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gay, people, harvey milk, vote, support, california, movement, put, san francisco, lieutenant governor, airport, conventions, harvey, happening, commitment, governor, running, jesse helms, victory, dallas

SPEAKERS

Harvey Milk, Jimmy Carper



00:01

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00:12

Imagine a world in which millions of people are at the mercy of a small band of extremists, and which works of art are subjected to government censorship, and freedom of expression is a crime. Now stop imagining Welcome to America 1990. This is calling you Hearst. As an actress, I am terrified by what is happening in our country today. extremists like Jerry Falwell, Pat Robertson and Senator Jesse Helms are trying to destroy freedom of expression for their own political and personal needs. And since this freedom is so powerfully demonstrated in the arts, they especially want to silence the artist. That's why they're determined to restrict the National Endowment for the Arts, that an organization that supports artists all across America. We must fight back. Please call or write to your member of Congress today. Because silence for the arts is silence for America



01:08

sponsored by the People for the American Way Action Fund.



01:22

Men have.



01:43

We can't find any probalan.

J

Jimmy Carper 01:45

Well, they did find one there. They're checking it out now. Really old album.

♂

01:53

She died yesterday at 72. Yeah. And then a horrible thing to say someone died.

J

Jimmy Carper 02:01

Well, as a member of the endless million community, we're finding out we're saying that a lot more often.

♂

02:12

People say it all the time. I work with a guy. One of my units here in the Montrose area, his father died Thursday, I got a message from he sent it over to over the computer to me said my father just died. And I have to go home. And I understood exactly what he meant, because I was at work back in April, when I got the word that my father was dying. So wherever you go, when you go, we know that Pearl Bailey is there entertaining them all. Having one wonderful show. And whatever it is, we're supposed to do while we're here, in this time in this place, I think is to learn how to live together. This music is from a movie called Field of Dreams. And maybe that's our living is dreams.

J

Jimmy Carper 03:07

I think throughout her life, she lived her dreams.

♂

03:12

Well, we imagined that it's going to be great. And it was Picasso who said if you imagine something and believing something strong enough, it will come true. telling us that no matter what you want, if you believe in it, that will happen. And I can't understand what he meant.

J

Jimmy Carper 03:40

Sometimes it's really hard to believe that. Anyway, you know it? Sometimes the odds get over overwhelming. Yeah. But kind of hang in there.

♂

03:52

We don't have any choice. So while we're looking for Pearl Bailey we'll play this song for her

We don't have any choice. So while we're looking for a can dance, we'll play this song for them. And for all those others that we have lost, including my dad and America's dad. Because we know there is a much, much better place. In fact, I'm making a panel for a kid that I didn't even know to put in a quilt because I wanted to be represented. We know there is a much much better place that you go. And once you get there, I'm sure that



04:24

you will be flying away. Do you think they would be flying around? I don't know.



04:32

We'll have to see. Because I don't think anybody's gonna come back and tell us No, it's me. Good. We'll play it right after this. This is Chris spheres, from the album, pathways to surrender. It's called where angels fly and you're listening to after hours on KPFT Houston 90.1 FM of course Harvey Milk that you have never heard coming up in just a second. So stay with us.



05:05

They want to know Lee Pearl Bailey. Yeah. And it's nice having stuff like that around when you're gone,



Jimmy Carper 05:12

isn't it? I don't know, girls are very old record. In fact, I mean, the picture of her is incredible.



05:21

Will they play any of this when we've gone Mary? Or will it just



Jimmy Carper 05:24

go away? Oh, who knows? Oh, somebody



05:26

take these tapes and erase them? Or will we be here forever? When we go somewhere? Does anybody care?



Jimmy Carper 05:33

Well, it's I don't know that I care. I like to do the best job I can. Now.



