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SUMMARY KEYWORDS

lesbians, gay, military, people, black, witch hunt, christianity, listening, homosexual, church, heard, showers, homosexuality, christian, religion, diminishes, point, greg, months, color



00:01

Brother to Brother Brother to Brother, Brother to Brother Brother two brothers. This is us exempt Hill reminding you that you've tuned into this way out the international gay and lesbian radio magazine



00:29

criminalization of gays in the military is pernicious, it is humiliating, it is demeaning.



00:36

Roger Wilkins is a fellow at the Institute for Policy Studies and teaches history and American culture at George Mason University



00:43

diminishes the value of citizenship in the United States in an unacceptable way, just as discrimination against blacks in the military diminish the value of citizenship in an acceptable way.



00:56

I think many African Americans seem to resent the gay movement attempting to in some way gain sympathy or legitimacy for their cause by equating it to the black striped



01:07

shirt, a lot of homophobia and black barbershops all my life. Seems to me that that freedom is not divisible. I spent my life fighting for rights for African Americans. And I believe that everybody deserves to be free of discrimination. That's what our fight was about. That's what

our fight has sought to establish. And it seems to me that we cannot say, Well, I don't really like your sexual preference. So the kind of freedom that I demand for myself is not something that you can have. I think that's baloney. I think that's an outrageous way to think frankly,



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some blacks may think that gays are trying to get an easy ride for the struggles that were fought,



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I don't think they're trying to get an easy ride at all. I don't really understand the argument that they're getting an easy ride. I mean, if we want to say, well, our fight was our own fight, and it was only for us. We're diminishing the nature of our struggle. And I think the people who are making that argument, misunderstand the nature of our struggle. Yes, I struggle was for us, but our struggle, and rich and deepened the sense of American freedom for everybody. Gay people are having an easy ride at all easy about the life of a gay person in this society. There's rancid homophobia. And I think it's as unacceptable as sexism or racism.



02:36

There's another aspect to the debate, there is an undeniable fact that a person of color, when they wake up in the morning, they have no choice in the matter of whether or not they're going to wake up and be black that day, when they go to apply for a job. They're black, no doubt about it. When they apply for housing loans, they're subject to discrimination because of the color of their skin, the list goes on and on. But a homosexual does have the option to be able to get married, have children join the military, if they so choose to mask their sexual orientation.



03:11

I'm not gay, but I tell you some, I don't think that that's a real choice. I don't think a gay man who decides that he's going to get married and have children in order to escape homophobic discrimination is going to escape psychological torture. So I don't think there are choices. And I don't think really that that's the issue. It says if that argument that you're asking me to address is really posited by black people as saying, well, if somehow gays make analogies to our struggle. It somehow diminishes us and horror, moral authority, or our pain or our status as victims. Well, that's just baloney. I mean, our case is our case.



04:08

Roger Wilkins is a longtime African American civil rights activist. He's currently Professor of History and American culture at George Mason University. He was interviewed by Verna Avery Brown. By the same time.



04:40

Lisa building, lesbians are three times more likely than gay men to be discharged from the military because of their sexuality, and they are eight times more likely to be thrown out of the US Marine Corps. This little known fact was published in the 1988 personnel report, both commissioned and suppressed by the US Pentagon. These figures were confirmed by a 1992 General Accounting Office study. Kate Dyer is a former legislative aide to Congressman Gary Studds, who in 1989, was responsible for the release of the Pentagon report. Dyer attributes the disproportionate number of women discharged from the military to the stereotype that a good female soldier must also be lesbian.



05:22

When a woman is your stereotypical good soldier, whether it's a sailor and airman or Marine, she is going to be physically strong, aggressive, determined to be in the military, probably not married, able to deploy at any time and without children. And when she meets that description, she also meets the stereotypical description for lesbian. So women who are successful in the military, whether they are gay or straight, are often perceived to be lesbian, and have investigations begun against them more rapidly.



