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## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

pride, lesbian, gay pride, closet, volunteer, celebrate, gay, parade, people, black, queer, chicago, coming, express, community, feel, proud, activism, next year, accept

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00:00

Can you tell me? Okay, can you tell me what does queer pride mean to you?



00:06

Most of all, queer pride means being out to me. I think more people in the community need to come out because that way we can be more proud of what we are and who we are. And share that with other people and give them a knowledge of who and where we are coming from.



00:21

What can you say to help encourage people to come out of the closet and to show more queer pride?



00:25

Well, it's virtually painless, it's a very exciting thing to do. It gives you a lot of more respect and admiration for yourself. And it enables you to be freer in all things that you do. Coming out is a process that affects your work, your home life, your social life, your church life, if you have one, in every aspect of your life coming out can improve it. How do you



00:51

plan to celebrate queer Pride Day.



00:55

Together with ACT UP Gulf Coast, we're going to be a member of the obligatory parade that's held every year, and then going to the rally to disseminate information about safer sex and about activism as it should be and what we envisioned it to be in the 90s.



01:10

What do you do on dates other than Pride Day to share your queer pride.



01:14

I am a very out person I'm out in every aspect of my life. I'm a father of two children proudly, and I'm out to them. I'm out. In my workplace, I'm out in the community. And it's it's something I wear proudly on my sleeve i There's very few places I go, whether it's in the middle of a mall in suburbia, or whether it's in Montrose that I'm not the exact same person, both places and very out about who I am and who I'm with.



01:41

Okay, and can you tell me what are you? What will you do in the next year to promote queer pride. And to strengthen the gay and lesbian community?



01:50

Well probably keep on keeping on what I've been doing for the past 12 years. And that's to try and spread the message not only about being out but about activism and how important it is to all our brothers and sisters, to get out and get involved because queer pride has more to do than showing up on one Sunday every year, and going to a parade and getting drunk at the bars. It's a 365 day occupation, and it's something I think everybody needs to get involved in and be aware of.



02:16

Great, thank you.



02:29

Okay, the first question is, what does queer pride mean to you?



02:33

Gay Pride means to me. It means being proud of what you are, you know, regardless of what your family thinks, or what other people think. And other words me, I am satisfied with my lifestyle. If my family don't like it, then they can know they can get over it. But thank goodness, my family accept me as I am. And I thank God for that. Because of him. They accept me for who I am. But I'm proud of who I am. This gave me to me being proud and what you are and not being ashamed of.



03:02

Okay. Are you out of the closet? And do you think being out is a part of expressing gay pride?



03:07

Yeah, so my closet and it's a big part of expressing gay pride.



03:12

Okay, how do you plan to celebrate Gay Pride down?



03:15

Like I say, I love Chicago for that, but I will be at the parade. I will. Hopefully if I can't, I will be in the parade. And out the math is in Chicago. We call it the rocks. It is the largest gay beach in Chicago. So I will be out there doing my thing.



03:32

Okay. How do you express your pride in being gay on days other than Gay Pride Day?



03:38

Well, I'm an artist and I volunteer at omega house. Two days out of a week. I'm a volunteer volunteer as an RA in a house. So that's, that's a big part of expressing myself helping others.



03:49

Okay, and the final question is, what do you see yourself doing over the course of the next year to promote the values of queer pride and to help strengthen the lesbian and gay community



03:59

over the next year? When I go back to Chicago, I will continue to as far as volunteer, we go, we have a facility for AIDS patients. It's called Bonaventure house. It's out of the Alexian Alexian. Want to go back down with volunteer again, and also for Horizon hospice also. And so I don't think you can get any better today.



04:22

Great, thank you.

04:34

What does queer pride mean to you? Well, gosh, actually, this'll probably be the first Gay Pride Week that I'll be participating in. So maybe you want to ask, Are you are you are you in the closet? Well, I just I just came out not too long ago. So this will be the first one I'll have a chance to experience.

04:53

Can you tell us what prompted you to come out and why you decided to celebrate this gay pride?

04:59

Why this one? Well, I guess it's special because it's my first work. And I came up because I thought it was just about time to do it.