05:40

You know, like I said, earlier last week, when I found out that man had been fired, yes. Because he was listening to the show. And he was accused of promoting homosexuality on the job. I became real angry. I was very angry. And then, as fate always has it, things happen to cheer you up. And I got a telephone call from Ray Hill, who I admire a lot, you know how much I admire. Most of what I admire Ray for is just for being himself and for being around for so many years



J Jimmy Carper 06:23

hanging in there when the odds were really against. And



06:27

I go to him a lot screaming and crying and kicking and going, I don't give a damn anymore. I'm gonna quit. These people are treating me like dirt, and they're hateful. And Ray always looks at me and says, Would Harvey Milk walk away? I remember one time I was trying to get into a caucus meeting and they wouldn't let me in saying I wasn't a member when all the time I was a member. I recall that. And Ray Hill said, Would Harvey Milk have walked away? And he's right. But Harvey Milk is someone that has inspired me personally and you a lot as you listen to us over the last three years. So the things he has to say to us are very important. And I've been feeling real down in the dumps and real bluesy here lately, feeling like I wasn't getting anywhere. And who would come out of the grave to talk to me, but Harvey Milk on a tape that Ray found that was recorded in Dallas, five months after Harvey was elected. Yeah. And that Wow. So right now we are going to share with you some hobby that you haven't heard before. I got to hear him say the F word ups. But we had to edit it for radio, because Jesse Helms wouldn't like that even at this early hour of the morning. So what you're about to hear hasn't been heard for God knows how many years. And it will be heard a lot. And if there's one thing we treasure a lot around here, it's Harvey and the things that he taught us about coming out and standing up for ourselves. And he speaks to us this morning about fighting for what's right, and how the people who are out there to get us are out to get us. And if we don't register and vote that we will lose. It's all the same. All the things we've been saying to you all along. And it's the message that we continue to pound home at this country was built on the basis of a constitution that says we the people. And as gay and lesbian people, it's up to us to get that freedom and reclaim those rights because they will not give us anything. Martin Luther King said freedom is never given to any man. Martin Luther King also said, If you don't have anything worth dying for, you don't have anything worth living for. And Harvey says this morning in this tape that if you're not doing anything, if you're not involved, if you're just hanging around, you're just occupying space. And I don't have to recruit you to join the gay and lesbian movement. And you're going to hear why in just a second because your commitment to stay tuned every week. Is your commitment to be a part of what's happening. And it's just sad to think that 21 years later, or not 21 years later. 12 years later, actually will be 11. Right. 1978 99 It'll be 11 years. Wow. 12 years, 12 years this year. That's scary. Just think about what he says and when he refers to 990 that this was recorded in 1978, five months after he was elected. And just think about that as he talks about change and how important it is to vote that when the city leaders in Houston I got together the people who were on our side and put the

gay referendum together to protect people like me on the job, that less than 20% of the Montrose bothered to go vote. So we didn't even support ourselves. Think about that. Think about that in 1990 we get all worked up about something as simple. I'm not even going to do that. Because I do, I'll get on a roll. And just real angry. And I'm angry at a lot of gay men who are so goddamn busy that all they have time to do is workout and go out and get laid. And they think that their next trick is the answer to all their problems. And they're just fooling themselves. Or those of us that drink ourselves to death or drink ourselves asleep, thinking that's going to solve our problems, or we take drugs until we can't see straight. And we run around to every bookstore and every bar, and every bath house looking for the perfect person. And we're never going to find not like that. And I know, I know in my heart that there's a way out of this mess. And this is the way we're going to get it this is the way we're going to find it. This is the way we're going to succeed. And it just makes me angry. To think about so many beautiful gay people losing their lives, and they may be working and running around pretty bodies and beautiful tans, but they're dead. Just as dead as a zombie would be. They have no happiness in their hearts and nothing to look forward to. But that next drink, or that next high or that next trick, and I think that's sad. And I think it's sad that we as Americans don't fight back and say, Hey, God dammit. The constitution is for me. Remember we the people. So get your Bibles off the Constitution and get off our backs. And let us live our lives. I think it said that we've got someone as blatantly homophobic is Clayton Williams, running for governor. And I think it's sad that we let the City Council do something as racist as they did Friday and nobody speak out against it. Anyway, we could go on and on and on. But we're not going to do that. Because if I do really get mad, so let's listen to Harvey Milk. This was recorded five months after he was elected in Dallas, Texas. And he had to pay his \$4 girl to get there from the bus. They didn't pick him up at the airport. Listen to this. We'll be back in a minute.



