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SUMMARY KEYWORDS

lesbian, stonewall, gay, women, people, march, talking, week, codependency, new york, new york city, call, events, relationship, houston, codependent, central park, voices, day, hear

SPEAKERS

Suzanne Anderson, Zachary Steele, Deborah Bell, Cindy Friedman, Mary Helen Merzbacher



Mary Helen Merzbacher 00:02
voices on KPFT



00:19
[No Closet by Jamie Anderson plays]



Deborah Bell 01:09

You've tuned into lesbian and gay voices the program that brings the lesbian and gay community as close as your radio is July the first 1994 Thanks for joining us for this edition of lesbian and gay voices. Tonight's program is dedicated to Kathy Lenahan, a wonderful woman who we lost May 25 due to breast cancer. Jack Valinski is in New York on business. He'll be back next week. This is Deborah Bell with me tonight is Zachary Steele. If you listened on Sunday, you may have heard Zachary special program prior to the national Pacifica's coverage of Stonewall 25 ZACHARY And tonight's lesbian and gay voices. We have Suzanne Anderson here with a special guest to do what she does best and that speak out. Members of the lesbian and gay voices staff were in New York for Stonewall 25 will talk to one of them tonight about what it meant to them. We'll also be talking taking calls in our last hour from listeners who went to Stonewall and others who were only there in spirit. How does this inspire and motivate our community? What do you think of the coverage or lack of coverage by mainstream media? And how have you been affected? What do we do next? We'll talk about it all. Later in the program.



Zachary Steele 02:24

And ever Bill interviews Dr. Joyce Gayles and how lesbian and gay relationships are affected by codependent codependency in our coping in the gay 90 segment.

D

Deborah Bell 02:35

From this way out, there's no formal news wrap instead, this way out provides coverage of the events in New York for the 25th anniversary of Stonewall and the march on the United Nations to affirm the human rights of lesbians and gays.

Z

Zachary Steele 02:48

And also from this way out. John both re reflects on the queer invasion of New York, the official coming out of the Olympian Greg Laganas, and the numbers controversy featured also additional highlights of the Stonewall events with Urvashi van and Northrop and Liza Minnelli including the last part of Minnelli's performance at the rally of the day after that

D

Deborah Bell 03:11


narrowing Nury may be the big boss man, but we have the one and only Big Boss woman, Mary Helen is here with music shall also have a special salute to Judy Garland, whose death was a factor in the events of Stonewall 25 years ago. But first, here's Suzanne Anderson speaking out.


S


Suzanne Anderson 03:28


Good evening. This is Suzanne Anderson speaking out for lesbian and gay voices. Well, last night was the preview showing of the new lesbian movie Go fish. And it was a hoot. I'm sure all you dogs that are listening were there. I mean, there were just women everywhere and occasional male homosexual sprinkled in amongst this. One thing that was interesting that happened beforehand, a very heterosexual looking couple, whatever that means. And Hispanic woman and a black man were going to get tickets about an hour and a half before the show. And they came in with a kind of a generic path to the river of theater. And it when they got up to the window, they found that the movie that they were going to see had already started. So they said well what other movies are coming up. And the gentleman behind the plate glass said well go fish and she said, that sounds fine. Honey, you want to go see go fishing. He's like Sure. So anyway, I looked around later in the evening to see if they were there. I mean, the place was every seat was full, and it was a fun movie and a great dyke event. So we appreciate Crossroads Inklings and triangle for for sponsoring that show. If you haven't seen it if you weren't there last night as the event of the year for the dikes will get out and go to the River Oaks theater and go see it. Okay, in the news this week, I particularly enjoyed this article The Italian In Clothier that continuously courts controversy with provocative advertisements has come up with a new start lawyer, Ronald Reagan with AIDS. The new issue of Benetton Company Magazine colors features a retouched headshot of the former president covered with AIDS lesions accompanied by a fake obituary, blasting his administration's record on AIDS. The magazine has yet to reach the newsstands but posters and the pictures have appeared in New York. As you can imagine, Reagan's people are not happy about that. Last year, the company ran an ad showing their buttocks tattooed with the words HIV positive referring to the virus which is caused aids. So anyway, support Mannington the Lesbian Avengers have you heard about them, they're a new wave of advocates who are very much in your face. Many leaders in the gay and lesbian community rights movement say that the Abend vengers, although controversial, represent the kind of energy and courage that the movement will need in the


next century. They're kind of like queer nation and now combined. Anyway, they were off to the Gay Games and to the March and they stopped over at Vitor and read an anonymous statement from provider woman who was afraid to come out as a lesbian. Kind of an interesting article, one of the things that happened to them while they were standing around with their signs and, and talking was some woman came up to them and said, y'all go home, you faggot. The Avengers just laughed, shook their heads and said, We're dikes. I just wish somebody would get their slurs right. In the news, gay parents are fighting back against black male court biases. There's a woman who used the name I think it was Mary Jo, which was an anonymous name was married to a fundamentalist church, Gore discovered she was a lesbian. And after moving to Houston with her sons from a small Texas town to start a new job, she discovered her estranged husband had hired a private investigator to follow her. When the father took the boys on a weekend visit the 46 year old salesman called and said he would not be returning them. He literally blackmailed her. He said, I have significant evidence that you are involved in a lesbian relationship. And if you don't contest the cut custody, I won't disclose it. This is a strategy that ends and unfortunately is the coming very common and it goes right up there with is your spouse having an affair or abusing the children. They're asking parents, whether or not their soon to be ex spouse is homosexual. This woman was afraid she'd lose her job and she relented to her husband's threat. It became increasingly difficult though as the father moved to another state and began demanding that Mary Jo pick up the full transportation cost of moving this child. When bringing him back to Texas for a visit. She was also required to pay \$500 a month in child support and pay for the boys medical expenses. That included psychological therapy that she had provided to help the children and seeing through the situation, not the situation that she's lesbian. The child doesn't know that simply that that they were getting a divorce. After years of allowing the issue of her sexual preference to be held overhead, it said that she decided to fight the custody. Really a sad, sad article. In a recent jury trial in Houston family court and jury decided to award custody to a heterosexual mother who took her children to live in England, rather than the gay father who's an attorney and live currently in Dallas. This I thought was kind of interesting. I know that people think that people who molest children are I are all homosexual and that those with AIDS are also homosexual sentences. Week was uh, Frank bridges. 43 years old, he pleaded guilty to raping his wife, seven year old daughter and infecting her with HIV. He did this after his wedding reception. It just it's a sad, sad piece. FDA has approved another drug to fight AIDS. It's the first such approval in more than two years absolutely remarkable. There's allegedly 1000s of doctors and chemists and scientists all over the world trying to find drugs and cures for the virus and in the United States. We have approved one drug and more than two years the name of it is going to be xeric it's very similar to the other three anti great anti AIDS drugs which is why it was approved so quote easily And it's supposed to help raise the white cell but blood count anyway also of interest might be that it's \$6.22 a day for the dosage. I'm hearing about drugs. Now there is one of them that somebody in our office friend is using his \$1,000 a day so at least they've got something out that that is affordable so some people in 1991 a Presbyterian committee created an uproar when it said sex outside of marriage between genuinely consenting adults was okay. It's free report was almost overwhelmingly rejected at the church is annual meeting last fall when the Lutheran Church in America committee on sexuality released a draft statement urging members to challenge traditional biblical condemnations of homosexuality, the church reacted by appointing a whole new panel. Well, that's one way to take care of that situation, I suppose. Now United States Episcopal bishops are trying what they hope will be a less controversial, contentious approach to sexuality with a dress statement that asks the church to uphold the ideal of lifelong faithful unions for both heterosexual and homosexual couples. Well, I guess all we can think of is progress, not perfection. This is Suzanne Anderson, speaking out for lesbian and gay voices.


 Deborah Bell 11:31
And Suzanne's friend that split her is Kelly Jane,


 Suzanne Anderson 11:38
four legged granddaughter.


