

00:00:13.500 --> 00:00:22.740

My name is Joel Christian Gill, I am a professor of illustration in um...

6

00:00:23.400 --> 00:00:34.230

Joel Gill: In illustration I was gonna say in mass art, but we are at Mass art right now because this is like my this is like after my first, like what is my 12 13 months at Mass art so like, I'm still getting used to it. So some of you I haven't met um...

7

00:00:35.280 --> 00:00:46.800

Joel Gill: But I'm a cartoonist. And over the years, I've met a lot of cartooning friends and I met Keith probably seven, six, seven or eight years ago, I don't know, it's been it's been a while.

12

00:01:23.010 --> 00:01:37.170

Joel Gill: Keith night is many things to many people rapper social activist father educator among them. He is one of the funniest and most highly regarded cartoonists in America and the creator of three popular comic strips the nightlife.

13

00:01:38.310 --> 00:01:43.440

Joel Gill: Think and the K chronicles. For nearly two decades, this multi award winning artist.

14

00:01:43.800 --> 00:01:55.290

Joel Gill: Has brought the funny BACK TO THE FUNNY PAGES with uniquely personal style that is a cross between Calvin and Hobbes Matt and underground comics. If you have not seen Keith's comics. Don't take some time and go look at them.

15

00:01:56.160 --> 00:02:09.330

Joel Gill: I've got some of them around here. I've got. I've got prints of Maya Angelou; Keith does these amazing quotes of Maya Angelou and black intellectuals. It's really fantastic. So go make sure you take that he's also on Patreon.

16

00:02:10.230 --> 00:02:16.470

Joel Gill: And you could spend some time with him at the gentleman cartoonist there Keith Knight Is part of a generation of African American artists.

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00:02:17.400 --> 00:02:28.260

Joel Gill: Who were raised on hip hop and infuse their work with urgency edge humor satire politics and race is art has appeared in various publications worldwide, including the Washington Post, daily coast.

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00:02:28.890 --> 00:02:37.500

Joel Gill: San Francisco Chronicle, medium ebony, ESPN the magazine, LA weekly magazine and the funny time his comic musings on race have gone in accolades.

19

00:02:37.800 --> 00:02:45.540

Joel Gill: And stirred controversy promoting the NAACP to recognize him in 2015 as a history maker and CNN to lap him to the grade.

20

00:02:45.960 --> 00:02:52.080

Joel Gill: To tap him to the grade of to the Great America on the progress concerning issues and race.

21

00:02:52.710 --> 00:03:00.510

Joel Gill: Also, Keith, as though the executive producer creator and subject of the hit TV show Woke. If you have not seen it.

22

00:03:00.750 --> 00:03:10.170

Joel Gill: You should just. So let me just say that if you are watching woke. What you need to do if you're not watching TV is just to cut it on and put it on play all the time in your house.

23

00:03:10.680 --> 00:03:18.810

Joel Gill: Because that helps. So just put it on just put it on in the background like don't put on the office. Don't put on friends put on woke because you will help Keith.

24

00:03:19.530 --> 00:03:31.740

Joel Gill: And so with that being said, Thank you Keith for showing up. Thank you for coming with to talk to us. Thank you for talking to the students before. Now I'm going to be quiet and let you take over and you can share screen and do everything you need to do.

25

00:03:32.430 --> 00:03:36.660

keith knight: Excellent. Excellent. Well, Joel, thanks for inviting me and making this happen.

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00:03:37.980 --> 00:03:49.350

keith knight: Earlier, when I was just talking to your class I I remember going to Mass art for a high school portfolio review. When I was in high school and I

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00:03:50.370 --> 00:04:05.670

keith knight: Saw everybody else with all their really amazing paintings and everything. And I just had a bunch of cartoons and I slinked out of that because I didn't want to show my comics. It was, it's kind of wild. And the other thing is my great uncle.

28

00:04:07.140 --> 00:04:12.960

keith knight: Went to try to get into mass art and and they didn't believe he did the work that he did

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00:04:13.710 --> 00:04:23.520

keith knight: So that's a very interesting story. So we ended up going to Paris and getting stabbed in a bar in Paris, which is actually a far more exciting.

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00:04:24.150 --> 00:04:34.920

keith knight: Thing to do than to go to college, which is get stabbed in a bar. So I'm, I'm just going to jump right into it because I know we don't have a lot of time, I'm going to do like a shorter

31

00:04:35.370 --> 00:04:45.270

keith knight: And believe it or not, this is going to be shorter than usual. But I'm going to share my slideshow, and let's get it going. Shall we.

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00:04:47.250 --> 00:04:55.560

keith knight: Since time that not a year and a half ago, a lot of readers have been asking me this question has this once macho he-master gone soft now that I'm a married man?

33

00:04:56.820 --> 00:05:00.480

keith knight: The answer is yes. I've gotten all soft, soft and supple.

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00:05:01.980 --> 00:05:08.430

keith knight: It's true. The best thing about getting hitched is being able to use all your wife's girly products in the bathroom stuff. I wouldn't be caught dead buying and public

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00:05:08.730 --> 00:05:16.290

keith knight: Okay. Let's see, we've got some anti crab ointment, anal wart remover and a peach Melba loofah scrub, not so loud with the loofah scrub...

36

00:05:18.060 --> 00:05:32.310

keith knight: That's right. People know more scrubbing the nether regions of a llama soap for me, we've got Rosemary and aloe vera and eucalyptus leaves infused with hibiscus shampoo organic sea kelp and lamb semen exfoliating wash colonial oatmeal and placenta enema.

37

00:05:33.960 --> 00:05:40.260

keith knight: Honestly, y'all. Using this stuff does make a difference. A lot of folks have been noticing gee your skin feels terrific.

38

00:05:41.220 --> 00:05:54.360

keith knight: So this is what I do. This is the k Chronicles. This is the strip. I've been doing for almost 30 years so it's semi-autobiographical. So what I do is I take stuff that happens to me.

39

00:05:55.140 --> 00:06:05.040

keith knight: In real life, and and then sort of news on it for a little while and then and then it always ends and some twist and turn at the end.

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00:06:05.700 --> 00:06:17.970

keith knight: I'm I'm super excited because because I don't do many of these in Boston, so I can like talk about Boston and I don't have to explain any references so

41

00:06:18.900 --> 00:06:30.930

keith knight: I grew up in Malden, Massachusetts. And during the 70s, and this is what I remember most about Boston in the 70s. This is a very famous photo when it's from

42

00:06:31.830 --> 00:06:43.260

keith knight: A protest about bussing bussing black kids to to white high schools and this guy is has the American flag and he's about to stab this black man with it.

43

00:06:44.130 --> 00:06:53.580

keith knight: This black man who's a lawyer, by the way, in a suit. And so there's a really interesting story about the people involved in this, in this in this picture, but

44

00:06:54.960 --> 00:06:56.430

keith knight: This is sort of where

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00:06:57.540 --> 00:06:58.860

keith knight: I grew up and sort of

46

00:07:00.300 --> 00:07:04.740

keith knight: I kind of see this picture as a metaphor for America as a whole.

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00:07:06.540 --> 00:07:20.580

keith knight: Again, I said. I grew up in Malden, Massachusetts. I never had a black teacher officially a black teacher until I was a junior in college at Salem State Massachusetts in Salem State University. I'm sorry.

