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## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

whitman, gay, life, lesbian, heard, started, caressing, church, felt, voted, play, questioning, love, wilde, young, part, rhetoric, word, voices, man

## SPEAKERS

Kay Harper, Lucy Chappelle, Jeff Mackey

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00:02

Whitman's universality almost transcends the notion of sexual orientation. One sequence Children of Adam enthusiastically celebrate sexuality and was widely denounced as indecent. In it, he changed the sex of some pronouns, not so much as to hide anything, it was fully revealed elsewhere. But in order to be inclusive of women, he did try to give us a name derived from the last pseudo science of chronology, and that name was adhesive for comrades who stick together compared to Emmet of heterosexuals.



00:34

Oh adhesiveness Oh, Paul says my life.



00:39

For many years, critics refuse to believe that the sexuality of America's foremost poet could be homo, though the evidence pours out of the poems to us.



00:49

What Thank you, I take my pen in hand to record really have two simple men I saw today on the pier in the midst of the crowd, parting the party of dear friends, the ones who remain hung on the other's neck and passionately kissed him, while the one to depart, totally pressed the one to remain in his arms.



01:08

The gay pioneer John Eddington Simon's tried to get a straight answer from him in his last years, but he denied it claiming without any evidence that he had fathered six illegitimate

children. Critics have seized on that, and even on coded references like



01:24

always preserve a kind spirit and demeanor to 16 but pursue her no more as evidence



01:31

that he loved women. The numbers turn out to be the numbers Phonologists gave two bumps on the head and 16 is hope. And he sometimes wrote in a simple code,



01:43

daily and simple exercise I am fond of, to pull that young hickory sapling out there to sway and yield to it's tough limber upright stem. Happy to get into my old sinew, some of its elastic fiber and clear SAP and other spots. I hold him bowels are slender trees caressing me there in the sun and shade. wrestled with their innocence stalwart pneus and know the virtue of their own passes from them. And to me,



02:08

there's reason to think that hickory sapling refers to a youth called Harry Stafford, who was a teenager when Whitman was in his late 50s. They spent several years living together on and off, even sleeping together and other people's houses were equipment called him his adoptive son or his nephew. And his diaries record many physical details about his many young male friends.



02:31

Tall, well tanned, a great head of brown yellow ll shining hair thick and long ish, rough,



02:39

often with the same happy ending.



02:42

slept with me September 3. slept with him. December 4 62. slept with me last night. Whether soft, cool enough, warm enough, heavenly.



02:57

But we have a more explicit record than this. The gay pioneer Edward Carpenter, the man whose partnership inspired em Forster's Morris wrote a book about his encounters with Whitman and never mentioned them even spending a night together. But Gavin Arthur says carpenter showed him what Whitman was like in bed. Arthur, by the way, was the grandson of President Chester Arthur, and he told Allen Ginsburg,



03:19

Carpenter said that Whitman regarded sex as the best way to get to know another man. I asked him how Whitman made love. And he showed me it was a warm night, and we had just the light eiderdown over us. We were both naked and lay side by side on our backs, holding hands. Then, he was holding my head in his two hands and making little growling noises, staring at me in the moonlight. This is the laying on of hands, I thought reverently, Walt, then him, then me. He snuggled up to me and kissed my ear, in his beard tickled my neck. He smelled like the leaves and ferns and soil of autumn woods. The old man at my side was stroking my body with the most expert touch, caressing the flesh with feather whiteness.



04:15

I just lay there in the moonlight that poured into the windows and gave myself up to the loving old man's marvelous petting. Every now and then he would bury his face in the hair of my chest. Agitate a nipple with the end of his tongue, or breathe in deeply from my armpit. His tongue was flickering all over me like summer lightning.



04:42

I could feel my young vitality flowing into his old age. He wasn't new sense of succubus. The emphasis was on the caressing and loving. I fell asleep like a child safe and Father Mother arms. The arms of God.



