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SPEAKERS

Buddy Johnston, Greg Gordon, Jimmy Carper, Ray Hill



Jimmy Carper 00:01

thing from John Preston to pack Olivia. And like I said, you don't have to be into it to know about it. That's true. Just educate yourself.



00:15

If you're curious of what some of the items are, we do have a picture book that's sort of you know, well log that picture's worth 1000 words.



Jimmy Carper 00:23

As much as I've read when I've walked into your shop, I've I've have to question what some items are and what you do with them or where you put them on your body. Things like that. And



00:34

I think it was a wristband that's used another way that yeah, asking about last time Yes,



Jimmy Carper 00:39

the one I use for



00:45

my main man here at the microphone just happens to have one of those little wristbands on his wrist and looks well you

what and looks well you

B

Buddy Johnston 00:55

know, oh, well, where are we? Oh, this way out the news? Yes, yes, yes, yes. Wait a minute. What? What's the most we have to be careful with this one? What's the most unusual thing you've ever been asked to make? Someone called in and wants to know, oh,

01:15

let me think about that.

B

Buddy Johnston 01:17

Can't say any of the seven dirty words

01:19

I realized that I realized that gosh, outfits outfits for the Madonna concert when she was in town. Oh, really? Are you serious? Yes. The the the particular segment of our community just seemed to come in and and I was making jokes about very unusual things for that particular concert. They wanted to go

J

Jimmy Carper 01:44

like weather bras or, or must TAs,

01:47

Tas with a lot of chains and sparkles and glitz. And I think most unusual things I was making was for for the Madonna concert that just, you know, isn't

J

Jimmy Carper 01:59

that funny? Because I've been reading

02:03

it was difficult.

J


Jimmy Carper 02:06

 Jimmy Carper 02:00


I've been reading up on leather, you know and that doesn't seem so unusual to me. What he said before about making a leather bedspread that seems unusual.

 02:15


And I think about a pair of leather pants that laced up on the outside the inside Yeah, D rings on it and seemed to come apart in about three different places. That one took me a little bit of imagination. But again, we came through the bedspread that we just finished making as I was telling you earlier about that was a little bit unusual also because we made an entire double queen size bed. And that takes a lot of leather. I think we figured it out about 60 square feet of finished leather. But also he wanted on the bed. So somebody had haphazardly thrown a leather coat that was studded on the corner of the bed. And so I had to make the coat half of a coat come out of the bed spread and the other half just parts of the coat on the bedspread so that when you looked at it you thought this isn't real but that's That

 Buddy Johnston 03:10

sounds beautiful see that's that's what you don't get it all and a lot of shops that I've been to because it takes somebody with their fingers actually putting them on there get something like that to

 03:21

work and I was I was pleased I was real pleased I mean because you have to do half of a leather coat finished and the other half was just the pieces so now think about it there's That sounds wonderful to go on and on about these these specialty items most unusual

 Buddy Johnston 03:38

dip that's probably the most difficult Do you were talking about the pants that were difficult to make?

 Jimmy Carper 03:42


Well that's bread sounds pretty difficult


 03:45


but most people come in with an idea and no history of art class so taking conceptual ideas out of somebody's head and putting them actually into a guard


 Jimmy Carper 03:50


 Jimmy Carper 03:59
I bet it can be difficult sometimes and how these cranes


 04:03
are very yeah and you know they want what they want and you know you can get it from they know what they could tell you that you will they want to be made and you take that so that that's that's a little bit rough we're manage


 Buddy Johnston 04:18
I told boots one time Jimmy that I would like to come down and get a job in his shop part time just measuring men for chaps because you get to get Yeah, Lauren put that little tape measure

 Jimmy Carper 04:30
has got a long list. People are waiting for that.

 04:35
Well actually if we could just narrow the job down to doing Encino. I think they all want to do the NC front rise and back rise. Yes, there we go.

 Buddy Johnston 04:49
Let's listen. Your shops located has

 04:51
been fun 711 Fairview seven lemon Fairview and you're open 12 Noon to eight, six days a week Montrose hours, and we have a shop also in that bar that you mentioned before the ripcord cool, yeah. And when we close at eight o'clock, they open up at two o'clock or on weekends when they have after hours to four o'clock in the morning for hours waiting. So, so we're there from 12 noon till two o'clock in the morning at one location or the other. So, there's no reason not to come down and stop and ask some questions because even even our sales helper, very, very understanding they will take the time to explain things to you and explain what they're used for. Explain how you wear your vest.

 Jimmy Carper 05:36
That's I've always been impressed with the knowledge of the sales people in your in your shop.



Buddy Johnston 05:41

That's what I found when Roger bought a harness or some harnesses or a harness or some vest or something and everyone was so nice and saying this is how you take care of it and you have to put it away this way. And it wasn't just here's your stuff. Give me your money.



