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## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

john, lesbian community, life, gay, houston, hours, death, paul, night, action, tonight, hate crimes, prison, letter, apology, community, defendant, journey, person, attorneys

## SPEAKERS

Jimmy Carper, Ray Hill

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00:28

Oh yes, you tuned into after hours queer radio with attitude right here on KPFT Houston 90.1 FM. The crew of after hours is ready to bring you news, interviews, dialogue and music geared for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people and their friends. Hear it after hours, we may be diverse, but we have one thing in common. We are all out of the closet and urge everyone to come out of their closet. That means standing up for yourself taking responsibility for your own life and being proud of who you are. Realistically, we know not everyone can do that because of age job or frame of mind. That's okay, we're here for you too. So sit back, relax, and enjoy this week's edition of after hours.



Jimmy Carper 01:52

Hello, Houston, and caller station, by the way, and welcome to after hours queer radio with attitude. On KPFT Houston and ke O 's College Station. This is the April 3 edition.



02:10

Yeah. You're doing a lot better this week, last week, the month before?



Jimmy Carper 02:17

Yes, you're right. I was. Anyway, I'm Jimmy Carper. And we're we this is by that night, and Gigi is giving up a little bit of his time on the front half. And we're giving him we're gonna give him some on the back half.



02:36

was about you get truncated tonight? Yes, yes, we do.



Jimmy Carper 02:39

We lose an hour. This is the time change, folks. So two o'clock becomes three o'clock. So we've got a shorter version tonight of after hours. However, we'll make up for that in the fall. We've been doing this now for several years. 11 years and you know, we're used to it.



Ray Hill 02:59

We're the only thing we've lost is the joy of the backseat of the car to drive in.



Jimmy Carper 03:03

Yes, yes. Yes. Yes. With me tonight is if you didn't know is the one the only Ray Hill who has just completed or you may still an 11 week run 11 week run of of



Ray Hill 03:18

regular Rachel and the sex police sex



Jimmy Carper 03:21

police and we're talking about bail those yes it's an amazing Yes. Nervous titter went through the crowd. They are so happy. However, you're here for a much more serious purpose.



Ray Hill 03:45

Actually, this is important issue to me. Yeah. Hate crimes, not just the political hate crimes legislation but hate crimes himself something that I has, of course, I mean, it's like bombs that fall around downtown hurts. Violence has happened all around me all of my life. Because and I've been more aware of it the most votes because I came out of the closet in 19 and 58. And I knew that I was gay even before that and



Jimmy Carper 04:22

what we're going to do here tonight, folks, is that you are you have to be aware of the rash of lead legislative stuff going on about hate crimes and how everybody's jumping on the wack bandwagon that seems and it's it's it's legislation that seems everybody wants but we do have another side to that. No




Ray Hill 04:46

Bill and I've taken I've taken what is probably the least popular position possible in community well that arose to hate gay and lesbian people be included in hate crime tempos, hate crimes altogether. Hate Crimes led to Selection. I don't think that's going to be very effective. And and we have last week in this week run across, I think a unique and learning opportunity. Because John Buice John Buice was one of the woodlands tn John Buice was the young man whose hand held the knife. Paul Broussard bled to death. And the assumption was was the guy with a knife was the cause of death. And all of those cases evolved through the courts under the assumption that although all 10 of the young men from woodlands were culpable, John by by side because of the night was the cause of death. The autopsy report, which was never read in any trial, because there were no trials came up with a very different story. There has been a civil case since the criminal cases. And in the civil case, lawyers defending the defendants and lawyers for the plaintiffs went over all the evidence and one of the glaring things that first struck my attention is in the civil case, John Buice was not named as a defendant. Really, that's true. And I thought that was unusual. Follow that back for further reference. Now, Terry geyser, who was one of the attorneys representing one of the defendants did look at all of that. And his conclusion is that the cause of death was that Paul Broussard sang created or died of bled to death. But the wounds that made it possible for him to bleed to death. Were not the knife when there was one knife wound. And in the emergency room at the hospital, that wound was examined, cleaned, and sutured. You would never have sutured the knife wound if it was the source of the bleeding. True, it was the blunt trauma to make your veins and vessels and probably the slowness and getting Paul Broussard into a situation where you could receive blood supply. So John Buice was not named as a defendant in that case for very good reason. John Buice not responsible for palm resorts death.

