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## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

lesbian, people, gay, life, gay pride, community, remember, accepting, houston, heard, deal, young, years, celebrate, queer, gay men, week, coming, turned, women

## SPEAKERS

Jimmy Carper, Speaker 7, Roy McCarthy, Speaker 3, Speaker 4

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Speaker 3 00:02

definition, mutual orgasm. My husband and I just choose not to have it. We have always been with all state we think it's a good company. Although side, Mutual of orgasm people we don't like them. Their show is way too violent that what's it called Wild Kingdom with Marlin Perkins, he and Jim are always wrestling those animals to the ground. We just believe we're in good hands with that other company.

J

Jimmy Carper 00:41

The end of another QMZ. However, I do have one more request from Bill to Mike. And I'm gonna try to squeeze that in right at the end of the show. Because right now we need to go to the old farts tape is what I lovingly call it, and I'm on it. So here goes. Hello, Happy gay and lesbian Pride Day. This is the time of year that we remember the Stonewall riots in New York City circa 1969. I'm Jim Carper. When Ray Hill and I got together to interview people, we decided to concentrate on those who would remember that era 1969 Everyone was given the same questions. And what follows are their responses.

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Speaker 3 01:30

Harrington is my name and I began to deal with my sexual orientation in 1977, really, and it was disconcerting experience. So much so that I came to Houston in 1979, I had to wear a mask at first gay pride parade calm. I'd also add that also had turned left on Westheimer, our South by the tower theater. The first week I was here and I had an issue license plates on my car. And so the police stopped me. And they said, What have I done wrong. And if you Well, you've turned into a one way street and the other officer realized they'd made a mistake. There was only one way on the other side of what timer. And the people in front door mirrors were standing there watching all this take place. And so since they had to say face, they looked and found that my head Michigan plate asked me how long I'd been here. So finally, just as well you

know where you're going. And I was not quite as bold as I am now and I wasn't quite sure what to say. And so I pointed between Mary's and BB rock and I left that day straight enough that they thought I was going to be robbed. And I regretted it ever since.

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#### Speaker 4 02:37

my name is Eleanor Hanley, and I came to accept being lesbian proximately, three years ago. And the best way to describe it, it was like coming home. I felt like I finally got the whole picture together what life was all about? In 1969, I was living in a little town in upstate New York called Holly. What I was doing was being a wife and mother I had four children ages four to nine. And that's what I was doing. What was it like? Good and bad. I enjoyed it a lot. And part of it was pretty difficult.

P

#### 03:24

My name is Pat Gandy and I first came to accept the fact that I was a lesbian. Actually, five years ago, when I came out, I had strong suspicions that with all my life, but I didn't do anything about it. In 1969, I was living in Deer Park, Texas, teaching in Pasadena and trying to sympathize with all the four adolescents who are getting drafted for the Vietnam War. And as always, all my life I've always been sympathetic with the press people's I suppose that was a projection of my own hidden non acceptance of myself for what I actually knew I was I was a lesbian and projected by helping other folks and I sympathize with these adolescents. And it was it was it was a very upsetting time for me because I could see the power and and the awfulness of the federal government as it it in society stomped on any young person who dared to disagree. And I feel that it's somewhat similar to the fact the way the situation we are in many times by society that we they want to squash and step on us the same way.

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#### Speaker 7 04:50

Okay, my name is Laurie lingo. I accepted the UAE in 1974 when I was 37 years old, calculate fast you It was very liberating. When I finally came to terms with it. I'd known I think for some years I was gay, the really Ken Burns accepting it was about a year after my divorce. And it was, as I say, very liberating 1969 I was married, I was living in Fort Worth, Texas. It was teaching history at Texas Christian University.

J

#### Jimmy Carper 05:24

And that was in Lee, Eleanor, Pat and Larry, now tell you when they first heard about the Stonewall Rebellion, and what they thought of it, you will find out what gay and lesbian pride means to them, and how they will celebrate their pride this year?

