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SPEAKERS

Speaker 10, Speaker 7, Speaker 11, Speaker 3, Speaker 8, Speaker 12, Speaker 6, Speaker 4, Speaker 17, Speaker 9, Jewel Gray, Speaker 15, Speaker 16, Speaker 1, Speaker 13, Speaker 5, Speaker 14, Speaker 18

J

Jewel Gray 00:02

Okay, was that good or what. Jimmy is going to mit, he's gonna die when he knows he missed this kind of QMZ tonight and that Jim is doing a great job. I want to tell you guys, that something we don't normally do, but I'd be glad to do anytime I'm doing a show, is make dedications or make mention of someone, if you want to call us and say, hey, you know, I'd like to, you know, dedicate a song if we can, if we have it, we'll, we'll do it. If not, we'll make a substitution. But what I wanted to say tonight, happy birthday from Daniel, to Erika. E-a-r-i-k-a. Erica, that's an interesting spelling of that. Also, I'd like to say hi to MJ and Hope. I know you're listening. I'd also like to say, just for public record, that this show and every show I do is dedicated to the men and women at the Bering Care Center. And you know, that's where I work. And that's where my heart is. And I really want my guys out there, listen to me, and I want them to know that that is where my heart is. You are listening to and I'll give you a rundown. And I want to tell you here that what we're going to do is we're going to do This Way Out at 1:15. And meantime, we're going to talk to some people to drop in to tell us some stuff that they think of you know, we're like that down here, you drop in and we'll see if, if your stuff is appropriate for the radio and then we screen you further for whether you're cool or not. And we put you on the air. So let me get back to this, we listened to while ago, Phranc, "I Enjoy Being A Girl." Fred Schneider, cut, "Cut the Concrete." Faith No More, "Be Aggressive." The Washington Sisters, "Rock Me Baby." Yer Girlfriend, "We Won't Be Silent." RNP, "Be Political, Not Polite." That's Romanovsky and Phillips to you uncool people and Michael Callen "Living in Wartime." So that's what you listen to while you were listening to This Way Out. And it was a good selection of I mean, not This Way Out, QMZ. It was a good selection of music, I thought. And we got some more later. We also had some phone numbers and some information coming up here in a little bit. And maybe we'll take some calls if we get some time. So where was I? I was going to do something very important. Um, let's see. I have lost it. It is gone. And we'll just have to move on. Diane was here a few minutes ago and she had a sick headache and had to go home. Darn. She didn't have that vest on but you know, yeah, you know, I love Diane. Yes, you do. I hope she's listening. And hope her lover's not. I know she's gonna be in trouble now.

Oh, boy. Oh, boy. Let's see what I do have here is I have Syd. Syd is here. Syd is 19. And what I would consider gorgeous, and he's coming to talk to us about something that he thinks is important. Oh, you're not on? Let me get you on here. Okay, try now talk to me.

 Speaker 3 03:05

Hi.

 Jewel Gray 03:06

Okay, that's a little bit better. That's it. And he's here to talk to me about something he feels is real important. And, and Syd is a young man who comes down occasionally and talks with us about things that are going on in his world in particular, sometimes, as an older person, I tend to forget that they younger people do have a whole culture unto themselves, and philosophy unto themselves. And sometimes we like to open this mic up to let Syd tell us what he thinks is going on. We also offered to let Syd's friends come in. But they all decided they were shy except for the one whose breasts were on fire. I liked her. And there she is. Oh boy. Oh boy. Have a seat. Say hi.

 Speaker 3 03:50

She brought a CD that I thought, if you wanted to, might play.

 Jewel Gray 03:55

Okay, let me, let us look at it because you know, we have to go across everything we do. But Syd's here to talk about something he thinks is real important right now. What is that Syd?

 Speaker 3 04:03

It's the Cyndi Lauper one, there's a song called Tear of Heartbeat.

 Jewel Gray 04:07

Okay, what number is that? Do you know?

 Speaker 3 04:10

I don't remember.