12:57

Our Dallas weekend with Harvey Milk was kept on the evening of June 10 When he addressed the assembled conference in North Dallas hotel ballroom. The introduction was handled by Dallas K Political Caucus President Steve welcomes Harvey



13:11

Milk was sworn in on January the eighth. The next night at a major dinner his honor. The guest speaker was the Lieutenant Governor of the state. Think about that the Lieutenant Governor of the most populous state in the nation, as the guest speaker for a gay person. I would like to quote two lines from Lieutenant Governor MERV tamales remarks, Harvey Milk selection constitutes a measure of tolerance. And we have passed that test. His political victory marks a civil rights victory. It is undeniable to me that the gay liberation movement represents the advanced guard of the human rights movement. A victory for gay liberation is a victory for all the oppressed minorities, the man that inspired those words, Harvey Milk



Harvey Milk 14:01

thank you thank you for being here. The US wherever you are, make it possible for the masses, in this case to do our trip without you without your support the game sisters and brothers all over the country. And some of us would never be able to do it. So thank you for being here

today. In the six or seven years that I've been quite active, I've only given two written speeches, you know, wrote it out. I usually kind of like put some notes down and don't even follow them. I gave one speech that night when the lieutenant governor was the guest and I was told it was a very excellent speech. So I have one copy in case anybody wants to read it. I I was expecting the traditional Texas welcome. When I got off the plane last night. And I'd never been to that airport. There was nobody there. And I said, Texas, and then it dawned on me, very clever, you know, very smart, there's always that threat of fear that something's gonna happen that the extreme right wing, the paranoid people will get afraid and try to disrupt and maybe wait for me to come in and, you know, take me away someplace. And I figured they didn't know what I looked like. But they knew what Steve did. So they were watching him and waiting for him to go to the airport to get me and he was smart, he stayed here, and figured I'd have to take the bus and nobody would interfere. So I got on that bus. And it made about 10 stops before we got out of the airport. And I thought I was in Disneyland and had this magnificent ride on this bus from the airport to here and I crews the bus driver. And somebody wearing an Aloha shirt that kept saying mines cold tonight, you know, and because I'm dressed like this from San Francisco, and it was very clever. And I got here and there was no incidents and I was safe and everything but very cheap. I had to pay the \$4 So I found very tacky you know, in New York Jew when you see when before I forget this, I was given one note by my administrative aide before I left a gay woman by the name of and she wanted me to remind everybody that when you see the movie tonight, gay USA, there's gonna be one scene where there's this lesbian in leather. And usually the audience kind of responds pretty good. That's how love a joy. So when. And you should see, you know, you should see what city hall is like, you know, and it's probably one of the most together, people I know. But when Joyce comes down to City Hall and leather picture that way. Anyhow, I'm Harvey Milk and I'm here to recruit you I was reading the Playboy interview the person from Florida who wants to wants to put all gay people in a jail. And just stop and think about it. 20 million gay people in one jail. We would, we would have our own community center. And instead of running for supervise, I'm gonna run for sheriff. And either Brian, they actually blame blame the drought we had in San Francisco on the gay people, California. And honestly, God, this is true, honest to God. But the day I got elected, it started to rain. And we had we had a series of rainy days on or off. And the day we were sworn in we some of us walked to City Hall from Castro. And maybe I'll talk to him about that later. But we walked to City Hall and it was kind of clear, I was getting cloudy. And it's recorded. But I had my hand up and as I was getting the as we do everything backwards. As I was saying getting rid of the say I do it started to rain again. And then really subsequent to that it started to rain and re re they want to be called me to stop the rate, but it stopped. And things are going pretty well. I can't resist because you people are very political. I have really one political joke. A real you know, real story joke that I only get to tell about every six months or so. And I told this in Chicago and they never heard it. But I couldn't believe that. So I'm going to tell it here. And I don't know how many people know about Chicago politics. So this is an in joke if you don't know about it. It seems there was an ocean liner going across, and it sank. And there was just one little tiny piece of wood floating in three people was swimming towards it, but it could only hold one and the three people were the Pope, the president united states and Mayor Daley. So They had a discussion where they're treading water to see who should hang on to and be saved. And the pope pontificated about being the spiritual leader of the world. And it was a good argument. And the president who was able to chew gum and swim said that he was the leader of the most powerful nation of the world. And he went on in his brilliant way. And there was a good argument. And then Mayor Daley said that he recognized both positions. But Chicago was the hub of America, what took place in Chicago, affected America and the Archdiocese of Chicago was the largest in the world, and affected. And you know, it was a good argument. And they all realized they had real good arguments. So they did it the democratic way. And they voted, and nearly one seven to two. I have attended some of the workshops, and

