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00:01

We're aware of this phony drug war, the more aware they become not just about the marijuana but the stuff that's going on that's, you know, profiteering off a drug raids. The police are profiteering off a drug raids, not because they're taking the drugs, but because they get to confiscate every possession that person may have touched while he was handling drugs here. And



00:20

then they put another mark up on the chalkboard for when they ask for funds for next year. Right? Well, you got that many? Well, here's your bigger grant



00:28

and how they militarized our civil police. You know, our civilian police are practically militarized now because



00:34

of the drug war. They love their little ninja outfits now.



00:37

That's right. And that's how they finance those little ninja outfits. And those little, you know, we came down to camping outings where they're out, roughing it, you know, being, you know, Gorillas in the Mist, so to speak. And, and you know, that it's really militarized our police, you know, system in this country, which is a step further to, you know, a totalitarian state. Well,



01:00

we've used the same mechanisms of the drug war. Now in the terror war. They were already in

place. Whoa, that's what we'll use and everybody suspect now.



01:10

Right, right. And it's getting worse every day. I just don't see it change until the regime in charge changes. And I'm with some of the others about we need a regime change begins at home. That's right. Yes, indeed. Well, Dean's anything else going on? No,



01:27

I think that's about it for the moment,



01:29

no fundraisers, nothing coming up that people might want to attend? Well, we do



01:33

have an event we're going to do on August 29, we're actually going to go to Houston city council, we're going to call them out on their morals, we're going to ask them to begin to change the drug war. And to begin with medical marijuana, we're going to tell them that there is a Buffalo Bayou Cannabis Club here in town. And if they want to put us in jail and look at you, well, that's their call. And we hope a lot of folks will come down there and support us when we do this.



01:59

Well, that would be a good thing to do. You say it's gonna be when? August 29, August 29. And they can find out more about that on the use normal webpage.



02:08

They can starting tomorrow. Okay, I'm a little little behind, but I get it.



02:13

Well, that's okay. And you also have an age group.



02:17

We do. And that's also available there on that web page. There's a link to it on it's a Yahoo, you have to you know sign in or transfer a name



02:25

So you can get updates in the mail from the use normal group on a daily basis. That's right. Well, Dean, we, you know, we always love it when you call, you know, I did go to the web page recently, and was checking out all the photos. I was really, you know, we've you and I've had this conversation where I told you, you've been voted the sexiest voice on the phone, on the radio here. All right, after looking at your pictures, we're going to put those up with some of the pictures we have here and see how you do with that. Yeah.



02:53

All right. All right. Thank you very much.



02:56

I appreciate the compliment.



02:56

All right. Take care. Have a good night. Jewel. Well, thank you.



03:03

Yep, it's time for me to hit the high road. Yeah, you know, one of these days, we're gonna have to get our half our hour back. And that may be coming. Oh, good. Because, you know, I kind of miss being here at midnight. There's something magical about midnight. Yes.



03:17

Yes. I don't know what it is. And it's much easier for people to remember that we are on, you know, Saturday or Friday. Saturdays at midnight. That's easy. This one o'clock thing. You have to call



03:29

Dwayne, tell him you want us on at midnight?



03:32

His home phone number is?



03:36

Oh, no, we love Dwayne. We love what he's done. And we support him. 100% We certainly do. What is it Bill Maher says, Oh, we quit. We kid Dwayne. We kid Dwayne. Yeah, we sure do. And so I'm gonna hit the road. Okay. 30 minutes, for sure. Oops. Okay. Yeah. Yeah. And so we'll see the third weekend of next month. You bet. Yeah.



03:57

Well, you bet. Thank you, Joe. Okay, I wanted to do a little something about my MBBS because I got several letters this week. And let's see, I'm not really organized with all of this,



04:12

but I was just snooping through them.



04:15

Okay. David wrote in, and it seems that a lot of the guys who listen are discovering their bisexuality. Of course when you're in prison. It's kind of a skewed. Look at sexuality in the first place. Yeah, but a lot of guys who listen are thinking, yeah, yeah, okay, I can I can get into that. And, and a lot of these folks really like to listen to Gigi. Yeah, with the bisexuals and also the transgender segment. And certainly, whenever any of these guys get out, I want to see him up here. Meet him, of course.