05:03

One storm in it in 1865. Whitman was the only passenger in a tram car. The train conductor Peter Doyle went to sit with him and as he put it, they fell to each other at once. Doyle put his hand on Whitman's knee, and the two men remained passionately attached until Whitman's death. Even though Irish born Doyle fought for the Confederates, and Whitman was a Yankee. In 1882, Oscar Wilde took time from his lecture tour of the US to visit Whitman. Wilde was 27 Whitman 63. At first they talked formally of art and poetry. Then Whitman opened a bottle of his sister in law's homemade elderberry wine, and they got a bit more friendly. Whitman put his hand on Wilde's knee and said, I will call you ask her. Maybe a hand on the knee didn't mean as much to them as it would to us. And beside the publisher JM Stoddard was there. Start out later said the wine must have been hard to get down. But Wilde replied, If it had been vinegar, I should have drank it all the same, for I have an admiration for that man, which I can hardly Express. He did express it later. He is the grandest man I've ever seen, the simplest, most natural and strongest character I have ever met in my life. And I regard him as one of those wonderful large entire men who might have lived in any age, and is not peculiar to any people.

Strong, true and perfectly sane. Wilde visited Whitman again a few months later alone this time. Wilde was later to tell George Ives and early what we would call gay activist that Whitman had made no effort to conceal his homosexuality as he had from Simon's the kiss of Walt Whitman, he said, is still on my lips, being such a whole human being Whitman's life could not be uninterrupted, bless.



06:51

Hours, discouraged, distracted, for the one I cannot content myself without. Soon I saw him content himself without me. sellin and suffering hours. I am ashamed, but it is useless. I am what I am.



07:08

prophetic words. The greatness of Whitman's soul was such that he could be actively homosexual, loving each man and us totally, apparently, without carrying any of the burden of guilt that weighed down his generation, or the three that followed a guilt his legacy we are only now shaking off, has already been called the good gay poet. But perhaps he deserves the title of the first gay man for prophecies like these.



07:34

I dream in the dream I saw a city invincible to the attacks of the whole the rest of the earth. I dreamed that was the new city of friends. Nothing was greater than the quality of robust love. It led the rest. It was seen every hour in the actions of the men of that city, and in all their looks and words.



08:03

When you read these I that was visible and become invisible. Now it is you compact visible, realizing my poems seeking me, fancying how happy you were, if I could be with you and become your lover. Be it as if I were with you. Be not too certain that I am not now with you.



08:51

You been listening to singing and celebrating, produced and narrated by Hugh young. The words of Walt Whitman were spoken by John below and those of Gavin Arthur by Mike Dennis, Peter sledmere cast against type played the part of Oscar Wilde



Lucy Chappelle 09:06

when the subject of uncovering historical gays and lesbians comes up, the question often arises, what difference does it make? Here's US Representative Barney Frank, talking about the importance of coming out



09:20

any game that has been prejudiced is based so much on unreality, so much on inaccuracy, that when people meet real life gay men and lesbians, when they meet friends and coworkers and relatives, that they respect and admire perhaps, and find out that they are gay and lesbian. Every time that happens, a piece of that stereotype gets gets chewed away. And that's, of course, our ultimate goal.



Lucy Chappelle 09:44

That was a brief excerpt from Greg Gordon's interview with Representative and now author Barney Frank, who says of his new book, speaking, frankly, what's wrong with the Democrats and how to fix it.



09:55

What I mostly wanted to do when I wrote the book was to make the argument that the more admitted you want to liberal principles, the more committed you are to very, very serious thinking about exactly what kind of compromises what kind of adjustment to reality is going to best implement them.



10:12

I think at least part of the motivation for for people wanting to form a third party is that the Democratic Party has moved more and more toward the right as a reaction to the overwhelming victories of Reagan and Bush. No, do you think that the Democratic Party has gotten a bad rap?



