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00:07

The following program contains language or images of a frank or sensitive nature, which may be considered objectionable by some listener discretion is advised. Oh yes, you've tuned into after hours a continuing tradition on KPFT Houston 90.1 FM. The crew of after hours is ready to bring you news, interviews and music geared for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people. 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 closets. 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 a 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



02:06

it's just, it's just the lamp. That's my microphone. It's a lamp. Imagine that everything that's been in your face lately.



02:14

It's gonna look at you. Wonderful tonight. We're back. I can't believe it either. This time has been missing us. Don't you think baby?



02:24

I think so.



02:25

I tell you what happened? Well, the last show I had remember we had those you were Where were you at last time? I don't know. Are you were stuck out somewhere. I





02:32

was passed out somewhere on drugs or something?



02:34

I think I think I think you had a new boyfriend back then or something and you were scattered battling to Dallas. Remember? We did we did that show on HIV last time are those guys from Dallas? Remember? And I took a boyfriend to Dallas? Yeah. To meet your mother. Don't you remember?



02:48

Oh, that was two. That was? That was? That was? That was six boyfriends ago? I



02:54

can't count the number of Mexicans that have been on you in a month. Let



02:57

me know without a calculator anyway.



03:01

makhani sauce and



03:02

what's the square root of 56?



03:04

Hey, how do I fix this microphone to me get over here. This thing is crooked. Please.



03:08

How do you fix that hair weave problem.



03:12

Joined a Hair Club for a woman. So anyway, we're here again. And actually we're still talking to

I joined a Hair Club for a woman. So anyway, we're here again. And actually we're still talking to each other that's hard to believe.



03:22

Especially after the dog. Oh,



03:25

sharing the house with you is really it's been quite an experience. To to having



03:30

a dog, it's been quite an experience. Having a



03:34

functional relationship would be quite an experience for both of us. You gotta mean? Oh, baby, you fix my microphone. Hey, we're going to talk about tonight,



03:46

we're going to talk about what we always talk about



03:48

big brown penises.



03:52

That will come later in the show. But we will talk about them. We will talk about sex, relationships, Dating and The Importance of Being Earnest



04:05

earnest. I noticed I saw him at the gym the other day. I was sitting back there and I was at work today and I had before come to the radio show. And some of the friends go well, who you gotta have. Who are you gonna have on the on the radio show tonight? And I said, Well, we've got a gentleman coming in and talking about relationships, who, who had seminars here in Houston, on gay and straight relationships. And I thought to myself, I said, Oh, that's why Miss Lewis put this together. She's in a new relationship. She wants to get free advice.



04:34

You know,



04:35

hey, I give you some free advice. Get one of those know those eight balls that you shake up and you turn upside down? Well, this relationship lasts



04:45

uncertain.



04:47

So are you bottom or top this relationships?



04:51

What have I been in every relationship? The bottom of the barrel? A couple of times. It's been a fight for The bottom but I always take them in my play so I can say my house my rules



05:04

side if you don't like it, do what? You know, but believe I've seen some of the men come out of your room in the morning. It's real funny but sometimes you wait to like like go to work or if I go to the bathroom I hear this rumbling out the door one of these days you got to marry one of them.



05:27

I know first we got to find one with the



05:29

job. Well, a car that we had to drive him



05:35

actually has a car. It's just that I always make him right in mind so he can't run away.



05:42

But in our neighborhood he feel right at home.



05:45

Because he does speak Spanish.



05:46

That's right one one more brown person run around our neighborhood no want to get confused.



05:51

Nobody would get confused for more brown person run around our house running out of your bedroom when a person leaves they leave my bedroom. They're not on a stretcher. Or in a wheelchair. I love him. He went with a smile on the face didn't



06:07

and I hope a credit card my pocket. But anyway, yes, we have a dog now. Yes.



06:14

And I'm \$40 for and missing a lot.



06:17

This dog eats condoms. Eats watches each month. He eats money.