05:03

And she'll be here waiting with open knees.



05:05

Hey, hey, hey, hey, hey. But some of these guys, a lot of them would like to have people write to them. And that's, that's the thing I wish our audience would would would do is consider writing to an MBB, a man behind bars. I've received lot, so many letters over the eye, and I've kept every one every letter that I've ever received,



05:36

I can't think artwork you get on some of these envelopes



05:39

00:00

is unbelievable. Yes, it is. And then many of them are going into the museum. But we haven't really been successful in getting pen pals. For any of these guys, I know big Roy wrote to the team man for a very long time and is still in contact with them. But there's so many other guys who would like to have pen pals. And really, just to get a taste of what's going on outside in there in the real world. And someone to talk to is, especially since some of these guys are questioning your sexuality or not sure about how they feel about it. It's always nice to talk to someone who was from the GLBT community.

06:27

Yeah, because I mean, in the coming out process, you need a circle of friends, you do someone who can, who has been there and can tell you some of the pitfalls you're going to face. And that's important to have someone there can

06:42

Yeah, and a lot of these guys also cut out articles about what's going on in the world, so that we can talk about them. And, of course, gay marriage is a big one that that's coming up. Let's see here. See here? See, I mean, I've just letters and letters and letters.

07:07

I mean, the articles they do there if we were still doing a rip and read news, we wouldn't have to we wouldn't have to do any rip and read. You bet.

07:12

You bet. A lot of guys also listen to the prison program, of course, and, and always say say hi to Ray and stuff like that. Ha, there we go. And David, of course had problems getting the address correct. Because he sent sent one and it had the wrong address. The address is 419 Love it. Boulevard, L O V E T T 419. We're after hours. And let's see. Oh my gosh,

07:55

and make sure you put after hours and put that it's KPFT. Because if they they figure it's a radio station. We're not the only radio station on this little fence. Right?

08:04

Yeah, we're not we're not there. There are other people there. They're there, folks. I got a letter and a picture from Steve. here and here's the picture. And he just got turned on to the radio station from a friend this program from a friend of his. And he's, he's thinking about all kinds of stuff. So



08:32

I'm reading his notes he has on the back here.



08:34

Okay, well don't read it aloud. I like to be a little bit general in a lot of the names because I don't we had a situation several years ago, where we had some, some MBBS writing in and I use their names. And it got to the point where two of them got transferred to a facility that was not within the listening audience here.



09:04

The only thing is the picture he says has thing on here saying I have my shirt tucked in and that's what makes me look fat. Well, if you remember sending that picture to us listen to us in a couple of weeks weeks because we're gonna be discussing that sort of topic here. About what about fat and being being fat and being gay. Oh, okay. Okay, we are going to have after hours news and views magazine supersize. Gotcha,



09:30

supersized. I like that. And let's see here. David did send in a picture also. And there. There he is. He also sent a picture that was For My Eyes Only. And it's it's home. It's home with me



09:51

and covered in plastic.



09:52

I really enjoy that picture. Yes, it's it's very, very nice now. It's not sitting on my desk like Mike Rinnai devils picture is, yeah, I see him every day. But I've got this one very close by



10:08

a special little basket with a claw OxiClean



10:11

No, no, no, no, it's not that bad. Yet. Yes, yes, yes. And Smiley. Smiley is written in. And smiley has been a part of this community for many, many years. Because he worked in the community

in the bars and knowing a lot of people. Smart smiley, but I you think you know him



10:39

young guy used to dance words, finally boxer shorts.



10:44

Could be could be, and he's feeling a bit separated right now because he listens and he hears about all that's going on. And that's me there's something I've got a frog in my throat.



10:59

I couldn't tell if it was you or it was the meters now



11:02

that sounds that's me for some reason. And he's feeling a little separated. But you know, smiley, you're part of this community, just like everyone who's listening is we're here for you to just like I say in the very beginning of the show,



11:19

the people behind bars, the people in the clauses the people under their comfort are listening to Yes,



11:22

yes. Yes. And and smiley always has questions about, you know, well, is Richard still there? And is what about this? And what about that? And, and we've talked about the changes because he mentions clubs, and he mentioned spaces that are no longer here. And you know, when you when when that's your idea that your focus of the community, and you hear that they're gone. We sometimes we don't talk about the things that have replaced them.