I look here, you know, and I say yet, you know, three, four or five years ago think that this number of people would be gathered on a Saturday night, in a major hotel that used to conventions, and if anybody at that time would have said it was gay people would have said no. And it's so exciting to see it breaking out all over the country, that the, the movement, the gay liberation movement is ready to explode. And you're a part of it, and you're helping it. And it's very exciting. And I watched the reactions in those seminars, workshops, and it was exciting to see the intensity. It's happening all over the country, and you realize where we've come and where we've got to go. And my last whimsical pot would be to remind you of Winston Churchill's famous statement when he went to give a speech, and in the reception was the head of the temperance movement. And she said, it's a Churchill. We've measured how much Scotch you have drank in your life, and a room the size, it would fill up this high. And he looked around and looked at her hand, looked at the ceiling, so much to do so little time left. And so much to do in your being here, is making that commitment. I jokingly said, I'm here to recruit you. I don't have to because your being here is that commitment. And the message that everybody has to say is that without a commitment, you just occupying space, we had better make that commitment. Because we cannot afford not to that the movement that we hear about the UNITA Brian's, and the John Briggs is in California and their counterparts throughout the country, are trying to legalize bigotry. And we better be prepared for it. And we better make that commitment. And for those who don't understand, you better read the gay history. And I think Don Amador will let you know about that tomorrow for those who have forgotten and read those history books, because you've got to make that commitment. It is very dangerous. Based on what we've seen already. Every ounce of tolerance is going to be attacked. And every bit of bigotry will surface. We just had a primary in California. And think about this. In San Francisco we very seldom have races for judgeships, they use a kind of fait accompli, please, when you do have a race is probably the most dull race you can imagine. Each telling which law school they went to. And this year we had one race there were three people in order to avoid a runoff, you must get 50% of the vote. It just so happened that one of the people was a woman in which the gay community banded behind. She also was supported by all the financial interests downtown and it was probably the first time we've ever agreed on the candidate. And every wealthy name in the city was supporting her and so every single gay person that I know, there are exceptions. And the weekend before in Liberal San Francisco and adult judges erase a piece of literature went out 45,000 pieces went out to the homes in the most conservative areas of San Francisco and on the back said who was supporting whom and to this other judge. It mentioned the police officers group, this distinguished conservative that distinguished conservative and it said who is supporting oliverie MC tropic tois and said, as she quoted herself and one of the gay publications, she regards herself as an honorary homosexual and she supported by Harvey Milk and Carol Silva. And there was the fagg hags smear in Liberal San Francisco, in a judge race. And I found out the names of the people put that out, and they were part of the progressive wing of the Democratic Party. And you can be sure the bigots are out this Myleene. And so we better better be prepared, because it's not going to be easy. Because we've heard quite often today and yesterday in the papers about this movement from the right, I use a bad pun, I refer to it as the third, right. And we know what they are doing. But we don't realize a two of the aspects. And one is who is talking about the most, and you will find out it is the media that is controlled by the right, telling us about it over and again, so that we starting to believe that it is the package on the shelf that everybody's buying. And so that the legislators believe that indeed is a movement to the right, and so the registered legislators are moving to the right. And the media from the right is saying the nation is moving to the right, to convince us that it is happening. And we are buying it. We ourselves are buying it. We look at the defeats. But stop and think of what's really happening in this nation in 1977. In Dade County was election that took away the rights of gay people, which in 1975, did not exist. And in the two weeks before and after Dade County, more was written about