 Deborah Bell 11:40
She She's adorable. Have a very good well behaved child. Thanks, Suzanne for speaking out as usual. And we have a special musical message to send out to Martina as you most of you know, she is going to the Wimbledon finals, which will probably be her last wimpleton and wish her hope she ends it with a victory. Go girl says Frank.


 Mary Helen Merzbacher 12:06
You can see that that match played in the morning on NBC. At about eight o'clock in the morning Central Time.

 Suzanne Anderson 12:17
That's right, go

 Mary Helen Merzbacher 12:18
girl. Alive

 12:20
got up at seven just to watch

 Mary Helen Merzbacher 12:31
well, I'll get up tomorrow to watch Martina who should play in

 Deborah Bell 12:40
I don't know

M

Mary Helen Merzbacher 12:41

the women's finals or Saturday. And it starts at eight o'clock I think Fernandez but not Mary Jo. Okay, I'm

D

Deborah Bell 12:51

one of those other Fernandez women and I agree with Frank Martina is the greatest. Suzanne reminded us that the play closets which she appears in will not be having it scheduled run at the Westmont theater because that theater unfortunately is closing. So it will have only one performance on July 29 at stages. So you want to call to make sure you reserve your seat because there probably sell out 5222204 And Suzanne will be back with us in a few weeks to give us a little snippet from that play. Well, we're all trying to cope in the game naughty, and it seems like you can't turn around without hearing the term codependency. What does it mean and how does it play into our relationships? I talked with Dr. Joyce Gayles about how to cope with codependency in the gay 90s This is Deborah Bell for lesbian and gay voices and this is tonight's episode of coping in the gay 90s. We're here once again with Dr. Joyce Gayles, who is a psychologist in private practice in Houston. She specializes in life transition issues, growth in human potential. Tonight we're going to be talking about that buzzword of the 90s codependency. Hey, what the heck is this codependency stuff anyway, Dr. Gayles



14:19

But Deborah, you're very right that codependency has become a buzzword, but it is a reality. Let me just start off by giving a little background into the word it. It was a word that appeared on the treatment scene in the late 70s. And originally, it was used to describe the person or persons whose lives were affected as a result of being involved with somebody who was chemically dependent. So the codependent could be the spouse or the child or the lover of someone who was chemically dependent and was seen as having developed a pattern of coping with life. was not healthy as a reaction to someone else's alcohol or drug abuse. The codependent person was someone whose life had become unmanageable as a result of living in relationship to an addict basically. Now as time has gone on, and we have had more experience with dealing with people who are codependent what we're seeing is codependency within a much broader context as a cultural phenomenon, something that is the result of the patriarchal culture that we all grow up in. And we're beginning to distinguish codependency from the very important and healthy aspects of normal human inner relatedness and interconnectedness. There are some characteristics that I'd like to talk about a little bit later on that distinguish codependency from interconnectedness. But how I'd like to talk about codependency has to do with the fact that codependency is really about losing the self, losing the self in relationship to others, so that people are not able to be in touch with what they feel and what they think. And they are not able to express themselves from their inner being, and instead express themselves in terms of external referencing. And what I mean by external referencing is that the individual looks to other people to define who he or she is, both in terms of feelings, what should I be feeling and how should I be acting? Basically, the codependent lives by the rule of what do you want me to do? Who do you want me to be?

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Deborah Bell 17:01

Are we talking a lot about patterns and cycles, such as someone who grew up in an abusive relationship might then be with another person who's a batterer, if they grew up in where there was alcohol abuse, then they either become an alcoholic or tend to form relationships with alcoholics.



17:25

That's a part of it, Deborah, but that's not the whole picture. Codependency comes out of situations where we learn to not talk and not feel, okay, that certainly is characteristic of growing up in alcoholic or abusive environments. But if you really look at it, it's characteristics of growing up in our culture, because what do we learn very early on in our churches and in our schools and in our families, we learn how to be other than who we are, we learn how to stop feeling, our anger and our sadness and our excitement. We learn how to be quiet and sit still. And and we learn how to not answer questions until we raise our hand and the teacher acknowledges us. So our whole culture, even the parts that we consider normal and healthy, are based in a model that strips us of our individuality and strips us of our own feeling and sense of things and begins to tell us how to be which sets the pattern for codependency. Now people who grow up in alcoholic or dysfunctional families, which the majority of people do, get a very, very strong dose of that and coping and survive and become about learning how to anticipate what's going to happen, learning how to really read other people very clearly and do whatever it is you need to survive.



Deborah Bell 19:12


So you go about living your life, trying to be a certain way in order to make everything be okay, then everything's never going to be okay, because you're still doing those negative patterns and those negative systems that that didn't work, but it's all we know. So how do we recognize it? If that's what's going on with us and what do we do about it? Or do we get help?



19:37

That's a very important question, Deborah, because again, I want to distinguish between codependency and healthy interconnectedness, we certainly are in relationship all the time and we have to take into consideration other people's feelings and needs and therefore we do modify our our behavior. In relationship, what distinguishes the codependent from the person who is held the way interconnected is that the codependent does not know generally what he or she feels the codependent looks to the other person or the external environment to literally define who he or she is. So, if that is what you find yourself experiencing, you wake up in the morning and you don't know who you are separate from somebody else and you're codependent rather than healthily related to somebody else. The other thing that is characteristic of codependency rather than healthy relating is caretaking. The codependent person tends to sacrifice his or her own needs to take care of the needs of another person. And this is different from caring or caregiving. Because caring and caregiving does not sacrifice your own needs for another person. Caring and caregiving also is respectful of the space of another person as well, whereas caretaking does not allow the other person very much space or independence. One of the things that is first necessary when you recognize that you're in a codependent pattern is to detach from that pattern detach from that relationship. That doesn't


mean that you necessarily have to leave the relationship or that you cease caring. But it means to begin to focus on yourself a little bit more recognizing your own needs and feelings. And if you're in a strongly codependent pattern, you will probably need a considerable amount of help with that professional help and or help from a support group. Some other things that will be necessary is to begin to work on yourself. That may mean finishing up unfinished business from childhood as best you can, grieving, getting some perspective on what has created this pattern for you. And figuring out what events from your childhood are affecting you now and in the quality of relationship that you have. Oftentimes, people get in touch with their own frightened and vulnerable child parts and learn how to nurture and cherish those parts of themselves. Another thing is to stop looking for happiness and other people. The source of happiness is in ourselves, first of all, and as we discover that source within ourselves, then we're able to have happy and healthy relationship with other people because we come to the situation as whole people. We have to learn how to depend on each other in healthy ways learning how to recognize what our needs are, and asking for what our needs are and recognizing that one person cannot provide all of our needs. One of the things that really supports a person to detach from a codependent relationship is to develop other relationships outside of their primary relationship, develop friendships, develop a strong support network and activities activities. Yes, indeed self interested in.

 Deborah Bell 23:46

You touched on something that I had a question about and that is, can you be in a codependent relationship? And I guess what I'm asking is, if the other person is also codependent because they can kind of feed into each other and create the situation. Is it possible for that to then become a healthy relationship?

 24:07

Yes, it certainly is possible for a relationship to that has been codependent to become healthy and requires each person doing a considerable amount of work on themselves and on the relationship. And again, the key is to begin to recognize your feelings and your needs, and began to express them openly and honestly, in your relationship, and outside of the relationship. Because as people get in touch with their own feelings and needs and learn how to express those needs in a healthier way. By its very nature, the relationships shifts from codependent to a more Healthy interconnectedness.


 Deborah Bell 25:02

It seems like some boundary issues would be involved. And what happens if only one person recovers,

 25:10

it creates a very difficult situation because the person who is recovering begins to recognize the unhealthy quality of the relationship. And Sad to say, or maybe it's not so sad to say, but what happens generally when one person is a healing and recovering and the other person is


not, is that the relationship generally ends?