48

00:07:22.380 --> 00:07:30.690

keith knight: When I went there was still a college, but it was my junior year and he was an American literature teacher and

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00:07:31.230 --> 00:07:41.820

keith knight: As an American literature teacher, he assigned us Ralph Ellison, Richard Wright, Maya Angelou and James Baldwin for writers

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00:07:42.570 --> 00:07:51.900

keith knight: And when someone asked us like ask the teacher, why are you giving us all black writers. He said, I'm giving you all American writers and so

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00:07:52.620 --> 00:08:04.080

keith knight: When he said that, oh, my head exploded, because we are taught that American literature is Mark Twain, you know, we are taught that it's Walden Pond.

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00:08:04.590 --> 00:08:13.770

keith knight: You know, certain thing. And so here was a teacher that was working within the system to subvert the system.

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00:08:14.430 --> 00:08:32.460

keith knight: And really open up opening up our heads. And so from this moment on my work from went from being just about keg parties to to what it's like to be a young black male who's into hip hop but who's also into punk music growing up in America.

54

00:08:33.660 --> 00:08:44.880

keith knight: So here's another one of my favorite ones. This is dedicated to that one black kid the K Chronicles by Keith knight. This is dedicated to that one black kid who lives in that tiny ass town in off the highway in the middle of nowhere.

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00:08:46.020 --> 00:08:52.290

keith knight: This is dedicated to that one black kid who was not into hip hop in high school. Black Sabbath's not black, you know,

56

00:08:53.520 --> 00:09:01.680

Keith knight: This is dedicated to that one black kid who gets used as the reason why someone isn't a racist. I can't be prejudiced. My mom invited one to my 13th birthday party.

57

00:09:02.700 --> 00:09:08.790

keith knight: This is dedicated to that one black kid with hair. People want to touch all the time back off. Is it like a brillo pad?

58

00:09:10.590 --> 00:09:18.090

keith knight: This is dedicated to that one black kid who gets told they're not really black Yo man, brother sent to what you do. Hey, it's a compliment coming from me.

59

00:09:19.290 --> 00:09:27.390

keith knight: This is dedicated to that one black kid I always get asked by white folks, why they can't use the N word why asked me, I don't use it. But you could if you wanted to.

60

00:09:28.740 --> 00:09:32.910

keith knight: This is dedicated to that one black kid who wonders if they measure up to myth.

61

00:09:34.320 --> 00:09:43.110

keith knight: This is dedicated to this one black kid. So this is one of my most popular prints at conventions, when we used to have conventions and

62

00:09:43.620 --> 00:09:53.760

keith knight: It's like black people Bingo. people can look at this and they go, oh, that's happened to me that's happened to me. Oh, that's how bingo, and they go across, but I mean this translates to

63

00:09:54.210 --> 00:10:05.490

keith knight: That one Asian kid that one Latino kid that one gay kid that one disabled kid. We can do versions of this all day and I just tell people that it's so important.

64

00:10:05.940 --> 00:10:16.470

keith knight: When you're doing this work to tell your own story. When I talk to kids when I talk to cartoonist. When I talked to any artists, tell your individual story.

65

00:10:17.070 --> 00:10:27.240

keith knight: When you tell your personal story there's so many people that can relate to it. It's almost like the more personal, you get the more universal. It is. It's, it's pretty interesting.

66

00:10:28.920 --> 00:10:34.800

keith knight: It always amazes me the way people react when they first enter my bedroom. Holy smokes. What the hell do you do with that blow up doll.

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00:10:36.660 --> 00:10:41.580

keith knight: Folks are often surprised to find a "feel me up Wilbur" doll in my bedroom... Although I don't know why...

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00:10:42.930 --> 00:10:51.300

keith knight: Tickle Me Elmo may be the number one doll for America as a whole but feel me up welders been selling like hotcakes in the black community. They come in quite handy.

69

00:10:52.440 --> 00:10:59.580

keith knight: Although not for the use the manufacturer had originally intended and the same taxi, the same black man equal standing back after the off duty.

70

00:11:00.480 --> 00:11:18.030

keith knight: But wait, look black man plus white guy. He goes, okey dokey. Get the hell in here, boys. You see, cuz five black man standing on a corner without Wilbur is a gang, but five black men standing on a corner with Wilbur is a basketball team with a coach.

71

00:11:20.040 --> 00:11:26.730

keith knight: A band in Boston. So I bought a few to send them my friends back east. Oh my God, look it's Hootie and the Blowfish.

72

00:11:27.960 --> 00:11:37.920

keith knight: So this is a strip that started when I couldn't catch a cab in San Francisco. And it wasn't till a white coworker of mine walked up to me and I was able to catch

73

00:11:40.200 --> 00:11:54.420

keith knight: A taxi, just like that, when she showed up. And as I can, and that'd be amazing if if you could have pull up a white person out of your pocket. And after I moved to Los Angeles. I actually saw people

74

00:11:55.440 --> 00:12:06.120

keith knight: Who would use a white blow up doll to sit in their passenger seat so they could use the commuter lane. And what is that the carpool lane, so

75

00:12:06.570 --> 00:12:16.440

keith knight: It's weird to see it all come come to fruition. Anyway, after doing the comic for about 10 years I was asked to do a second comic and

76

00:12:16.860 --> 00:12:24.780

keith knight: Instead of a multi panel autobiographical strip, I decided to do a single panel strip from the news.

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00:12:25.230 --> 00:12:37.830

keith knight: And a socio-political panel and I called it think and it wasn't till I was doing this for 15 years I realized that I think is my last name spelled backwards without the G.

78

00:12:38.550 --> 00:12:47.010

keith knight: And the other thing I really like about this logo which I never realized for a long time. Is it looks like Snoopy

79

00:12:47.700 --> 00:12:52.620

keith knight: the.in the eye looks like Snoopy's eyes and the parentheses look like his ear and

80

00:12:52.920 --> 00:13:03.660

keith knight: It's. It looks like Charles Schulz his style in a way that if I tried to do it. I would never be able to do it. So this is like a very accidental thing which is really nice.

81

00:13:04.230 --> 00:13:13.200

keith knight: So what I like about think is you can take ideas. You can't flush out into longer strips and then do the one shot. So I'm going to do a real fast.

82

00:13:14.400 --> 00:13:18.120

keith knight: Denny's "serving blacks since 1997" if signs told the truth.

83

00:13:19.740 --> 00:13:27.690

keith knight: Your sister have the baby, it's a boy, the exact moment radical black activists Thomas X realize that, yes, indeed, he was an Uncle Tom

84

00:13:29.670 --> 00:13:34.920

keith knight: What was promised 40 acres and a mule. What was got 40 ounces and a pitbull.

85

00:13:36.840 --> 00:13:51.960

keith knight: Just this this just in police have just released the description of the alleged gunman has been terrorizing the downtown area please don't let it be a Black guy please don't let it be a Middle Eastern guy. Ha. They'll never catch me ah the power of white privilege.

86

00:13:53.700 --> 00:13:57.030

keith knight: A screening for women only that's discrimination, I demand entry.

87

00:13:58.050 --> 00:14:02.340

keith knight: Hey, Louise. We got another snowflake wanted to get a pap smear send them in.

88

00:14:04.140 --> 00:14:09.060

keith knight: The penis monologues with Wilt Chamberlain Jimi Hendrix and Milton Berle how was it way, way too long.

89

00:14:10.710 --> 00:14:12.630

keith knight: That's for you older folks out there.

90

00:14:14.610 --> 00:14:20.220

keith knight: You're doing this because I'm black, aren't you? Oh now see why do you always have to play the race card.