06:22

This dog is eating everything. But it's food. I



06:25

don't think I need a burglar. But yes, you did.



06:30

11

06:30

So you must have had a trick last night because there was a condom wrapper chewed up on my bedroom floor today. And I know the dog couldn't get him because I keep mine closed up in a drawer. No. And I know how you are you throw it on the floor and she got a hold of it and she chewed on it and ate it. The condom has gone shake the condom and shoot on the wrapper.



06:49

You know what? Ever since we've had this dog, we've had the dog how long? A week or maybe a week and a half. And I have not seen a dog food missing out of its bowl. I've seen condoms. I've seen toilet paper gone.



07:01

But no \$40 on my bed has been banned. How does this dog eat?



07:05

What does it you know? I have no idea. Hey, what else we're going to talk about? We now it's been a long time because you're not going together.



07:16

It's been a month a month you've done a show without me. I've done a show without you.



07:19

Yeah, we had some really cool callers in that week. I was amazed remember that? Say Jose from Spring brands Jose I hope you're still using the condoms but your condoms out there. And those Yahoo's from Pasadena remember they're friends with all those people I'm friends with? What's going on out there the world's crazy and listen for those Log Cabin Republicans Honey Do you want to waste your money? Send me \$1,000



07:42

Thank you. I'll cash the check and I won't give it back. I'm not gonna



07:49

buy some dog obedience school for that damn black weenie we have at all it's my my big black weenie thing is torturous. It's more trouble than you I don't know how I'm raising Scott in this dog. I can understand it's terrible. So anyway, love life going okay there baby going real well,

real well doing real well. So you haven't destroyed it yet? I haven't gotten to the point now where I don't believe



08:13

it. I know. It's been almost four weeks. Nobody at the club tonight said Miss Lewis. Where's the three week when are you still with



08:25

one who was that one that keeps calling both of us. What's his name? What is his story more like Don't be once your he wants me



08:33

well he's had you know he wants me flirts with me flirts with me harasses me comes up stays at the club till closing. weights on me. You know heavier. I'm too tired. Let me know I don't. I never go with him never go with him. Then he goes home with Howard has Howard twice. Oh, what do you mean twice in the same night?



08:53

I was in the morning. It wasn't the same night once at



08:56

night once in the morning. After Midnight two different time zones. Maybe you've seen her leg stretched apart? Hey. She makes she puts one like



09:16

there's been nuclear testing in there for years. Please. I



09:19

caught a metro bus in there last week.



09:22

Where do you think they filmed speed? Is that girl's name? Which Oh Javier? No, the girl speed was their name. Bullet Sandra. Senior poor out of my butt



09:40

crazy and there's no obstacles in there a



09:43

guy called you this guy calling me I don't know what's going on. I don't know



09:46

what the date tells me all the time shows up at work and then left with the Nelly Mexican. Yeah, no.



09:49

And you know, you know she's a bottom girl. So I don't know what you want her for.



09:53

Having done a damn thing. Not that I'm content. So what else is going on? Not a damn thing. Life's crazy. How's work going? It's Hello there.



10:00

How's my checks? Haven't heard Christmas presents are coming early.



10:03

I know I gotta go. Who knows? We'll be talking a lot about Mary Jane because our guests tonight Tony Carol is going to talk about relationships and how our parents affect our relationship decisions as adults, which is real interesting.



10:21

We have to become adults first.



10:24

That's a long road ahead.



10:25

You know, if you're looking good, I'd like you in a white t shirt. I can actually see your breasts and the hair gallery the bra. Is it the natural color?



10:34

If this is the birth, it doesn't my color I paid for it. Hi.



10:37

It looks good on you. You ought to stick with it.



10:43

You know, I don't have the luxury of, you know, paying my monthly dues to the Hair Club for Men and just getting it stolen back in as often as I need. There ain't there ain't nothing



10:51

wrong with that. That's okay. You look nice today. I must say, you know, you look like you're losing weight.



10:56

Yeah, well, I'm losing it, finding it losing it, finding it. Uh huh.