 Jimmy Carper 07:53

Okay, because he did not hold the fatal

 Ray Hill 07:58

guy. I mean, he will I mean, if he was he was culpable. They were all culpable. Well, I'm not trying to say here. Well, we're going to exonerate these and not exonerate these. This was a group action classically under the Texas law of parties, am I right barrister, barrister, they are all culpable in this kind of thing. And there's nothing wrong with that long. There's nothing wrong with that, that behavior. And so the fact of the matter is, is that we've come back now, for me that even more interesting than all of that is, where are we? Yes. And where we are is tonight, we have got a snapshot of John vices journey. At the age of 17. He was involved in a criminal act. Yes, at the age of 18. He was sentenced to 45 years in the Texas penitentiary. Now we are what we are almost five years later.

 09:02

And John buys our guests for life. You mean phrases like 23? From the Yeah, okay. He's like 23 and

 Ray Hill 09:12



Ray Hill 09:12

he's in prison. I see him not frequently, but periodically he I go to the unit where he is assigned as a speaker in recovery programs and I have communicated to John. John was the first of the woodland team that I started communicating with and are now in communication, although not regularly with four of them. And I am learning from these boys journey. But John writes this letter. Yes, he did. Who Jack and Joan and acetate share it with the after hours audience and



Jimmy Carper 09:48

it's a very strong letter and I might, I might break up in the middle of this because I am torn on both sides. We have a legal system that says you Um, you have done something wrong, we're putting you in jail. And that is your punishment. And when you come out, you should know better than to do that again. Okay? Now, that's not really how it works. Let's face it, people who are in jail come out of jail with the stigma, that stigma for the rest of their lives.



Ray Hill 10:22

Well, few people can make the kind of comeback from prison. Yes,



Jimmy Carper 10:26

those those who make a comeback, if they're just living in the prison system doesn't make make you more of a criminal. And like James Byrd, guys, that we've talked about many times, but we have to think of this is the way we operate, you know, the criminal system. You may you, you may have your thoughts about John Bice and, and the other nine.



Ray Hill 11:00

But this is an opportunity for us to hear from directly from John dies of his of his own choice. He asked me several weeks ago, several months ago, about should he write this letter? And I thought about it. I didn't answer immediately because we were in a meeting thing. And I wouldn't give a speech and came back and said, Well, I've given some thought to that. And I can make that decision, or you're going to have to decide what you're going to do with it. I mean, there's a community out there of people that no question they don't understand. How could they understand? And if you take on to communicate with him, you understand that your outreach to them means you're gonna get some communications back. And Deborah Bell, among other people I know have written John back And so John, is kind of out here, vulnerable himself. But we get the unique opportunity of listening to him. Yes, in our own journey,



Jimmy Carper 12:03

I have no idea whether he can hear this or he can, he can probably is listening. I certainly hope he and I plugged

R

Ray Hill 12:10

this on the prison show, I'm sure a lot of people listening.