 Jewel Gray 04:12

Tear of Heartbeat. Okay. No one will tell me what tell me what it is you wanted to talk to me about tonight?

 Speaker 3 04:17

I was just, you know, I'm very concerned about you know, the teenage culture and how, how they're not really concerned about you know, most of the issues and, and that I thought I'd just come down and maybe you know, talk about a few issues.

 Jewel Gray 04:31

Before we get into those issues, let's talk about your concern about your, your peers, not really being concerned with issues. This is something you, you've talked to people and you find that they're, you know, talking frivolous stuff, or they're just not interested or what?

 Speaker 3 04:45

Well, my ex boyfriend,

 Jewel Gray 04:47

Talk in the mic.

 Speaker 3 04:48

My ex boyfriend seemed to be concerned about a lot of issues, but he never really took the time to really think about them too much. And I just kind of thought, you know, that um, he kind of got mad at me when I did, and it seems like a lot of people out there, they just don't, you know, they think about, you know, who they're gonna go out with, and, you know, their parents and stuff and, and they don't really. And they talk about all these problems like, oh, you know this and oh, that and oh, you know gays are oppressed, but they don't really talk about the issues that would maybe help solve, you know, the oppression and stuff. And, and what I read this week and Time Magazine talking about, you know, gay genetics.

 Jewel Gray 05:29

Talk to me about gay genetics.

 Speaker 3 05:30

I think you talked about it. Last week, you had a cake out there.



05:35

Yeah.



Speaker 3 05:36

It said, what did it say? It's in the genes. Right? Because it was, it wasn't about lesbians at all, which I, right, I totally right, I don't understand



Jewel Gray 05:47

We don't exist.



Speaker 3 05:48

How they were excluded. But



Jewel Gray 05:49

We're going to inherit the earth, but we don't exist.



Speaker 3 05:53

But it was talking about, it was studies of gay men that were, it seemed like twins.



Jewel Gray 06:03

It was a big study of twins, who they decided showed certain genetic propensities to being gay. So what you want to say about that is?



Speaker 3 06:15

Well, you know, there were saying, you know how, well it comes from their mother. And it comes from you know, this, and



Jewel Gray 06:20

You're talking about the chromosomes and indexing.



Speaker 3 06:23



Speaker 3 00:20

You know, the thing is, you know, it seemed like around here and around the Montrose area where everyone was saying, well, it's, it's a new issue. And the thing is, these articles come out periodically, all the time, about people trying to prove or disprove gays existence, and how it came to be, what I say is, I've met a lot of different people who've had a lot of different lives, some of them good, some of them wonderful. And, and as far as, you know, whether to make it an issue, and to prove or disprove gays existence is quite a waste of time. And because we're here, and you know, how everyone can be happy about it, I can understand that, you know, maybe they can prove it, and people can accept it and go on, but I don't think, you know, the issue of acceptance, you know, is something that, that people care about, I mean, you know, most of the problems in society get blamed on, you know, the odd man out, and that's kind of, or odd woman out. And that's kind of what's, what's happened.

J

Jewel Gray 07:26

So what you're saying is that, it doesn't matter whether they prove it genetically or not, where you still exist, and you're not going to, it won't matter what the conclusion is.

S

Speaker 3 07:35

There, they must have spent a great, great deal of money on this, you know, on this study, and what I'm saying is, you know, where's the money for AIDS research? And, you know, where are the new breakthroughs in that? You know, I don't really, I haven't really seen very many, I've seen a lot of depressing articles, but I haven't seen any uplifting ones.

J

Jewel Gray 07:59

Um, perhaps some, some of what this report will do is to eliminate a big portion of the argument that this is acquired behavior rather than genetic behavior. For example, cheetahs speed, and the baby cat doesn't learn that it's, it's genetically inherited. And it's not a behavior that it learns to survive with its genetic, it comes, and other animals that swim immediately upon birth, these are genetic things. And that perhaps the argument is that it will take away the, the idea that this is learned behavior, and it can be changed.