12:02

Yeah, I mean, there's the big change of Pacific street no longer being there. That is now the Oh club. Right. flows have been around for a while heaven now being South Beach.



12:11

Right. ripcord is still there.



12:15

I don't think they could get rid of the rip all of it to get fancy and now they have a glass door. Yes, they do. They put a real door on it. That was just kind of strange going by and seeing Yeah, seeing that. Yeah.



12:27

No. Briar Patch is now moved to the Montrose. It's not.



12:33

It's where there's to be paradise. Paradise. And then it was a restaurant before that. Yeah,



12:38

yeah. So for you, smiley. It's, you know, where the ripcord is. It's right there. Right on. Fairview Well, Paradise is across the street from Fairview and just one house in it's behind



12:53

the Mexican restaurant. Yeah, Paradise. There



12:55

you go. Okay.



12:56

I think paradise had to change their name because it was confusing. There was a strip club, also called Paradise. Oh, here in Houston, heterosexual ensure Yes. Women showing off their Tatas. It's confusing when you are trying to get directory assistance to get to the the topless club and they send you to the gay club.



13:18

Yeah, that probably confused a lot of folks. And I'm telling you smiley really, really listens. Because he made this comment that at the beginning of the show, when we were doing the the opening part of the you know, after hours after hours in



13:36

the first part of our warning, yeah, our warning,



13:39

he noticed that you play the heavy breathing and the bed bouncing. But they don't match. He you know, he notices that the breathing and well the thing of that is that those two little pieces came from a sound effects CD. And so we couldn't change. You know, we could just with a play two at once. Because it actually two CDs, but we couldn't match the tempo. You right, right, right. Yeah. And sometimes, you know, when you're there, the bed may be squeaking a lot, and you just may not. Yeah, I mean. Yeah. Yeah, may not exactly match up, but I thought I thought that was I thought that was pretty good that he caught that and listened to it.



14:34

Well, if you contact us by email, I want to offer your assistance in helping us make a new soundtrack for that. Contact us and let us know if you'd like to be a part of the next soundtrack we'll make for the warning on the men named Frank not need to not necessarily have to apply we can just call you Frank or yes Francisco or whatever, whatever we want to call you. We will



14:56

whatever. We can do that. We can do that First, my green eyed devil. What can I say? They're really, really nice guy and I really enjoy getting letters from him. Yeah. Let's see. Let's see here. And of course smiley wants to tell everybody Hello, cuz he listens and he knows the names he recognized recognizes all of the the people from the sound of their voice



15:34

I haven't heard as much paper rustling since I stopped listening to the Rush Limbaugh show



15:37

Yeah. And he's something he he Smiley from from Westmoreland departments remember when they were whispering right across the street from me



15:52

I used to go by the name smiley who was



15:55

Westmoreland square okay and when Miss coffee would make him dance at Jr's



16:01

I think that I think I remember. Huh? Okay, it's my my one sister in law dared me to go up and tip him one night I see.



16:09

Okay, smiley, this is big Chris. And you if you remember a really, really big guy, because Chris is a really, really big guy. So now you now you know you can put a face with a name. And what else what else? What else?



16:31

Your arms are getting too short. I



16:32

know you do. Stop and snap. He named almost everybody here.



16:44

And we do enjoy getting some.



16:46

No and I you know I? Some of the guys maybe get a little upset because I don't answer letters because I cannot write to one and not everybody and underworlds lousiest. As personnels. I've barely even returned emails.



17:05

Yeah, that's just a point and click thing.



17:07

Yeah, I know, I'm really bad at that. But I don't I want you guys to keep writing because I enjoy your letters very much. And it gives me a sense of what you're going through. And when I read them, then I try to gear maybe certain segments to answer those questions or to keep you involved.



17:31

Yeah, because this show is it's a lot of a lot of audience participation. And the fact that we find that there's a part that was interested in, in hearing a topic that may not get represented on this show or other shows or just general programming. We always want to try and fill in and cover it. And that's why call us during the show, send us a snail mail, send us an email, let us know you're out there let us know of a topic. I mean, we we love having story ideas, because lord knows big boy doesn't come up with anything



18:04

out. Well, actually, Elijah wants to get involved in in the after hours news and news magazine. So



18:14

we got a few positions for him for the now bet you do.