12:14

Okay. Dear citizens, this letter may surprise you. But I asked that you please read this before passing judgment. For many years, I have been silent. For many years I have been ashamed. This is the reason I now write and offer my voice to you and the community. The gay and lesbian community of Houston, I owe a momentous apology, a repentance for an act of atrocity. The night of July 4 1991 haunts me every day. It has hurt me deep inside. I was involved. Wait a minute, I was involved in taking a man's life. Let me repeat that one. John is telling us I was involved in taking a man's life. Many wondered if those involved person possessed remorse, any remorse for the events of that sorrowful day? Remorse could not adequately describe the feeling of horror, anguish and disbelief. I now carry with me every day of my life here in prison. I feel it every day in my waking hours. In my sleeping hours, I frequently must survive the suffering of nightmares about the instance event. And I am sincerely sorry for what occurred. If it were possible, I would sacrifice my own life to bring Paul back. But this is not conceivable. And aspire, you will hear the cries of who I am today. Let me do that when again. But this is not conceivable. And I aspire that you will hear the cries of who I am today. as I've grown older, I've gained a more relative understanding of what took place that night in Houston. It was never my intention to harm anyone never could I possibly imagine. I would take a human life or take part in any action which would inflict fatal injury into injuries. But the fact remains I did participate. And I have taken responsibility for this. Of course I knew I was wrong. In my youth I made poor decisions after years here in prison. I see how disruptive my life and attitudes were. necessary measures have been initiated to correct these negative attributes and improve my general character. All because of my own. introspect. shun have these revelations surfaced. Helping people and creating a positive influence in someone's life gives us a purpose. offering guidance, love and understanding gives those we help a purpose. Every day in the news, I hear and see some hateful action taken against the minority, or have a differing sexual orientation. This one's my heart, and I'm appalled to know that I too, was involved in this type of action. It is my sincere hope to help stop these horrors, and to promote understanding and freedom of choice. I will always trust that the communities in this society will afford me the opportunity to establish I have worth and I'm not a hate monger. But I am a person of integrity, spiritual and moral merit. It would please me to be allowed to offer myself for the service of the gay and lesbian community and to tell my story to prevent others from making the same mistake I have my apology i hope the gay and lesbian community will accept and provide me with a chance to assist the community in any capacity I can. I thank you for listening. I wish you the gay and lesbian community the best. Sincerely, John Buice.

R

Ray Hill 16:29

I think that's about as candid of an expression. I've got my my ears wrong. He was 1991 when it happened. So it was 1992 when he went to prison. And that has now been he's 20, almost eight years old I made years ago. And John anguished over this letter, I can tell that he did some writing and rewriting with it. And because I know him and I know how it communicates with I it's very difficult for me to impress. I'm an ex convict I've been there. I've done things for which one goes to prison. And I have done that. It's very difficult for those of us who have been to do that. But imagine, if you will, a extreme example of the worst thing you ever did in your

life. And that resulted in your being locked up so that your liberty has been taken away from that so that you actually have to live with that event. Enduring people who do unthinkable and unconscionably horrible things have got to live with that memory. And John Buice is no exception. When he talks about waking and sleeping, and actually the little time between awake and sleep, where we have absolutely no control of what our mind is doing. That is when it's the worst. And John Byers has to live with that every day. And is he going to be there for the rest of his life? Well, well, there are possibility. But as long as I live, I'll be there. I have agreed to work with his attorneys. And he has good attorneys to try to get reconsideration of the quantity of time that he received, he received significantly more time than anyone else. And under the theory at the time, he was the first person actually convicted. And under the theory at the time he received all that time because it was presumed but not looked at closely that he was the cause of death. And since that is not supportable by the evidence may be an adjustment can be made. But his journey is one way. And another thing I forgot to mention is my journey through all this. Yes. Because I have gone out of my way I've known other hate criminals before. This is not the first people that I have met that have done violent acts against gay men and lesbians. But these are certainly the youngest people that I've dealt with. They are very young, and they're impressionable. This has been a very important learning journey for me. I don't know if I always was a pretty tolerant and understanding person But I have been able to feel and share the feelings of these young men from how the system is treating them. And that is affected my political beliefs, among them my concern about hate crimes legislation.

**J** Jimmy Carper 20:19

I'm really torn because we can't bring Paul back

**R** Ray Hill 20:26

to Cambridge. And that was a horrible thing.

**J** Jimmy Carper 20:29

Yeah, it was a horrible thing. But we can't ignore John either.

**R** Ray Hill 20:33

We can't ignore any. I mean, I mean, I've had to wrestle in my work with who is worthy and who is not. This is

**J** Jimmy Carper 20:42

a man who's who's made an apology. He's offering his hand we've got to do so. I mean, I

**R** Ray Hill 20:49

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think I think I think that I think they're do something