06:01

Even our cool months we sell we try to encourage the proper fitting. Well, can you take a look at this? It seems to be pretty well. All the right base.



Buddy Johnston 06:13

doesn't mind. Okay, God, this is radio. Listen, thanks for coming by.



06:18

Anytime I enjoyed this, my heart was pounding when you first asked me to come on and why? Because I've never done something like this before.



Buddy Johnston 06:27

Have you ever heard that? Jimmy? Yeah. Two in the morning. Yeah.



Jimmy Carper 06:30

I've never done this before. I



Buddy Johnston 06:33

usually say shut up green and rollover.



06:38

The two gentlemen are just incredible. Just incredible. Yeah.



Buddy Johnston 06:44

I was trying not to get to work. This has been, you know, we have no luck. Yeah, no, whoa. But the phones are ringing. That's always nice.



06:53

It means that you're listening, and you want to know. And we do want,



Buddy Johnston 06:57

we do want to encourage you to go by and check out this shop and check out the folks because there's some nice people over there.



07:02

And the person that called in and said, if you're a vegetarian, how could you wear leather? Well, all I can say is don't eat your leather vest. Oh.



Buddy Johnston 07:13

Okay. Now, I'm not gonna say that I'm just listen, this is really, this this whole week. And you know this, because you listen to us a lot, this whole week is really hard on me. Because number one, I think that we can do a whole lot better as a gay community than we're doing. I think our so called leadership can do a whole lot better than they're doing. And I think we can quit hurting each other a lot. And I think this is just the beginning of it. If you see someone that is in leather, rather than go, maybe you should stop and say something that could be the guy you're looking for. Yeah, girl, I'm gonna go there after hours. No, just kidding. But seriously, that's one of the reasons that we wanted to talk about leather and what it all means and where it all came from. And earlier, you said the shop began in New York,



08:07

New York, then it went to New Orleans, New Orleans was second brother by boots, and then to Houston,



Buddy Johnston 08:14

and you've been in Houston for now, eight years, in the same location



08:19

in the same location? Yeah, it did. I think that's what people are getting used to is the fact that we've been around and we're going to be around 22 years, we've been making leather and our customers are still from San Francisco, New York, they still fly. And I have one customer that flies in three times a year, to have a new outfit made for him. And he's been a regular for as long as I've been in business. And you know, he just wants to equality and, and the type of help

that we can give when they come in there. So it's good to know that people from Atlanta and New York and you know, they they want that the quality made and we have a reputation for it. And there I am. And I have the fingernails to prove it that everything is handmade and we're just not mass producing or cutting out or throwing together racks of leather. It's all hand done. And that's very special to keeping the price is reasonable is difficult. But man, I think that as far as our leather here in Houston, we seem to have across the nation, the best prices.

 Jimmy Carper 09:23

Well. Not only that, but like you said, leather articles going to last years and years and years. Take a

 09:31


look at that little wristband he's wearing.

 Buddy Johnston 09:32

You must. You must really enjoy your work then.

 09:36

Oh yes, it's very rewarding. You use your hands, use your mind use your communication skills to talk to people. And you you have to be a little bit of oh, I don't want to say psychiatrist or psychologist but you have to have compassion for people that are coming in for the very first time and want to know and they have that yearning in their eyes. eyes to know to know. Yes,

 Buddy Johnston 10:02

maybe once that door opens and you go.

 10:06

Everybody says that everybody says, it is

 Buddy Johnston 10:09

wonderful. It's nice just to drive over there sometimes and go in and say hi. I'm on my way out. Because there's nothing like the smell of leather. Or the little sweater I heard no, nevermind. Go get a grip on yourself here. It's a few minutes after one and Jeff will be 16. Jeff will be here with the news in just a minute. But boots. Thanks for coming by. And we'll have you back again, if you'll come back and talk. I'll come



10:39

back anytime, especially if you want to have a show about people asking me questions. I'll answer Yeah, that'll be fun. Gentlemen. Both are wonderful.



Buddy Johnston 10:49

Listen, thank you. Thanks for coming by baby. Here's Ron and Paul and we're gonna have the news that Jeff right after that, but if you don't have any leather we'll think about getting some but don't feel bad child. Listen to this. This is the story of skin animal skins. We went skins of animals for years and years.



Jimmy Carper 11:13

Absolutely. Yes, speaking of Heavens skin, here is the blonde bombshell. Wait, wait. Speaking of Heavens skin?



Buddy Johnston 11:25

Heavens. Yeah, heavens skin. Yeah, heaven. Get out of here and let them read the news. Okay. Go ahead. Jimmy will edit all that out later. Okay.