18:19

And also, we get emails at after hours. kpft@hotmail.com There you go. In fact, we're looking at one right now that Chris is going to



18:29

Yeah, we're it's one thing I also want to pass along. Make sure I pass along there to Dwayne, it's a top very interesting topic. It was an email entitled Islam and homosexuality. Yeah. Hi. So I'm Palestinian and Arab and a Muslim. I came to the US two years ago, though, that I will be more thought that I'd be more open about my sexuality, just to find out that I'm even being more and more repressed. I'm 20 years old and still go to college. Coming from a town known for its openness, tolerance and understanding some yes, me some time to an outrageously Western limits. I was shocked when encountering other Arabs. I was more open minded. But since I had to live with them, I had to deal with a totally new culture of Arabs in the US. Anyway, I liked your program. I followed for a while then I started to only listen to the first hour only. I could no longer stay up.



19:32

We understand and we're working on it.



19:35

~~That's why I'm going to post the connector over there to Dwayne and I don't know why I'm writing~~

THAT'S WHY I'M GOING TO POST THE SENATOR OVER THERE TO DWAYNE AND I DON'T KNOW WHY I'M WRITING this letter. My best friend called a week ago to tell me he's gay and dating. I couldn't tell him that I was well, I let it go. In no way it hurt me. Not as much though. He's Palestinian. And he told me that he's been he's known for a while. For the among other homosexuals in the same town where I grew up pretty amazing that I've never thought we had a secret community back home. Well, it's just the society that decides what's right and what's wrong, what's acceptable and what's not. During the Islamic empire period, homosexuals found the best Haven ever in one of those cosmopolitan cities of the time, Baghdad. It's always been a controversy in Islam, whether homosexuality was a crime or a disease. Never thought it was a normal status. However, gays as well as other discriminated against communities, Jews, I insist, have found haven in the empire. Just to prove my point, one of the most celebrated poets during the period of the Khilafah of Baghdad was Abu Nawaz, who's been openly gay. To me, he's a bisexual all of his life. His book is sometimes hard to find, and still 1000 years later, not allowed in some Islamic countries. Hence, it was not allowed to be displayed in the Cairo 2000 Book Fair. He was never killed for being a homosexual. In fact, he was so popular among people, especially in His own town. Others that I knew about were singers. The same period were openly gay, lesbian and transvestite that the book songs for Abu for Faraja Oshana mentioned people would not like these singers do, mainly but they found their talents and could not give up, give it up for death. And this is just one of the things that we get the shared with us of a Palestinian who's come to our country, we've come to the United States at a time now where Palestinians and Arabs are great or have have greater restriction placed upon them greater amounts of discrimination. And here's someone who's having to, to live secret Yes, as homosexual because in the mainstream white world, he's an Arab, they have problems with that. And then in his, in his Arab community, if you just come out as gay, there's issues with that. And these this is, this person here is one of the people that we that we're reaching out to have different cultures, different people who don't fit the stereotypical norm of what it is to be gay. So we have our next one. So if you want to send us an email of your thoughts, opinions, stories, love mail, hate mail, dirty pictures, you can always email us at after hours. kpft@hotmail.com Yeah. And I



22:44

4419 love it Boulevard. 7706



22:49

It's not just a zip code.



22:51

It's a life.



22:53

Club lifestyle.



22:54

Yeah, but you know, lifestyle is like, you paint your bedroom blue or that you're Catholic. I mean, that's a lifestyle. Being gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, even questioning is a life.



23:12

I thought being Roman Catholic was a disease. Hey, hey, I'm in recovery. You're listening to after hours queer radio with attitude here on KPFT in Houston at Yeah. 90.1 89.5 in Galveston, and always on the worldwide web at KPFT dot O R G. That's it. Thank you to our caller in College Station who's listening to us on 91 90.1 FM? Because we're



23:42

apparently no longer on K ers who knew?



23:45

And I said and to inform us. So we'll check into that. We sure



23:50

will. We've got Stephen black on black waiting in the wings, and I'm running late tonight. So tonight we're featuring the music of Barry White. But no, he wasn't gay. But he certainly was an inspiration for a lot of gay and lesbian, black, gay and lesbian musicians. So we're starting with the first one.