91

00:14:21.420 --> 00:14:23.490

keith knight: Alright, so the race card.

92

00:14:24.510 --> 00:14:26.070

keith knight: black on black crime.

93

00:14:27.240 --> 00:14:28.800

keith knight: What about the Irish

94

00:14:30.180 --> 00:14:32.370

keith knight: Get over it. It was a long time ago.

95

00:14:33.570 --> 00:15:01.680

keith knight: What about Chicago. These are all things that white people say when they want to get out of a discussion about race and here's the thing. I think race is the biggest issue. The biggest problem that America has that it refuses to address and refuses to tackle we are seeing it played out.

96

00:15:02.700 --> 00:15:03.840

keith knight: Over these past

97

00:15:05.760 --> 00:15:22.710

keith knight: 400 years and we have refused to talk about it. And every time the talk about race only goes as far as when white people feel uncomfortable, which is about 5.2 seconds for too long. The top of race goes like this.

98

00:15:23.850 --> 00:15:34.680

keith knight: One night, a view gallery opening. Frankly, I don't care if a person is black, white, green, purple brown me to who the heck are all these green and purple folks white people are always talking about k chronicles

99

00:15:35.790 --> 00:15:40.500

keith knight: I'm sorry I consider myself relatively open minded, but I have to draw the line at purple people

100

00:15:41.850 --> 00:15:49.800

keith knight: I know the same PC but purple people are nothing but barely civilized knuckle draggers. Believe me, I know I sat next to one in second grade.

101

00:15:51.360 --> 00:16:02.280

keith knight: When I was growing up a purple family moved in next door and the whole neighborhood start to smell like fake news and I swear this one guy was hired at my job, just because he was, well, you know,

102

00:16:05.400 --> 00:16:09.900

keith knight: I heard green folks have three nipples. I think I better be going me too

103

00:16:10.980 --> 00:16:13.980

keith knight: Be careful locking back to your car. The purple people might get you

104

00:16:15.270 --> 00:16:15.870

keith knight: So,

105

00:16:17.040 --> 00:16:20.640

keith knight: I know this may sound redundant. If you've seen the show but you know

106

00:16:21.900 --> 00:16:26.700

keith knight: I'd say this all the time unless avatar is a documentary. There are no blue people

107

00:16:27.120 --> 00:16:44.880

keith knight: There are no green people there are no purple people. So if you're going to have these discussion it least couch it in reality. Please don't tell me you don't see color because if you don't see color, especially as artists. If you don't see color what you're doing in an art school

108

00:16:46.290 --> 00:17:02.610

keith knight: You know, it's not a compliment to say, oh, you know, I don't, you know, I don't see you as as being black, you know, it's, it's, to me it's if you don't see if you don't see the diversity of the people around you.

109

00:17:04.650 --> 00:17:07.380

keith knight: You're not seeing the full meaning.

110

00:17:07.500 --> 00:17:08.160

keith knight: You are not

111

00:17:08.250 --> 00:17:17.970

keith knight: You're not seeing me okay you are forcing yourself because you have such a negative view of it to not see it and that is a problem.

112

00:17:18.570 --> 00:17:37.890

keith knight: We should be celebrating our diversity. We should be psyched that we know people of different genders of different races of different ages have different classes, rich people poor folks like we want to have the different perspectives and we should value that

113

00:17:38.970 --> 00:18:02.580

keith knight: And for far too long we have we have avoided this discussion. So I've done these slideshows all across the country. And it's much better doing them in person. But, you know, considering the circumstances. What can I say, but it's so important for us to have these discussions. In 2008

114

00:18:03.840 --> 00:18:19.710

keith knight: I made the biggest mistake of my career I launched a daily comic strip 2008 if you remember is when the bottom fell out of everything. And we went to a recession and it's, it was the worst year in the newspaper industry's history.

115

00:18:21.180 --> 00:18:25.800

keith knight: Thousands of newspapers went out of business. But I had my first kid. And that was like

116

00:18:26.970 --> 00:18:47.220

keith knight: I gotta, I gotta make some money. Well, why I thought I would make it doing a daily strip, but I was pretty psyched. Because when you first start out in cartooning you think this is the pinnacle of the career, which is doing a daily strip getting into the New Yorker and getting into mad.

117

00:18:48.600 --> 00:19:04.830

keith knight: And I already gotten into mad. I hadn't gotten into the New Yorker yet but I figured daily strip. Let's do it. So for 11 years I did a strip club, the nightlife. And it ran in the Boston Herald here for a while until they realize I was a crazy liberal

118

00:19:06.210 --> 00:19:16.860

keith knight: Do you think extraterrestrials are racist. Why do you ask, they never abduct people of color, it's easier to catch white people at night. So what I love about this.

119

00:19:18.180 --> 00:19:33.300

keith knight: My readers is they sent me a bunch of newspaper clippings about the first couple that got abducted by aliens and it was a mixed race couple. It was a black man and a white woman, but I still argue that they got caught because of the white woman.

120

00:19:34.740 --> 00:19:46.770

keith knight: This next one is I got more letters from this comic strip than any other connection that mentoring a guy my unit smothered an IUD and took one for the team.

121

00:19:47.580 --> 00:19:55.320

keith knight: When I got home, I went to tell his loved one what kind of sacrifice he made turns out he was gay. I was the first one to let his partner know what happened.

122

00:19:56.790 --> 00:20:07.260

keith knight: I've shared things with soldiers that I'd never tell family and friends war does that here was a guy who gave his life for his fellow soldiers but wasn't allowed to share with us, who was waiting for him back home.

123

00:20:08.610 --> 00:20:11.970

keith knight: If we're not fighting for this soldier's freedom then what are we fighting for.

124

00:20:13.140 --> 00:20:16.230

keith knight: So I did this in response to don't ask, don't tell.

125

00:20:17.550 --> 00:20:39.690

keith knight: It was a law that was on the books in the military, where you could be gay, but you couldn't tell anybody. You're gay. Otherwise, you get kicked out. And I just thought, How absurd that is if you're laying your life on the line with fellow soldiers how absurd that is

126

00:20:40.860 --> 00:20:57.000

keith knight: And the reason why this is in color is it's a Sunday strip and my Sunday strip ran in the Washington Post or ran and I think the Boston Herald San Francisco Chronicle, but also the San Diego Union Tribune and after this ran. I started getting all these letters from military

127

00:20:58.260 --> 00:21:09.330

keith knight: And all these military folks were saying you have just changed my mind on don't ask, don't tell, and I thought it was a fluke, but I got like 25 letters.

128

00:21:09.780 --> 00:21:30.420

keith knight: emails from people saying, I'm in the military, and you just convince me that we have to get rid of don't ask, don't tell. And as a cartoonist you fantasize about your work, changing the minds and folks, but this was the first time where like so many people wrote about it and

129

00:21:31.680 --> 00:21:37.050

keith knight: Like I said, I told you I ran in the San Francisco Chronicle, but also ran into Washington Post.

130

00:21:38.520 --> 00:21:51.720

keith knight: This was our 44th president in the Oval Office and on his desk are the Sunday comics my strip ran in June of that year and in October of that year.

131

00:21:52.350 --> 00:22:07.290

keith knight: He got rid of don't ask, don't tell. Now, I'm not saying I had anything to do with it. But the evidence is right there on in the Oval Office on the table so comics can change the world.

132

00:22:08.430 --> 00:22:09.270

keith knight: I know this.