10:59

And that little boy from your shirt skinny, little skinny little boy isn't? Oh, he looks like he's 15 years old. Wait till I tell Mary Jane. Now of course, we'll have to ask Mr. Carroll about you and your fascination with young Mexican boys.



11:17

This is true. We'll talk about it. You know, we're gonna do this song. And we're gonna come back and talk to Tony Carol about relationships. Why do we always pick the wrong person? And when we get stuck with him, what can we do about it? That's the question I want to know. And a question you probably would want to know is why? Why want is do you need a relationship exam?



11:41

Because because I know there's some Houston boys out there. We're gonna call in and say listen, Tony, Carol, we're fed up with relationships. We don't want it anymore. Right.



11:50

Whatever they have to call it when you're going to tell them that right here.



11:53

I saw my ex husband Thursday night. Did you? Yes, yes. And he wasn't ducking Did you? Did you?



12:00

Did you stay the court ordered 100 feet away.



12:04

I guess that piece bonds been lifted on me. Poor guy. But he was hanging around with a bunch of older gentlemen. So I'm sure a couple of them own a washer and dryer and a garage.



12:13

Well, so to you now.



12:17

And I have a life now. Hey, we're gonna talk a little bit about Pride week coming up. Oh, yeah, a year ago we got we got to convention and Phoenix. We're going to talk about the recent elections. Scott Lewis is on the board of directors now. You know. I'm excited. And you know who's been elected co chair for 99. Right. Big Daddy right here. And you catch that picture of me on the cover the voice this week?



12:40

It's not a good picture. It makes you look heavy and you're not happy.



12:43

I know. I couldn't believe it. And you can't even see my hair.



12:47

It's probably because you weren't wearing it that day. And when we come back we'll talk to Tony Carol about relationships. And what the hell do we do? This is off the just released this week new CD from Boy George it's called cheapness and beauty. And the song is called same thing in reverse. We're doing now we're doing number 12 We're doing unfinished business. Oh, this is a messy song because this is about a man.



13:17

Talking about messy.



13:18

This is about a man who left Boy George for a woman. Unfinished business.



13:27

Unfinished Business new song by Boy George. You'll be hearing more off the new album, cheapness and beauty. And now Scott, Howard. And



13:39

Tony. Sounds just like cheapness to me.



13:42

It's what I mean. And you want to know about cheapness? Jimmy. Can



13:45

you turn down that headphone level just a little bit? They you had cheapness they didn't spend a whole lot of money on that production did they?



13:52

Or neither or neither did they on the air conditioner in this joint. I'm sweating my purchase keys off how are you? Just thrilled Hey, we're setting this roundtable I feel like Judas



14:06

explained now we're we've moved into the production room moved into a different room and we're now sitting around this huge table that looks like the Last Supper. And we have Jesus Judas and Mary Magdalene here today to my right okay, Jimmy, what do you plug into their baby?



14:24

Not that Okay, so let's talk about relationships. Let's talk about getting the love you want.



14:34

Okay, let's talk



14:39

keep talking. Tony enter Tell me a little bit Tony Carol is with us. Tell us your there's all these letters after your name tell us what they mean.



14:49

pdfj Kikuyu



14:51

I don't know add some more. We can make up something I don't know what they're all our undergraduate degree in social work and all the other Letters that mean I've been in practice a lot. And it's real fun watching Jimmy fiddle with the buttons.



15:07

Yeah, and I can hear stuff there. Perfect.



15:10

Now we can get going. Okay.



15:12

That's where it was originally. 100 Leave me alone. Yeah, go



15:15

sit down. Reindeer Games.



15:20

Now, Tony, tell me about your relationship counselor, you specialize in teaching people basically how to have a healthy relationship.



15:30

Well, it's close cut. That's part of what I do. It's always been a particular particular interest of mine having screwed up almost everything you can imagine in a relation, you know, Scott, at one time or another? Yeah, Scott and I wrote the book.