11:42

All right. This is Jeff Maggie with the after errs report. Houston gay and lesbian activists and media representatives who received copies of an anonymous letter calling for supportive and outing of a local Appeals Court judge, accompanied by a number of newspaper clippings and detailed outline of when, where and how to conduct. The activities remain puzzled as to who distributed the packet and the motivations behind it. The letter claimed the official, a staunch conservative and fundamentalist Southern Baptist for this record of support for moralist candidates and causes, was a closeted gay. It urged gay people to go to the Southern Baptist Convention to participate in the outing to reveal the officials that alleged hypocrisy. However, none of the articles included in the well documented packet made any reference to homosexuality or related suspicions, and gay leaders were also not aware of any previous allegations regarding the official. Additionally, when the allegedly planned outing did not occur at the New Orleans Superdome cited the Southern Baptist Convention on Tuesday as described in the letter recipients and reporters covering the convention speculated that the letters writers actually intended to cause the outing to happen. The subject of the report is a high ranking figure in the SBC which have its presidential election Tuesday. Morris Chapman of Wichita Falls, the Conservative candidate beat the moderates choice Texan Daniel Vestal Dunwoody at our much publicized battle with the divided denomination did Chapman's victory gives the conservative faction to which the targeted official belongs control of the SBC for the 12 consecutive year. reporters at the convention said Tuesday that while the moderate Baptists were fighting hard this year to turn the tables within the ranks, no one on either side suspected plans within the religious groups to discredit opposing candidates or leaders by revealing

personal secrets. One Houston reporter said she heard a rumor that the official was gay, but had never seen anything to substantiate it and was not aware of any attempt to out him. And he's similarly gay activist said no local gay or lesbian or radical action groups had revealed any plans involving the official, the activist said no one they called after receiving the letter would take credit for either the letter or outing plans. Another resident of the Hyde Park Converse area was attacked at his home in the early hours Tuesday morning and like others who were sexually assaulted in recent weeks. The victim believes that attack was motivated by hate Terry flood who was tied up knifed and beaten by two men after he returned home from a night out around 2am Monday said his attackers left without taking money, a checkbook and credit cards he had in the house. Flood who works as a bartender at the 611 Hyde Park pub lives just a few blocks away from Steven Liddell was attacked two weeks ago in front of his home on Congress Street. Like little flood said he had just come home to his apartment at 812 when he was approached by two white men on his front porch as he unlocked the gate. Flood said men at first did not appear threatening, but one of the men jumped him and then they tied him up and forced him into his apartment, holding a knife to his back and threatening to kill him if he screamed, flood said the man who led the attack, cut him across the chest and beat him repeatedly about the head with his fists while the other man watch. The other man kept saying you're going to kill him but he didn't do anything to stop him. Flood said he characterized the attack as a hate crime saying that he didn't believe there was Any other motive because nothing was taken from the department. He was just enjoying it too much. I know for a fact this was not the first time he's done this flood said adding that he believed the man who beat him intended to kill him. The man who led the attack was also laughing and carrying on during the beating flood said But Sergeant R Smith of the Houston Police Department robbery division, which investigated the incident said the assault may have been sparked by the fact that the victim didn't have a car. Smith said a man arrested in Brasilia county Tuesday with a stolen car confessed to the attack, believing he had killed flood and gave Rosario police the name of an alleged accomplice. The car was stolen in the Galleria area in Houston sometime Tuesday morning, police said however, although the police were working the case as a robbery assault may have been the primary motive since nothing was stolen. Smith said the identity of the 20 year old suspect who is being held Wednesday in Brasilia County for auto theft and other possible charges were withheld pending consultation with the arresting officers Wednesday afternoon. Looking ahead and all day benefit for the International march to cure AIDS now will be held Sunday July 1 at the tower theatre. The event will begin during the day with a reggae band in the theater parking lot and donation can set up for the Houston chapter of cure AIDS now, organizers of the March we will continue with Sunday night's dangerous disco party where all the towers 57 employees will wear ca and T shirts and the entire evening will benefit the July 8 March according to cure AIDS now Houston President David Fowler, North Beach leather is scheduled to present a fashion show during the fundraiser at about 9pm radio station KKH t 96.5. Energy will broadcast requests for donations to benefit the march simultaneously and will host an over the air on the day of the event. Fowler and Tony as far as curate nows rally committee chair who worked to rent a benefit met with David Townsend and Linda Wilson, Linda Wilson of the tower to finalize the plans Tuesday, they were told that the event is intended for everyone and that same sex dancing will definitely be allowed. curate now is last major fundraiser unleashed at the venture end raised \$1,000 for the March Fowler said merchandise sales at the state Democratic convention last weekend in Fort Worth raised another \$800 and other fundraisers are being planned. Also upcoming Theresa troll Deirdre McCullough and Monica grant will be in concert this Friday, June 22 at 7pm at 1475. West grey proceeds will benefit the Lone Star symphonic band and the tickets are available at Inklings. 1846. Richmond. For more information call five to 13369. Also, this is of course a week of Pride Week, and there'll be many events this week. Looking over the week on Monday nights the Montrose clinic will be presenting free testing and a workshop what to do if you're HIV positive.