05:54

Dyer adds that there have been cases of heterosexual women who have been discharged from the military, because they have been suspected of being lesbians or they have associated with lesbians. It is common practice for the military to carry out massive witch hunts of suspected gays and lesbians, in which those investigators are asked to name names, often with the false promise of being let off the hook if they comply. One of the most famous witch hunt cases took place in Parris Island, South Carolina in 1988. The investigation involves some 70 female Marines, some of whom were heterosexual. The women were as Kate Dyer calls it lesbian baited accused of being lesbians. Barbara Brown, who served six months in jail because of the Parris Island witch hunt, confirms that lesbians in the Marine Corps are disproportionately investigated.



06:42

While I was in the Marine Corps. I was with military police, and there was a male drill instructor in 1987 at Parris Island who was caught performing homosexual acts with a male recruit. They did not pursue this guy in any means other than put him in jail because of what he did to a male recruit, but they did not ask him to give us names and they didn't want any kind of sweeping witch hunt for the men. But in 1988 Look what they did to all these women.



07:07

Kate Dyer says it's evident that even the military's arguments against gays in the armed forces are not addressing the presence of lesbians. Dyer says that substantiated by the fact that the military's fears focus on issues of gay and heterosexual men showering together. This is Lisa

dual dig in San Francisco.



07:28

Bankers in the diplomats are going in the army will happy day I give my pay to see them on parade with the punches at attention and their stripe pants at ease. They've gotten patriotic and they're going overseas, we'll have to do the best we can to bravely carry on. So we'll just keep the young folks here to manage while they're gone. The Gentlemen of distinction in the army the gentleman of distinction in the



08:15

gay showers and the military is that the issue? Does our future really depends so much on a little soft soap and water. This is Shelly Roberts for this way out. All I've heard all week is how awful it's going to be that our innocent troops are going to be subjected to showering with known homosexuals. Well, we must either be the dirtiest subgroup in history or, as I've long suspected, the cleanest Congressman Barney Frank, our Congressman Barney Frank, when asked about the seriousness of this whole silly issue, put it all into perspective when he informed his interviewer that gays have been serving in the military since Charlemagne and before



08:54

gay men and straight men have been sharing dormitories, showers, health clubs, for a very long time. I mean, we don't have ourselves dry cleaned. We all acknowledge there have been gay men and lesbians in the military for many, many years. And this pattern of sexual harassment simply isn't there.



09:10

And I can't tell you how many nervous man I've heard voicing their stuttering concern over sharing foxholes with us. Can't you just hear it? So I mean, what you know, if we was in this foxhole, see, and there was this humongous tank coming right down at us, and there was mortar shells and flame throwers, and six guys with bayonets pointed right in our gut see, and a squadron of dive bombers spitting bullets directly in our location and, and what if, you know, just like right then this guy wanted, like, a little kiss. What then? And where were the lesbians in this whole debate? Invisible as usual? I can't say that this whole debacle hasn't been educational. We've known for years that we seem to be stuck on the wrong side of an oh so close 4555 percentage. Every time we go out after our rights. We keep hoping that these 55 percenters who keep voting against us will suddenly come to their senses. Because we know that they can all be members of the 700 Club, can they? What we learned about all the things that they are still saying about us, I think is that while we've been very, very busy coming out to ourselves in larger and larger numbers, and impressing ourselves with our accomplishments and credentials, we just haven't done a very good job of letting the grocery store clerk and the gas station attended. The bank officer, and the voting real estate agent know who we really are the rest of the world who aren't us still see us and judge us in 1950s terms, and whose fault is

that? This whole discussion really has very little to do with us in the military, and our rights to breathe and cadence march on the planet, and everything to do with our future freedom and every walk of American life, including the salute required, and we have the next six months to make a difference. It seems to me that it's the necessity of every lesbian and gay man in the military to stay in for the next six months, or at least until the question is cleared up. But it is the obligation of every one of the rest of us to come out to the most ordinary of our straight neighbors and Associates. Every place we can and in every circumstance that won't cause a hand grenade to be rolled under the porch. Because if we don't make ourselves known for who we really are, when those six months are up, and they vote against us again, whose fault will it be that the rest of the world judged us on the only images we've ever given them? The images they get from books they have to hide under their mattresses? For this way out? I'm Shelly Roberts.