S

Speaker 4 08:39

Nationality and animal.

J

Jewel Gray 08:42

Talking in here.

S

Speaker 4 08:43

This question homosexuality in animals before. My male dog tried to do something in my male dog

I've seen homosexuality in animals before. My male dog tried to do something in my male dog and my friend had rabbits trying to do each other.

J Jewel Gray 08:53

True, true, and that's that's one of the points that

S Speaker 3 08:57

Comes from her extremely warped family.

J Jewel Gray 09:01

Tell us what your name is.

S Speaker 4 09:03

My name is Genevieve.

J Jewel Gray 09:04

Okay, Genevieve. Your argument is valid. Yes, there are, you know, certain amount of homosexual acts amongst animals. There's just about every species of animals has been noted in some degree that, but that only furthers the argument that it's genetic, rather than a learned behavior, because these animals are also born that way, and it's genetically imposed on them to be whatever it is, they're being like, it is genetically opposed.

S Speaker 14 09:36

They don't care.

J Jewel Gray 09:37

That's right, hormonal, and they don't care who, isn't that just about what teenagers are, hormones. They don't care.

S Speaker 3 09:42

What I'm saying is, you know, you know, you know, back when the blacks were oppressed, because, you know, there were the easy people. They were the ones that were starting to be talked about, and that's us now. Or us for a while now. Talking about, well, their brain capacity and all these ludicrous studies when, you know people knew inside, right, you know, it was the

same, just crap. But they were just trying to, you know, they're pouring all this money. And, and basically they got all the flack because they were the oppressed people right at the time, they were the easiest people to pick on, and to blame all the problems on and I don't really think people really care whether other people are gay or not.

J Jewel Gray 10:27

So it doesn't matter. You know, think to the bigots out there, whether it's genetic or not. They're gonna hate us anyway.

S Speaker 3 10:32

Yeah, yeah.

J Jewel Gray 10:33

I see what you're saying. Yeah. So why spend that money trying to figure that out.

S Speaker 4 10:36

You're threatening their view on God, because God made you according to them. And it's gonna scare them that you're saying that God made you the way that you're saying you were born. It's gonna scare them, that you're going against what they believe.

S Speaker 3 10:50

Oh, most of the people that that talk about, you know, quote the Bible saying it's immoral. And it's this and it's that, are people that do not go to church Sunday morning, which is quite surprising.

J Jewel Gray 11:03

And can I get you to stop just for a minute, I'm sorry. And this must be what Jim's sweating desperately over my shoulder about, we almost missed our style station ID and we're supposed to do it between five of and five after and it's almost five after. So this is KPFT Houston, World Radio 90.1 FM. And that's my FM voice for the for the evening. And I want to remind you, because Matt's been in here, he's lonely tonight. And he says call him, it's 526-KPFT, 526-5738, JAM KPFT. So there we go. I think we took care of that. And we've got a couple of carts we want to play, but I'm gonna play them just before this way out. So, so essentially, that's what you're saying is that your peers are not paying much attention to this.

S Speaker 3 11:53

No.

J Jewel Gray 11:53

And it's important.

S Speaker 3 11:54

It really bothers me, most of them, most of them during the presidential election, you know, last year, were like vote for Clinton and vote for these people in a different organizations, lists of people to vote for were given out, right, the issues are not, we're not on right. And there's people without even knowing anything that, you know, just got up and happen to want to vote that day, because they had nothing else to do. We're voting for people that they didn't even know the issues on.

S Speaker 4 12:22

Too many teenagers are real shallow, they don't give anything but what's happening at the mall and who's dating who, they, they really don't care what's gonna happen within the next year, that's gonna affect their choices. Like there's so many kids running around. Well, I really don't care about pro-choice or pro-life. I really don't care about gay rights. I really don't care about equality among racial barriers. I don't care about anything. I mean, that's basically what everybody's walking around saying,

S Speaker 3 12:50

But um, the youth vote last year was, was, was up, you know.

