

gcam_ah_19930306_t1_02_edit

Tue, Nov 29, 2022 9:15AM 41:11

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

lesbians, gay, boycott, colorado, hiv, life, amendment, fear, vote, activists, law, years, military, celestial seasonings, lesbian rights, group, measure, support, roy, gay men

SPEAKERS

Speaker 13, Brian Bradley, Speaker 27, Scott Lewis



00:02

And and if we do and if people do if we do have that voice saying to us, you're wrong and you won't be happy, then sometimes we start to believe it. It's a very damaging voice.



Brian Bradley 00:16

Do you find many people who actively but maybe unconsciously hurt themselves by destroying the relationship, absolute lack of self esteem? It seems to be quite common in you know, in, in my world, I've seen it happen many times.



00:31

Right? Absolutely. That's, that's right on what happens, it happens in relationships. That also happens if you're not in a relationship, you can destroy yourself through other means, like drug and alcohol abuse, actually, gays and lesbians are three to four more times likely to be addicted to drugs or alcohol, which can also do some pretty damaging things to a relationship. And we've got, we've got a whole lot of other things, including fear of getting HIV, actually, that's causing a lot of gay men and lesbians, including lesbians, believe it or not, who are the very lowest risk risk group for HIV, but because it's identified with gays, and they are gay people, it keeps us in a sort of fear of getting attached getting involved



Brian Bradley 01:12

in alcohol or other substances dulls their perception of what the problem is. So they were it makes them forgetful.



01:21

Oh, it's because it does. Almost every bad thing you can probably think of addiction is pretty nasty one and in fact, it, it dulls your reality. But it also may increase your anger Level A distort your reality so that you you think someone's doing something when they're not really, it's just a terrible thing.

 S Scott Lewis 01:43

Another thing I want to talk about in just a minute is the non fear of HIV that teenager seems to have that is causing rampant sexual behavior. But first, we have to take a break, I have to tell you, whether you are listening to after hours or continuing tradition on World Radio 90.1 FM Kpf T, and we're going to listen to a song that you're going to introduce

 B Brian Bradley 02:07

Oh, okay, gosh, this, this is a song from Natalie Cole from 1976. And but before I asked Jimmy to play it, I would like to maybe say why I want to play it. The Thanksgiving of 1988 Myself and my lover Josh and his best friend Willie in his lover Kenny and two crazy queens from DC and I spent Thanksgiving together. And a couple of nights ago, I received a phone call telling me that Willie had died. And in such a short period of time, on the only one of that whole group that's left and it's really been a shock to me that I'm feel so newly hurt over all of this. I thought I'd be used to it by now. But a group of six young man happy and sitting around a table enjoying life and little more than three years. I'm the only one left and today's Willie's birthday. And he didn't make it. So I just want to say that to Josh and Willie and other other guys that were there. I still have you with million. And I hope we'll do what this song says.

 S Scott Lewis 03:29

And we're back. When we left, we were talking about the fear of HIV. Something I want to talk about that I see is a non fear of HIV in teenagers. Right?

 03:42

Right. In fact, we're seeing that actually go up. And there have been several studies out of San Francisco that show that HIV incidence among teenagers is actually going up. It was

 S Scott Lewis 03:53

in today's Chronicle. Oh, I missed it.

 03:56

But, but one thing about, we just have to understand about all teenagers because gays and lesbians are the same as everybody else. They have all the same problems, all the same good things, all the same bad things as everybody else. But they're just heaped on with all these

extra issues. So here's the same thing that gays gay and lesbian teenagers have is everybody else is they have a sense of invincibility, a sense that nothing is going to happen to them. And when they're told not to have sex, well, you know, that's not really a reality. So, so they're gonna have sex, you know, and they're not really taught these other kind of techniques and things. When they go in with that fear, that sense of invincibility. They feel like nothing's going to happen to them. And so they can actually put themselves at great risk for HIV. What I would encourage them to do is think about it in terms of losing a limb that's a little more real for someone who's a teenager. So just think about what it would be like to actually lose your arm or to lose your leg. Because maybe that's more real fear for you. And compare that to, if you get HIV that you might be losing those things.