 Deborah Bell 25:37

So sometimes it's best to let go and yes, and that can be in both people's best interest Exactly. Are there some books available that would be good for people to pick up maybe at one of their local gay or lesbian bookstores?

 25:52

Yes, there are a number of books on the market that are related to codependency. And Wilson shawi, who is a feminist writer has a number of excellent books on codependency her first book was called exactly that codependency. And she has a number of other books on the topic that you can check out. Also, Melody Beatty, wrote one of the first books on codependency and that title is codependent no more. Carol Gilligan, who is a psychologist has written in a different voice, actually the title of the book. And that book deals with women's relationships and the psychology of women to help us get an idea in a in a general sense of women and the quality of our relationships at their finest. Is there anything

 Deborah Bell 26:45


in the pattern of growing up gay or lesbian, that might tend to create a tendency towards codependency, what I'm thinking of is a lot of us did grow up in abusive situations or where there was chemical abuse. And we're damaged by that. And so, a lot of times there are struggles for us to become healthy people. And then when you have the added element of what society has done to us, as gays and lesbians and denying us and oppressing us, and, you know, saying that you're bad and awful, because you're a homosexual. Does that have anything to do with it at all ever?

 27:30

Yeah, Deborah, I would think that that does have a bearing because again, if we look at codependency as coming out of cultural patterning about how we need to be in order to survive, I mean, you're talking about in families where there's a lot of trauma, and I certainly don't think gays and lesbians have any greater proportion of dysfunctional family experiences than the rest of the.

 28:10

that set the stage for that of perhaps a higher level.

 Deborah Bell 28:16

Thanks once again, Joyce. Dr. Gayles will join us again next month on lesbian and gay voices.

She and Susan Terrell regularly conduct the dating dance workshop which is designed to help lesbians have more fulfilling and fun dating experiences. She's also available for profit consultation, and can be reached at 6676047 for Lesbian Gay voices. This is Deborah Bell. And Dr. Gayles and Dr. Terrell will be at the Women's Network on August 24. To talk about the subject of dating. We'll also have more coping in the gay 90 segments including issues having to do with legal issues, medical concerns, etc. As well as having the oh you know all the relationship stuff.

Z

Zachary Steele 29:06

And coming up next on lesbian gay voices. We'll have Mary Helen with some of her music. Also more on Stephen Wolfram this way out and local folks who work there, talk about what it is like to remember. And remember we're going to have Collins later in the program. If you have a comment or thought about Stonewall 25 activities, day games or other matters concerning this past weekend. We want to hear from you.

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29:38

Were the flirtations we love that's the voices on

M

Mary Helen Merzbacher 30:00

Well, kids, we do have a major musical weekend coming up here in Houston. For all of you lesbian and gay music fans. Melissa Etheridge will be opening for the Eagles Saturday night at Rice Stadium. That should be one hell of a concert. I hear that it's been so hot in the stadium with temperatures on the floor of the stadium reaching up to 120 degrees or so that the people that have been setting up the concert and doing the preliminary work there have have been having to work at night. So it'll be nice and cool. By the time the concert begins. On Saturday night. Also on Saturday night, the Gay Men's Chorus of Houston will be holding a major concert at the word them center theater, the brown auditorium. And yeah, it's the brown auditorium at the World Cinema theater, and it'll be a real exciting thing. That's where I personally am going to be a lot of a lot of good music was. Well of course there are the movies, you know, the movies, go fish, which opened last night or the sneak was last night. It opens actually tonight at the River Oaks theater and exclusive engagement at the River Oaks over on West grey. And you really have got to see this. I mean, it makes clear the moon looks so bad, which really clear the moon was pretty bad. This has got a really hot sex scene at the end. And are several of them actually. And it's just I don't know, although Jeff Maher said he thought it was over directed. I say it is not it's in black and white. And it takes about oh, five minutes to get used to that at the very beginning of the of the movie. And so I hope that you'll turn out to support all the kinds of live music and theater and movies and everything that's going on here in Houston hit we're gonna start off with something from Melissa Etheridge. And then we're going to hear from a woman who was at the Stonewall celebration. Liza Minnelli. So here's some music for you Melissa Etheridge and I know she's crazy for me. What about my needs are one of my favorite lines from Buffy the Vampire Slayer has always been what is your damage? And last night one of my favorite lines from Go Fish is you GL wa she ain't got no alibi. She's ugly. It's a great movie about modern lesbians. Young lesbians. We're talking to under 30 set. Some women in Chicago where it takes place and it shows really what real lesbians live like. So if

you're lesbian or just, you know you got a bit of the voyeur in you. You should check that movie out. Definitely. Another movie of interest. k.d. lang. The long awaited Houston showing of salmon berries will be starts Friday, July 15 at the Greenway Plaza theater. So it only shows for one week, July 15 through July 21. So be sure and catch that. Quality here. Lots of good entertainment and of course, we have to mention the fine entertainment that you get every friday from six to 8pm here on lesbian and gay voices. Okay, back up to New York at the Stonewall 25 celebration the 25th anniversary of the Stonewall uprising. Liza Minnelli talked about how it meant doubly much to her because it was the 25th anniversary of the death of her mother Judy Garland, and how probably Judy's funeral and death helped provoke the Stonewall uprising because so many of the people at the Stonewall Inn the Queen's and dikes were just heavy into you know Judy Garland and it was a very upsetting event when when she died in London and then had a funeral in New York. She died in in 1969 apparent drug overdose anyway. It was sort of a combination of things. Liza sang this song from the stage of the Stonewall celebration, and we're gonna Are you here on lesbian and gay voices Liza Minnelli, the day after that, from a recording that benefits amfAR the American Foundation for AIDS research here is lies is mom, Judy Garland



35:32

looks a little scratchy.



Mary Helen Merzbacher 35:46

To the garland from one of the world's scratch his records, but a song that nevertheless the meaning still comes through. And one of the reasons why those of us in the gay community have held her in such respect. She was a woman who, who came back from a lot of adversity, who always bounce back her spirit, you know, might she might be down but she was never out. And she was one of the first child stars that continued to make it on into adulthood and pain that she suffered a lot with, with addiction to drugs. I mean, it started, you know, back before they knew the harm of amphetamines and barbituates. You know, when she when she took them when she was a little kid so that she could make one movie after another and she started this cycle of drug abuse and alcohol abuse and, and she was just somebody that was real near and dear to the gay community. And this is the well about the 20. She died in in June of 1969. So this is the 25th anniversary of her death. And she was kind of well, like a lot of the gay men that we known that have gone on that have died young, they kind of are like beautiful flowers that bloom and then they're gone. And they go really quickly. So Oh, it's my whole sad, sad set for the night. I want to correct an announcement that I made about the Gay Men's Chorus of Houston and their concert that's going to be held this weekend, Saturday night. At the Wortham center. It's going to be in the Cullen theater, not the Brown Center as I had said. And so that Saturday at seven o'clock, to friends and to life, the Gay Men's Chorus of Houston. It should be a good show kids. It's about seven o'clock at KPFT Houston This is 90.1 FM, and you're listening to lesbian and gay voices. So we'll have more from Deborah and Zachary in just a few minutes.



37:59

Hi. This is Holly is the sapphic super vixen coming to you. directly to you. And I emphasize the word calmng on lesbian and gay voices KPFT 90.1 FM



38:21

So Bob, do you have the list of candidates to replace logon as department head is her right here first on the list is coming around highly qualified plenty of experiences Cummings these days so 57 I think that's a little oil D don't you who else is on the list? Gonzalez and move on by his last name Gonzalez. I don't think we need any of that here. Well then there's Tyler a real go getter a woman whose department head I don't think so. already. What about Gardner works long hours knows the department don't tell me don't know about Gardner. The man has lightened the loafers get my drift? Well, it doesn't really matter. Oh, sure. Next thing we know the whole department will be able to run with them. Right? I've always liked Richardson. He's worked his way up I helped reorganize Bob in case you haven't noticed he's black. So he'll slow the whole department down. He's one of the best workers we had as long Simpson he's a mathematical genius but man wheelchair I don't think so. Well, it's the whole list of the person filled with people in either one of them is qualified. Isn't that ridiculous? Ridiculous. The Leadership Conference Education Fund and the advertising Council remind you that our strength our progress depends on our diversity.