133

00:22:10.860 --> 00:22:26.460

keith knight: Anyway, so, and 2015 I put another slide show on the road. And it was about police brutality. I saw this picture of this young lady at a Ferguson protest and I had been doing cartoons about police brutality for

134

00:22:27.840 --> 00:22:44.580

keith knight: 15 years and I was just so frustrated, along with her. And so I put the slideshow together called they shoot black people, don't they, and it was literally two decades of police brutality cartoons and so I'm just going to quickly show you a couple

135

00:22:45.750 --> 00:22:51.060

keith knight: Police Officer, question number six. What do you see in this picture target practice.

136

00:22:52.320 --> 00:22:59.280

keith knight: Mr. White police officer. How many shots does it take four White officers defend themselves against one unarmed black male? Black male? Well, let's see.

137

00:22:59.880 --> 00:23:12.180

keith knight: blam.

138

00:23:12.810 --> 00:23:24.000

keith knight: Now if you notice in the corner. The character is looking at her watch. And this is a wonderful trope that we cartoonish use to make it feel like time is going by.

139

00:23:29.700 --> 00:23:34.800

keith knight: blam blam blam blam blam blam blam blam blam blam blam blam

140

00:23:36.870 --> 00:23:38.700

keith knight: 41? Don't you think that was a little excessive.

141

00:23:39.840 --> 00:23:44.580

keith knight: Listen you people could avoid getting into these situations. If you're just lighten up

142

00:23:45.690 --> 00:24:01.230

keith knight: So I created this after Amadou Diallo and 1999 was a an African immigrant in New York was in the vestibule of his apartment building. He was going for his ID when four officers shot at him.

143

00:24:02.280 --> 00:24:08.820

keith knight: And they used they shot 41 times. And so with the strip. I just wanted to convey like

144

00:24:09.420 --> 00:24:15.780

keith knight: They basically, you know, they went on trial. The trial was moved to the whitest part of New York and Albany and they got off.

145

00:24:16.290 --> 00:24:25.320

keith knight: And they said that they were defending themselves. So I wanted to show like what it means when they said they were defending themselves.

146

00:24:25.800 --> 00:24:41.160

keith knight: So when does it go. How many shots, does it take for it to go from defense to offense. Does it take 10 or 15 shots 25 shots 40 shots and it's just so absurd to me.

147

00:24:42.390 --> 00:24:50.730

keith knight: And that this stuff has been happening forever. And this is a firing range where police officers to target practice.

148

00:24:51.420 --> 00:25:00.420

keith knight: How come all the targets of black. What do you mean this silhouettes this supposed to be black. I'm talking about the Afro the foo boo that go across the chest. Well, I'll be

149

00:25:01.320 --> 00:25:18.420

keith knight: So this is a strip. I ran in 2009 and 2013 black female soldier and Florida wanted to do target practice at her local police precinct because they had a place where you could practice shooting. They said, Sure, come on down American soldier. Sure. So she goes in there.

150

00:25:19.530 --> 00:25:36.600

keith knight: Black woman goes in there to go and practice and up on the wall for targets are black and white photographs of young black male teenagers and one of them is a picture of her brother as a teenager.

151

00:25:37.980 --> 00:25:47.910

keith knight: And when the police chief was asked by the media to explain himself. He said, what we're doing is not illegal.

152

00:25:50.310 --> 00:25:51.120

keith knight: That was it.

153

00:25:52.230 --> 00:25:54.690

keith knight: What we're doing is not illegal, so

154

00:25:56.460 --> 00:26:02.520

keith knight: If you know anything about the origins of the police. The police grew out of slave patrols.

155

00:26:04.140 --> 00:26:13.650

keith knight: And those were poor whites that were hired to keep the slave population in under control. And if they escaped, they would

156

00:26:14.670 --> 00:26:17.460

keith knight: You know, they would get rewards for catching them.

157

00:26:18.210 --> 00:26:29.580

keith knight: And this was not just a southern thing. In fact, there are some of the earliest slave patrols that on record. We're like Charleston, Massachusetts, which is, you know, explains to me.

158

00:26:29.970 --> 00:26:40.620

keith knight: Why, when I was young, everyone would say if you're black. Don't go to Charleston, don't, don't go to Charleston. I know it's been gentrified since then but um but

159

00:26:41.940 --> 00:26:54.540

keith knight: Essentially, they were poor whites that kept the black population under control. The Department of Justice's analysis of the Ferguson and Baltimore police departments are

160

00:26:55.710 --> 00:27:14.910

keith knight: Their job is to nickel and dime. The black and brown communities and keep them in a cycle of going to court and going to jail and paying fines. They're doing exactly what slave patrols did 250 years ago.

161

00:27:16.170 --> 00:27:20.250

keith knight: It's the exact same thing. It's just called something different.

162

00:27:22.140 --> 00:27:35.250

keith knight: a cruel joke to play on the black jogger thief and the cops. I'll shoot this one got me into a lot of trouble, where all these white people were calling up my paper and Charleston, South Carolina, and it was saying.

163

00:27:35.820 --> 00:27:54.330

keith knight: I'm white, and even, I think this is racist against black people. And so my editor called me and told me this. And I said, they all identifying themselves as white people. And she said, Yeah. I said, you know, why black people aren't calling, she said, no, why I said because black people.

164

00:27:55.560 --> 00:28:01.290

keith knight: Would not complain about a piece of artwork that is depicting it

165

00:28:02.430 --> 00:28:07.620

keith knight: They will be complaining about the protesting about the real thing that this is depicting.

166

00:28:08.640 --> 00:28:17.670

keith knight: And she says, Well, what do you want me to say that people are calling. I said, I tell them as white people. If you complained about the real life incidents that this is depicting

167

00:28:18.330 --> 00:28:29.790

keith knight: Which is police brutality and AND WHITE PEOPLE CALLING THE COPS ON BLACK PEOPLE, AND THEN MAYBE SOME CHANGE might happen and

168

00:28:30.870 --> 00:28:34.980

keith knight: Pretty soon I lost that paper. So what can you do

169

00:28:36.660 --> 00:28:41.760

keith knight: Anyway, after 10 years of living in San Francisco. I was hanging out posters for my band.

170

00:28:42.240 --> 00:28:52.470

keith knight: And as I was hanging up posters a police car pulled up pulled across two lanes of traffic and a cop jumps out and he says, What are you doing, I said I'm hanging up posters for my band.

171

00:28:53.100 --> 00:28:55.410

keith knight: I said, I have a stapler. I'm going to put it down on the ground.

172

00:28:56.340 --> 00:29:11.010

keith knight: He gets on the radio, and he says, we found the suspect, and I said what suspect, are you talking about, he says, You fit the description of someone who's been robbing houses in the neighborhood. I said, What's the description. He said, a six foot tall black male

173

00:29:12.930 --> 00:29:14.520

keith knight: I said anything else. He said, nope.

174

00:29:15.540 --> 00:29:29.580

keith knight: So I'm six foot tall black male means anybody. And keep in mind I had hair sticking out like I was, I had very bad dreads and I looked like a black Sideshow Bob

175

00:29:30.000 --> 00:29:41.070

keith knight: So if anyone saw me robbing anything that they would say, You look like a black Sideshow Bob. Anyway, I looked down the street as well. Oh, I see a cop car coming I look up the street.