So be it the Montrose clinic at 1200 Richmond Avenue from six to 8pm so also be repeated Wednesday night from six to 8pm. In Montrose Counseling Center on Tuesday June 19 presents a Pride Week social and support group for PWA PW RT support groups and significant others support group and be at 900 Love it suite 203 from seven to 7:30pm associated with refreshments and 730 to 9pm group interaction. For more information call 5290037 on Wednesday night June 19. The company we keep presents gay night at stages with a production of Torch Song Trilogy. The award winning play by Harvey Firestein tickets entitle holders to a post curtain meet the cast party with a surprise celebrity phone and it says this is rumored to be playwright Harvey Firestein actually it's I think been confirmed. Yes, this will be its stages Repertory Theater 32 A one Allen Parkway on Rosina curtain will be at 8pm. For more information call 523 9000. On Thursday, June 21 Houston Mission Church presents homosexuality in the Bible at dignity center 3217 Fannin from seven to 9pm. For information call 5229355. Also on Thursday, Metropolitan Community Church of the resurrection presents a day of remembrance at the church at 1919 Decatur from 7:30pm to 9pm Call 8619149 for more information. On Friday, June 22, the American gay atheists present an evening with Dr. Frederick Eid. Dr. Hyde is another lecturer and author of over 200 books, including 69 on lesbian and gay issues, books and literature are so big from 630 to 9pm. Jimmy go, I don't know. And for more information, call 8628 to a three. Also on Friday, the group Theater Workshop presents a river dirty Papa and outrageous comedy spoof by Richard Ireo Tony Bondi and South Pyro at the at 3414. Live branch at Holman this will be at 8pm. For more information call 2360064 or five two to 2204. On Saturday, the front runners of Houston they look to the future bar to bar Fun Run, adventure and at 2923 South Main at noon. Donations will be to charity. And for more information call 5220899. That evening gay and lesbian Hispanics you need us persons byla 90 This will be at the downtown Hyatt Regency 1200 Louisiana Street from 8pm to 2am. For more information call 880 G L Hu also, of course this weekend will be Star night 90, which is all sorts of events are planned for this. There'll be all day festivals on both Saturday and Sunday June 23 and 24th. There also be staged set up with entertainment running all day long. And Saturday, among others, a Montrose singers the Lone Star swing band and the Lone Star Symphonic Band will be playing as well as Heartsong. On Sunday, the Montrose country cloggers Alto, and other groups performing so the lots to check out there. And



Jimmy Carper 21:36

did you say alto? Alto? We had? We had run 20 SHODHANA? Yes. Your weeks ago? Yes. Oh, I'm glad to hear that. I'm interested in hearing that group. Yes.



Buddy Johnston 21:49

And did you see the post? No.



21:53

Yes, yes. Yes. We there has been a little confusion over



Buddy Johnston 21:59



it's now I use a very not Whitney Houston. It's



22:02

done with Houston. The Sunday night.



Buddy Johnston 22:06

No sound like get out of here. Whitney. It's download Salma Houston. Oh. girl



Jimmy Carper 22:17

wants to apologize for my outburst.



Buddy Johnston 22:20

What was your outburst?



Jimmy Carper 22:22

What What is this man who's 6909 books.



Buddy Johnston 22:28

Let's say for more information, call the switchboard at



22:31

5293211.



Buddy Johnston 22:33

We know the number we'll be back in a little bit. Hang in



22:43

my coming out involved being forced to tell my parents by telephone during the same time that I was being stripped of my military rank and denied my college diploma. When



22:56

we used to talk about it. It was so clandestine, the word lesbian was even hard to say. You just never said it. You just did



23:04

it. It's a poster of two young men holding on to each other draped in an American flag. I assume they're nude and one is holding a condom.



Greg Gordon 23:14

Lucy Chappelle and red Gordon and you're listening to this way out the international lesbian and gay radio magazine on after hours



23:21

right here on Pacifica radio 90.1 FM KPFT Houston.



Greg Gordon 23:27

Welcome to this way out the international lesbian and gay radio magazine. I'm Greg Gordon.



23:32

And I'm Lucia Chappelle. Hate Crimes hotline has hang ups about gays and lesbians



Greg Gordon 23:37

coming out twice the fun the second time around, and what's red, white and blue and has two heads hold out and more now that you've discovered this way out.



23:53

I'm Juan Mendez Jr. and



23:54

I'm Lucia Chappelle.