Deborah Bell 39:24

And this is lesbian and gay voices where we're all lighten the loafers Mary Helen can be heard on Tuesday mornings on sounds of Texas in the world you can tune in for that. And I don't recall whether she corrected the name with the Martina match is Conchita Martinez and she also is an out lesbian so we I mean the dogs are at it at the net. All right where to go. Stay with us for our next hour. We'll have from this way out more on the Gay Games and Stonewall 25 including Liza Minnelli.



Zachary Steele 40:02

And also listeners call in with your views on the events in New York this past weekend. Jot down the number to call it's 5265738. That's five to six KPFT. But wait until we ask for you to call in.



40:25

June 26 1994, and what are we gets done. I'm Greg Gordon, from the June 18, opening ceremonies for Gay Games for to the international March at the United Nations, and the rally for global human rights in Central Park on the 26th. New York City will most certainly never be quite the same again. Even as this program is being distributed in New York City is hosting the annual conference of the International lesbian and gay Association, continuing a mind boggling series of concurrent and overlapping queer events in the Big Apple. With activities of this magnitude and diversity. We can only begin this week to do justice to both the participants and to you in attempting to provide comprehensive coverage of these history making events. We've got an overview of the past nine days from this White House John Breau pray, you'll hear some of the more compelling speakers and performers at the rally in Central Park. And even though we don't have our usual news wrap for you this week. Some of the past week's important news

developments were highlighted during the rally. We'll begin with rally speaker Amanda beers best known for her role as Alan take Monday's neighbor Marcy on the Fox TV sitcom married with children.



41:27

I had the great good fortune of marching this morning with two very courageous women. Sharon bottoms and April way yes, you're probably familiar with their continuing legal battle in Virginia over custody of Sharon's son Tyler. The original ruling denied Sharon the right to raise her son based solely on the fact that she was a lesbian. As a mother and a lesbian myself. I am thrilled with the recent victory that overturn the judge's decision



42:11

but their struggle continues with Sharon's mother's appeal. I'd like to introduce them to all of you so that you can shower them with your support. So please join me in encouraging these two women to not give up the fight. Sharon bottoms and April weigh



42:34

coming out on faith now



42:36

Karen bottom to April Wade holding hands with Amanda birth. They are the lesbian couple in Virginia. Sharon calm child was taken away by the court by a homophobic judge who determined that she could not be a good mother and a lesbian at the same time. They got in trouble because they did kiss in front of their small son Tyler they're raising the child together. The higher court in Virginia just last week reversed the ruling. It is headed for the Virginia Supreme Court and it is a landmark lesbian custody case from Central Park that listening to Pacifica radio's coverage of these events celebrating the 25th anniversary of Stonewall Rebellion which gave birth to the modern gay and lesbian rights movement. I'm Julie Dresden. And joining us now is Douglas Hardaway a spokesperson with the Human Rights Campaign fund the nation's largest lesbian and gay political organization. Most recently, just this past week, the campaign fund was instrumental in the introduction of the employment non discrimination act, sponsored by Jerry studs and Barney Frank and Ted Kennedy and this is act just introduced this week which would prohibit job discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. David Rothenberg,



43:47

there are also several states introducing referendums that will put us on the defensive,



43:51

11 43:51

right there are seven states right now in the Midwest and the West, in which the radical right is gathering signatures to place on the ballot in the fall on Election Day proposals to prevent us from getting civil rights protections, which is being built by the right wing guest special rights, special rights. And we can say right now that we have a couple of victories under our bow just last week in Montana in Nevada, they failed to gather enough signatures to qualify place their measures on the ballot.



44:23

Late in the evening on the 26th. This way out, Cindy Friedman talked with John Breaux prey, who's been in New York City all this week.



44:29

It has been in short, an extraordinary week of festivities, activities, parades, marches, rallies meetings, and it was culminated by the two major events last night and today last night we all attended the closing ceremonies of gigging for in Yankee Stadium, which had an estimated audience of spectators of about 40 to 43,000 with an additional 11 or 12,000 athletes, and with performances and fireworks and And Patti LaBelle singing at the end of the evening. It was a pretty spectacular thing to walk into Yankee Stadium. We're gonna let the bus pass here. Technology we call it I think the first time that a Yankee Stadium has never seen a drag show the Cyndi Lauper thing and Girls Just Want to Have Fun. And the parade today, which was two parades actually, which started both in Sheridan Square and the village and the second one, of course, taking off from the United Nations converting a 50 sevens and nines right south of Central Park, a brilliantly hot 90 degrees with dust kicking up and clouds and an audience, who was treated to performances by everyone from Carroll tanning to Harvey Fierstein. And dozens and dozens of other performance all considered exhausting, exhilarating, it is now what we're about a quarter after one here in New York City, and I am but steps away from Christopher Street and the crowds are still marching song or partying song. I just walked through a dyke party on West Fourth streets it was rousing filled with the most glorious motorcyclists and and what stikes and beautiful women and men everywhere with their shirts off it's been a really an amazing week. So joyous and so filled with with fun and an amazing amount of togetherness I guess it's the best word of lesbian groups with their arms around their gay brothers gay groups, pushing along the motorcycles clearly into the spirit of the day. Even the New York City Police Department which has sometimes had a rocky relationship with the Lesbian Gay community after all, Stonewall 25 was precipitated a quarter of a century ago with a conflict between New York finest and New York's other finest in drag. Were really quite joyful themselves today. They were very supportive, very cooperative, in great numbers. One of my favorites, anecdotes of the day was a lesbian couple, one of the two women was parading around with bare chest having a great time. When the New York City police in March by she said, Oh, I want to have my picture taken so trotted over in the New York City policemen very accommodating, they put his hand over her shoulder and look into the camera and they snapped away and had a wonderful photograph to take back to wherever they were coming from. Unbelievable the smell of the bay tree blossoms and the elm blossoms over Central Park, the placards and the banners and the drag dancers and performers from top performance from Thailand performance from Brazil, we happen to be staying in a residence with a fairly sizable contingent of Brits, English friends who we sort of ran into everywhere we went. And they were out in full form as well as contingencies we saw from Slovenia, from South Africa, a number of very provocative and very articulate

speakers from South Africa. I think at this point, everyone is suffering from a bit of image and cultural overload. The parties seem to be going strong, we were just treated to the fireworks display over the Hudson River here, just a block or so from where we're standing. And I think everyone even for New York City, which is pretty high energy. I see a lot of drooping hairpieces a lot of dripping makeup, a lot of people who are just worn out and exhausted from having an incredibly wonderful time here. The one controversy that appears to be brewing it will be interesting to see where this goes. Is that Reuters tonight eight o'clock random. They're a fox seed that the city of New York Police Department estimated the crowd in Central Park today to be somewhere in the neighborhood of 100,000 plus, and noticed that the turnout was quote unquote, disappointing. Now the rally organizers broadcast that the estimate of the crowd was between one and 1.1 million people. A discrepancy that is clearly not insignificant with the Lesbian Gay community there. They're so used to being undercounted and underrepresented that it could be a very sensitive point, and it will be interesting to see how it is resolved. Another statistic, The New York Times this morning estimated that the number of people here from all over the country, in fact, in 4445 different countries, pump something in the neighborhood of \$400 million into the New York City economy and essentially wiped out the financial problems that the city had been faced with with 18 snowstorms this winter that had caused a lot of economic hardship on the merchants and hoteliers, and restaurants of the city. So the contingency of queers who came here for the last week, really paid a great presence to New York City. And of course, everyone is excited now for four years from now to see Gay Games and Amsterdam. That will be a wonderful thing to be at and visit as well. We spoke to the Deputy Mayor of Amsterdam today and there the city of Amsterdam says they've got quite a challenge on their hand, but they're looking forward to seeing us all there in 1998.