176

00:29:41.610 --> 00:29:49.530

keith knight: I see a cop car lights flashing coming down. I looked down towards the beach, another cop car coming and I said, Wow, this is it. This is like

177

00:29:49.920 --> 00:30:00.600

keith knight: That thing I've been writing about and it's happening to me right now and I've always looked from the outside in. So this is like really, I wanted to look from the inside out and just see

178

00:30:01.140 --> 00:30:11.730

keith knight: Just the perspective of people looking at me. And so it's like I get all the cars going by and whenever anyone saw me looking at them. They were so frightened.

179

00:30:12.240 --> 00:30:19.680

keith knight: That I was looking at them was kind of bizarre but the weirdest thing was my white roommate was on a bus at the top of the hill.

180

00:30:20.010 --> 00:30:28.830

keith knight: And he came down the hill and he said he looked down there. He said, all these cop cars with down there. All these lights flashing. And he said, Oh man, SFPD hassling another black men.

181

00:30:29.880 --> 00:30:43.050

keith knight: And then, as he got closer and saw my hair. He was like, Oh man, that's my black man. And so the bus stops just across the street, and then it pulls off and my my roommate is crossing the street.

182

00:30:43.680 --> 00:31:03.630

keith knight: HE'S ABOUT 5'5, you know, he's not a big guy. He comes running across traffic and there's about six police officers there and he's screaming bloody hell and he's going what the F get like you screaming and running at them in slow motion.

183

00:31:05.460 --> 00:31:15.060

keith knight: And you see all these six cops all turn around and they see this guy coming up them like running at them and they all turn around and they all go

184

00:31:15.900 --> 00:31:24.720

keith knight: Take it easy, buddy, take it slow. Everything's gonna be okay and that moment right there.

185

00:31:25.470 --> 00:31:33.330

keith knight: Was the epitome of white privilege, because if he had been a black man and he had been of somebody brown

186

00:31:33.780 --> 00:31:43.800

keith knight: He would have been tased, he would have been beaten, he would have been arrested or worse. And so that was the traumatizing moment for me.

187

00:31:44.490 --> 00:32:03.990

keith knight: And that's the moment that we use in the show woke to sort of trigger this thing, but for me it just made me double and triple down on the work that I was doing. And really, sort of, you know, bring this bring this home. So I'm going to jump ahead a little bit

188

00:32:06.090 --> 00:32:18.450

keith knight: And tell and just, I don't want you know I want you guys ask them questions and stuff like that. But, you know, people sit there go you know why talking about race, all the time like it's getting a racial headache.

189

00:32:19.680 --> 00:32:21.240

keith knight: And here's the thing.

190

00:32:22.920 --> 00:32:24.750

keith knight: Black people didn't make it about race

191

00:32:26.220 --> 00:32:41.130

keith knight: White people made it about race and I can't every aspect of our lives of our lives are shaded by this from the election to

192

00:32:42.390 --> 00:33:01.950

keith knight: buying a house to getting a loan to getting an education to everything is a part of this now America does its best not to not to talk about it, but it is a part of everything and

193

00:33:02.970 --> 00:33:11.370

keith knight: There's nothing that you can say to me that has nothing to do with it. And then when people say, Well, it happened a long time ago. Get over it.

194

00:33:12.510 --> 00:33:15.690

keith knight: Um, I just say to you that

195

00:33:17.280 --> 00:33:22.320

keith knight: Jesus was a long time ago, and no one seems to be getting over that. So,

196

00:33:23.700 --> 00:33:38.010

keith knight: We, if you look at the timeline of of slavery and segregation. We have black people have been in bondage longer longer than may have been free

197

00:33:38.820 --> 00:33:53.820

keith knight: And if you know anything about breaking anything from a pencil to a window to a skateboard to a human being. It takes a lot longer to fix something

198

00:33:54.390 --> 00:34:05.040

keith knight: Than it is to break something, and and this happens, happens especially in Boston. When I do this slideshow. People say, what, what about the Irish the Irish were treated so badly.

199

00:34:05.520 --> 00:34:26.430

keith knight: When people say that to me about the Irish. It just shows you how little we learn about black history black history we spend the shortest month telling five or six feel good stories and the fact that people compare what the Irish went through to what black people went through.

200

00:34:28.080 --> 00:34:35.280

keith knight: When the Irish came over here. They were not laid down in the bottom of slave ships like sardines.

201

00:34:36.750 --> 00:34:49.830

keith knight: They weren't expected. They weren't brought over with the people bringing them expecting, most of them to die and and so they would just have the strongest ones to sell. They didn't

202

00:34:53.550 --> 00:35:04.980

keith knight: Assault them sexually and they didn't sit there and have people vomit on each other and and crap each other. And when babies were born tossed over the side

203

00:35:05.400 --> 00:35:25.770

keith knight: They didn't have their names and their, their culture and everything stripped from them. And so when people say that it's this, it's they we don't learn anything we learn nothing about the slave trade, and it's slavery built this country, think about

204

00:35:26.880 --> 00:35:27.750

keith knight: Think about

205

00:35:29.310 --> 00:35:45.210

keith knight: What could you build if you had three centuries of free labor. What could you build and if you wanted more labor, you would just assault them or if you wanted to make more money you would assault them and make more and then sell them.

206

00:35:48.330 --> 00:35:50.070

keith knight: That's what we're dealing with.

207

00:35:51.510 --> 00:36:04.170

keith knight: And when people say, well, Lincoln freed the slaves. There's a great. There's a great interview with freed slaves in the 1930s and they talked about how when their owner

208

00:36:04.650 --> 00:36:14.310

keith knight: Their master found out that they were free, he said, Y'all are free now. Get the f off of my property or I will start shooting.

209

00:36:15.720 --> 00:36:33.330

keith knight: And then suddenly these folks who knew nothing different or suddenly had to get off the property and they said they walked around looking for a place to stay, looking for work looking for an education and none of it, they could get none of it.

210

00:36:34.560 --> 00:36:38.820

keith knight: And this is what we had to deal with and

211

00:36:40.140 --> 00:36:52.590

keith knight: We know that the descendants of people from the Holocaust, have a higher degree of depression, suicide, a lot of different issues. What do you think

212

00:36:54.120 --> 00:36:58.890

keith knight: Descendant of folks who went through this. What do you think they are going through

213

00:37:00.120 --> 00:37:07.980

keith knight: And that's the question I tried to ask with the slideshows. Now I'm going to jump quickly through this. Oh, I will say this.

214

00:37:09.270 --> 00:37:12.690

keith knight: And I use this because racial equity Institute, does this

215

00:37:13.950 --> 00:37:26.760

keith knight: Imagine as a white person you walk into a room and there's a bunch of black people playing Monopoly for three hours and they turn to you and they say, hey, you wanna play and you look at the board and you say, but

216

00:37:27.840 --> 00:37:34.920

keith knight: All the properties are bought up there's hotels and all the railroads about up and and the black people turn to you and go.

217

00:37:36.120 --> 00:37:41.280

keith knight: I started out with \$200 you're starting out with \$200. What's the problem.

218

00:37:42.810 --> 00:37:44.880

keith knight: That's essentially

219

00:37:46.200 --> 00:37:57.930

keith knight: The situation that black folks have 40 acres and a mule was promised it was never given. So when people say pull yourself up by your bootstraps.

220

00:37:59.310 --> 00:38:15.660

keith knight: We never got the bootstraps. So my uncle who couldn't get into MassArt my grandma, my great uncle, my grandmother couldn't get the education they couldn't get housing, they couldn't get all this stuff to build wealth, and in the meantime.