J Jewel Gray 12:55

Sure was, big time. Yeah. And both our presidential candidate and Vice President made real use of media and MTV interviews and such.

S Speaker 3 13:05

The other two candidates were quite stupid anyway. But um, but the fact that, you know, they weren't really thinking about the issues and that they elected this president he was, who has talked a lot of things but has done basically nothing for for gay issues, or AIDS related issues, which affects everybody.

S Speaker 4 13:26

He's trying not to make a choice period either way, because he doesn't want, he's trying not to

make a choice either way, just because he wants to keep

J Jewel Gray 13:36

Talk in to the mic. We're not getting you at all. Sorry.

S Speaker 4 13:38

He's trying not to make a choice either way, because he's trying to keep his gay voters as well as his straight voters which are homophobic.

J Jewel Gray 13:48

Yeah, I'm really disappointed.

S Speaker 3 13:50

All these pretty lies to get him

S Speaker 4 13:52

Well, he's just scared of what the public might think as a whole, he doesn't know which is more out there.

J Jewel Gray 13:58

Right.

S Speaker 4 13:58

And he doesn't want to win by one point. He wants to be able to stay there by the landslide that he got when he came into office.

S Speaker 3 14:06

Basically, my message that I'm saying is, you know, it's kind of, it's kind of futile to question gays' existence, because they're here, they're queer and get used to it, you know, and that, you know, the fact that, um, you know, there's they're spending all this money on time without not thinking about, you know, this person that we've elected in the White House, who is doing nothing. He's, right, he's sitting there and, you know, we could have had this with George Bush minus a few taxes.

J

Jewel Gray 14:37

So do you guys sit around with your friends and talk about this stuff?

S

Speaker 3 14:41

I'm not Republican either.

J

Jewel Gray 14:43

Do you guys sit around talk about this kind of stuff with your friends?

S

Speaker 3 14:46

I talk about a lot of, with a lot of people who a lot of them seem unresponsive, and that scares me. I'm open with my views. I'm very convicted, but I'm open with my views, but the fact that none of them seem to offer any, any other ones bothers me.

J

Jewel Gray 15:03

Do you try to impress upon them the importance of thinking about this kind of stuff?

S

Speaker 3 15:07

Oh, yes. You know, you know, I've been like, you know, it's important for them to vote even if they're voting for the person that I'm not voting for. I'm like, you know, go there and counteract my vote and, and make a difference but be informed.

S

Speaker 4 15:20

I went to my dance class and put a voter's registration card in every box of everybody that was 18 or over or about to turn 18. And I went and picked up a voter's registration for a girl that was four months away from her 18th birthday. Just so whatever little voting she had to do, it was right in her hand, the voting card, as soon as she turned 18, it would be validated.

J

Jewel Gray 15:42

Cool. Yeah, I guess you guys are working it. Well, have you thought about like these groups and clubs in town? Do they, have you, have you belonged to those groups? Like, you know, we sometimes talk about Hippie and HATCH, and there's a group out in Alief Galora? And have you

S Speaker 3 15:58

I talked to some of those groups sometimes, but um,

J Jewel Gray 16:02

Do they seem any more interested in your general friends?

S Speaker 3 16:04

Well see, I'm not really going to mention which groups did this but one of them handed out the list of people to vote for. And, you know, I'm not really against that because they believe something, but they don't, I never really heard them talk about, you know, what these issues were.

J Jewel Gray 16:19

You think they're just trying to make you make you pull the handle without telling you what you're doing it for.

S Speaker 3 16:23

And it's, it's something that they believe in, and the people that went there and attended might believe in also, but they're not informed.

J Jewel Gray 16:31

Right.