 Cindy Friedman 49:53

Getting back to the Gay Games, did Greg Louganis make himself have visible as he anticipated.

 50:02

Yes, as a matter of fact, I know a number of people had been disappointed that he had not been more vocal. But on the opening ceremony of the Gay Games on a week ago Sunday, he sent a video

 50:14

time Greg Magana. Um so I'm not here with you tonight to celebrate the opening of Gay Games. For that I'll be back in a couple of days back on the diving board with other gay and lesbian athletes from around the world. It's exciting to be a part of an event that demonstrates true Olympic ideals to show ourselves and the world, how strong we are as individuals and as a community. Welcome to the gay game. It's great to be out and proud.

 50:43

And I don't think there was much doubt in any of the viewers minds what his orientation was certainly as a result of that video.



Cindy Friedman 50:49

You know, I remember very clearly from Washington DC the sense that you know, the queers had taken over the city and everywhere you looked there we were, I wondered if that had happened in New York as well given it's so much a larger city. I think



51:05

to some degree that is true. The irony is probably point out the excitement of it in the fun of it more than the the expected images expected images a report of dozens and dozens and dozens of bare chested men and women marching around Christmas Street in the village. What is less expected is leaving Yankee Stadium last night the crusher 50,000 Plus, leaving Yankee Stadium with a little bit after midnight, in the heart of the South Bronx, which as you probably know, is that burned out semi desolate area, number of the marchers move forward up to 160/7 Street to avoid the main 100 and 61st Street Yankee Stadium subway station, which was crushed at least 100 deep with passengers trying to get back down to lower Manhattan. That was a site that was pretty amazing when you consider that the Yankee Stadium was clearly never seen a drag show or dykes on bikes circling the playing field. And then to have all of them out in the street with the kids in the neighborhood playing basketball and women's staring out of windows and kids sitting on the stoop watching these seemingly endless, endless hordes of lesbian and gay men, absolutely lifted and elevated by the performances that they'd seen by Patti LaBelle and the people at the closing ceremony last night.



Cindy Friedman 52:18

Well, finally, John, on to ask the radical question. Do you think that anything was achieved besides, you know, saving the economy of New York City and providing a heck of a party for those who were able to go? Do you think that this will have any impact on public consciousness?



52:36

A good question. I think the cynical would say that it was nothing more than a six day bath. But when all is said and done when we look underneath, and I thought about this a lot this week of visibility, why is visibility so important? Well, it's because of this. If we don't even know who the lesbian and gay business people are, if we don't know who the Lesbian Gay politicians are, if we don't know, where the lesbian and gay friendly cities are, we have no way to support them. And that choice is taken away from us. And no one would have guessed a quarter of a century ago, to somewhere in the neighborhood of half a million to a million lesbians and gays would descend on Central Park in the summer of 1994, and proclaim their independence, their civil and human rights and protections. So I think that it's a milestone, perhaps a tentative one, but a milestone by which all other lesbian and gay events and organizations are going to be measured for years to come.



53:35



Deborah Bell 53:35

Well, I personally think it's probably the 1993 march on Washington, which all gay and lesbian events were going to be measured by and according to some of the people that I've talked to that were in New York, they they say that this one doesn't, doesn't quite measure up to in the same way. And there probably are a number of factors as to why they're saying that. You're listening to lesbian and gay voices. This is Deborah Bell along with Zachary Steele and we are going to have call ends. One of the questions that we'd like to have answered is why are queer so hard to count? It seems like we never get the numbers. The same with the officials as what our organizers come up with. And you may have heard the special coverage that was on KPFT. On Sunday, Zachary was here covering the board while we had the Pacifica national broadcast of the events taking place in New York, but the mainstream media didn't give it quite well. They only gave it a passing notice. And that doesn't compare to the kind of publicity the March on Washington got in 1993. If you were affected in some way by something that you saw, maybe it was something about the Gay Games because I think they did get quite a bit of coverage or if you have a calm about what the events of the Stonewall 25 celebration has meant. We're going to want to talk to you a little bit later. But first we're going to talk with Graham Herrick. He's one of the volunteers here on lesbian gay voices. And he's just back from New York. Hi, Grant. Now, tell me what you did the first day you were there?



55:22

Oh, well, the first day well, the first few days, I was just visiting friends of mine in New York. And I wasn't really too involved with all of the hanging in activities. I was just hanging out having a good time. The first time I did some stuff associated with, you know, the Stonewall celebration, I think was Saturday. And a bunch of us went to see the end of there was an international bike march on Saturday afternoon, and I went to the end of that, and that was very exciting Lesbian Avengers were there and had fire eating a fire eating demonstration with different chants and things like that. And it was kind of fun to watch. And interesting.



Deborah Bell 56:02

What was the route for the Dyke March? Tell you the truth. Like I know.



56:09

I'm not sure I don't know New York too well,




Deborah Bell 56:10


either. About how many people do you think that they are for that?





56:14


Oh, 1000s 1000s.


 Deborah Bell 56:16
That's an interesting number that 1000 10,000 100,000

 56:21
I wouldn't say 100,000 for the deathmatch, I'd say more in the 10s 10s of 1000s. But it was pretty impressive. I'm not very good at counting. Did


 Deborah Bell 56:30
they have any kind of rally work?

 56:33
Yeah, there was a rally at the end of the march and that's what I went to. It was It was exciting.

 Deborah Bell 56:39
And so many people. And then on Sunday, what did you do anything with the gay game?

 56:46
No, I didn't do anything with the good games. Okay. I went to on Saturday went out around Christopher Street and shared in square and saw the will side of the Stonewall riots. And that was really interesting. There were a whole bunch of there were several 1000 police officers out that night, lining the streets of shared and squaring Christopher Street, they thought there might be another riot was there. No, there wasn't there was one that was that some people would kind of plan there were signs up all over the place, reminding people that Stonewall was a riot and not a you know mass marketing. extravaganza like some of these things turned out to be. But it ended up being peaceful and no arrests were made.

 Deborah Bell 57:24
Now the Stonewall Inn where the initial riot took place where it all started. I understand that it's been a Chinese takeout place and a bagel shop, but that it's now a bargain.

 57:37
Yeah, it was it's been reopened as the Stonewall bar. And they have all kinds of little history exhibits there and things like that. It's really nice. That's interesting.

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Deborah Bell 57:49

And as people know, it was that hot June 9 than the wee morning hours of June 28. When what was a routine bar raid, the Stonewall Inn was operating without a life liquor license. It was frequented by a lot of, well, tougher types, I guess you'd call them drag queens, leather folk. And there has been some comment that that identity he has kind of been pushed away that people are trying to say, well, you know, it may have been those kinds of people there. But that's not really important. Did you see anything that would say that is important. The people that were there that night?



58:36

Oh, certainly I think I think most people would see that. That's the driving force behind the gay and lesbian movement from Stonewall until today, and it's really the the drag queens and leather people and people who are more, I guess, on the, in the in your face, sort of cutting the cutting edge, the the Vanguard or something, so to speak, that you actually marched? Yeah, I marched in the ACT UP organized March, which was I guess what happened was, the mayor decided not to let the march go down in its traditional place, which is up Fifth Avenue right in the heart of the city. That's where they usually have the New York Pride Parade. Exactly. And he didn't want that because he didn't want so many queers marching up the middle of New York City.

D

Deborah Bell 59:26

But has is that what the march organizers requested that it be that same way? Yes.



59:32

And he wouldn't, he wouldn't let that happen. So the march basically split into those who said, well, we'll March legally with a permanent because we don't want to get arrested. And those who said we're going to march up Fifth Avenue anyway. Now at the last minute probably didn't

D


Deborah Bell 59:45


use quite that onsp language. So they took the street and And were there any arrest or any problems because of that?