221

00:38:16.950 --> 00:38:20.310

keith knight: Whites could do that. And so we are

222

00:38:21.330 --> 00:38:34.980

keith knight: Automatically behind and what's going on today is the result of all those issues. And so what I try to do in my slideshow. This is the other thing is the education.

223

00:38:38.100 --> 00:38:51.270

keith knight: We use, you know, the fact that I had this teacher that gave us James Baldwin that gave us. My Angela, was he was a diamond in the rough. We need to diversify the education that we get

224

00:38:52.290 --> 00:39:04.320

keith knight: Howard Zinn's People's History United States is a must for schools because we don't learn anything. And no one learns anything about the contributions of people of color.

225

00:39:04.740 --> 00:39:18.210

keith knight: Black people Native Americans, Asians, Mexicans to this country we always learned that white people did it all the time. So then you have politicians like Steve King saying we do everything. Why should we give anything to anybody else. We do everything.

226

00:39:19.440 --> 00:39:28.080

keith knight: White people are so convinced that they've done everything that if they have evidence that they didn't do it aliens did it so essentially

227

00:39:29.160 --> 00:39:40.530

keith knight: They know that they didn't make the pyramids. So aliens came down and did it. So what I'm saying is we need to

228

00:39:43.290 --> 00:39:54.960

keith knight: We need to work on acknowledging the situation we've created and and then until we acknowledge it, we can move forward to try to solve it.

229

00:39:56.100 --> 00:40:02.580

keith knight: And so that's what I tried to do with my comics. I'm going to jump past all the really horrible stuff but

230

00:40:03.690 --> 00:40:09.900

keith knight: There was so much black history. We could be teaching. That is amazing. Robert smalls Josephine Baker bass.

231

00:40:11.580 --> 00:40:12.330

keith knight: Reeves.

232

00:40:14.730 --> 00:40:32.760

keith knight: The fact that we don't teach. If you want to teach the contributions of black folks to this country. I don't understand why we don't teach that you know black people, you know, essentially created rock all the music that everyone's listening to rock and roll hip hop.

233

00:40:34.350 --> 00:40:46.200

keith knight: Electronic like all that stuff is invented by black people. If it wasn't for black people all the music on the radio would sound like the bad flute music at Renaissance fairs.

234

00:40:47.280 --> 00:40:52.290

keith knight: We need to value the contributions of everybody in this country.

235

00:40:53.310 --> 00:41:03.120

keith knight: So I'm going to jump forward to all the bad stuff past all the bad stuff, but everything that's happened in now has happened in the past.

236

00:41:04.110 --> 00:41:18.450

keith knight: This is the same as this. This is a lynching of public lynching send a message to the rest of the community. This is a public lynching to send a message that community slavery begat

237

00:41:20.490 --> 00:41:29.700

keith knight: begat sharecropping so essentially slaves weren't paid anything sharecroppers got paid pennies a day to do the same thing.

238

00:41:30.330 --> 00:41:41.190

keith knight: And now prisoners. Do the same thing that sharecroppers, and slaves did and they get paid. Yeah, maybe a couple of dollars a day.

239

00:41:41.670 --> 00:41:52.200

keith knight: So there was an interview with a guy, a few weeks ago who talked about going to prison for the first time and how he was shackled by his feet and shackled by his hands, and it was loaded onto a bus.

240

00:41:52.590 --> 00:42:01.560

keith knight: With a bunch. Way too many people squish down to a bus and they drove five hours and they stripped him of his name of his ID everything often

241

00:42:02.340 --> 00:42:16.320

keith knight: Basically dehumanized and he said it felt like a slave ship it felt like a slave ship. We have people in jail fighting fires. We have people in jail, making lingerie car parts and

242

00:42:17.850 --> 00:42:33.420

keith knight: We're okay with this. That's a problem that is a real problem. So we need to acknowledge this. I know Joel's doing amazing work with it. I'm doing the work that I do, but the so many people doing it.

243

00:42:34.560 --> 00:42:39.990

keith knight: Now I just repurpose this all lives matter thing to put all votes matter.

244

00:42:41.280 --> 00:42:46.980

keith knight: Just put that out there. But yeah, you know, the whole Black Lives Matters thing when people talk to me about it.

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00:42:47.490 --> 00:43:00.330

keith knight: You know, if I have a bumper sticker on the back of my car that says Save the rainforest. It doesn't mean F. The other forests, it means that the rain forests are getting cut down and we have to do something about it. That's the same thing with black lives matter.

246

00:43:00.660 --> 00:43:03.330

keith knight: It's not a terrorist group, it's not

247

00:43:04.560 --> 00:43:20.850

keith knight: You know, I live in North Carolina and our city hall has Black Lives Matters flags hanging outside of it and and people are saying that they're intimidated by it that they should take them down, which is, you know, the idea of

248

00:43:22.170 --> 00:43:30.270

keith knight: Of giving people equal rights under the law. If that if that's a threat to you.

249

00:43:31.290 --> 00:43:33.360

keith knight: That's not, that's not our problem.

250

00:43:36.060 --> 00:43:43.650

keith knight: You know, people always say, Well, why don't you do it PEACEFULLY. HE TRIED TO DO IT peacefully and look what happened to him. Same thing happened to him.

251

00:43:44.940 --> 00:43:51.690

keith knight: You know the reason why people Riot is because it actually get something

252

00:43:53.400 --> 00:44:05.700

keith knight: WE LEARNED ABOUT THE TEA PARTY, THE TEA PARTY WAS THE TEA PARTY back in the day was a riot people dressed as Native Americans and they destroyed all this product.

253

00:44:06.030 --> 00:44:12.060

keith knight: And for some reason that's celebrated, but we do it now and it's the whoa, why are you doing this

254

00:44:12.960 --> 00:44:27.300

keith knight: Listen riots after George Floyd got the charge change from third degree murder, which I've never heard of to secondary degree murder and also got everybody who was around him that day, charged with

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00:44:29.100 --> 00:44:34.770

keith knight: Charged which they weren't charging and it also got LAPD thing cut budget cut

256

00:44:35.880 --> 00:44:44.250

keith knight: And when people say Martin Luther King did it peacefully. Back in the day, that's another evidence of people not learning about our history.

257

00:44:44.640 --> 00:44:58.890

keith knight: learning about dog police dogs and fire hoses and stuff being poured on people and bombings Martin Luther King was stabbed. He was jailed, he was assassinated. So when you say, oh, he did a piece really he did it right. No, no.

258

00:44:59.550 --> 00:45:04.500

keith knight: He did it the right way. And he was a disrupter just like everybody else was

259

00:45:06.420 --> 00:45:14.250

keith knight: Stuff is coming down because of that stuff. It's symbolic. It's wonderful. That's great. But we need real systemic change.

260

00:45:15.210 --> 00:45:21.660

keith knight: Systemic when I talk about systemic racism, you know, people know the racism of getting called something

261

00:45:22.110 --> 00:45:41.940

keith knight: Driving by a car but systemic racism is the fact that I received I read more books where the animals. Animals were protagonists and I didn't read any books where folks of color, where the protagonists that systemic a we saw this happening.

262

00:45:43.110 --> 00:45:47.370

keith knight: That's a more recent thing. Oh, and now let's get to woke really quickly.

263

00:45:49.440 --> 00:46:01.710

keith knight: I moved to LA because my industry was imploding going away. It's like, I gotta develop something for TV and I just met the right people and I convinced them.