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#### Speaker 3 05:41

Well, I was not aware of it at the time, of course, when I first heard about it probably was when I began to deal with leaving East Lansing, Michigan, where I had gone as a graduate from University of Alabama. And probably I really can't remember exactly which troubles me

University of Alabama. And probably, I really can't remember exactly which troubles me because it's such a profound moment. But I would have remembered it. Like I remember the day that Kennedy was shot. Because I mean, where I was, and when I wasn't aware of all this enough at that time to remember where it was exactly the spot. But in 1977, I would say I began to hear about it. But in seventh year when I arrived in Houston, and saw the likes of you and others at the Astro Hall, meeting one I started near saying Well, I think it's I think it's a glorious moment for all liberated people, and special moments for gays and lesbians. It's bringing out equality most each year, always want to pray to be bigger and better. I want the mainstream businesses to enter flows and I weigh myself to death all year long. But I finally got good and the folies and talk them into it and work with Academy and tuck them into it and I wasn't so busy with other projects, I never get to go and help Gay Pride Week. Do that. Also better this year, of course by being at the parade and and thinking back when I wear the mask in the first one and how far I've come. And I think also how far we still have to go.

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#### Speaker 4 07:12

I heard about the Stonewall Rebellion about two years ago, shortly after it came up. From what I've heard about it when I've you know, heard about it many people they had good reason to ride in the streets and right arm are lesbian and gay pride means my own personal pride is I am a lesbian, and proud to be one. I feel like there's a lot of work to be done for us to have had the real recognition that we should have is citizens of this world. I will be celebrating Pride Week, I started celebrating by going to the the dinner last Saturday the awards dinner, I will be marching in the parade. And this will be the second year of March and it will be the third year I knew it was a parade.



#### 08:13

Well, I probably heard about it when it happened. But I don't remember. Because I usually read the paper very avidly. I'm Ward mafia. But I spent most of the first part of my life as an alcoholic trying to suppress the fact that I was a lesbian. So there are a lot of I have a lot of blank spaces in terms of memories of things. But after I sobered up, and and when I was in the process of coming out, I read about it and being an old sort of semi mover and shaker and radical myself, I thought that they were probably long overdue and doing it and I should put should have done it sooner. But Uh huh. It's wonderful because being gay pride means to me accepting who I am. And, and being being being cool with that. And participating in the life of the community and doing what I can to further the cause of the lesbian rights. And I plan to celebrate it by by doing as I do normally. And then participating in in the events of Gay Pride Week such as going up, went to the banquet last Saturday night. I will attend several event and just fade in the parade on Sunday, because-.

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#### Speaker 7 09:48

I heard that when it happened either way, the New York Times. My feeling was, again, secretly knowing I was gay. I was very sympathetic. I was involved in the anti war demonstration myself with a family thought it was a great thing. Well, let me answer let me say, celebrated by being in the parade Sunday, the store. So a Lobo will have a booth at Star 91. So I guess in essence, that's part of how we celebrate it. We decorate the store. We celebrate gay pride, we actually a year round it, Lobo. But we do get a little more involved during Gay Pride Week. What Gay

Pride means to me. Again, I think it's something that everybody should experience year round. I think it's very important that we take pride in being gay and lesbians, first of all, because it's good for us individually, everybody, I think, should have a very positive attitude towards themselves. And that comes I think, with pride, and I think we should be proud if they are gay, and if they're lesbian.

**J** Jimmy Carper 10:52

Now, Lee, Eleanor, Pat, and Larry will tell you how gay and lesbian people have changed over the years in their perception, you will hear what they think of young gay and lesbian people today. And what advice the four of them offer-.

**S** Speaker 3 11:07

as an offense that there has been a lot of change, and a perfectionist and don't. Please easily. But there's no question that there are more people who are out now I think one of the things that colors my thinking on that is is a dilemma in Houston. Because I do think since 1985, and the January 19 referendum that we have gone down the aisle, I think more people are scared. But I do see a lot of young people in the bars coming out of that early age. And that's exciting. I really love them. Hi, I go to the bars. And I'm a late person. And I'll work at my desk on scripts on a production schedule until midnight or so and, and I'll jump off into my friends kidney about using that as an excuse. But I'll go to the bar some half, maybe for only 30 minutes. And I'll see young couples in the bars are especially on the under 21 night. And there'll be embraced when I'll be jealous and envious. And finally, I'll watch because I didn't do that at an early age in my life. And so I'll wait for us until they break. And I'll usually walk up to them and tell them how jealous I am. And tell them that that they need to have two goals that one they need to come out at work within two years and at home within three years that that's where our power is.