24:25

Barry White, and Steven you chose that one's okay. How you doing? I'm waking. Good for you. Good morning. We're featuring the music of Barry Barry White tonight. And I'm going to turn this over to you. This is your segment you



24:45

would do something like that. Yeah. Good morning, everybody.



24:49

I mean, you've got the hang with you. You've got a guest. I mean, that's not easy getting somebody who's come in here three o'clock in the morning. You know,



24:57

look, I got coffee, watch it. Okay, good morning to my audience out there this morning Welcome to Black on Black the local station that we do a radio show that we deal with gay and lesbian, bisexual trans transgender issues within the black community. Want to welcome this deal? I rent my Miko Hello. We had to find guests here I would like to introduce,



25:25

I have the pleasure of having with us this morning Mr. Paul Guillory and Leon, Leon Lee last night. I said, Lee, I tried to get some sleep over here, but it's not gonna happen today letting you know, ghrelin, you know, you want to give us give us a little bio of each of each of you, that's fine. Tell us what you'd like to do where you came from.



25:48

Okay, where did that come from? Well, you know, first of all, I guess, after, after I was divorced. In 99. Six, I took it upon myself, I've joined a group that was pretty much for the empowerment of African American, gay and bisexual men called the men's gathering. That was when I was in Dallas, and I moved here in 1999. And started the group here, and the group is going strong. I was the facilitator for four and a half years now we have another person that has taken that over and I continue to facilitate the online group, but I have a passion for I guess the empowerment of African American, gay and bisexual men in Lyon is my my partner of six months, which shows that I'm moving up the ladder. Right, making better choices these days.



26:44

Say a little bit about yourself this morning. By the way, it pains me and kick me.



26:51

What can I say about myself this morning?



26:59

My name is Leon Johnson. Like Paul said, Paul is my significant other for six months. I'm enjoying it. And that's basically all I can keep you out as Monica. Well, before we get offensive, the show in the discussion is saying we're going to be talking about law right, we



27:21

share our new developments, we need to discuss this. Okay,



27:25

well, before we get off into that, and then I want to talk about our highlighted music guests this evening, which is Mr. Barry Eugene White, who just passed a few weeks ago. First of all, many of you who may not know Barry was originally was born in Galveston, Texas. He was raised up in Watts, California. He started his singing career at 11 playing piano. His first record he cut was at the age of 16 under the name Barry Lee. He did start with a few groups before finally organizing in the love unlimited orchestra, which was in 73, which the cut that we played earlier, which was one of his first big cuts. Barry White rode the crest of the disco era bass and became known as the maestro of love. Most of the songs deal with love the romantic love the passionate love, that love leaving the midnight hour. But we're talking about that another day, anyway, but go I gotta go during the 80s his career kind of went on a downside as they just go ever moved out way and more music moved on the same. But then in the 90s his music started a resurgence as some of the disco tunes also started researching. And he came back on Tumblr several hits, finally winning a Grammy in the year 2000. And we will play cuts from that Grammy Award winning album later on at night. So that's Mr. Barra, why we're spotlighting him tonight when our homeboys and I know more than one of us have sit there in the midnight, I would listen to Barry White and talking a bunch of noise in that other person's ear. So hats off to Mr. Barry White tonight, but now we've been like go to law.



29:19

We've had some recent developments, especially with sodomy law being knocked down here and in Texas, and just wanted to kind of highlight that and highlight some of the different laws and bills that are coming down the pipeline as it pertains to the GLBT community. Paul, what are some of your thoughts on how the the most the most recent ruling on side of me it's kind of affect the GLBT community?