23:55

With news rap is summary of some of the news in or affecting the lesbian and gay community for the weekend in June 3 1990. Lambda Czechoslovakia, which operated secretly in Prague for nine years, has just become legalized and is forming lesbian and gay groups throughout the country. Their first concern is AIDS education. Another group has been formed with a more political agenda. The movement for the legal equality of homosexual citizens aims to reform the anti gay and lesbian laws of Czechoslovakia, which penalize homosexual prostitution, public signs of affection, HIV positive individuals and people with AIDS.



24:34

intensified organizing is underway in several US states for the repeal of anti gay and lesbian sodomy laws. activists from Florida, New Jersey, Virginia, Texas, Arkansas, North Carolina, Georgia and the District of Columbia are busy after forming the sod squad. The group organized at this spring se conference for lesbians and gay men in Raleigh, North Carolina, to put together grassroots efforts in their respective states. legislatures in several states are already examining sodomy repeal, the Oklahoma re codification committee agreed to draft a model crimes against nature statute that exempts all sexual activity between consenting adults in private. In Georgia home of the infamous Bowers versus Hardwick Supreme Court sodomy ruling sponsors of the repeal effort have vowed to launch another legislative attack in 1991.



25:28

Lou Sheldon, head of the traditional values coalition was instrumental in convincing the Modesto California city council to defeat a proposed hate crimes ordinance, which would have required greater civil and criminal penalties for crimes motivated by race, religion, ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation. The Central California cities Human Rights Commission had proposed a measure after a racially motivated cross burning incident last November, Sheldon testified that the proposed hate crimes law would encourage radical homosexual activism and recruiting by homosexuals among children, and that homosexuality is a choice, like smoking cigarettes. No one representing the lesbian and gay community of Modesto attended the council meeting. The measure, which the council ultimately approved called only for the preparation of a pamphlet detailing the rights of hate crime victims, with no reference at all to gays and lesbians.



26:27

Operators at the National hate crimes reporting hotline announced by US President George Bush when he signed the Hate Crime Statistics Act into law. were initially refusing to take calls reporting anti lesbian and gay hate crimes. Pressure from the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, the anti Defamation League and People for the American Way along with gay Congressman Barney Frank and Jerry studs, apparently convinced the US Department of Justice, which administers the hotline to reverse its policy. The number for this toll free hotline which is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week in the US is one 800 347 H A T that's one 800 347 hate,



27:12

and they want to make a call the Group II care is six years old this month and has opened a small office in the center of town. He gay publishes the only gay and lesbian magazine in Northwest Mexico. The group also holds social functions promotes other groups in Baja California, interacts with nearby San Diego groups, and is a major supporter of the proyecto see that the wanna the AIDS Project in Tijuana.



27:37

And finally, the condom has once again become the center of a political controversy. This time in the East African nation of Wakanda. The country's Ministry of Health has tried to have condoms made more readily available to stem one of the highest rates of HIV infection on the continent. But influential evangelical Christian church officials have effectively limited their availability. Ugandans AIDS Control Program recently produced a series of advertisements calling on the country's hotels to stop condoms as well as Bibles. Church leaders immediately denounced the proposal, claiming that such advertisements would encourage promiscuity. They particularly objected to the compelling slogan of the ad campaign which read while the Bible can save your soul, the condom will save your life.



28:27

That's news rap for the weekend in June 3 1990, written this week by Greg Gordon, with contributions from the gay radio information News Service, RJ curry of Vanguard, bossy Libertas, Yan, and other publications and broadcast throughout the world.



28:43

Remember and informed community is a strong community. Find out what's happening in your area by monitoring your local gay and lesbian media. For this way out. I'm Lucy Chappelle.



28:53

And I'm Juan Mendez Jr.



28:56

tensions continue to mount in San Francisco as the sixth International AIDS Conference rapidly approaches. Mary van clay has the latest.



29:04

The city of San Francisco is gearing up for what could be its biggest disruption since the October earthquake. At the end of June hundreds of 1000s of researchers, activists and journalists will pour into town for the sixth International AIDS Conference. Security will be tight

journalists will pour into town for the sixth international AIDS conference. Security will be tight in the face of demonstrations over immigration policy, drug testing procedures and other issues. The city's police force is even putting together a volunteer crew of officers especially prepared to work the inner protest area. According to Sergeant Jerry center,



29:32

we're referring to them as gay and lesbian sensitive. These officers aren't necessarily gay and lesbian themselves, but interested in enough in this subject to volunteer for for interior duty.