**S** Speaker 4 12:22

If I go back to what I thought gay and lesbian people were like, they definitely have changed. Because it was only what I thought it wasn't what I knew, because I didn't know anything like the people. I don't really know a lot of young people, but the ones I do know. They seem to have a lot of pride. And they seem to know who they are. I think the advice I would give them is to be true to themselves. And to keep working for the rights that we all need and deserve. Oh, well. Yes, I'd say so. Back when I first suspected my tendencies. I was 16-15 15 years old, just out of high school in a small rural high school in in Texas not far from Houston. And I went away to college. By then I was all 16 years old. And I strongly suspect that I was one of those homosexuals. So I went to the library and read about homosexuality and found out that it was a sickness that that was visited upon folks. And I determined that I didn't want to eat that. So it you know, it took lots of bottles of alcohol for the next 30 years to keep that from, you know, to try to change myself. It didn't work of course. And but I remember uh, definitely, I went to a girls school. So, you know, there were there were a lot of lesbians there. It's affectionately known. Among some of us today is the dark factory of Texas. However, I purposely avoided all those people, because I know who they were. I don't know how I knew. But I knew all I knew the ones that I that were rather obvious. Or I felt like we're a bit stereotype actually. And some of

the rest of them I didn't know because I've run into her here in Houston since then, and I had no idea about her. But everything was very close. It didn't very year. Nobody, you know, nobody talked about it. If I hadn't been so shy and retiring and, and less bookish. Of course, some people find that hard to believe about me, but But I was, and I, you know, everything was hidden. And it's wonderful to data, you know, you can you can, you know, read newspapers, in things in the newspapers, even even the stripe press this says, some positive things in between the rest of the time that it's not. And we have access to a day press into information that that's uplifting and helpful. That's how I eventually came out. You know, other people helped me but I got some of my my, did a lot of waiting. So. So that's, that's pretty much it's changed, it's changed for the better, but not nearly fast enough. Because the question just for you. How important is sobriety to your wholeness and your prime?



15:55

Sobriety is the most important part of being a person, it's proud and happy with themselves and with their with their gamiss for their lesbian, this issue is safe. I can't say too strongly or too often, that the advice I'd have to all people young and old, is to, they're not going to ever come to grips with their sexuality with their problems in life, if they don't get sober. And I think that's especially important in our community. Because we have been so oppressed and so downtrodden. And so maligned by so many people, families, by society, by everybody, that we've often turned to drink I did. And I'm no different than than a lot of folks. It's no respecter of, of economic conditions. It's no respecter of intelligence. It's no respecter of anything. But it's a very important thing. If we, if we don't deal with the the alcoholism, we can't deal with ourselves, and we can't be proud of ourselves. And to me, that is crucial, crucial, I'll never drink again.



Speaker 3 17:16

And again, my experience of the life is since 1974. As far as changes, you know, radical changes, I guess, since I came out. AIDS has completely changed our community, I think the main thing I noticed is, and they'll highlight my love, and I have discussed this often. In the early years. We've seen it over very few women, gay women, lesbians. And we find now that some of our best friends are women. I think that's been a radical change. I think for both men and women, gay men and women is discovering suddenly that there's this whole other community that we actually do have something in common. And I think part of that is because family more and more gay men are realizing that there's a hell a lot more to being gay than sex. And once they get that through their heads, when they realize that we have a lot of common goals, and just common ideals that we share with gay women. I think that's been the biggest change I've seen. It's been it's been radical. Well, I guess my only comment my contact mainly with with younger members of the community is primarily through the store or to the caucus or other activities. I find them much more liberated than I ever was at that age or even after that age. If I have any concern is I think a lot of younger gay men don't always understand the the impact of aids I think there's a tendency to to slough off safer sex among younger men that concerns me. But otherwise, I find them much more together much more dedicated, much more comfortable with themselves. And certainly younger men and women wore years ago.



Jimmy Carper 19:11

The last question for Lee, Eleanor, Pat and Larry concern, how they think their lives will be in the future.