10:27

No, I think that in some ways, we haven't moved to a rhetoric enough, but when I'm questioning is how it's forming a third party in any way rational response to that is the point of a third party to feel better, is important of a third party to go down to defeat with a fairly small number of votes, but in great moral purity. That's a valid purpose. That's not gonna help anybody, it's not going to cure homophobia, it's not going to defend the right of women not to be harassed in the workplace. I guess the best way to put it is this, I want to describe what we want to do in a way that emphasizes our connection to the middle voters, I don't want constantly to be told that you've got to calibrate your rhetoric in a way that will make the left field the most emotionally happy. I want my friends on the left to say, we're not talking to you. Now. We and you agree on many of these issues, please allow us to frame our rhetoric in terms of appeal to them in our head. So my gay friend say, Well, we're very unhappy. There's not enough talk about our issues in this campaign. But why should that be? The purpose of the campaign is to win over people in the middle. It is not to give each other constant reinforcement. And that's the Dima that I think we have to break out of



Lucy Chappelle 11:36

binding we'll be speaking even more frankly, next time on this way out.



11:43

Thanks for choosing this way out the international lesbian and gay radio magazine. This week Josie Coteaux geo marks aka mono Cindy Friedman, Keith Clark, Tommy Graham, Mary Lyon and Hugh young contributed program material. Thanks also to Christopher David transom and Bob young.



Lucy Chappelle 12:00

You heard the music of Aaron copelan and Charl Francois alguno featuring a vocal solo by Maddie mesco Kim Wilson composed and performed our theme music.



12:10

This way. I was brought to you each week by our staff of community volunteers and is sustained by financial support from the community. Funding for satellite distribution and some expenses has been provided by the Paul Rapoport Foundation and the funding exchange.



Lucy Chappelle 12:23

audio cassettes of this way out are available by mail individually or by subscription. Write to us for more information.



12:30

Or if you've got any questions, suggestions or comments about this way out. We'd love to hear from you. Right to post office box 38327 Los Angeles, California 90038. His way out is produced by Greg Gordon and Lucia Chappelle. And we thank you for listening on to xx Canberra, W EOS Geneva. And KDUR, Durango, among others and for supporting your local community radio station.



12:54

Now y'all stay tuned. Y'all stay



Kay Harper 12:58

to y'all I think we both picked up on that as being not very California

to y all. I think we both picked up on that as being not very California.

**J** Jeff Mackey 13:05

That's true. It's not in there. I didn't know they were curating Canberra either.

**K** Kay Harper 13:09

Well, hey, they're international. Yeah, and Canberra, Australia, I believe.

**J** Jeff Mackey 13:16

That's interesting. Know your geography and we don't we don't often hear granola and Copeland on this program, either. It's just a very eclectic evening we're having here. Well,

**K** Kay Harper 13:27

hey, that's that's part of the gay and lesbian lifestyle, isn't it? That's exactly isn't that why I'm taking my grandmother's antique chairs and covering them with Guatemalan fabric to be eclectic.

**J** Jeff Mackey 13:39

Is that why you're doing that?

**K** Kay Harper 13:40

I actually it's to go with like, the rug. And the poster on the wall. That's from Guatemala. Yes. Well, I'm sure Nicaragua or someplace.

**J** Jeff Mackey 13:53


Enough, I have a whole street shop talk here.

**K** Kay Harper 13:55


Welcome back. We are after hours continuing tradition. And I'm Kay. And I'm Jeff. And we're tired.

**J** Jeff Mackey 14:06


As well as homosexual but yeah, I guess no apparent connection there. But we are tired.

 Kay Harper 14:16


There was a woman in town last Friday, whose name is Monica grant. Oh, yes. Oh, god. She's funny.

 Jeff Mackey 14:23

I heard her on a breakthrough.

 Kay Harper 14:25

She's cute too. Unfortunately, she seems to have a girlfriend does your or something.