11:38

Thanks for tuning into this right out the international lesbian and gay radio magazine. This week, Cindy Friedman, Brian Eunice, Mark Boyer, Don rush Verna Avery Brown, Lisa Dudek and surely Roberts contributed program material. Thanks also to Ron buchmeier, Kevin Lerner, Essex Hemphill and Pacifica network news. Michael Callen, Aretha Franklin Living Color and Judy fjell. perform some of the music you heard and Kim Wilson composed and performed our theme music. This way. I was brought to you each week by a staff of community volunteers and a sustained by financial support from the community. audio cassettes of this way all programs are available by mail individually or by subscription. Write to us for more information, or with any comments, suggestions or questions you might have. Or just to let us know you're out there listening right to this way out post office box 38327, Los Angeles, California 90038. And please be sure to include the call letters of this station for the field tripping Lisa Chappelle and all our volunteers. This is Greg Gordon with our thanks to you for listening on wy EP Pittsburgh, three CR Melbourne and kz SC Santa Cruz among others. And for supporting this local community radio station, you know, you're going to stay tuned.



12:52

Hello, my name is Randy fields. And I'd like to send out a dedication to the leader of a local political group who I heard say at the last general meeting of this political group, quote, I need a PR committed I need one right now tonight. So this dedication goes out to the leader of this local political group. Hi, well,



13:23

you're here at after hours once again. And still. We're at 90.1 FM as you will know, if you tuned in, and we've just heard some amazing stuff. Besides the fact that we just heard this way out game was being international around the world and beyond news. We just heard an interesting, very, very interesting discussion between members of the gay community Ray Hill and Ed. Lozano Lizano who is a missionary and Christian activist. There are there many different views. Ray was here representing his and Edie was here representing his there are some people in the studio tonight that want to represent theirs. And that's what we're here for. As a gay lesbian, Christian, it's it's it's important for me personally, to let people out there that are even more

confused after this or that are not reaching so much for the indefinite that can never be explained or unexplained. But people that are interested in the here and now and right in front of them in black and white and what do I do next Sunday. And what am I going to tell my parents and what's God trying to tell me and how do I know it when I hear it? We have some people in the studio with us tonight. They're going to talk about that. the ever lovely Michael Crawford is here this evening. Yeah, Michael. Hey Michael. How are you? Taking time out from his busy weekend social schedule, I'm sure. And the ever lovely and popular Miss Sally was also known as Sally Inkling would. We're glad you're here. Yeah. Hi, Sally. Hi, Lydia. Lovely Lydia is here Lydia have the fantastic pen. Hi, Lydia. And Greg, member, future band member, Greg, the musician, Greg, Greg of the young tonight, we have pretty well represented the spectrum of ages, colors and sexes, anything I missed out. There's no Asians in the room. But if there's any out there that want to be on, I'm listening, please give us your phone number. Please, if you have an opinion, give us a call at five to six KPFT there'll be people to take your calls. Everyone, jam KPFT. Everyone has an opinion, as we all know, and I want to ask some of our esteemed guests here this evening. A little bit about, I want to ask one kind of f the real question to begin with. And that is what, how has Christianity affected your life? And did you grew up with religion? I mean, that's a real big question, but I'm gonna try to pare it down a little bit more. How is Christianity affected your life? Specifically? Did you grow up within a religious household? And what does that mean to you as a person first, and then how that affected you as a gay person? And if you consider yourself a gay Christian, Michael?



16:38

Well, I am. My family is like entirely black Southern Baptist. Meaning that, you know, it's pretty well conservative and everything is basically family oriented. I mean, I guess at the time, when I when I was younger, and I was like, you know, had delusions of heterosexuality, Christianity did kind of mess me up and religion was was a problem for me. But now I'm at a point where I don't really have much of an interest in organized religion. I do believe in God, and so on and so forth. But I really don't think about it a lot. I've toyed with the idea of converting to Catholicism. Because it's the sexiest religion around I think, beautiful. Yeah. And style is important, even in religion. But I mean, I don't know, I don't, it doesn't bother me anymore. I mean, I don't feel like I'm gonna, you know, burn hell because I like boys or anything. And the only thing that generally kind of upsets me is people like Pat Robertson, or, you know, some of the people who were here earlier, who condemn us for being what we are.