15:45

Okay, first of all, Tony, let me start off. I'm going to ask the question, because the audience is out there and they're listening. And Tony, runs relationship constantly in here in Houston. That's what we're gonna talk about tonight. Is there such a thing called a healthy relationship? Sure. Sure. Namie, two people don't say Desi and Lucy. We know better. They'll say Louise and Bob or Howard and Steven, or everyone in the Howard,



16:12

I seem to remember from conversation we had earlier that you were kind of wrestling with some relationship issues. So no. Is there a healthy relationship? Are there lots of healthy relationships?



16:22

Lots and lots. But why are they so few and far between?



16:26

I think they're probably not. I suspect that that



16:30

we just hang around to smoke show people.



16:34

The wrong beer joints? I don't know. We don't drink. Then I want to know how Yeah, they're Democrat. That's right. We find met in church. A healthy relationship? Yeah, I think they're really a lot of healthy relationships. And, and,



16:51

gosh, in the late 70s, I was doing some research on on long term male relationships. It happened to be the first study that was done. But interestingly enough, at that point, we drew a sample of 4040 male couples in Houston that had been together, minimum six years, and I think the longest one had been together 44 years. And in the process of evaluating those, they would looked amazingly healthy. People generally identified their lovers as being their best friends. Interestingly enough, about 25% of those relationships were word monogamous.



17:31

So what about the other 75%?



17:34

The other 75% were non monogamous? And how important is monogamy? I don't know. Depends on the couple



17:40

isn't a relationship, or the terms of relationship DeVos defined by the people participating in it?



17:48

I mean, everyone comes to the drawing board in the beginning, don't they? And reveals one's expectations of what is expected out of a relationship. Am I not?



17:56

Am I correct? I mean, I do a couples come together sort of having made up in their own minds what the relationships going to be about. And frequently don't talk about that very clearly with each other. Six months later, they start to wonder just what is going on? And wonder what's happened that this lovely relationship has gotten sort of difficult. But I think frequently, it's about difference in differences in expectations. And it's about really poor communication about that. And it's a lot about a lot of excitement, hoping that this is the time it's all going to be right. And people get afraid to worry about messing that up even by talking about it.



18:37

So honestly, in a sense, honestly, would be just messing it up.



18:40

Well, I think that's what people are afraid of. Well, basically,



18:45

I hate I hate to be general, and I hate to lump everything. But what I'm going to I'm going to what are the problems with most relationships? There has to be a common denominator somewhere along that it seems to be president every broken relationship. What?



19:04

I don't know what do you think? You asked the question, man, what's the question? I don't know. Is that common? Letters. I couldn't remember what the letters were either. I think the the things that, that people have difficulty with most universally, are that they're absolutely unable to talk and listen to each other honestly. And with any degree of openness at all. I think another thing that happens is that people go into relationships, expecting that the relationship will make them happy. They go in expecting that their partner can meet all of their needs can give them things nobody else has ever given them. And that in some way, this wonderful new relationship will solve every problem in the world.



19:51

People really that naive? Yeah, really seriously? Sure.



19:55

I mean, we're all entirely too sophisticated to say that out loud but Somewhere deep deep down inside, I think all of us believe that I hate



20:03

to tell you that. I don't believe that. And I don't think I've met naive Scott, you and I leave



20:09

me a new relationship every two weeks. What what



20:15

are you given up? Not given up, I've not given up seriously, I've just altered the fact that reality is probably slapped me across the face. I prefer other things to slap me across the face. But



20:28

so you go into a relationship. And at the beginning, it's all this jubilation, it's all this excitement, it's wonderful. And for the first three days, or three weeks, or three months, three years. It's wonderful, and it's fun, it's easy, but then things start to happen, you know, you little things, they do start to bother you or irritate you. What do you do then? Is that this, is it important then that you start? How do you communicate those things that, you know, it really irks me the way you leave the lid? Or the way you you know, you don't put the mayonnaise jar back exactly where you found or just some these petty little things? Is that how do you communicate that? And isn't that an indicator of a greater problem than where they leave the Manet's?