 Jeff Mackey 14:31

Do you have one more? Does your

 Kay Harper 14:33

Yeah, almost a year in fact, but, uh, Monica had this one song that we have got to play for. If nothing else, for all the lesbians who are now in therapy. Okay, it's great. It's just too fun. And if I get all my little pieces of buttons put together right I will play it for us.

 15:09

You've heard me one can do it I've done it my whole life goes back our shows it's it's a smash the codependency poker and spin round and round and Swing your partner with your movement lots of times this is tiring to do while you're doing your steps you have to do

 16:07

is never leave even if she's stuck on her toes dance this dance with lots of partners nice to see no perfect maybe everyone will like me Oh everybody's got a tendency to do that dependency

 16:39

I used to have my

-





16:40

life but now my life is you becoming the only thing we do I tell you how I'm feeling that might make you imagine only a few people the less Just Dance everybody's got to do boy



17:49

What am I gonna do with my life? I've got too many thoughts going on in my mind that's my problem. Voice is making noises in my head in my head always go We never know when what I've said little voices were



18:13

from my voice as believe me



18:21

all I want is a little peace and quiet. Unfortunately when I got this brain God forgot to show me where the volume controls were. The two voices making noises in my head got me thinking sometimes wishing I was dead you is Domino's and



19:03

boy says where are you from? Oh, little boys.



19:15

I'm Miss pin Dino. Here are the results from your career counseling examination. You've tested out in the miscellaneous category. That's a good career little voices making choices



19:30

for my life. Now the only thing a good Catholic girl can do and we know you're a good Catholic girl Marianne is to get married have children or go into the convent.



19:44

Be Your mother be a teacher someone's why boy, says you rob I'm old metal voices



20:11

I'm searching



20:16

for a place to call my baby God will let me



20:30

shower my baby today



20:53

now just relax. Take a deep breath and let's review all our options I could fall in love that's not enough because every time I fall in love I just fall out right that's yeah you don't want to fight



21:13

night cut always so hard to



21:29

set Reiki Mazola de



21:40

Gama



21:42

to find inner peace must I be deceased? Out of every one I know I know that I'm the one I know the least. I would be so happy to go with it would be divine if I knew I would turn on my shirts Why should I get a crystal? Should I change my name? Marita book, my shirt, my boy. macrobiotic once or twice a day take a good colonic to clear up the way Oh can I lose a when there's so much tension from these little voices I'm John Oh little boy said make some dishes enjoy your life because you're not getting any younger. You know the Tallboy Honey Don't worry about it's just the hormones acting up the PSM she'll be alright little voice she says Lee Oh my god, did you hear that? Somebody's gotta help me here. Give me the only thing that my God alone.



23:21

You know, darling, the first time you said I love you. It sounded like birds singing? No, that wasn't it. It sounded more like bells ringing. No, that wasn't it either. Let me tell you exactly the

way I heard it. It started at the pinna and the external auditory meatus I really couldn't tell you what day it was I felt a little tremor in the tympanic membrane and things started from a secure loop chain reaction of the malleus the incus and the stapes at the footplate and mechanical vibrations through the window with the speed of nm causes winds dips on the basil shearing up to cilia said off the synapse to the brain which deep coded to do. Damage placed upon your lips listen when I say when you said I love you I felt dizzy in the semicircular canals next Tuesday. Oh yeah, I had to go up and swallow because I felt so For my Eustachian tube down to the nasal pharynx shearing of the cilia set off the synapse to the brain which deep coded into a meaningful explicative place to make by laypeople. fricative. You know, it started as an external auditory meatus I really couldn't tell you what it was. But I felt this little tremor in my tympanic membrane and then things totally started rocking up and down my regular chain Listen listen when I say you know, darling. First, I was reluctant to act on what I thought was merely a neural impulse. But you know, the more I thought about it, the more I realized that the organ or T is playing our song started auditory needs to really could tell you what Jay is one tell