59:53


No, in fact, well, a few days beforehand, the there's a gay officers league in New York City you gave police officers League, and they managed to convince the police department to let them sort of be the police that were on hand at that at the illegal March. And then about a day before the marches took place, they they agreed to let the march go on and not arrest anyone. I got 10,000 Angry queries marching,

 Deborah Bell 1:00:22
and this March merged with the other one, right?


 1:00:26
I think 57th Street and Fifth Avenue. They merge together.


 Deborah Bell 1:00:30
March started at the UN, the regular

 1:00:33
merge started the UN the the ACT UP march started at Sheridan Square.

 Deborah Bell 1:00:39
And then it ended at Central Park within the rally was held. At what time did you arrive at the rally site?

 1:00:47
Did you wait at 130 or two?

 Deborah Bell 1:00:50
You were there pretty early on? Yeah. Did you get a good seat?

 1:00:54
I actually was sat in the shade for a little bit. And I heard a couple of speeches. And then I was so exhausted from the march itself because it was it was a really long march was very hot day. So I went home went to sleep. Yeah. And what's the report there? Yeah,

 Deborah Bell 1:01:07
it is a long day. Really. As you're listening to lesbian gay voices. Were talking to Graham Herrick. He was one of the millions of lesbian and gay people who were in New York to celebrate Stonewall 25 marching on the UN and celebrating. Do you have any questions for

Graham factory?

Z

Zachary Steele 1:01:28

No, no. But that does bring us to we do have a talk and show this time. And we'd like your callers our listeners to call in. And if you have any questions, or any problems or comments do call us the number is 5265738. That's 526 K. P F T.

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Deborah Bell 1:01:46

We'd really like to hear from you about your take on what stonewalled 25 has all been about. What have you been inspired or influenced in any way? And what do you think the the media coverage? The number is 526-573-8526 KPFT. We'll probably have to ask you to hold on while we get the phones up and on the air. But we do want to talk to you more about all that activity. It was your first big March grant.

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1:02:28

Um,

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1:02:29

no, I've actually I've been to a couple of marches in Washington before pro choice March and an anti war March. And I've been to war I went to Houston prides

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Deborah Bell 1:02:41


that's a that's a big thing, at least for us. And we managed to do it this year. A little early so that we could have people go off to Stonewall and everything. I do believe we have a caller standing by and they're still talking with Donna, that number is 5265738. Hold on. While we get to you. I'm gonna take the first caller. And just a moment. We're asking folks about how they feel about this 25th anniversary of Stonewall, a lot of people have said it was the beginning of the gay and lesbian movement. Others have said that while it was not the beginning that there was a lot of organizing going on prior to that it did change the focus in the color of the movement. I think it made us more visible. We're going to go on one on one with Betty. Hi, Betty.


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1:03:34

Yes, I just wanted to make a couple of comments. I was very disappointed in the lack of coverage and the news media about the anniversary of Stonewall. Except for Cal Thomas in the post who doesn't really count. He did have something to say about it. And my other comment was, I have read that I can't quote my source. I think it may be the sojourner, a women's journal from New England who said that it was a DayQuil start as a whole thing.


 Deborah Bell 1:04:02
I've heard that story too.


 1:04:03
I think that should be no more.

 Deborah Bell 1:04:07
In one of the newspapers accounts at the time. It said that this was a routine or raid and they pulled up the paddy wagon and they started dragging drag queens literally dragging and putting them in the paddy wagon and some of them like got out and you know, walked away. But the first physical response, apparently was by a big tough butch dyke who resisted and that was the first time that our community had resisted what was going on because even though it was a routine bar raid, the harassment and the arrest of the patrons of the bars and their names appearing in the paper the next day with you know, a routine matter. Many people lost families they lost jobs, etc. And so this was the first time we fought back and that is significant.

 1:05:04
And I think it should be reported more often. Yeah. Okay. Okay. Thanks

 Deborah Bell 1:05:09
for calling, Betty. Okay. Okay, you're listening to KPFT lesbian and gay voices. We're talking to folks about Stonewall 25, the March on the UN to affirm the human rights of gay and lesbian people. And we'd like to hear from you, five to 65738526 KPFT. We'd love to hear from people who got to go maybe who went to the Gay Games or participated in some way in Stonewall 25, or those of you that stayed here at home, and maybe didn't really get to hear much about it. There might have been some people that didn't even realize it was going on. Because the mainstream media, it really didn't give much coverage.

 Zachary Steele 1:05:54
And we're also talking about the numbers controversy, there seem so hard to count. And why do gay and lesbian people seem to count better? Or do we actually count better? Do we overestimate how many people actually attend these events?

 Deborah Bell 1:06:10
Well, as you know, I was heavily involved in the 99, three march on Washington. And from all

the various ways of counting people that have existed. I mean, I know that go out with helicopters and count cattle. And so I don't know why. So we're cattlemen. Yeah, well, but the the methods that have used, they don't always use the same method. That's one thing. But there are some officials in Washington, who did in fact say that it was there were over a million people at that March. The March organizers have said that the there were at least have three quarters of a million to a million plus people. So I don't know whether it's important in numbers or wise, as much as is it important in the visibility in important in the ways that it matters to our community, as the man from this way out, was saying is that, you know, if we can't even be visible to one another, you know, how are we going to have this movement? We're going to go to another caller. Michael, he's going to give us his comments on Stonewall 25. Hi, Michael. Hello.



1:07:29

One event that seemed to have got lost in the shuffle to hear was the week after our parade. I went out to San Francisco in March with a friend that was transferred out there. And the San Francisco Stonewall event was just absolutely incredible. And there didn't seem to be a lot of news coverage on that one. But it was my first time to ever go to San Francisco. And the event there was not overshadowed by the Stonewall event in New York. It was incredible.



Deborah Bell 1:07:57

Well, of course, many communities around the country have their Pride Week events. In late June, some of them do it at other times, but they'd all originated from that. Those events from the summer of 69. There was I understand people that didn't have any clothes on in San Francisco, and that there were also a lot of people that were scantily clad in New York. How do you feel that reflects on our community? Well, I



1:08:27

was there the entire time. All day, I was upset because I was watching and I didn't need to worry, because I still saw three hours and 20 minutes were for parade after our unit came through. And a percentage of nudity was such a small percentage. I mean, you know, it all gets so overblown, that it's just incredible. Most people were in shorts and T shirts. And I just think that it's a non issue. And it's just something that the camera like to zoom in on, you have 487 event entries.



Deborah Bell 1:09:02


And you had one event that had some nudity in it. You hear about that when you don't hear about the 486 Exactly. Were you particularly inspired in any way by this 25th anniversary?



1:09:14

Oh, absolutely. Ironman is always, you know, the same Sunday, as San Francisco's and I've always marched here was my first time to be able to do ours and also do theirs. In turning on


always marched here was my first time to be able to do ours and also do theirs. In turning on Market Street from the assembly area was just, there was just an incredible feeling. I think. The crowd you know, having always done the hours to see it, like in 10 1000s to go there. Literally, there must have been at least 400,000 people on work. It was incredible. Yeah, it was really inspiring. But I did want to bring up that event but we had a great celebration here. They had a great celebration in New York but the San Francisco to me was just a Unbelievable. Well, thanks for calling. Go back and work in the yard and listen to the show. Keep cool.

 Deborah Bell 1:10:08

Well, we're gonna go to another caller, in just a moment, we're talking about Stonewall 25. And the march on the UN, the activities, the lack of media coverage and the numbers controversy. Once again, we're gonna go till find two and talk to Laura. Hi, Laura. Hi.

