay, girl that had to be real. Okay



31:33

to get that show



31:34

the phone. The phones just didn't lie down. No, they asked me. Well, of course we knew they wouldn't.



31:39

Well, perhaps we answered all of the questions anyone had. I'm not out the quilt.



31:45

No, because when you talk about AIDS, gay people go, Oh, let's just switch over to see what that other stations doing. We don't want to talk about AIDS and dying.



31:54

No, I didn't get wish to hell, we didn't have to.



31:58

Yeah, me too. I wish to hell, we could just like click our heels together three times. And Clayton Williams would go back to the gutter where he came from. That's not going to happen.



32:06

I did get the same thing.



32:08

I did get a wonderful call though from a young man who says that he listened quite a bit and that his mother had died last year. And he wanted to give me some support and the holidays coming up and how that he would he said I'd be able to make it through all that and I really did

appreciate that call that meant a lot. Sure. Very, very special. Because it you know, even if I didn't have a relationship with my father, you only get one dad and one mom and when they're gone, they're gone. So thanks for calling baby. We really did appreciate hearing from you. If you would like to write us our address is after hours KPFT 419 Lavet Boulevard, Houston Texas 77006 Yes, that's the zip code that if you have that zip code you can be not be denied health insurance. If you're a gay police officer and you're just scrambling to come out of the closet girl you can call me on the after hours hotline or if you want to be on the show and that includes everybody from Charles Armstrong or Marion Coleman or Dennis Spencer bring that answering machine down here so we can check that out maybe anybody you can call us at the after hours hotline that numbers Area code 713-529-4636 Right the one and if you want to know what's going on in the gay and lesbian community dial the gay and lesbian switchboard at 5293211 Just don't call on this particular day when this hateful little Oh, no, I didn't have rude you're down there. Sometimes working hard I work for the game was the switchboard I just, I just don't understand Jimmy when we're going to quit killing ourselves. You know, I have this this guy that I'm trying to be involved with now and we was down at the baths the other night. And I don't know why I go there because we put on these towels. And the only people that get anything are the real pretty ones. They're



34:12

all jumping each other. That's the way it's always been. Yeah,



34:15

I know. So here we are walking around getting frustrated. And one night the night I met this guy went to bath houses the French Quarter and three or four adult bookstores. And I went around



34:25

Well, you certainly wanted to be relieved of all your money, didn't you? Bingo. Oh, oh, they are gay people.



34:33

Surely they're gonna help us. Wrong. I went around and spent all this money. But the other day I was complaining about not having any money and I was digging through a drawer and found some bookstore tokens and I dug some more and found some I have managed to fill up this big glass thing with over \$150 worth of bookstore to your kid and a quarter each Have



34:55

you got any laying around? As a matter of fact,



34:58

if you'll bring them over I want to put I'm in this job because I was looking at setting on the commode at my house now



35:05

and I figured Be careful not to break your toilet girl



35:12

I look at this thing and I think my god I spent \$150 on bookstore tokens not to count all the energy that I've wasted and I'll you know, the hours that physically wasted standing around in these places, looking for Mr. Goodbar I want to I want to get Lachlan you want to get like a little towel and one of those little leatherette things that you wear around the bathhouse that that your key is on? Yeah, and make like a little sex ride. A little French Quarter add maybe all of the money and all the time and all the energy that I've wasted



35:49

well if you're going around to those places looking for a husband or a mate working for grade eight the place that's that's for fun, you're gonna find a husband over at Kroger grocery shop



36:00

I shouldn't be down at the gRPC slapping those silly nominating he's like and girl



36:11

she does it so well too



36:16

old but he's he's a good man.



36:18

Now Jews for Jesus, I understand this. There is use for Jesus actually.