S Speaker 3 16:32

You know, and, you know, I, that does bother me,

J Jewel Gray 16:36

And it bothers me, and it should bother everybody out there when the youth of today is not informed, they become the people running this country in 10 years, 15 years, and that's kind of spooky. You guys are setting up for a record here. But what happened? Did we get Cyndi Lauper on the record on? We're doing technical things here. I want to say something here. Last week, we gave away tickets to see RuPaul. And a young man named Armando, unfortunately did not get his tickets. I don't know what happened to them. And he called here to talk to Scott about it. Well, Scott is not here. What I can say to you, Armando, if you're still listening, and I

hope you are, is that one way or the other, we'll make it good for you. We can't get the RuPaul stuff, but we'll make it good for you one way or the other. I'm sure Scott will replace them with something equally cool coming up real soon. I was at Heaven the other night they had a fundraiser for the Gay and Lesbian Switchboard. And they're starting on Tuesday nights to do fundraisers for all kinds of organizations in town. And they, they had the comedian Jerry Halliday with his puppets, and it was a wonderful show. So in the future, there'll be a lot more stuff going on. So Armando will make it good to you one way or the other. And let's see, do we have that song? Are we queued up? Do we have something ready? Okay, is it Cyndi Lauper?

 S Speaker 3 18:04

I'm not sure it's the right one.

 J Jewel Gray 18:05

We're not sure it's the right one.

 S Speaker 1 18:07

It;s the CD with the galaxy on it.

 S Speaker 3 18:09

Yes, I'm definitely with the galaxy boys. It's very pretty.

 J Jewel Gray 18:13

Okay, so we're gonna go to it. No, that wasn't it. We're going to try again.

 S Speaker 5 18:41

King Crimson and they're talking about elevator music. Every Monday night Tuesday morning midnight till 5:30 in the am with your host uncle Vinny. Doing all manner of odd old music for you and some new music too, KPFT Houston. The home of Elevator Music. Be sure to tune in Monday nights at midnight for five and a half hours of this.

 S Speaker 6 19:27

Dorcas Campbell the president of FSU and his dean of men, Otis McBride was desperate to change FSU image from sissy you to macho you.

S

Speaker 7 19:35

A committee like this should not happen again. I don't believe that people would tolerate it. There is another move in this country to publicly identify homosexuals and to prevent them from getting their full rights under the Constitution.

S

Speaker 8 19:48

We're not yet at the point where people in politics and public office have come to the conclusion that support of gay and lesbian rights is a quote, political majority position to take. I think we are definitely heading in that direction.

S

Speaker 9 20:14

Welcome to This Way Out, the international lesbian and gay radio magazine. I'm Lucia Chappelle.

S

Speaker 10 20:19

And I'm Greg Gordon. Austin census to survey queer couples,

S

Speaker 9 20:23

Vermont and Illinois court rulings on dykes and tights value families.

S

Speaker 10 20:27

And witch hunt records reveal Sunshine State's scandal.

S

Speaker 9 20:31

All that and more because you've discovered This Way Out.

S

Speaker 11 20:34

I'm Brian Nunez

S

Speaker 12 20:46

And I'm Cindy Friedman with News Wrap.

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S

Speaker 11 20:48

A summary of some of the news in reflecting the lesbian and gay community for the week ending July 10, 1993. Australia's 1996 national census will count lesbian and gay couples for the first time. The proposal to the Australian Bureau of Statistics was submitted by activist attorney Andrea Wilson on behalf of the Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby and won a number of significant endorsements. Wilson believes couples may be more open about stating their sexual orientation than single gays and lesbians.

S

Speaker 12 21:19

The US Congress has again intervened to prevent implementation of domestic partners benefits passed in the District of Columbia. The Washington DC city council and Mayor Sharon Pratt Kelly had passed the measure in 1992. But then as now, the House of Representatives specifically denied funds for implementation in its annual DC appropriations bill, leading the charge against what he called a gay marriage law, was Republican Representative Istook of Oklahoma, whose amendment to the appropriations bill passed by a vote of 251 to 177.