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Speaker 3 19:19

Yeah, I have no idea I, I've learned to go with the flow. Not quite as big as I used to be. I try not to expect things to happen quite as fast. But I do feel like that is going to be more radical than I've ever been.

S

Speaker 4 19:35

Right now. My life is pretty wonderful. Because I'm in a relationship with a person that I expect to be in relationship for the rest of my life. And I'm very happy. Very fulfilled. In the future, I expect my life to just continue on as it is and perhaps even get better. Oh, I I have a wonderful life now.

S

Speaker 3 20:01

I don't. As far as a future. I think I take the attitude and I don't even when people take you out of here, I think we are at least I think more in terms of day to day at this point. Given the health crisis and everything else, I don't really plan even in terms of the business, I don't really plan that far ahead. And as far as life, we really do take it a day at a time. And that's, we like to think it's getting better every day. We watch all reports say that are coming out of Italy right now, in terms of the AIDS conference. There seems to be a lot of, I think, hopeful signs on the AIDS front.

J

Jimmy Carper 20:43

Now for a different perspective. We talked to John Barco, a 22 year old gay activist, we asked him all the same questions, we asked everyone else.

⦿

20:55

My name is John Burgo. And I first came out when myself when I was 16, junior in high school in 1986. And I've been dealing with it ever since I was like 10, or 11. You know, because things that happen in Boy Scouts and everything and, and denying it No. And myself even concern that I was listening for all the men that were around me. And it was, I was really lucky. When I came out. The reason I came out was that an exchange student and German exchange student was living with my family and sharing a bedroom with me, and I was madly in love with them, and had a terrible crush on him. And that's the point where I could no longer ignore the fact that I was gay, where I was just like, totally, I was really upset when he wasn't there, I was incredibly jealous of his girlfriend. And that's just the you know, the reason you feel this way is because they're gay. And so the very first person I told was a teacher in high school, and she was my best friend. And things were great. I mean, things were great. She was very accepting. And very, she really need a lot of support in in dealing with him and also in dealing with my

feelings about him, which was the big stress in my life. And I just started telling people, and probably by the end of that year, I told maybe a dozen people in my high school and people that I knew and except for when I told my mother I got nothing but fairly positive responses. And so it made me feel very confident about coming out a lot to a lot of times, I was being born in September of 1969. So my life was pretty simple. Just a little queer baby, doing the things that little queer babies do. Like most other babies, I first heard about it when I was in high school. When I was a junior, as I told that teacher, I was still dealing with a lot of problems. And there was this youth counselor that came to the school once a week. And so my teacher helped me arrange a time to go see her and I went and talked to her. And then she went back to the county agency that she worked for and found everything she could in our files about gay people. And she copied the huge copies for me, and brought them back to me. And one of them was an article in the American Library Association Journal that talks about Stonewall and I was really excited. Because almost as soon as I came out, I was like I was an activist, you know, I would get really pissed off when I heard people you know, like in Congress like Jesse Helms saying stupid awful things and, and when I just heard about, about it, and the police raising the bar, and, and, and all of the patrons fighting back and everything, and I just got so excited and energized. I think it's a time for us to remember everything that we've accomplished in the last 22 years. And to be really angry about the things that haven't gotten, not not angry at ourselves, but angry at all the stupid people in the Student Society that stands in our way, and to remember all the things that we still have to do in dealing with a and helping gay and lesbian youth. And, you know, getting some real political power for ourselves to represent ourselves in government, and end the violence, you know, and all these problems that we have to face, but to celebrate the fact that we have come so far, and that we really have a community of people who are working to me problems and what I'm gonna be doing this year is going to events and like I've done every every year, as soon as I came out like that, that first year when I was 16, a lesbian teacher that I knew in school who I come out to took me to see pointing glances was my first Gay Pride Week event and services that I've done something and so like, I want to see play this week and going to going to the parade of course and marching with the people from your age. And and just trying to be with as many of my friends as possible. But I don't think that game was gonna people have changed too much since the time that I came out to the present because it was only six years ago, five years ago. But I think in talking with people, and reading about the last, you know, 22 years, and even before then, I think people have changed a lot, and people are coming out more. And people are realizing more and more that, you know, when they get a negative reaction from people about their being gay, it's not their problem, it's the problem with the person who's giving them the negative reaction. And I think that's a big change in the last. I mean, it's a big change for myself, you know, from when I was 16, and I was terrified about my mother, you know, having a state of fire, if she found out I was gay to say more, she has to deal with it, it's her problem, not mine. I also think that, that people are starting to realize that the problems that we face as gays and people, no matter what group we come from, or what gender we are, or what color our skin is, or what language we speak, or what we like to do in bed, are a lot of the same problems, and we really have to work together to overcome them. I say that young people in the community today, how I think they see a lot of those things that that other people saw as dividing factors, like men and women, or blacking out, that the body people in the community, I think, for not all young people, but for a lot of young people, they're getting over that, you know, the young men are learning to, to change their behavior towards women, so that they don't, they're not recognizing, and they're not behaving and even unconsciously sexist way. And, and younger women in the community are learning that VR young men who want to change and giving them a chance to change. And I think there's a feeling more that you know, rather than being gay, or lesbian, or black and white, wall, queer, and we're all together, and it's a strong feeling of community. The advice I would give is that I think a lot of younger people