17:53

Yeah. So, any particular



17:58

Well, I grew up in I don't know, we didn't attend church every Sunday time thing, but it was, you know, definitely a thing that was there. I haven't mentally searched probably throughout my adulthood for a church that I felt comfortable with. And I will, you know, I guess that plugged MCC er, for as being a quote unquote, gay church in the feeling that you could go there with your lover are just with your group of friends and be extremely, very comfortable in

the church. It's nice to be able to go in to a church and be able to hold hands with the person that that you love. It I guess, as we probably all agree on this, I get real tired of this Christian thing.



18:48

Christian, Thanks, Christian



18:49

thing, because my understanding and gosh, I guess anybody could argue this with me, I was under the impression that God or Christ was this loving person. I never got this, this hate thing, that that you you hate your fellow human being and that anyone is less than you. For whatever reasons, I never got that from for my bringing up from any really from view of the churches. I've never really heard that in any church that I went to, of course, granted most of the more mainstream. So I'm just a little tired of this, this Christian thing. I don't really feel like these people quite hadn't gotten the grasp of Christianity.



19:34

Yeah, Lydia.



19:37

My home background was Southern Baptist. And as soon as I got to a point where I could choose for myself, I got into a church that was real strong and Bible teaching in the original languages and in the context of historical things and all all that so, but both of those had me suppressing my homosexuality. For most of my adult years, and when I was about 43, I got God has always been a personal has, has been a relationship with me that supersedes religion. And the first thing I needed to know, in order to accept my homosexuality was that God would be okay with it. And since I was so big into scripture, I had to find it in scriptures that it was okay. And I was able to resolve with each scripture passage that people have used against homosexuality, I've been able to find an explanation that tells me God's Okay, who I am. And, and I feel very good about that. And then I have I still have a very strong relationship with God.



20:49

Yeah, it's important. It's important. Anybody else? I know, you stepped in? Yeah, you talked briefly about it earlier.



20:57

And I'm sorry, if I seem to have lost my temper. Please, proud of you? Well, first of all, I have been, I have studied for the minister before which quite a few of my friends out there, we will

come as a surprise. I have found great contradictions within this word of love and hate. I have heard all my life to find line running between love and hate. It seems as though that distinction is very difficult to find within Christianity. Because when they say that, God loves you, Jesus loves you, we love you, I find that they know little to nothing about this thing called love. The 13th Chapter of First Corinthians If you will allow me simply says that love in Viet not love, love interest, not love bondage, not itself, it is not tucked up, it does not behave itself unseemly. It seeks not its own, it is not easily provoked. Listen to this, it thinks no evil. In other words, the legs, no judgment. And this is the crossing point that Christianity has not been able to keep itself away from judging an individual. Also throughout the Bible, blimey at this. Throughout the Bible, there are references Joost, for Romans, from First Timothy Chapter 10. I can go on and on. But the but the point is, that in each instance, according to any record that anyone can read, from the Greek, from the Hebrew, never the word of homosexual, or homosexuality is used, it is used in the frame of prostitution, whether male or female. And, and it seems, now they have a new translation out, that does use the word homosexuality, or homosexual. And but anyway, these are the words that the in the new translation does use the word homosexual and homosexuality, which is a growth, mis interpretation of the basic Greek and Hebrew for which it was meant to be.



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But don't you find it extremely convenient that that translation is now out with a religious right? This is amazingly convenient. Oh, we actually have this now in print. As a



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matter of fact, I've had I've had it sold to me see here it says my Bible homosexual, when in reality, it does not, it is merely homosexual. In that mis interpreted scripture.



24:04

Well, I think that we can quote scriptures and we can fight about what the Bible does and doesn't say, and I think that we can talk about the bigger issues. And what I am concerned about, like tonight, from two to three is really, really personal issues, personal issues of what to do next. Where can you go? How do you how do you feel? The first thing I want to say is that it's 2am. And we're going to take a little station break you're listening to after hours on KPFT this is your radio station, World Radio for the people 90.1 FM and now we're gonna go to some information for you