 1:10:28

I just wanted to let people know that NBC News gave real good coverage both Saturday night and Sunday night. In fact, on Sunday night, it was the top story ahead of all the OJ Simpson craziness. And it was like about a three minute 10 second broadcast. And

 Deborah Bell 1:10:45


that's amazing, because I missed that I did a snippet on channel 11. And a little bit more on channel 13. But I didn't see anything on channel two. That's because I was flipping the channels trying to catch

 1:10:57

it wasn't expecting it to

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be the lead story or have a tape in and all of a sudden, I hear the story coming, running and hit the record button. But I'm really pleased that I

 Deborah Bell 1:11:08

got such good. That's what was amazing to me. Also, not only was there so little coverage, but that it wasn't the lead story for most things. I mean, they were still talking about the rocket, which you know, all that's important, but I don't think it warrants the same. And I think for the news media, also, a lot of them took an attitude that this was the usual annual New York Pride Parade. They didn't get that it was an international march on the United Nations. You know, they didn't get that it was to affirm the human rights of a minority people. So I think that might account for some of it. It's hard, you know, sometimes there's something else that happens. I

was amazed today, I was trying to avoid OJ Simpson stories. And they cut in and they say Oh, and by the way, there's been an assassination attempt on Yasser Arafat. And that seemed really strange to me that they were sitting there in the courtroom, covering everything to do with OJ Simpson, which is an important story. It's really fascinating a lot of ways. But you know, if that was what we really need to be talking about when there's worldly. We do have a few other callers standing by and we'll go to them shortly. But we do have another piece coming up from this way out. I do want to give credit to Maury Povich for his show that he did on the gag games. And also Charlie Rose, who does a program on channel eight had a panel on that included Donna Minka whipped, who's a friend of mine, and writes for The Village Voice, Andrew Sullivan, Tony Kushner, and Bruce Bauer, who wrote a place in the at the table. And that was an interesting show to catch. There's there really was not much, many, many places. I mean, at least I didn't see the coverage. So let's

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Zachary Steele 1:13:21

after our callin show, we're going to have more from this way out, including a tribute to the late singer songwriter and activist Michael Cullen a critical review of Sandra burn hearts performance at out for comedy, and Urvashi. Bad and Liza Minnelli. But please, right now we're doing a Colin show, call us at 5265738. That's five, six KPFT.

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Deborah Bell 1:13:46

I'm going to ask the callers that are on the line to continue holding while we play this portion of this way out and then we'll be back with you in just a moment and lesbian and gay voices.

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1:13:56

To wind up this first installment of this layout coverage of this past week's queer invasion of a Big Apple. We've chosen what we believe were some of the more compelling speeches and performances at that human rights rally in Central Park.

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1:14:08

We have lost a lot of friends since March on Washington. And I think it's important that we remember medium Clinton speaking now. Especially, but my good friend Michael Callen. Michael coulomb, one of the longest survivors of age one of the hardest working AIDS activists. So I think it was a little, maybe a seventh inning stretch. What do you need to do is get the all from Michael Cowan, can we all do it and you can dress to just one arm back and say it's like the kind of youth group I wanted to be in. Oh, okay, now, let's see. Our next speaker is a veteran journalist who turned thank God for all of us a lesbian activist. He As an original member of act up New York, we never act up New York at my back. But she was one of those who rescued for demonstrating inside St. Patrick's Cathedral. She's a member of the Board of Directors game games for please give a strong Welcome to the best of the best and

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1:15:36



1:15:39

I love New York in June. How about



1:15:42

sorry, there's just so much music



1:15:43

today.



1:15:45

Ah, good afternoon. I am impressed and moved by your presence here today. So I'm sorry they made me write this I have to read it. Clearly, you understand the importance of showing up and standing up for your own dignity, self respect and human rights. And clearly you represent millions, hundreds of millions more around the world who can't be with us here today.



Deborah Bell 1:16:22

As both an



1:16:23

organizer of Gay Games for and a member of gay and lesbian Americans, the new National activist group which has fought unsuccessfully this week to get an official Fifth Avenue March permit, I have had a glorious and horrible week. I have been thrilled by the courage and beauty of figure skaters, swimmers, divers, runners and softball players, dancers, musicians and artists out and loud and proud. I have been stunned and infuriated by the mean nasty stupidity of New York City officials who instead of welcoming and celebrating this tremendous international march for human rights have made its execution as difficult and ugly as possible. Homophobia lives in New York City. But although there is much joy and celebration today, I have come to make an angry statement. What I really want to talk about today is what we do to each other. My worst experience this week came Tuesday night at the so called comedy event hosted by Sandra Bernhard. To my horror, Sandra's theme was how ugly stupid and unfashionable lesbians are. For us, I think she hasn't gotten over her rejection by Madonna. But that's another story



1:18:28

Sandra said we should grow out our hair dress more fashionably and lose weight if we want to be accepted. She also told the audience don't isolate yourself from break people. It's not a good idea to go off on your own. I would like to thank and quote comedian Karen Williams who have the best line of the night you Sandra Bernhard.



1:19:19

But the most disturbing part of all this was the Sandro was cheered by gay white men in the audience turned my stomach. You think I'm mistaken or kidding? One of those men called his lesbian friend a couple of days later to say oh, it was great. She was saying all these great things about fat lesbian. You should have been there. He was shocked. Michael you know who you are. He was shocked when she yelled at him. So I'm here to say to every man who thinks that acts like that, don't you get it? Do you really think you can continue your racism and sexism and elitism and get anywhere in this world?



1:20:37

Thanks spending 12 hours in front of a mirror and then partying on the battleship and rapid is what this moment is all about.



1:20:59

This world can be a very ugly place. I call myself an activist because I am dedicated to principles of valuing the intrinsic worth of every human being.



1:21:15

I am working for a movement



1:21:18

dedicated to prove feminist principles. I am sickened by a world where men wage war pillaging and destroying, raping every woman in their past, forcing Twitter addict dummies on girls and slaving culturally different populations. I am sick of hatred and selfishness and greed. I yearn for a world of peace and joy and cooperation. If the lesbian gay, bisexual and transgender communities are not willing to enlist in these, this battle and a spirit these values that are not marching anymore, why don't we go ahead Ben follow up crap wants to oppress others.



1:22:24

recipe for disaster. And it's exactly why we have an epidemic of AIDS and an epidemic of breast cancer among lesbians. Because we are not permitted to the value of every human being. I remain committed and optimistic and ready to fight. But I am not tolerating any more racism or sexism from gay white man.



1:22:58

Journalists and Northrup New York faced lesbian activist on the stage at Stonewall 25 years in

journalists and Norrup, New York based lesbian activist on the stage at Stonewall 25 years in Central Park, back to the stage with Urvashi VOD, former director of the National Gay and Lesbian test for



1:23:13

this moment, beyond this beautiful moment of gay visibility and lesbian sheet underneath the alluring relief of mainstream integration behind the gay advertising and smiles of corporate marketers, lies the unyielding on shifting and largely on dented bedrock of heterosexual supremacy. And that bedrock my friends in turn rests on a very narrow definition of manhood. Our assertion as queer people that we are as normal, natural and healthy, as heterosexual, threatens the uneasy manhood of this nation to its core.



1:24:08

That's what a military fight reveals that once the right wing is so freaked out about to advance, we must find new words, to face straight America's sexual anxiety. We need new courage and kind of patience that we don't have right now. And we need to be really as honest as we dare about the beauty and diversity that is our lives per task of a political movement lies in the organizing and discipline views of power. It takes power to bring about the changes we seek. And the exercise of that power depends on every one of you who can hear my voice. You must be political, if you're going to be gay. That's all there. As



1:25:06

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once gave a beautiful definition of the power that I think we as a movement seeks. He said, quote, power is justice, implementing the demands of love. Love is the foundation for all movements of social change and social justice. The demands of love challenges to be compassionate and caring. The demands of love require a human embrace of human difference. Loves demands the commitment to alleviating poverty and suffering, Love demands kindness and respect. Loves demands on justice require require our movement to speak out against racism, and sexism and poverty and warmongering. We have to do it. Get involved, keep up the resistance, we're gonna win.



1:26:05

A call to action. From longtime lesbian activist and former director of the National Gay and Lesbian pass for



1:26:17

joining the Stonewall corral to see that to be here. Please welcome everybody has done well. 25 Welcome to the one and only live in Manila.