also tend to overlook the accomplishments of the generations before us. And they, they look at the past 20 years, and they see older people as not having, not having accomplished very much. And I think they really have to look at everything that's happened. And look at everything they've done, and learn, learn from learn from what the community has accomplished, and also the mistakes that the community has made, or to learn, you know, you can't just like start over and we will not just we're not we're not coming from nowhere, we have a whole path behind us that we have to respect. I mean, better and better all the time. I think in Houston, I see a lot of changes that people are coming out more of who are getting more involved in the community that that their their people are saying, you know that they can do their own thing and do what they want and not the same to themselves.

**J** Jimmy Carper 28:09

Oh, yeah, that's a that's a dedication from Bill to Mike. And I'm sorry, we have to talk over a little bit but we're running close on time. You've been listening to After Hours queer radio with attitude on KPFT Houston and KEOS College Station Roy's here, and we've got a couple of tidbits to read tantalize you with right at the end here.

**R** Roy McCarthy 28:30

Okay, I want to start off with our I just don't understand how somebody so smart and intelligent can say something so dumb. Yeah. Turns out that yeah, President Clinton is a Rhodes Scholar. Yeah, he is. And in, in answer to about gay marriages, this is his response. Yeah, get this, folks. And well, first of all, and I'm reading this verbatim from his news conference. Well, first of all, as I understand it, what the bill does, let's make it clear, as I understand it, what the bill does is to state that marriage is an institution between a man and a woman, and among other things, is used to bring children into the world. But but the legal effect of the bill, as I understand it, is the only legal effect of the bill is to make it clear that states can deny recognition of gay marriages that occur in other states. And if that's all it does, then I will sign it. Now, having said that, I will not pay for discrimination against people because they are homosexual. Why?

**J** Jimmy Carper 29:41

Now talk about they have no sense at all makes no sense at all.

**R** Roy McCarthy 29:44

That well, yes and no, because now he can say, Oh, by Oh, I already said that. I'm against discriminate. Yeah, he could say that to the gay community trying to have his cake and eat it too. Right. But the thing is that the Power of the gay vote. There's something like 3.2% of openly gay people in the vote that's openly gay people.

**J** Jimmy Carper 30:08

Openly gay people know how many are in the closet and what about bisexuals, right genders-.



R

Roy McCarthy 30:13

And so that that 3.2 should be a floor not a ceiling and a basement Florida. Yeah, absolutely. And what we need to do and I would like to ask all our listeners to do is to write to President Clinton that 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington DC right along hand letter, have your friends do it and if you and if you have other gay and lesbian friends and bisexual friends in other states have them right to Bill Clinton to because I want to say some each letter is worth according to their each handwritten letters with 5000 votes, according to them and that will perk up their ears. I had to man I really upset that. We in the gay community raised millions of dollars for Bill Clinton to get her elected to the office in 1992. And we saved his butt on many occasion and now and now he's turning his back on us.

J

Jimmy Carper 31:09

Okay, you've been listening to after hours KPFT Houston KEOS College Station. Be sure to listen to the return of the sons of nice musical chairs coming up right after the news