05:11

Were you out too? Are you still in the process? I don't think people now

05:15

I'm still in the process still in the process, taking it one step at a time.

05:20

The people can tell what is their reaction? What is their? What is the reaction beds, you're telling them that you realize?

05:27

Everybody's been pretty accepting of it? Nobody's really given me any flack about it. They're real. Understanding?

05:38

Do you think it was a little more difficult for you to come out? Because you're black? Or do you think that you're being Black had no, no impact on your decision to come out?



05:48

Personally, it didn't didn't have any effect on it. It wouldn't matter to me one way or the other. But no.



05:58

What are you going to be doing to celebrate the scape?



06:00

Why don't know, I'm really trying to find out more about what's going to be happening. Since it's my first time, I don't really know much about the activities that are out there. But I'll find something.



06:13

Since you're right now, in the process of coming out, what do you see yourself doing, say over the next year to come out a little more? Or maybe to express the values of gay pride a little more, or maybe to help strengthen the community a little bit?



06:26

Well, the first thing I probably liked to meet a lot more females, black females. And this city is very small, as far as black lesbians are concerned, so I'm trying to expose myself to as many black lesbians as I can.



06:42

And is there anything you can say maybe a few words of encouragement to encourage black lesbian and bisexual women to come out of the closet and stand up for who they are? Wow, all I can say is be true to yourself. That's it. Thank you.



07:12

Okay, you said that you were just now in the process of coming out? What made you decide to come out?



07:17

I just finally knew myself and this ready felt like I was ready.



07:23

What is the response been so far? I mean, it's a response.



07:27

All of my family knows. Circumstances not know, they're fine with it. With a few of my friends know, the ones my friends who knows?



07:45

Let some people know who you really aren't. Comfortable? More. So more? Yes,



07:50

definitely. I feel a whole lot better since people know who I am.



07:56

What are you going to be doing to celebrate?



08:00

The parade? Maybe? I don't know. I have to check out scattered about



08:07

what do you do? I mean, you said you were in the process right now. What do you see yourself doing? Over the next years? Maybe a little more or to express your gay pride or or



08:18

I don't know if I'll make the efforts to just make any come out. I'm just gonna be myself. They're



08:25

gonna be Mancha. And can you say something for all the young black lesbians out there who are maybe afraid to come out of anybody? Or if they're probably the only one on the entire face of the planet? Can you maybe give them a words of encouragement?



08:40

That'd be good. Definitely not the only one. There's a lot of us. Just be yourself. Sometimes it gets a little rough. It eases off. A lot better. Great. Thank you. Thanks. Thank you, thanks.



09:07

Okay, the first question is, what does queer pride mean to you?



09:11

It's kind of a hard question. The core product thing is, is believing in myself, my actions, my convictions for my lifestyle and not feeling any guilt or animosity towards other people or to feel very comfortable myself. And the brands and people that I meet in everyday God, I mean,



09:32

are you out of the closet? And do you think being out is an important part of showing queer pride?



09:36

I am 100% of the closet. I've been in all kinds of gay activities coordination. Mark, it's been all over TV. Very important. Very important for people to be out of a closet. It helps to their own theme to have their own pride. It's very important for people that they don't come out of the closet. I think they're hiding their true selves. and how to deal with everyday live?



10:02

What are you going to do to celebrate projects?



10:05

I think I'm gonna celebrate life. With my friends, my family, my friends. Most important, I think what I want to do is I'm gonna turn my pride back into my community by supporting different organizations and groups, and showing everyone out there that I am proud to be gay.



10:24

How do you tell your gay pride on data other



10:26

than Friday? I speak to people at work, I let them know that I'm going to talk to a friend as well. I do volunteer work as well, that people know that, that I am not only here, but I'm also volunteered of of my community work. And I share things with you know, you are not that right. I mean, you are not gay, but to



10:55

things that are gay lives, that we're not all equal even though we have a different code that we're



11:07

doing over the course of the next few years



11:13

to help, I think a lot of it is informing a lot of man issues as well as a political community, political a more and social level as well. The level of well, I know again, warming and living people are new and lesbian people are why no matter what. Thank you