29:44

The police may have their hands full with crowds expected both inside and outside the conference center. Activists aren't telling whether they plan to interrupt the scheduled events, but Wade Palmer of act up of San Francisco says the organization does have events planned for each day of the I have a meeting,



Ray Hill 30:01

we will be doing our standard like informational pickets, educational tickets, and disruptions if need be. At the time, a lot of this we're not going to be able to decide until the cases are happening,



30:12

but violence is definitely not on the agenda. Palmer says Paul bolanburg, head of San Francisco's mobilization against AIDS agrees. He says the showpiece demonstration will be a huge unity march on June 23.



Ray Hill 30:25

What we're trying to do is to put forward a proactive, positive agenda of what needs to occur around aids. not reacting to the United States government not reacting to the immigration policy and certainly not protesting the conference we want to say to the American people and to the delegates at that conference. Here are some things that need to occur around eight



30:47

bolanburg says The march will focus on access to treatment increased funding for research and strong policies to end discrimination against people with AIDS. All scientists at the conference are also invited to attend the march. But US immigration policy will keep many people with AIDS away from the San Francisco meeting. current immigration policy restricts the entrance of

HIV positive people into the US. Dozens of AIDS organizations around the world have refused to attend the conference in protest of this policy, claiming it is discriminatory. In San Francisco, I'm Mary van clay.



31:32

Pacific radio will broadcast live satellite coverage of the conference both from inside the proceedings as well as out on the streets. Check with this station about plans to air these daily reports June 20 through 24th.



Greg Gordon 32:01

June's month long celebration of Lesbian and Gay Pride is a time for reflecting on the histories and histories of the movement and of individual lesbians and gay men. Producer B love brings us one woman's coming out story, one that has a couple of unusual twists.



32:35

Oh, this



32:50

My name is Ruth, I'm going to be 71 March 11. My earliest recollection, I went to a resident camp, I discovered it was quite an wonderful experience being in an all girls arena. And discovered Oh, Maxine and Lee were together at close friends. And I thought, gee, that's very nice. I'm going to get me a close friend. And I got me a close friend had no idea what it meant at all. Having a close friend. I was in high school, I worked also this was in the depths of the depression. This was in the 30s. We found each other. And it was just such a wonderful warm experience. And we'd kind of sneak around trees and sneak around the backs of the cabins and self was just to be able to hold each other and to be with each other and to caress each other and kiss got to reading and I found this a woman I just there was something about her that I knew was just very unique and different. And we became lovers. I was all of 26 of seven and she was pushing 30 became my business partner, my lover, my my whole world. And we lived that way for four years. And it was quite lovely. And meanwhile, my lover at that point was getting a little edgy. She had the feeling that she wanted to have babies, we came to a real bad impasse time. I just couldn't tolerate the idea of going through that again. She got married in November, and the following July I got married. And I watched my daughter. And I knew I knew my soul told me that there was a lesbian. And at about 20 She came out and I shared my story with her and I can't describe to you the sense of release and relief. And we cried when I told her and she said I kind of knew you would understand that. My lover and I have been known to each other for 30 years through a mutual Well, friend, I said, Sheriff, I said you came out at 50. I said, I went in at 30. We started talking and haven't stopped since we were two women that were absolutely loving each other for all kinds of reasons, in addition to the fact that there was this lusting, love for each other, you know, coming out for the second time, 40 years apart from the first time, life is in a different place, not only my life, but just life all around me is like, Ah, I can't believe it. It's, you know, I'm sitting here talking with someone openly the way I'm talking

and you know, it was like, when we used to talk about it, it was so clandestinely the word lesbian was even hard to say. You just never said it. You just did it. Close the covers. And that was the end of that. I went to the yellow lesbian conference in San Francisco. And imagine my reaction, when after 40 years never having sat with lesbians to sit in a room of 220 women that are all lesbians. I was 10 feet off the wall. I was absolutely jumping out of my guard. Every which way I turned, every person I turned to was a lesbian. Everybody knew what everyone else was talking about.



36:33

Have you feeling warm all over northern Nevada, you've been alive?



37:04

You're listening to this way out the international lesbian and gay radio magazine. With Greg Gordon, I'm Lucia Chapelle. Midshipman Joseph Stephen entered the US Naval Academy in 1987, and proceeded to pile up honors and distinctions throughout his career. He was to become part of an exclusive nuclear power program, but in a much publicized action he was expelled six weeks before graduation, Bert Weiland asked Stephen about what happened and what he plans to do about it.



37:36

What a difference a day me. 24 little owl.



37:48

Born and raised in Warren, Minnesota population 2000, raised Roman Catholic and sang in the church choir graduated second in his class from Warren High School voted Most Likely to Succeed in track set school records in the mile and to my oldest stand today quickly distinguished himself at Annapolis with tenor in the academies famous Glee Club was twice chosen to sing the national anthem at the Army Navy game accepted into the Navy's exclusive nuclear power program, and elevated to the rank of battalion commander had direct command over one six of the academies 4500 mid Shipman, you were at the top of your class one day, and the next day you were being discharged for homosexuality,



38:36

my coming out involved being forced to tell my parents by telephone, during the same time that I was being stripped of my military rank and denied my college diploma, and also denied the opportunity to fulfill the career that I had trained diligently for for a number of years.