29:47

Well, you know, first of all, I guess, you know, when when, when there's any type of behavior that is illegal, and then the Supreme Court, the highest court and land rules that is is no longer illegal, I think, in many, many ways that's that has a psychological impact on individuals, because you might walk around feeling a level of shame, and you don't even realize that you're feeling it. And you know, to have something like that to be ostracized because you're, you're behaving the way that other people think is, is definite, in some type of way, belittles people. And I think for the Supreme Court to overrule all of the sodomy laws to say that they are unconstitutional. Let people know that, you know, you're okay, just the way you are. And so that in itself, is, is something that lifts you up, lifts a person up. And I think as far as the the implications, you have to look at the the military laws about what is it? Don't Ask, Don't Tell, don't ask, don't tell. And you have to look at people that were dismissed from the military because of their sexual orientation. And there's already been a case, you know, to, to come forth, where an individual is, you know, citing that it was wrongful for them to dismiss him. And I think that's great, because you're gonna see a lot of that. And so I think the the sodomy laws overruling that is going to have a snowball effect on many, many different areas. And, you know, a lot of times you have to look at what the grandfather implication is, can you go back in time to undo injustice? And so I think we're gonna see a whole bunch of that, I think is great. A lot



31:45

of changes coming down. Yeah. You talk about empowerment. And as it pertains to the men's gathering, that's exactly what you're one of the purposes is for the men's gathering. I feel that, you know, with this particular knock down with with, with the Texas sodomy law, that's a sense of empowerment for some, because now, like you said, you feel a little bit, you know, you don't feel shameful, of what you're doing that kind of thing. snowball effect, what's the most recent case not to mention, like you said, the gentleman 1997, he's going to, he's going to be fighting the army discharge. I found that interesting, because there was a poll done in 1993, that kind of just wanted to get the feel of what the black community felt about taking down that lifting that ban on gays in the military. And a large percentage of black said they wanted to lift the ban on blacks in the military. That was an interesting poll that was taken and a lot of folks linked that to President Clinton's term. How do you feel about the numbers that that what the poll that said that a lot of blacks want to lift, lift, lift, lift the ban on on in the military?



33:01

I guess I don't really pay attention to polls too much. I think, what I would, what I would pay more attention to and our people's experience. And I would say in the in the black community, the experience is still one of denial. And it's one where, where people are, I'm gonna say black, gay men or black gay women, or not comfortable in that situation, least not as a whole. So regardless of the survey, rather than survey, I would look at personal experience, my personal experience, people that I have come across. And if I have to say whether things are changing for the better, I'd have to say they're not



33:46

say a little bit more.



33:50

The the fact that I think, you know, sexual orientation is something that, that people, I guess I shouldn't be judged, but we're not there. We're not at that point, people are still being judged. And being judged severely. Absolutely. And in the black community, I guess you can even look at a lot of things you can look at, you know, the whole idea of the masculinity, not just for the black community, but you know, just overall in the fact that if you are already put down a made to feel less than because of your race, right, then why the heck should I tell somebody that I'm gay on top of that, and I think you have a lot of that going on. And you have people that that are hiding. And I mean, we can we can take this even into other areas and look at HIV and AIDS and look at the number of black men, since we're talking about, you know, black people tonight, not saying it's not happening In other areas, but, you know, for the point of the conversation, I'm specifically targeting the black community, the fact that women are becoming infected an increasing rate, and over half of these infections are coming from so called straight men. That's an issue. And that ought to tell you what, what is the problem. And part of the problem is the fact that we are made, our black men are made to feel like, if you're attracted to another man, that's not a good thing. It's nasty. And so when you get back to

Statistics, I don't want to talk about statistics of accepting blacks and military, I want to talk about statistics of accepting gays, by gays in our community. Okay. And right now, it's, it's like, it's no, it's a Don't Ask, Don't Tell type policy. Let's look at the churches.



35:51

Oh, right. And definitely don't ask, definitely don't tell you, you know, they're, they're



35:55

not there. They, you know, we are there. And so I think to a great extent, the, the fact is, is that we have to get real with ourselves.



36:05

Okay, so what we're talking about are actually two, we, I guess you could say we could talk about two separate entities, because while you may feel that we're not making progress, the community as a whole could feel? Well, we are slowly but surely, here we have, you know, this law that was not down, then we have a lot of corporations that's going with inclusion in their policies. But at the same time, there's, there's more to it than that, within the black community, is that what I'm here,



36:31

there's a lot more to it is not just being accepted. I mean, I'm out at work, you know, in my in my personal life, but that was a personal decision. And I think, you know, each person has to look at what amount of risk they're willing to take. And there's not a lot of people that's willing to take that type of risk, not just with, you know, with work, but even in their families and in their, their community, in the church community. If you see people who have taken the risk of, of coming out, they have detached to a great extent, to what you might call the black community. You know, the people who are out there not in the black churches, that people who are out are in the so called gay community, okay, but not the so called black community. Okay, I just don't think once again, separation.