21:15

Yeah, kind of the rule of thumb says that what people are fighting about, not what they're fighting about at all. And I'm not sure that it's so much whether you leave the lid up or not, that really matters to people to begin to look first at what happens in the beginning stages of relationships. And a good deal of that I think is about our seeing, and another person really, really wonderful parts of ourselves that we don't recognize. And they may or may not be true of the other person that we just kind of make up that they are and we there's something in the other person that allows us to see that. However, over time, some of the illusion starts to give way and people no longer are seeing this person they've made. And after a while, it looks like the same things that we were most drawn to are the things that were frequently most irritated by. frequently people talk about someone who's lighthearted and fun and happy when they first met them. And then later on that same person who's exactly the same is irresponsible and undependable. Shallow



22:25

are attracted to their spontaneity and their illusionist. Yeah.



22:30

So in the way that probably what happens in relationships, really, is that we're attracted to things and other people that we don't know in ourselves, things that exist in us, but don't that we don't recognize things that we tend to minimize in ourselves the potential to be a gang member. Wow, I didn't get it. No, private jet.



22:51

No. Yes. Why do you look at me like



22:55

that? Because I was waiting for the bomb.



22:59

Bombs yet. You haven't got to the end or the close. Now, you know, I'm a little negative about relationships and not not because, because I feel that and we've talked about this over lunch a couple times, or once that this draw or this fascination that we all have to be in relationships, we all have to find someone to love. The only way to be happy in life is to find someone and live happily ever after. And walk the dog and buy the house and go grocery shopping at Kroger together and you push the cart and I push the cart when all of happily ever after.



23:28

Right? I don't know. That's what all your friends say.



23:33

That's what everyone says. And what happens is that I think what we've done is just people the human race, we've tried to lump all these relationships together. And sometimes I have to admit that there are just people out there who don't want to feel guilty and are tired of all you people saying you have to have a relationship to be happy. Because I'm actually finding out now in life that I'm more happy single in my life. Now in your opinion, what is the key to a successful relationship?



24:08

God and you think you're gonna get this for free down to



24:12

one of Tony's seminars?



24:18

Wow, probably bottom line key to a happy bottom



24:22

is always what am I happy?



24:26

Even if a dog you want a dog? think probably the bottom line is about two people who know themselves pretty well are reasonably reasonably well worked out their own issues and go into a relationship feeling relatively comfortable with themselves fairly realistic expectations and are clear enough about themselves that they can see the other person clearly.



24:55

What does that mean in layman's terms? What does it mean? Start spewing the Poopoo Oh, come on, come on, I want someone to tell me what the main purpose in life is in relationships, I want to tell him, I want someone to say, look, this is what you have to do. If you want a relationship, this is what you have to do not find yourself and love yourself. But tell me today, Tony, what do I need to find a relationship? What what has to be there?



25:21

Waiting? What has to be there to find out what



25:24

has to be there? I want to know, and I know everyone out there who's sitting out there single going, God, I don't know why I'm not a relationship.



25:34

So I guess the first question you have to ask yourself is what are you doing to get rid of the people who want to be in relationships with you



25:41

is that so that's one of the keys is that we push people away? We



25:44

can push people away. Okay.



25:47

Now, not from my own experience. But no, I know, you've already heard that. I just want you know. we do push people away.

...and, we see people saying:



25:53

Sure. And essentially, we push people away for very good reason. Most of us have been through lots of really tough times in relationships, and we're scared to death of it. Just terrified and getting hurt. We've also got about 10 years of shrinks, who've been real willing to tell you that if you get involved in a relationship, and it's a little bit difficult, you got the wrong person. So you better go out and do a little bit better do your work and not get involved with that kind of person. Again, our our



26:21

10 years of shrink telling you that big C word. Remember codependent, which was the big word of the 80s. If I remember correctly, I think you've heard the word monster twice. Yeah, something like that. But



26:33

so so people have somehow gotten the idea that first of all, there's something shameful about about having any difficulty at all in a relationship. I think people have also gotten the idea that it's sort of pathological to want to be with someone and we're scared to death. We've been terrified for for a long time. And so people just start to make up that a relationships gonna get bad or be bad before they even get into it. Now, don't get scared and look for reasons to run away,



27:04

that there has to be a scientific model on how relationships evolve, right? Like to say, the first year, the second year, the third year, after the romance, let's talk about romance. It's important, the beginning isn't it?