S

Speaker 11 21:56

The Vermont State Supreme Court has unanimously approved a lesbian's second parent adoption of her partner's children, Deborah Lashman and Jane Van Buren have lived together since 1986. During that time, Van Buren gave birth to two sons by artificial insemination. Lashman bid to adopt the boys was first investigated by the Vermont social and Rehabilitative Services Department, which found that the adoptions were in the best interests of the children. Probate Judge George Belcher, however, found that Lashman could not adopt because she and Van Buren were not married. The Vermont Supreme Court admitted Belcher had read the law correctly, but called on judges to use discretion in granting adoptions to same gender couples. Justice Denise Johnson wrote for the five member court to deny the children of same sex partners, the security of a legally recognized relationship with their second parent serves no legitimate state interest.

S

Speaker 12 22:53

In another unanimous decision, an Illinois appellate court reversed a lower court to grant liberal visitation rights to a lesbian mother, Sandra Pleasant had first lost custody of her son to her ex-husband, Jimmy Pleasant Sr. then won a circuit court decision that Sandra's conduct was detrimental to the boy, citing her taking the boy to a gay pride parade and kissing her girlfriend in front of him. That decision left Sandra able to visit her son only with the supervision of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, which could be scheduled only a few hours each week. The current appellate ruling returns her to about 17 days visitation per month, including overnight and vacation visits.

S

Speaker 11 23:40

The Bloomington Indiana City Council has unanimously approved a measure to discourage discrimination based on sexual orientation, which the mayor has promised to sign. However,

Bloomington Human Rights Commissioner Steve Sanders called the measure symbolic since Indiana state laws limit the power of cities to legislate human rights. Under the measure, the Human Rights Commission can hold hearings on complaints of discrimination based on sexual orientation, but cannot compel the accused to attend those hearings and has no means to punish offenders.

S

Speaker 13 24:13

Meanwhile, a Missouri group calling itself the Amendment Coalition has begun the process to place on the 1994 statewide ballot and initiative nearly identical to Colorado's Amendment 2, denying protected status based on sexual orientation. Once the Missouri Secretary of State has approved the filing, the Amendment Coalition will have to collect about 125,000 signatures.

S

Speaker 11 24:41

What is believed to be the first book on homosexuality in the Persian language has been produced by a Swedish publisher. Once Again a Forbidden Love was written by Nader Sanai, an Iranian emigrated Sweden. Although Sanai is not gay, he is a supporter of Homan, the International Organization of Farsi Speaking Gays and Lesbians. Once Again a Forbidden Love reviews taboos against homosexuality, including ancient history, prohibitions under Judaism, Christianity and Islam, and contemporary treatment of gays and lesbians in several countries.

S

Speaker 13 25:16

Openly gay poet Thom Gunn has been awarded a \$369,000 Genius Grant by the MacArthur Foundation, perhaps the first openly gay poet to receive one of the five year no strings grants. The foundation said Gunn's work quote, exhibits a scrupulous craft unique intelligence and a sense of moral responsibility end quote, the English born Gunn teaches at the University of California at Berkeley, and is best known for his poetry collections, The Man with Night Sweats and The Passages of Joy.

S

Speaker 11 25:53

The US Department of Transportation became the first cabinet level department to celebrate lesbian, gay and bisexual pride. The department showcased a lesbian and gay history display in the lobby of the Federal Aviation Administration Building, held seminars on AIDS and lesbian gay family issues and put on a gala event in the Department of Transportation courtyard. Transportation Secretary Federico Pena issued policy statements on equal employment opportunity and diversity earlier this year that included sexual orientation as a protected category.

S

Speaker 13 26:25

Turkish gays and lesbians held their first Christopher Street day pride celebration in Istanbul. The three days celebration through July 4 included both educational and social events.

Organizers hope the celebration will be the first step towards a national organization and

Organizers hope the celebration will be the first step towards a national organization and publication for gays and lesbians.

 Speaker 11 26:46

And of course, there were many pride celebrations across the US last month. The grand marshals for San Jose, California's Southbay gay and lesbian pride celebration were designated as everyone living with HIV or AIDS. San Jose's mayor, police chief and sheriff joined in presenting the city's proclamation of gay pride at the culminating street party. In Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, about 500 people joined a rally highlighted by a speech by Sergeant Jose Zuniga. The Sixth Army soldier of the year was recently discharged after coming out as a gay man in connection with the national march in Washington DC.