37:22

Okay.



37:25

So there was one statement that said that, for example, if a if a white male or white female came out, that if they came in looked for a gay community to have some place, here in Houston, they come to Montrose, and you can find businesses, you can find clubs that are run by people that look like them. But for black people, if a black person comes out in their

community, and they come out to looking for the black gay community, where are you going to find exactly what is what is the black gay community? And so I think what happens is that they look for a gay community. And most of the people in that community don't look like them. So when they come into it, they are detached from the community they were in, and they are detached from the community that they're looking for. So it's like being on an island.



38:15

Okay. Okay, so you're coming out, but you really not coming out, you coming out, but



38:20

what are you coming out to?



38:21

Okay? If that's, that's, that is truly something to look at. And I think when we when we bring topics to the radio station, to this particular show, we want to bring about some eye opening experiences. You mentioned that you're out at work, what has been the experience with you being at a corporation, and being a black gay man,



38:44

for me, I mean, I came, I started coming out, I was, I was very much involved in, in my professional organizations were in 1995 and 96. I started coming out, I mean, it's just a gradual type of thing. And the company I worked for, I came to work for in 97 I was already out. And so it's been a trickle type effect, but people know. And this past April, I took Leon to our, our user conference, and introduced him to most you know, just many of the people I work with. As you know, this is my partner Liam and so I wasn't it's not like I was met with open arms, but I was not met with resistance either. And so it's been an OK experience for me. Okay. It has not hurt me.



39:38

So with that experience, I guess when you look at the the type of companies that are starting to be a little bit more inclusive, you got your you got your shells, you got your IBM you got your Walmart's your company. Yes, you are comfortable with being out at work. But what are your policies look



39:58

like? The part we don't have a We don't have we're a privately owned company, okay? And we don't have same sex benefits or anything like that, okay? I'm the only one who I'm gonna say not the only one there. Of course I'm not. But I'm pretty much comfortable. And many of the

people I work with, they know, okay, because I have chosen just to be who I am in my sexual orientation is a very, very valuable part of who I am as a person.



40:29

Okay. Some people will say, you know, it's one thing just to be out, but to be a poet, political advocate, or, you know, someone who has a voice in decision making, what do you think you stand in reference to decision making? Or policy?



40:46

I definitely don't have influence on that. Okay. And the reason is, because this is this is I have influence on the environment, on what's acceptable in the environment. But right now, I don't have a lot of influence on policy, because we're, we're at a point where we're for sale, okay. And so there's, it's like, everything is in a holding pattern. And I don't even try to do anything to that extent, regarding policy, the thing that I pretty much do is really look at myself, and I try to have self respect for my myself, and then to demand that from others. And if I'm disrespected, because I'm black, or because I'm gay, or because I'm male, or whatever it might be, then I speak up.



41:33

Okay, what would it look like for you, if let's say, you moved into another office, or corporation rather, or business or something to that effect? Or maybe this one that you're currently working at,



41:44

then I think what it would look like is, first of all, I would be evaluated based on my performance. Okay, based on the what type of contribution I'm making to the company, not based on my sexual orientation, absolutely not. And the other things will come about as people got to know who I was as a person.



41:59

Okay. All right. So for policy purposes, what what do you think it would look like for you to take a stand on implementing policy for that particular company or any other company,



42:10

as at this particular point? The battle for me is not in changing policy. The battle for me is more in acceptance of me as an individual.



42:21

Okay. I could see where that statement could pose a problem. Because when when you look at, you know, once again, you know, you're out, you're out in the community right now, it's pretty much that's what's working for you. But as it pertains to setting the pay set and setting the pavement for others, to come after you. Do you feel as if you have an obligation on the policy level?



42:46

Not so much to you know, my company specifically? No, I would, I would, I would really look at the you know, the value that I have, I would look at what that means to me as far as as far as you're trying to change policy and that type of thing. And I would pretty much say that regardless of whether the policy changed or not. There's a certain amount of integrity that I have as a person that's more valuable than policy.



43:16

Do you understand where I'm going with it?