27:21

Seems like it has to be there, it would be too scared to get involved in this stuff. Sure. So now there's all kinds of magic that goes on there lots of chemical reasons for it, I have a friend who says, in the romantic seizure on drugs, in an altered state of consciousness in the brain produces all sorts of chemicals that doesn't produce many other times, people have a real basic sense of well being as a result of a chemical activity in the brain. So



27:48

maybe maybe as gay men, what we do is we just constantly want that chemical Hi. So that we go from one to one to one to next one, the next one, but it's gone.



27:57

So that's how you don't use drugs. Three times a week.



28:02

Those chemicals just blow flow flow. That's right, you



28:06

know, I want to know is what is it that attracts us to a certain individual, and not to another? You meet someone who's wonderful, who's nice, who's honest, who seems trustworthy and reliable, but you're not attracted to them beyond a friend, you meet someone else who may be as good or completely the opposite and a jerk. But yet you're drawn to that person, you're attracted to that person you want to be with that person. Why? Why why one and not the other?



28:41

I'm real curious that you're both going why? Why? Why? Because we went. There lots of different ideas about why that happens and how it happens. And probably most the most commonly agreed on is the idea that in some way people in we're getting into relationships or trying to finish unfinished childhood business. And there have even been a group of people fairly recently have written that we go out and look for people who will hurt us in the way that our ways that our parents did. My guess is that it's a little bit more about being attracted to a certain kind of personality that has something to do with being sort of a mirror image of our own personalities as we know them. And then some other funny things start to happen. We start to be frustrated by these people in ways that are in some way sort of echoes of the way we were frustrated early in our lives. And the reason that that really power is people to keep keep going and trying harder is that we've had lots and lots of experiences children in trying to for example, trying to please a parent who's critical. So for people who have that in their history when I love object or the person may And they're in love with starts to criticize, and they know exactly how to respond. They've done it for years and years and years as a child. So they kind of go into an automatic response. And most of us have great need to finish anything we start. So if I started trying to please my critical mother, when I was a child, and you start to criticize me today, I know exactly how to try to win that game. So it's so familiar, it almost kicks off a natural response. And most people,



30:30

do we have a tendency to carry over past Well, I think we do carry over hurt or bad experiences from past relationships into new relationships. And other words, judging a new relationship by a past one, something that they might have done to offend or hurt you. And your automat, and you're just waiting for the next person to do it. How do you get over that? Because that seriously can hamper or harm? A new relationship?



31:01

Yeah, you're right, Scott. Probably the beginning of that? Well, let me let me just say a little about that. What, what I understand you to mean is that if you've had a bad experience in a previous relationship, you're frequently much more sensitive to that kind of thing. And in a new relationship. So if someone has, for example, if somebody has been unfaithful to you, in the past, you're much more likely to be frightened of that in a new relationship. Am I right? Okay, so how do you get over it? Well, first of all, I think you've just done the very first thing, and that's to identify that this is about an old relationship, and not necessarily about the relationship you're in. And what most of us do, until we are able to identify that is something that's going on inside of us. We just continue to sort of suspect our lovers of that we, if that doesn't work, we start to accuse not of it. And people are really good about badgering people into doing things that they wouldn't otherwise do. And it's pretty easy to accuse someone, for example, being unfaithful so long that they finally just give up and think what the hell I may as well be if you're, if you're gonna accuse me of and treat me as if I were doing that anyway. And I think we do that in a lot of different ways. If if you're accustomed to someone who's who's really unacceptable on our I'm sorry, I'm accepting of you are, are are undependable, even if the other if a new person is very, very accepting and approving, or is really dependable, you'll start to make up or you'll start to expect that they won't be start to behave as if they're not going to be and start to treat them as if they're not being anyway. And the reason that happens is, it's pretty simple. Whenever, you know, whenever we've had really painful experiences in the past, we get afraid of having it happen again. So we start to become really, really watchful of that. Look for anything that that indicates that it may happen, and then do lots of things to try to avoid it.