1:26:31

Just 25 year commemoration of Stonewall is a time to look back, and to remember, and to live and to act, and a time to face tomorrow with hope, and trust, and conviction. This commemoration also marks a significant year. For me, it's 25 years exactly since my mom had died. He'd be so happy.



Deborah Bell 1:27:32

And there you have it coverage from this way out of the events in New York City, celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Stonewall wall rebellion, the Gay Games and the march on the UN for the human rights of lesbians and gay people. We do have two callers standing by we are talking about what New York has meant to those of us who were there and those of us who were not able to be there. We do have Marian holding on the line. She's been patient for a long time here. And she did go to New York. Hi, Marianne. Hi. So what's your take on all of this?



1:28:11

Okay, I'm a physician in the community here in Houston. And I'm honored with the Texas delegation in the with the other guy called the regular March or the one from you into the center Park. Okay. And what I found was it when I got back here, I ran into a colleague who I've who's a gay man, who's in practice at that Northwest Medical Center where I'm in practice. And he just, I hadn't seen talked to him, but he just asked me what was going on? I said, Well, I just got back from New York. And it was an easy way to come out if he recognized it or not come out. You know, he didn't want to,



Deborah Bell 1:28:54

prior to this, you have not been out to each other. Correct. Okay, but you know, that he is get?



1:29:00

No, I didn't. I mean, I didn't have confirmation. I just had the radar



Deborah Bell 1:29:05


or gaydar as they call it. Okay. Yeah. And so what happened?



1:29:12

No, he in he offered he said to me, Well, you know, I was impressed that the coverage was different and he was on at the game. Okay. And which, because I was there, I didn't pay any attention to the coverage. And so he reciprocated in the same kind of a oblique, if you will, a way that I approached it. Okay. And but he was very, and then he started talking more and


more so so like he responded, and it was really it was really good. I mean, it feels good to me, because I've been more afraid to say things to other people, not because of what did identifies me, but that I might, that I might make my colleagues uncomfortable.

 Deborah Bell 1:29:58

You don't want to ask someone Right, correct. Right. Thank you. We all have to respect the confines of people's closets. You know, it's up to us how far we open that door. For the first time people say they kicked the door down. What else about the experience influenced you? Have you been to other big marches? No,

 1:30:22


I haven't my, my lover went to the first march on Washington. And then, and we got together before I enter medical school. So I use training and work as an excuse, but it was an excuse.

 Deborah Bell 1:30:37

And would you recommend this experience to other people?

 1:30:42

Yeah, I mean, I had a wonderful time. We met wonderful people. We went to the guide March the day before. We participate in a lot of parties. It was a vacation. Yeah, it was a wonderful experience. The parade was not a thrill. I was exhausted, like the other guy. But it was. I'm glad I can say now that I did it. And I'm glad I don't want to miss hadn't missed it. Well, thanks for calling in. Mary. Thank you.

 Deborah Bell 1:31:17

We're listening. You're listening to gay, lesbian and gay voices. And we're going in on the line with Roy to talk about his experience with Stonewall 25.

 Zachary Steele 1:31:26

Roy, you're on the air.

 1:31:27

Oh, okay.





1:31:28

Oh, hi. Right. And good.



1:31:31

I know you're there. Unfortunately, I did not get to Stonewall. I wanted to go, but I just couldn't swing it money wise.



Deborah Bell 1:31:43

You're not alone in that. You're not alone.



1:31:46

But I did listen to everything from on KPFT even the pre Stonewall show to Chad. And that he did? Yes. And I thought he did an excellent job. You know, I I want to say in regards to the in regards to the controversy on the number the headcount. Deborah, I've never lied to you about a year or so before it ever became the religious right, became the new thing and the news media. You and I had talked about it on after hours after I dropped you off a bunch of articles on what the Republican Christian groups are going to do with the Republican Party. Remember that? And now, at least a year before it does really hit the main the news media. Controversy with the numbers is on purpose. They weren't they purposely



1:32:46

lower the headcount. They're trying to dis diminish us, right? Because they don't




1:32:51

want us to seem as powerful or as an important part of society, or as big a portion of society as what we really are. And I was having a talk with one of my brothers the other day, and he was wondering how come, all of us faggots and dates have to be so in your face? Why can't we just be respectable and leave our business into the bedroom? And I explained to him, that's what we've always wanted all along. But it was society themselves, that push it to push our bedroom door open.



Deborah Bell 1:33:29


Because we have been an oppressed people, and we have been an invisible people. And what we do is not just in our bedroom, right? Our lives are affected in every aspect, by that oppression, but not by having to live a lie. So thanks for your comments tonight, Roy and for calling in. We have another caller standing by and we're getting close to the top of the hour. Keep listening.

 Zachary Steele 1:33:57

And Tom, you're on the air go ahead. No.

 1:34:01


I'm enjoying the show. This was my first show. And I recorded the entire thing. On KPFT. I talked to my friend Ray, we live in the same apartment complex right here. And Ray Ray was all excited. They just cannot say enough good things. But the thing that that that the speakers that you just put on, especially that I liked was was number one. If we can't stick together, we will never win. We've got to become one. When I was just coming out. I used to have this thing about lesbians. I couldn't get a believe me. I don't know what now. I've been out for over 20 years. But what we've got to do Stick together as we've been, and I like that.

 Deborah Bell 1:35:05

Do you think that your attitude about lesbians may have had something to do with the general misogyny of society?

 1:35:13

Yes. Yes. Yes to, and just coming out, you still have guilt feelings, you understand and that place that place an awful lot, you know, and until you get down and get to know your sisters, your brothers, you know, then feeling guilt about being gay, you find Israel. By the way, there is 10%. And matter of fact, I really believe that the software's and bye for would change overnight, we will no longer be a minority.

 Deborah Bell 1:35:48

I know what you mean. Well, so your advice is for people to get involved. Thanks for calling in. And we're going to go to Chris.


 Zachary Steele 1:35:59

And, Chris, go ahead. You're talking about the numbers, controversy.


 1:36:01

Right. Yeah. I just want to say that I, you know, I think it's sort of a waste of time, to debate whether we had a certain number or not a certain number of people there. And the reason I think that it is because I look at the focus of the parade there as not being to perhaps way straight people and the rest of the population to join our side, but more so to you know, rejuvenate our energies and such into our, you know, rejuvenate our energy. So when we come


back to where we came from we, you know, then worked for gave us the rights and stuff. And I don't think, you know, whether it's 100,000 people or 700,000 people, whoever is watching the parade that may not be on our side there, they're still going to dismiss us as those are, you know, opposite people. And those are people that, you know, we don't care about, but I think the number really is, you know, irregardless, the presence is what's important.

 Deborah Bell 1:36:58

We care about them, but we care about us more. And I think you're exactly right. It's the queers out there. We're reaching that kid that lives in Wisconsin, or are some small town somewhere. Thanks for calling in Chris. You've been listening to lesbian and gay voices. We can be heard every Friday night from six to 8pm here on 90.1. FM and on KPFT in Houston.

 Zachary Steele 1:37:23


And we just want to quick give a quick thank you to everyone who's helped us tonight, Suzanne Anderson and Graeme for speaking with us. And Mary Helen for a great music show and the callers Thank you for calling in we've really appreciated your feedback and your comments.

 Deborah Bell 1:37:38

We also want to thank Dr. Joyce Gayles for helping us to cope in the gay 90s And most of all you for listening every week. Our producer is Donna Garnier.

 Zachary Steele 1:37:49

And this is Zachary Steele.

 Deborah Bell 1:37:51

This is Deborah Bell. Thanks for listening. Please join us next week to hear more lesbian and gay voices. This is Pacifica radio 90.1 FM KPFT Houston, Texas

 1:38:09

for learning world was presented by Dan O'Brien and produced by Tabitha Morgan. Tomorrow at midnight 30 The John Donne show in just over five minutes