38:55

... ..

I'm sure that your parents didn't know about this ahead of time. How did you tell them,



39:02

they were already making plans for graduation. They had actually made hotel reservations four years earlier on the day that I was inducted into the academy. So I had to call them and I spoke first with my mother. And I guess gently tried to explain to her that number one I'm gay. And number two, I'm getting kicked out of the Naval Academy. And it was certainly extremely traumatic for them coming from a very small town where everyone knew who I was. I mean, I had sung on national television. And I'm sure that the vast majority of the community tuned in to watch that. I mean, they set up a big screen television in the American Legion so people could watch it. So it wasn't like I was anonymous. Back home. My mom didn't take it very well though. And she ended the conversation by saying we still love you Joe, which was great. I really needed that at the time. My father didn't take it quite as well, he was quite emotionally upset for about a week. But now, you know, years later and even a year after I came out to them originally, they were highly supportive and they continue to be extremely supportive.



40:16

When did you finally accept that you were gay?



40:20

I guess primarily during the end of my sophomore year at Annapolis. It's something that had been bothering me for a long time. And I realized that until I dealt with this issue in my wife, I wouldn't be able to concentrate and to focus on what I was trying to accomplish there. I think that dealing with my feelings as I did, really formed in many ways, a portion of my personality that drove me to want to go into the military. I think the highly regimented lifestyle appealed to me because it sort of matched what I had been doing all those years before. I realized gays weren't allowed in the military. But I knew I was as capable a Midshipman as anyone at the Academy. And even though I had decided that I was gay, in many ways, I was willing to sacrifice as many people in the military are a full and completely open life, in order to achieve the goals I had set. When I left Annapolis, everything that I had accumulated during those years, was suddenly stripped away. And the only thing I had that sustained me was the friendships that I had developed. And I found that those friendships really solidified when I was able to be completely honest with people, and to realize that they accepted me for exactly who I was. The problems that we generally deal with, in coming out, are not so much accepting it in ourselves, but wondering about how other people will accept us. And I have found without exception, even at the Naval Academy in a highly homophobic atmosphere, that those people that I had chosen as my friends and those people that I had grown close to, when I told them that I was gay, they realized there was no difference that I was exactly the same person that I hadn't transformed into this stereotypical image they had expected of all gay people. And very, very quickly, people realized that the stereotypes, the homophobia they've been exposed to are completely



42:43

wrong. Tell us about your lawsuit.



42:46

About six months after I left Annapolis, I contacted an organization here in New York called Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, about filing a lawsuit to challenge the military's regulations. And in December of 1988, we did file a lawsuit requesting three things. We first of all asked that I be reinstated into the military. Secondly, that the military's ban on homosexuals be declared unconstitutional. And lastly, that I be granted my diploma, which I was denied from Annapolis for not asking for any money at all. And the real goal of the lawsuit is to force the military to drop its blanket exclusion of gays, as a matter of fact, the regulation that exists right now, if you're caught in a homosexual act, and simply deny that you are by definition, gay, the military can retain you if it wishes, and often does. But if you simply state I am gay, the military must discharge you without discretion, and one of the quintessential forms of discrimination because the Constitution basically says that you cannot be punished for your thoughts or statements only for your actions. And yet the military is completely opposite of that in this regard.



44:15

And I guess, being in the Naval Academy of the United States, which forbids gay people, you were the only one there is that right?



44:24

No, I wouldn't say that was true. I never really knew more than about 10 people that were gay at Annapolis. But there's certainly no reason especially in an environment that restricted in the fact that I eventually did find out that about 10 people were gay. And the military's own studies have have agreed that there is no reason to believe that there are less gays in the military than there are in general population. There are about 2 million people in uniform at any given time. So according to Kinsey and some other studies, we would expect that about 10% of those 200,000 people are serving right now in the military that are gay without incident. If society and even the military were to allow gay people if they were to be more open toward gay people, I would be in the military right now doing, you know an even better job because I wouldn't have to deal with the emotional traumas of being closeted



45:24

with Joe Stephen, a gay former Midshipman at the US Naval Academy. This is Bert Weiland from New York for this way out.



45:34

What a difference. Day made and the difference is you.

G

Greg Gordon 45:59

larger than life posters promoting safe sex decorate 30 bus stops throughout the city of San Francisco. The posters spearhead an ad campaign aimed at younger gay men, some of whom may be backsliding into unsafe sexual practices. David Lambert samples reaction to this controversy oh but very gay salute to the Stars and Stripes.