26:24

me he



26:27

says the stapes at the vibrations reason I'm a girl and by me that's only great. I am proud that my Silhouette is curved. That I walk with the sweet and girlish dreams with my hip assault swivel and swerving. I adore being dressed in something frilly. What my date comes to get to me after my 20s I will Tyco my Joe and John are feeling like a filly who is ready for the race. When I have a brand new hairdo and my eyelashes all in curl, I float as the clouds on air Do I enjoy girls when men say I'm cute and fun, and my teeth aren't teeth. I just love it. My knee I enjoy girl I play when the fella sends me flowers. I do over dresses made of lace. I talk on the telephone for hours with the pound and a half the cream up on my face I'm stoked to be the man and my future I hope to be in the home of a parade. Three male guy girl love when men sound sweet as can be as around in a dance it goes to my head like brandy wine Jones girl when someone that is small and says he loves me sue that falls on my shoulders when I hear a complimentary whisper that greets my bikini by the sea. I turn and I glower and I brush my feet and although wizards meant for me I'm strictly a female, male and my future I hope in the home of the brave three male guy



29:49

or girl girls



Kay Harper 30:03

Are you tired of taking your loved one to the dollar movie on Friday night, only to end up spending \$25 at the concession stand? Well then stay home and be entertained for free with a civil service broadcasting empire, featuring original comedy and unusual music all mixed up

together in a dazzling display of what scientists have termed conceptually focused entertainment. Friday night from nine to 11 on listener sponsored KPFT 90.1. FM. Yeah, that's the men before us. Yeah, I guess they're men. For some

**J** Jeff Mackey 31:11  
reason, will speculate.

**K** Kay Harper 31:13  
Oh, well, we've got the after hours of continuing KPFT Sorry, I was looking at the clock. KPFT Houston, 90.1 FM s, just in case you didn't know what what station you were tuned to at the moment. And we've got announcements and news and all sorts of things. Do you know that the Baptist actually voted against a proposal that would expel churches that support homosexuality really? Well, this is North Carolina. Still, but that's pretty big. Because isn't that where our favorite Senator Mr. Helms as well? Oh,

**J** Jeff Mackey 31:51  
yes. Yes. Good old Jesse.

**K** Kay Harper 31:55  
Reverend Lamar, king of high points First Baptist Church who voted against the proposal said I thought this was setting a precedent that puts us on a slippery slope. Yes. Something about alliteration that man like if we exclude one church for one reason, then we open up the door for excluding any church for any reason. Yes, it's like, okay,

**J** Jeff Mackey 32:18  
be honest. That's never an argument. I like that this is going to set a precedent. But in this case, I think it's maybe just as well.

**K** Kay Harper 32:25  
Yeah. There. There's a church in Chapel Hill that voted Sunday to give a gay divinity student a license to preach. I mean, this is like, I mean, Chapel has hills is where the university is. So it's going to be a little more open to to progressive ideas. Yeah, but still, and Pallone Memorial Baptist Church in Raleigh voted in March. That was last month, I guess, not that long ago to let its Minister bless the union of two gay men, one of whom was a church member. Really? I wonder if they had to go through all this silly classes that they make everybody go through before they get married in the church?

J Jeff Mackey 33:00  
Probably so probably so debate, like,

K Kay Harper 33:03  
put them both in the husband's class or what?

J Jeff Mackey 33:08  
I don't know. I don't really know much about that. We we didn't do that in the church of Christ.

K Kay Harper 33:12  
You didn't get to do much of anything in the church of Christ. No, not officially at least not

J Jeff Mackey 33:18  
Yes. As officially organized.

K Kay Harper 33:22  
Okay, so I'm just sort of a handful of things that are upcoming. Alto zoar, which is a group from the West Coast. I think they're from the Bay Area. It's three Latinas, and I believe she's Japanese or Chinese descent, but an oriental woman are doing a concert for the Yangon National Conference, which is Saturday, May 23. At 730. In the evening, they're also having a special guests called Los vientos folkloric music of Latin America. I don't know anything more about it than that. I've heard authors or CD and they're great. And starting next week, we'll have a little promo tape to play. But I didn't get it tonight. And this

J Jeff Mackey 34:13  
is the benefit to whom?