 Speaker 13 27:25

In the state of Washington, Seattle's annual Pride Parade was watched by about 15,000 people and included Washington Governor Mike Lowry and Seattle mayor Norm Rice. About 350 people marched in Spokane's second annual Pride event. Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania is gay pride parade included about 400 marchers and Atlanta, Georgia had its largest lesbian and gay pride parade ever with about 100,000 marchers.

 Speaker 11 27:55

In Oregon, the Eugene Springfield Gay Pride celebration featured a promise from the Oregon American Civil Liberties Union to challenge in court, the city and county anti-gay and lesbian ballot initiatives past June 29. About 2,000 people participated in Portland's annual pride event. More than 5,000 people marched on the Michigan State Capitol building in Lansing. Albuquerque, New Mexico had its largest gay pride march turnout ever as 300 people participated.

 Speaker 13 28:24

In St. Louis, Missouri, about 2,500 gathered for a gay pride rally where Mayor Freeman Bosley Jr became the first elected city official ever to speak. Bosley announced the appointment of the first open lesbian to the St. Louis Civil Rights Commission. Gay Pride Day in Cincinnati, Ohio was celebrated by about 700 marchers. In Baltimore, Maryland, more than 10,000 people turned out for the gay and lesbian Pride festival.

 Speaker 11 28:52

3,500 people marched in the New Jersey gay and lesbian Pride Parade in Asbury Park, despite bad weather. And in Colorado, about 5,000 people marched in Denver protesting Amendment 2, and about 2,500 people marched in Colorado Springs in a separate event.

S Speaker 13 29:09

And finally, proud parents carried posters with a two part message at the San Francisco gay Freedom Day Parade. The mother's sign had the now familiar statement, we love our lesbian daughter. The dad had the last word, it's our straight daughter who is a pain in the neck.

S Speaker 11 29:36

That's News Wrap for the week ending July 10, 1993. Compiled and written by Cindy Friedman.

S Speaker 13 29:40

Follow the news in your area, an informed community is a strong community. For This Way Out, I'm Cindy Friedman.

S Speaker 11 29:47

And I'm Brian Nunez.

S Speaker 9 29:53

The secret scandal of the Florida State Senate was finally revealed July 1 when records of the John's committee as anti gay and lesbian Inquisition were made public after almost 30 years. The committee named for its homophobic founders state senator Charley Johns, conducted a nine year investigation into alleged treason, communism and homosexuality. The Johns committee's biggest impact was felt in Florida's public schools and universities, where hundreds of teachers lost their jobs and students were expelled by the time it was disbanded in 1965. Its immense collection of documents finding so called moral turpitude and degradation everywhere from bus station restrooms to teen slumber parties was then ordered sealed. But last November's passage of an open records amendment in the state legislature forced the release of the Johns committee files and as This Way Out, Susan Gage reports some people who have reviewed them see a frightening parallel to the current resurgence of anti-gay and lesbian politics in Florida and several other states.

S Speaker 12 31:00

Reporters with all of Florida's major newspapers arrived early in the morning to begin the task of sifting through the thousands of pages of testimony taken by the committee's investigators from 1956 to 1965. The committee's targets were mostly college professors, high school teachers, and students. In one document, committee investigator RJ Strickland grilled a young man enrolled at Florida State University about his relationship with another male student at FSU. Strickland wanted to know where they met. What's the man's name? Was this the young student's first gay sexual experience? And who else did he know who was gay? All of this done in motel rooms using state taxpayers money. When declined deets, does the Capitol bureau chief for the Fort Lauderdale Sun Sentinel. She says the records are an eye opener.

S

Speaker 13 31:50

What's frightening now is there is another move in this country to probably identify homosexuals and to prevent them from getting their full rights under the Constitution. And I think that there's a fear that we could be heading back in that direction, at least in that area.