46:19

We will rally around the flag once again. We will rally from the city marching from



46:31

people my name is Jeff Meyers. It's a poster of two young men one with a pierced nose. Very attractive holding on to each other draped in an American flag. I assume they're nude and one is holding a condom. Sort of on the side and on the top of it. It says life liberty and the pursuit of happiness.



46:53

Barry Lawler is a young psychologist directing the HIV disease programs at San Francisco is pioneering Haight Ashbury free clinics. At 27. Lawler hangs out at many of the clubs frequented by gay men in their 20s clubs with names like Colossus, Uranus and chaos clubs where he began to hear stories that some in the hip young crowd were not having safe sex. We also



47:17

saw some data that the city clinic gave us Dr. George lamp at the age of surveillance department showed us that in the last quarter of 1989 in the age group, 20 to 24 young gay men 40% of them tested positive to HIV. That to me is just blows my mind. My



47:40

name is Chuck McElhenney and I'm pastor of the first orthodox Presbyterian Church and was handed this poster that's been advertised life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. And as I see it, it's two young fellas have no clothes on. They're naked and wrapped in the American flag and one of them holds up a condom



47:59

for 17 years Charles McElhaney has been pastor of a small evangelical church located on the edge of San Francisco's Golden Gate Park. Last fall, Reverend McElhenney led a successful campaign to repeal the city's domestic partners ordinance an ordinance supported by the gay

community. McEleney says that Condoms do NOT ensure safe sex.



48:23

It's only living the life that Christ calls us to a life of obedience and abstinence and maintaining till marriage. Man and woman marriage is really gives protection against AIDS and all other diseases.



48:38

Dr. Sandra Hernandez is director of the AIDS office of the San Francisco Health Department. Dr. Hernandez disagrees completely with Reverend McEleney, arguing that condom use among older gay men in San Francisco has proven very effective in stemming the tide of the AIDS epidemic



48:56

with the augment of safe sex education and very high utilization of condoms, especially for anal intercourse. Rates of new infection in the city in that population are markedly decreased and at very low rates.



49:10

The intersection of Castro and 18 streets is the heart of San Francisco's gay community. gay man question there on a sunny Saturday afternoon, generally approved of the condom poster ads, but not without some quibbles. 29 year old Patrick Clifton's as many of his young friends object to the linking of condoms, safe sex and the American flag.



49:32

There's a real challenge here and that I think for gay men, a lot of gay men, the the flag does not represent life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.



49:41

28 year old Daniel, on the other hand, saw the condom mat is a brilliant stroke of symbolism.



49:47

The American flag draped is really great. And I like the use of the life liberty and the pursuit of happiness for the kind of man shows that we're just as part of a of America as everybody else's



49:59

officials with the same Francisco AIDS Foundation say their phones have been busy with inquiries asking how other cities might obtain the flag and condom ads for their safe sex education programs. One call was even received from Cincinnati the scene of a bitter court battle between sponsors and opponents of the Robert Mapplethorpe photography exhibit. Reporting from San Francisco. I'm David Lambo.



50:22

We will rally around the flag boys rally once again.



50:47

Thanks for choosing this way out the international lesbian and gay radio magazine this week Juan Mendez Jr. RJ curry to gay radio information News Service, Mary van clay, B love Barrett Weiland and David Lambeau contributed program material. Thanks also to Sandy Dwyer, Mike alkali and Gary Taylor,



Greg Gordon 51:08

the Doobie Brothers Holly near Dinah Washington and the White Mountain singers performed some of the music you heard and Kim Wilson composed and performed our theme music satellite distribution



51:17

of this way out is made possible through a grant from the Paul Rapoport Foundation.



Greg Gordon 51:21

As always, we'd love to hear from you with any comments, suggestions or questions you might have addressed to this way out. Post Office Box 38327 Los Angeles, California 90038.



51:36

This way out is produced by Greg Gordon and Lucia Chapelle.



Greg Gordon 51:38

And we thank you for listening on WIS Oh Yellow Springs, K u and v Las Vegas and 70 hae Hobart among others and for supporting this local community radio station



51:48

we just know you'll stay tuned.

B

Buddy Johnston 51:51

This local community radio station which happens to be KPFT and we will stay to 90.1 FM KPFT Houston it is two o'clock in the morning. And that gentleman that keeps calling shouting obscenities at US Tom please Didn't you hear me say that I worked for the police department and we put bad little boys like you in jail or we have one of those tonight even for calling threatening harassing the gays it's illegal and you know just keep it up man. Anyway, we'll be back with after hours more of after hours and just a minute radio celebrating life on wouldn't it was boots. Back in just a minute KPFT radio so hot it fizzled out