33:03

Mm hmm. With all this going on, in by the tone of what relationships is sound like, this is just a terrible road to take. Why do we all want to take this relationship road? Why are we all why are we all searching for it? I mean, it seems like all we do is try to destroy it, and try to ruin it. Why do we thrive?



33:25

Well, Howard to start with there lots and lots of people who are are welling up put together, they don't do these kinds of things. What do you suggest going into a relationship and I wouldn't touch it. Everybody else has. Thanks, Scott.



33:44

Thanks a lot. But seriously, um, it just seems like it's more hassle than it's worth. Why do we want it? Why do we want to get involved in it? Why do we, why don't we thrive for it? Why? I don't know.



33:59

You know, according to your experience says that there are lots of people out there who are really happy out of relationships. That may be true. There are very interesting studies that indicate that people just sort of universally do better as a group in a relationship, even if it's a relatively unhealthy relationship.



34:17

Because I find when I'm in a relationship, all those unhealthy things surface. Do you understand I'm saying, I find out all this nasty stuff inside me just bubbles and seeps to the surface of shirtless and I go, Oh, no, I don't want to do this anymore. I just don't, you know, I don't want to ruin someone else's life. I don't remind. I'm just gonna stay away from it. Right, Scott?



34:39

Howard, I think that's a really common experience and I think it's a really admirable quality that you want to sort of spare somebody else



34:51

but I think the the other part of that is even my own experience says that it's so awful to start to feel that way. When if it does happen in a relationship? You wonder why in hell you ever thought about doing it again? And but I think as people become more aware that that's something that's happening inside of them that it's a response of theirs. That's really their own and and can kind of own it as being my response, rather than blaming it on the relationship with the other person, then it's less necessary to do those,



35:24

what are the first steps to taking down those walls? We all have them, we all put them there. What are the first steps?



35:33

Wow, probably the first step is to start to acknowledge that they're there. And to start to know that it's my stuff, not your stuff, to probably the most wonderful thing is to be able to be with a partner who's relatively undefended, somebody who's relatively relatively aware of his own tendency to be defensive and is able to not do that. And it seems that the freedom the the willingness of a partner to not be defensive to give up his defensiveness seems to free all of us to be less defensive. And do you know what I mean by defensive? Yeah, I think I'd like to say this just for the folks out there. A lot of people describe being defensive or feeling defensive as those funny little flashes that happen inside when you either start to feel really angry with someone or you start to feel sort of frightened of them or sort of irritated and you just want to lash back. And it may be simply it may be something as strong as wanting to just really tell them off, it may be as as, as lightweight as simply wanting to explain what you meant feeling

that you've been misunderstood. Those are all kind of echoes from childhood, there are echoes from earlier parts of our lives. And they're just reactions that happen just so unconsciously, and so spontaneously. And those are the very things that seem to just destroy relationships.



37:08

So But let's, let's jump ahead right now and talk about the 90s relationship. Okay, these are turbulent times here, Tony. Let's enter codependency let's let's enter alcohol abuse, let's enter HIV. These are all turbulent times as gay men and women we go through these have to be some stumbling and roadblocks in our room, our wonderfully relationship path here. Is it not covered,



37:42

I think, we're probably inclined to think that whatever we're going through is the most most traumatic thing that ever happens to anyone. And my experience from a long practice with straight couples and gay couples and lesbian couples is that every single couple is dealing with virtually the same thing. And whatever it is they're struggling, is the most important thing that they can possibly be struggling they're clearly HIV is an important issue. Clearly, drug abuse is an important issue. Everything is important when it's going on. I doubt that it's any more difficult today to be in a relationship than it was 100 years ago that you cept for one thing, and that is that we have much, much higher expectations for relationships today than we did 100 years ago, or 50 years ago, or even 20



38:33

years. So watch June are gone.