264

00:46:02.610 --> 00:46:15.300

keith knight: It's about storytelling. I think as cartoonists we are great storytellers. I was able to convince enough people that my story was unique enough yet universal enough to make it to the small screen.

265

00:46:15.960 --> 00:46:21.060

keith knight: This is Moe Marable our director we shot it in Vancouver, because we couldn't afford San Francisco.

266

00:46:22.350 --> 00:46:37.980

keith knight: These the guys in front of the apartment building. It's not really an apartment building. But where they live like Anderson plays Gunther T Murph plays Clovis Moe Marable in the glasses is the director

267

00:46:39.030 --> 00:46:52.170

keith knight: And if you've seen the show and Episode seven my character gets punched out by a koala. And I was the koala. I was dressed as the koala. So that is your easter egg for the day.

268

00:46:52.740 --> 00:46:59.280

keith knight: And this is the last comic strip. This is a tale of two viral emails ONE is about a bumper sticker. The others about a kid that looks like me.

269

00:47:00.180 --> 00:47:05.160

keith knight: racism in America is like that big pile of dog poop that sits on the grass in front of your apartment building.

270

00:47:06.060 --> 00:47:15.180

keith knight: It's been there for as long as you can remember it and nobody knows how it got there. Nobody wants it there yet. No one wants to clean it up. They say, Why should I, I didn't leave it there.

271

00:47:15.990 --> 00:47:25.740

keith knight: Soon you just accept it. Do your best to avoid and or ignore it. It's that pile of poop that allow someone like Trayvon Martin to be murdered, while his killer walks

272

00:47:26.640 --> 00:47:34.650

keith knight: The flies that are attracted to that poop are the people who don't put don't renege bumper stickers on the vehicles. I don't care about the flies just clean up the poop.

273

00:47:35.490 --> 00:47:43.620

keith knight: So if you ever wondered what you would do if you were alive in the civil rights movement, now is the time to find out now right now.

274

00:47:44.640 --> 00:47:45.450

keith knight: Literally

275

00:47:46.980 --> 00:47:49.290

keith knight: This is not a time to sit on the sidelines.

276

00:47:50.640 --> 00:48:02.880

keith knight: There are people who are aggressively want to wipe any sort of diversity out away from this country.

277

00:48:04.140 --> 00:48:07.890

keith knight: It's not enough to just not be racist.

278

00:48:09.090 --> 00:48:11.250

keith knight: You have to be actively anti-racist.

279

00:48:12.720 --> 00:48:21.810

keith knight: And it's harsh. It's not easy to call people out on their stuff. It's awkward and weird and relationships will be destroyed.

280

00:48:22.830 --> 00:48:42.780

keith knight: But I tell you, it gets easier as you get into it and I suggest that you read up and have discussions and with me and with your fellow students, but this is a moment in time where and, you know,

281

00:48:45.900 --> 00:48:47.880

keith knight: The president that's in office right now.

282

00:48:50.040 --> 00:48:52.290

keith knight: Even if he's gone. He's just a symptom.

283

00:48:53.730 --> 00:48:59.460

keith knight: He just brought up what has been sitting in this country for a very long time.

284

00:49:01.230 --> 00:49:09.120

keith knight: It's always been that way and we need to, it's better to know it, then not know it, and we need to address it.

285

00:49:09.870 --> 00:49:22.680

keith knight: And that's the only way we're going to move forward. It's not going to be solved in my lifetime. It's not gonna be solved for another 800 years but we need to move forward and use the comparison, listen.

286

00:49:23.760 --> 00:49:26.880

keith knight: I don't litter I teach my kids not to litter

287

00:49:28.500 --> 00:49:43.140

keith knight: But that doesn't mean that we can't. We have to go to the beach. We have to go to the forest, and we have to clean up the forest and the beaches, because there are systems in place that create garbage everywhere.

288

00:49:44.280 --> 00:50:02.310

keith knight: And so we have to actively be anti-litter anti sexist anti racist. We have to be active. So that's it for my slideshow very quick version, but if you have any questions, I appreciate it. Thank you.

289

00:50:03.540 --> 00:50:04.830

keith knight: For support me on Patreon.

290

00:50:07.980 --> 00:50:08.430

keith knight: Alright.

291

00:50:08.880 --> 00:50:09.660

Joel Gill: Keith that was great.

295

00:50:34.800 --> 00:50:39.960

Joel Gill: Let me, let me just ask a question. Um,

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00:50:43.230 --> 00:50:51.090

Joel Gill: One of the things that I think is really interesting about, you know, like all of the work that you do and all of the things that that you bring up

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00:50:52.230 --> 00:50:58.560

Joel Gill: You know, like a lot of students, figure a lot of students have issues with this whole thing, right. Like what, like trying to be an artist and what you have to do.

298

00:50:59.250 --> 00:51:09.210

Joel Gill: What, what motivated you to for this to be your passion. Like, why was this the thing that I want to say, Why is this the thing that like this is the hill you decided to die.

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00:51:09.990 --> 00:51:14.460

Joel Gill: This is, this is the place. Why was this the thing that kind of stuck in your head, because a lot of people just do

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00:51:14.700 --> 00:51:21.990

Joel Gill: You know there are art people who are like, I'm just going to go the route and just make work. But why is this the thing that you decided to do. I mean, I know the answer, but maybe other bit going on, though.

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00:51:22.200 --> 00:51:25.260

keith knight: Yeah, I mean for me. And here's the thing. I mean,

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00:51:28.890 --> 00:51:42.720

keith knight: It for me it's I have, I have to do it in a sense, and we kind of address this in the show, which is like, it's hard to be a black male artist and not

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00:51:44.670 --> 00:51:55.230

keith knight: Address what's going on, you know, like I wish I could just do stuff about unicorns and just happiness, like this, like we love them.

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00:51:56.370 --> 00:52:07.320

keith knight: But I can't, I can't. And I what I found is when I would do this stuff about race, it would resonate with people and being able to take

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00:52:08.370 --> 00:52:16.890

keith knight: Use a metaphor and use these illustrations and to distill this stuff down in such simple ways to get the point across.

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00:52:17.460 --> 00:52:27.240

keith knight: I think cartoonists our modern day court jesters and so we're able to do this stuff. And so I just found that people

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00:52:27.930 --> 00:52:41.070

keith knight: Really responded to the work. And so I leaned into it and it just turned out like once I started getting invited to do all the slideshows I realized that I love presenting this stuff in person.

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00:52:41.610 --> 00:52:56.430

keith knight: You know, I'm fine with doing it over, zoom, but I just love getting into discussions and we'll sit and discuss this stuff because there's so much to tell. There's so many stories that we are missing out on.

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00:52:57.870 --> 00:53:04.680

keith knight: Because of this education system that which is frankly is just geared towards lifting up

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00:53:05.940 --> 00:53:16.260

keith knight: European people and making everybody else feel inferior and you don't realize that coming up because you're taught as a kid.

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00:53:17.550 --> 00:53:27.060

keith knight: And this is America. Everything is equal, but then, you know, as a woman as a person of color, you start to see people moving forward.

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00:53:27.690 --> 00:53:38.250

keith knight: And doing and you're like, Okay, you know, is it me, and then you start to realize like, no, it's not me like I am watching legacies of people

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00:53:38.700 --> 00:53:51.420

keith knight: Who have, you know, from their fun they have money they have things they have businesses that get passed down and just we just didn't have that and

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00:53:52.290 --> 00:54:01.590

keith knight: And historically, we know that families build wealth through education and through real estate owning a house and when

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00:54:02.070 --> 00:54:08.670

keith knight: The US government was giving out low cost loans to people, Americans. They weren't giving them out to black people.