36:25

And Jews for Hitler. I'm sure they had that too. He's a Republican in the Republican Party says

we're all gonna go to hell and they have the paperwork to prove us



36:34

some time. Life is a little on the gray side. It's not always black and white. It's black and white. I'd like to hear what the other side has to say. And we will in three weeks when JL PC hopefully someone from GRP see their happy little Fanny's. And after tonight, we don't know if then this is kind of



37:04

like I really Genesis I mean, I really do care. Dennis is a good guy. You get me wrong. He's carcass? Tush off the caucus. JLP people. Yes,



37:14

Marian Coleman was a good person. I just didn't agree with the way she was running the Pride Week parade three years ago, two years ago.



37:21

And as he said her act I've got tapes with of previous shows where you were giving her awards and all kinds of things. Oh, really? Yes. Oh, the worksheet? Who was given



37:36

her award? You know, wait, what are you talking about? Remember



37:39

the the after hours dance that was held at Kindred spirits? Yes, you gave? Well, you weren't going to give Marian an award for all that she had done for the community that year for Broadway. But you had forgotten that. She didn't do a lot for the community. Yes. Wait a minute, and it was not a minute. Oh, and it's just that you should do a lot for the community. We did not see eye to eye on the way the Pride Week committee was handled. But



38:12

we are never gonna see eye to eye on anything because we're human beings and we all have our own little opinions that are only egos in our own little feelings. And I'm just gonna take my marbles home and play it myself.



38:29

Anyway, I write your boyfriend sleep and he's got to go to work in the morning



38:33

and I have a union meeting in the morning. And then I have to have to go to jury duty on Monday. That's okay. I always they never want me on a jury because the first thing they say is do you have any problem believe believing a police officer and I go now I work at them all day police officers only arrest criminals.



38:51

You do not say that? You know I? Of course



38:54

I do. We don't just go out and harass people. Some people some police officers do but the majority of them only arrest people who break the law girl.



39:03

Do you think they don't choose you because you work for the police department that said I always get chosen. And I love it. Because I really think that it's an honor to be chosen for a jury. You just want to wear that robe. Give me that? No girl you don't get to wear no robe. The jury you get just you get to be closed off with a bunch of people and get to argue a lot.



39:33

Like being in the gay community.



39:44

Oh, well. What else are we doing? Let's see who's here next week,



39:49

PFLAG parents and friends of lesbians and gay and then the week after that is John Bourgault. Who's he with GLSL A gay and lesbian Student Association girl. Where



40:03

are those gay cowboys coming from the T Gra?



40:07

Well that rodeo the week after J LPC the lat the last week in October



40:22

one more time Hi, this is Vicki new president of the Texas gay Rodeo Association Houston chapter here to tell you that Texas rodeo is coming. So stay tuned after hours and KPFT.



40:39

And you know there was a time when the when the T gra wouldn't even talk to him about



40:46

you know what I mean? Yes, I do. I do. That was bad. He writes all the time, and then we can make up and fight with somebody else. So the way I think you're at it about two more years, Marian Coleman is going to adopt us.



41:08

Okay, I'm going home. You've had enough. I've had more than enough. You can't



41:12

just you can't make anybody else mad tonight. Well,



41:19

I wouldn't go to the BAS my husband's my future husbands out there sleeping.



41:24

I say. He is telling everybody in Houston.



41:29

That's my problem. I



41:30

go on the radio and tell it all. I mean, everybody knows. And if he does, everybody knows it except those people who are mad at us. I know it but they just spread those rumors. I see. We'll see you next week. You lose girls.



41:47

I won't be here. When I'm going to be in Austin next week. Who's going



41:51

to be here then?



41:52

You are with her? With PFLAG? Oh, I



41:57

can handle that. Oh, I



41:58

know. They're great group. Okay, I'm sorry. I'm gonna miss him. But I'm gonna be in Austin with a friend.



42:06

Okay. You're not gonna throw up any tennis out or anything? No, no, no, no, I'm



42:11

gonna be there to make sure he doesn't.



42:13

Okay call us at the at the after hours hotline if you're interested in coming on the show and you bad talking about anything? 5294636 We'll see you next week.



42:23

You don't have to talk to that hateful queen. You can talk to me. Okay.



42:27

Have a good week I



42:38

want you to savor this next moment. task of telling you that the official count of the lsb and gay rights march the official count is over five