38:35

Yeah, you're right.



38:37

How do we set our expectations? And how do we know if we've set our expectations too high?



38:47

Well, I was trying to decide if you can set expectations too high and would tell me what



38:53

do you mean by example. I went out with a guy six weeks ago went on one date with this guy.

And the reason I didn't ever want to go on a date with him again, will sound probably really stupid and really silly. And maybe I was just looking at there was something that sent me the wrong way. And so I was looking for reason. But we left was he White was well, no and that would have been well, he never would have gotten on that date if he was white. We went to a dinner party over at Tony and Gilbert's real not dinner party, but a little party and stuff. And when we left, we went down and the guy was in his we were in his car. He didn't open my door to my car. He's like got in



39:37

and no, you got pissed off about that. I don't believe it.



39:42

I always open the person's door and I'm real into all that little stupid etiquette stuff that I was brought up with. And it really irks me if people don't because I always do that. I always open people's door and always and if they don't do those things back for me, it just really irritates me. And is that too petty?



39:57

Yeah, you're twisted you Okay,



40:01

Scott I think if those things are important to you then it's important that you find somebody who does those rights and maybe the you know, your your Howard your question, what do we do to screw up relationships? Maybe the one of the biggest things we do is get with somebody with the expectation that they'll become different from the way they are. I sort of believe that that if you can't love somebody, and want to be with someone just the way they are, and if you can't think and believe genuinely believe that they really wonderful, virtually perfect people just as they are then you probably don't belong with



40:37

it doesn't that counter your earlier statement that we have been taught through the past 10 or 15 years? That if it's not working, get out. And the message I was getting from you was that you need to work through it that you need that there are ways that you can make it work? And if there are problems there's no I don't think there is there an ideal relationship I mean, you're going to have problems and you're going to have things to work through



41:08

I say why don't even do it well, how are you a door guy I'm not picking and



41:19

I'm gonna say I got distracted by the question by Jim's telling me not to lie to cigarettes. He asked me again



41:27

use you say now that you just said that. If you're in if you don't feel that they're the perfect person and you don't adore them just the way they are, then they're probably not the right person for you. But earlier you said that we've been conditioned in the last 10 or 15 years to get out if we're not happy with it get out and run yet that's probably not the right answer that you can work through it that that there are ways to overcome the problem.



41:55

Well, Scott, I think it's a little less complicated than that and if you happen to be an opera lover



42:03

been to one it probably



42:05

makes a lot more sense that you date an opera lover than day to country western lover who and expect that he will someday become an opera lover



42:13

so then it really kind of wasn't Oh yeah, his first first date with this guy and he didn't he didn't you know it just like he did do what you wanted him to or you didn't expect him to so therefore it's okay to say goodbye Okay,



42:25

absolutely. You found out that you guys are different that because



42:29

you're looking for the next guy might be the one that does this for you. But then once he opens the door then it'll pick his nose in the car you know what I mean? But there's come a time Tony, when we finally have a say in a relationship. Well I have to be a little more flexible I have to

look and say I'm having a problem because he's not opening my door he picks his nose and his bad breath in the morning and is does there come a time where we have to say well hey, maybe there's something something wrong with me that I should not feel this way but wanted always just hammer at



43:06

you. Well, so the question is, after a while it starts to bother Scott that that is his lover is not opening the door. And I don't want



43:15

to get caught up on this James guy that didn't open my door because I've never gone out with him. I'd much rather talk about my current relationship or you know, some of that something more relevant down.



43:25

But if I don't, but that's kind of what's what's useful. Yeah, let's use the door thing that's easy to look at. It's real clear. It is real clear.