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Speaker 12 32:06

Frank Coffey was one of the lucky ones. lucky in that as a young gay man attending Florida State University from 1956 to 1960. He and some of his friends who majored in English and modern languages were more interested in poetry than the lure of parties, staged by a man who was an informant for the Johns committee, that, according to Coffey was the way many male students who were exploring with their sexuality found themselves trapped into answering highly personal questions, naming names under intense interrogation. Some of Coffey's acquaintances at FSU and the University of Florida were victims of the committee. The whole memory of those years has led the New York based Coffey to begin writing a book about what went on during those years. In the preface, Coffey discusses the change in the Tallahassee campus from Florida State College for Women to the coed Florida State University.

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Speaker 14 32:57

Doak S. Campbell, the president of FSU and his dean of men, Otis McBride was desperate to change FSU image from sissy you to macho you. As FSU was a state university, the administration was totally beholden to the legislature for nearly all its funding. They had no choice but to curry favor with those who held the purse strings. And Charley Johns was one of the most powerful members of the Florida Senate. One did not cross in widely. In my opinion, Doak Campbell Stadium was built on the broken lives of FSU's homosexual students and faculty whose lives were so grossly harmed by the cruel and inhuman machinations of the Johns committee.

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Speaker 12 33:34

The names of the committee's victims and some of the witnesses have been blacked out of the records. According to Florida Senate Secretary Joe Brown, the documents marked up are copies of the originals. The actual papers will remain on file in his office until such time as someone orders him to release them. Kevin Coleen, were two of the people going through the records to mark them up for Joe Brown. Both are college students.

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Speaker 15 33:57

It's wild I think I've been learning a lot. A lot of the questions I think were real in depth. I think they could have gotten what they were looking for, without going as deep into the person's life.

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Speaker 16 34:12



Speaker 10 34:12

A committee like this, it should not happen again, to ask us the questions that they asked, with people today wouldn't be answered because I don't believe that people would tolerate it.



Speaker 12 34:24

But Senate Secretary Joe Brown, who says he's more than happy to finally open these records under the Senate's conditions, says recent events lead him to think differently.



Speaker 17 34:33

Some of the things that are going on in this country and this state in this city today. Like the President trying to get the, the military to accept gays and the opposition that he's run into. And then you look at the local Assistant Attorney General here who is now fighting for his life because people are accusing him of using his office to promote homosexuality which he admits that he is homosexual. But he keeps his work and his private life separately. So, you know, maybe we aren't so advanced, as, as you might originally think when you say that we've come a long way since 1957, '59, '61 during those years when this committee was operating.



Speaker 12 35:21

As for what people will actually see, when they look at the records, Brown says it will be less titillating than what the committee made it seem like at the time. In a report to the legislature in 1961, the committee claimed to have 8,000 pictures of pornographic paraphernalia, including dozens of photographs of young boys engaged in homosexual acts. Joe Brown says he has yet to see anything of the kind and the records, leading him to think that they were either destroyed or never existed. In fact, the only pictures Brown has seen of boys appear on the last page of the committee's homosexuality and citizenship in Florida pamphlet.



Speaker 17 35:57

The one that they complained a lot about back there, at the time, that the committee made a big report out of was the 20 or so pictures of young boys standing in their underwear. Well, today, you know, all you gotta do is opened up Sears Roebuck catalog. And you could then as a matter of fact, see people standing in their underwear, you know.



Speaker 12 36:19

If there's a lesson to be learned from the committee, Brown says it's the dangers of letting a government operate in secret. For Frank Coffey, he hopes the release of the John's records will lead to shame for the surviving members of the committee, which include at least one Florida congressman and a member of the Florida State University security staff.



Speaker 18 36:37

 SPEAKER 12 36:46

The records being made public will at least force these people to acknowledge what they did and perhaps even publicly say they're sorry they did it.

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Speaker 12 36:46

The records of the Johns committee will be moved permanently to the Florida State Archives in a few weeks. For This Way Out, this is Susan Gage in Tallahassee.