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00:54:09.210 --> 00:54:19.500

keith knight: So in the 30s and 40s and 50s, like, you know, people were getting their first homes and black folks were getting put into designated areas and towns.

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00:54:20.160 --> 00:54:29.970

keith knight: That were circled on the map saying don't give loans to folks, that's how ghettos were formed and we need to know these stories because

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00:54:30.930 --> 00:54:39.900

keith knight: You know, black people fought in World War one and World War Two. To give rights to people that they didn't have at home and then they come home and get treated. They would be

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00:54:40.950 --> 00:54:48.990

keith knight: Beaten and murdered by the same people, they thought the side overseas and people need to know that stuff.

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00:54:50.130 --> 00:54:58.620

keith knight: And it's, it's an ugly history. It's an ugly history, but it's better to know than to not know

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00:54:59.370 --> 00:55:09.750

keith knight: Because we have this fairy tale history we I call it pop music. You ever notice how the worst music you hear you always hear everywhere because it's on commercials. It's on.

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00:55:10.020 --> 00:55:25.800

keith knight: It's on the POP Station all the stuff and you ever noticed that the best music is you have to dig in the crates for it. You have to go left to the dial and find like you have to really find it and it's the same with history, Christopher Columbus is pop music

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00:55:27.690 --> 00:55:36.540

keith knight: The pilgrims are pop music Christopher Columbus, in his own words. If you read Howard Zinn's People's History United States, the first five pages.

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00:55:36.900 --> 00:55:51.900

keith knight: Will he says in his own words why he should not have a holiday. He explains it. And so we need to we have to actively find that, because it's not going to be served to us, just like the good music is not going to be served to us.

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00:55:53.190 --> 00:55:54.960

keith knight: That's a very long answer, I'm sorry.

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00:55:56.250 --> 00:55:58.650

Joel Gill: No, that was great.

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00:56:06.510 --> 00:56:07.410

Joel Gill: give somebody else a chair.

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00:56:07.620 --> 00:56:12.420

keith knight: Here's a question. What do you do when you just get tired of it all, having to constantly defend. Oh, believe me.

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00:56:14.040 --> 00:56:16.170

keith knight: We are we are completely tired.

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00:56:17.310 --> 00:56:24.090

keith knight: Tired constantly, but we have to we have at every moment of our lives.

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00:56:25.140 --> 00:56:30.330

keith knight: This is what we live under constantly WE HAVE TO VALIDATE OURSELVES.

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00:56:31.350 --> 00:56:44.670

keith knight: We have to watch our every move because at any time at any time police officer can say like, Let's go get that person, you know, and in somehow, some way or be justified.

334

00:56:45.600 --> 00:56:58.200

keith knight: If I got shot that day immediately the media would tell would say I was in a rap group so that immediately. That's a tag that I had stuff in my system immediately that's a tag, you know,

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00:56:59.220 --> 00:57:12.360

keith knight: He was hanging up rather know he was, you know, doing some thing. Oh, he had a stapler. He had a staple which looks more like a gun. Then most things, people get shot over and so

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00:57:13.470 --> 00:57:24.450

keith knight: There's so many things we have to deal with. I don't know if you see that story about the mixed race couple. They were trying to get an appraisal of their home.

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00:57:25.200 --> 00:57:44.430

keith knight: And so they got an appraisal and they thought it was kind of low. So then they removed any aspect of the black wife any pictures of black people any evidence of and then the like I was just there and their house got appraised for like \$65,000 more like it's that

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00:57:45.450 --> 00:57:59.490

keith knight: It's everywhere it's insidious, it's everywhere in every aspect and white folks don't have to live like that. Yeah, it's like efficient water like when you ask a fish, how's the water they like what water.

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00:58:24.720 --> 00:58:27.180

Joel Gill: What can we do on the ground in terms of fighting racism.

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00:58:29.430 --> 00:58:43.440

keith knight: There's, you know I'm not the person to asked for that stuff, but I can give you a bunch of this some resources that I connect people to but there's a ton of different things that you can do. You know, one of the things that

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00:58:44.610 --> 00:58:45.750

keith knight: I tell people that

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00:58:47.700 --> 00:58:56.310

keith knight: There are like things that you can send money to to like bail black mothers out of jail so they can be with their kids because you know

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00:58:57.210 --> 00:59:09.720

keith knight: The fact that we have a jail system that like with cash bail and like, you know, rich people never have to spend time in jail because they just pay just get out where poor people like they are stuck and they're sit there in jail.

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00:59:10.290 --> 00:59:23.640

keith knight: And so, I mean, there's so many things, but even the littlest things calling out somebody at Thanksgiving dinner, I got an email from somebody from

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00:59:24.150 --> 00:59:37.230

keith knight: My college I went to school in I graduated in 1990 so it's been 30 years but I got an email from somebody who just wanted to thank me because in college.

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00:59:37.740 --> 00:59:52.140

keith knight: I had called them out for a joke that they had said in the dormitory and they said you didn't you weren't angry about it, you just explain why it was F'd up, you know,

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00:59:52.950 --> 01:00:04.080

keith knight: The, the joke and how you know it's not funny. And it sat with her and she said that she started to realize like

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01:00:04.980 --> 01:00:15.240

keith knight: Start calling down her parents and family members on all these jokes of it. And she said, like now like her kids play with all these different kids and something she never did.

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01:00:16.350 --> 01:00:20.790

keith knight: But she just wanted to thank me for call her out 30 years ago.

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01:00:21.900 --> 01:00:25.890

keith knight: I don't remember the person. I don't remember ever doing it. I might have been stoned

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01:00:30.180 --> 01:00:30.570

keith knight: And

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01:00:31.740 --> 01:00:40.320

keith knight: I don't remember a thing, but those little things where you don't think you've done anything could be like a huge thing for other folks.

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01:00:41.820 --> 01:00:50.700

keith knight: So like those little things, man

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01:01:17.700 --> 01:01:29.820

keith knight: don't rely on your

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01:01:30.930 --> 01:01:45.060

keith knight: Asian or Black or Latino friend to inform you know to give you all the answers because all the answers are out there you know it's and we need to go find those answers ourselves because we're figuring out all this stuff too.

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01:01:46.440 --> 01:01:46.860

keith knight: But

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01:01:48.150 --> 01:02:00.720

keith knight: You know it's okay to have the discussions and it's okay to make mistakes. The fact that you're making an effort is a huge thing

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01:02:23.850 --> 01:02:24.750

Joel Gill: Well, Keith.

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01:02:25.920 --> 01:02:42.630

Joel Gill: I think we're good. I think that was fantastic. Thank you so much. Remember everybody. I said, when you leave tonight just turn on when you go to sleep tonight just turn the volume down and just turn on woke on Hulu and just let it play does that is helpful.

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01:02:43.710 --> 01:02:51.480

Joel Gill: Just like buying books. Books are helpful. So when you buy one of Keith's books. It gets books requested from your library to then you get multiple copies of it going on to the system. So,

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01:02:51.690 --> 01:02:57.990

Joel Gill: Keith Thank you so much for coming. This was really great specifically right now to give us a little bit of a diversion.

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01:02:58.230 --> 01:03:05.160

Joel Gill: From all of us trying to do math and checking our phones like it's absolutely fantastic. So thank you so much. Thank you everybody for coming.