homosexuality than in the entire history of mankind. That in every household, they talked about it, they may have said you know prayers, but they talked about it. And that was the opening of dialogue. And in every single city, this country in every town, the issue, the love that did not speak his name, spoke its name. And dialogue is the beginning of understanding. In 1977, a gay person was elected to public office in California, in 1977, the state of Mississippi lowered the penalties on marijuana and Mississippi in 1977, was the conventions of conventions in Houston. And I say yes, there's a movement to the right. But there's a god damn good movement to the left to. I am not and I am not going to buy I am not going to buy their packaging. I am concerned I am aware I know what they are doing. I know the money they are putting together. I know the way they are chipping us away one by one. I know the way the tactics, but I know ours. And I'll be on my defense but I'm going to be on my offense to I'm going to put them on the defense. I'm going to put them on real soon real fast. And it's up to you to do the same thing that us fight that put them where they belong. And let's turn the tide around. I think it's like five steps forward and a half a step back. And so they may win some victories. But it's easy to win victories. It's easy. I told the editor of the San Francisco Examiner, the publisher. If I were to put on the ballot in Atlanta, Georgia, should whites be allowed to teach what would be the result he said it would go down to defeat. It's easy. Those are easy victories. And based on them. We think that the world is caving in. Sure era is getting beaten back. But 10 years ago, it didn't exist. And they tell us the movement to the right. It's their last ditch battle. And I think we're going to prevail based on history. And it's up to you to make sure so let me tell you a little bit of what's taking place in California so that you can relate it to Texas and maybe take the best of what we have and learn from that and take our mistakes and failures and learn from that so that you can put together something that is even greater. So I like to spend a few moments telling you about a few things that's taking place in California to let you know that the left is not remaining silent. You heard earlier about Lieutenant Governor timely who made some statements. You must understand Lieutenant Governor timely is black As the leader of the black community speaking out for gay rights, Lieutenant Governor diamond, he is putting together the democratic minority coalition. Get for a moment, whether you're Democrats or Republicans just forget for a moment if it's possible, but he's putting together the democratic minority Coalition, which is the traditional minorities, the feminist movement, and the gay movement. And by 1990, by 1990, if we register those movements, we will have control of the state. And so our goal is to register, not just our gay sisters and brothers, but the entire minority communities in the state of California, and in the city of San Francisco. In the city of San Francisco, we have a race for May next year. And I don't know who is going to be and I'm not that concerned at this moment. But I will, I am concerned is that in five years, it is a member of a minority that includes the gay in the feminist movement as well. And that's all gold in California to take over. So the right is varied once and for all. Learning, we learned how to do it, because we are learning and we're gonna make a lot of mistakes before it's over. But you can only make mistakes if you try. If you go back into the closet, and hide, you can't make any mistakes. You suffocate. So we're gonna make mistakes. But let me tell you what we've done as examples of where we coming from. Governor Brown was up for reelection. Governor Brown was unchallenged in the primary Oh, there were some minor characters running people like Harvey Milk. But there was no competition. And the big liberal meeting was the CDC convention, the California Democratic Club convention in San Diego, where the progressive wing of the Democratic Party meets. And the gay caucus represented almost 15% of that membership. And we submitted to the governor some questions. Quite a few questions. And he didn't quite answer them. And we didn't endorse him. And my statement was, the governor almost answered our questions. And we almost endorsed him. Subsequent to that, all of a sudden, now he's meeting with the gay community. We tried to arrange meetings prior to that we couldn't. But now he does, because he's in a tough race for governor in the runoff. And he needs us. And many of us will not go easy, or cheap. We have questions and we

want answers. Both candidates in the Democratic Party for attorney general fought bitterly for the gay vote bitterly and openly for it. And the mayor of San Francisco would not be mayor, for we're not for the gay vote. We've made the vote, the the end result, the ballot box, because that's where the answer is. You can have all the demonstrations you want, could have all the rallies you want, no other meetings you want. But unless you go out there and push that button, or punch the peg hole or whatever it may be, unless you cast the vote. It's meaningless. And the Wright understands that. And that's where their strength comes from. And it's us to form our natural allies, whether we like them or not, whether they like us or not, but to form those allies, to once and for all, to get our way to get our share. No more, no less. And so we are using the vote as a way to get the rights. We're not ignoring the other tactics. Everything's needed. But the end result is in that booth. And if you can't get your gay sisters and brothers to understand that and read them the pages of history, and those who say what differences my one vote make, let me give you one example. One district in our city, a candidate one forgetting whether that candidate is good or bad. We won by 21 votes, which meant that have one more person in every Fourth Precinct went out and voted against that person. He would have lost one more vote in every Fourth Precinct. And so those people who say my vote doesn't count. You're crazy. It's vital, because it's those one votes that make the difference.