K Kay Harper 34:16  
We're not sure yet.

J Jeff Mackey 34:18  
Okay, but it is Diego and there's some

K Kay Harper 34:21

it's it's connected with the the national Yego Conference, which is the National Latin, lesbian and gay organization. Don't ask me how those initials come out of those words, but that's what they call it. take their word for it. Yeah, well, yeah, goal is the Spanish word for arrived. And so that's why they want

J Jeff Mackey 34:39

if you can't make an acronym up, just just force it to force it.

K Kay Harper 34:42

I think that's what they're doing. But um, like I said that Saturday, May 23 1992, and tickets will be on sale at Inklings. The Montrose softball league and organization you can be proud to be a part of it. Mmm is starting their season begins in early April, which is like now and runs through mid July. They play on Sundays. They have a recreational division and a competitive division. And let's see, non-playing memberships are also available. If you're interested. You need to write them because they don't have a phone number in here. And it's the Montrose softball league, PO Box 541954 Houston 77254.

J Jeff Mackey 35:32

And it's always fun to go out and watch these hunky semi Butch guys and tight clothing run around.

K Kay Harper 35:39

Okay, I'll take your word for

J Jeff Mackey 35:41

it. There is a women's softball league somewhere out there. I'd rather watch rugby. This is true rugby is fun. Oh, hmm.

K Kay Harper 35:49

Allen Ginsberg is going to be here on Tuesday, April 21. At five o'clock he's doing a book signing at Lobo. It can get that huge copy of Howell Yes. Done. Sponsored by a whole bunch of interesting people, the writers and artists group at U of H the U of H student program board the progressive student network progressive as opposed to the to the reactionary or something I guess students on the UNH creative writing department diverse works and Lobo so

**J** Jeff Mackey 36:21

drag out that copy that you've been holding on to ever since the obscenity trial and take it in have him sign it.

**K** Kay Harper 36:27

Yeah. Okay. I'm gonna do one more. We talked about the switchboard earlier. And the switchboard six general information number. There is one that is set up for persons who are 16 to 22. And it's called smile. I don't know why they call it smile when the cars that doesn't. It looks like Smitty, y'all, or something? Yes, ya, yeah, it's the sexual minority youth assistance League of Houston. And their phone number is 520. Teen which is 8336. For those of you who don't speak phone it's peer support for gay lesbian, bisexual and questioning youth and young adults. Like I said, from age 16 to 22. They have discussion groups, they have a speaker's bureau if you want to do something really outrageous for your high school, health class or whatever, you can get somebody who's openly gay lesbian and or questioning to come out and talk to you I read that one. Oh yes bisexual sorry. They also do community education. They do information on referrals and they'll just talk to with you if you want to. And they have weekly meetings on Saturdays for until six at the intercare Hospital which is downtown in on Fannin. And that number again is five to zero teen. And I'm not sure when I'm playing next, but I'm gonna play some music.

**J** Jeff Mackey 38:05

BJ Ruston, better known as BJ summers died on April 5 of age related complications. He was 39. PJ was a gay activist in his own way by performing in drag for benefits. Whenever I asked he performed his signature Reba McIntyre to welcoming audiences. Over the years PJ helped raise 1000s of dollars for various causes, usually aids causes. That was his kind of activism, helping raise the much needed money for AIDS and the Colts. In fact, he was a special member of the cult 45 and Imperial entertainers to the imperial court of the single star. BJ did not want a memorial or funeral service, but a celebration of life service will be held at a future date, which will involve more of a bar run. We had after hours wanted to make special note of BJs death because of the special person he was and the contributions he made to this community. The next three songs are dedicated to you BJ