B

Brian Bradley 05:07

And part of the reason that we're seeing epidemiological studies across the world, with higher numbers with gay youth, is gay youth is even further disadvantaged than they already disadvantaged young person is. They don't have many places to go to, they fear going to their parents, they don't have social clubs that recognize, you know, their sexuality without some type of judgment. They can't come to we older gay men, because we fear them more than they don't know how to find us. The article that was in the Chronicle day, give some new studies, there are now more than 10,000 Americans, ages 13 to 24, that have AIDS and AIDS is now the seventh leading cause of death for people between the ages of 15 and 24. Wow, it's very frightening. And that's a national statistic. I know, in some areas, like industrial areas of New Jersey, and in such it's even much, much higher as much as the third leading cause of death.

♂

06:11

That's right. And it may be higher here in Houston as well, because Houston unfortunately, is one of the highest incidence of HIV in the nation. Yeah,

B

Brian Bradley 06:19

I believe the last time I broke those statistics down 49%, of all reported cases of persons that have died with AIDS in Houston, died between ages of 13 and 29. Wow. And with the latency period in the asymptomatic, and then symptomatic in the course of the illness. He says, I was young when I got this

S

Scott Lewis 06:39

exactly. We're taking phone calls at 5265738. Hi, Roy. Oh, are

♂

06:46

you doing? Hi, great,

S

Scott Lewis 06:47

you're on the air.

♂

06:48

Okay, I have a question. How does a 42 year old gay male such as myself, come out of the closet so he can get his life back to where he wants it. In other words, I hate my life as it is I'm not who I am or who I want to be, or who I should be. I'm not comfortable. And believe it or not, this is actually caused me to lose sleep. And actually sometimes for no reason at all seems like, I'll just start, I'll break down and I'll just start crying because I'm just so unhappy with having to live a double life,

♂

07:34

right? I absolutely believe those feelings are very real. Because you probably have been very much leading a double life, that's an incredible stress. And it makes you have to deny the very inner part, that means the most to you. Coming out is a very difficult process, because it takes a long time, especially if you've developed a life and other life. I would just encourage you at noon and thinking about coming out not to take big leaps and bounds. But to just take it one step at a time.

♂

08:09

How do you start? Well, where

♂

08:12

I don't know what kind of things you're doing. Actually, if you're calling this radio station, that's probably one really terrific thing you're doing, you're actually putting your voice on the air. Another thing could be I don't know, if you've gone to a gay bar yet, oh,

♂

08:28

whatever, I do have a chance. And I'm not swamped in the bill. I go to a gay bar. Well, that sounds very lonely because I don't really have many friends. One time, I was able to break away from work and make a night out at with Q-Patrol which was very enjoyable for

♂

08:49

me. Wonderful. That's the kind of activities you need to participate in, get involved with some people who are already put in a group already have a group and just get the dip in the group and join the group. That's a place to start meeting friends in a more established relationship.

When you're in a bar, it's very difficult because it's one on one people are in different spaces and whatnot. But when you're in a group such as Q-Patrol, it's people committed to a certain cause. So there's less pressure and more room for relationships and friendships. Well,



09:24

in a way yes. But then one of the one of my supervisors had to drive down Westheimer that night and saw me walking with a cubicle and the kind of work that I'm in, it's kind of homophobic.



09:51

Well, they can't be legally homophobic, okay, right. But they have all these little underhanded ways So of expressing their displeasure,



10:02

so to speak. That's right. And



10:05

you're not legally, you know, hit them on, but it's there. And it's real. And without the work, there's no bread and butter.



10:15

That's right. Yeah, I do know what you're saying that is probably one of the basic underlying fears of people coming out. But it sounds like you're it sounds like you're really well on the way it sounds like you're if your employer knows and whatnot, you can start making some more positive steps and take control of your life. Because if as long as they start, as long as they are putting you down and making you the bad guy, you're gonna feel out of control. But if you start making some positive steps, maybe you can start being in control.



Scott Lewis 10:45

Thanks a lot, Roy. That's something that that brings up an interesting point. He's 42 years old. Yeah. And how do you deal with anyone that is been forced into this straight role that has, you know, married and I've met



11:06

people 60 and 70 years old, who are married and have grandkids and great grandkids, who have not come out of the closet in the traditional sense that they are essentially leading a

married life and have liaisons on the side. And, you know, although some people may fault them, I don't, it's that's the life they chose to live. And, and then they live probably the most difficult life of all, because they have families to support and they have their own needs and desires to express and they're caught in the middle.

 S Scott Lewis 11:41

And you bring up a good point, when you say, some people may fault them, because they're kind of caught in the middle from both sides. There's a lot of I don't know the word to use maybe sour feelings towards them. From the gay community.

 11:56

Yes. And that's unfortunate, because they're in a very difficult position. And it's, it's a very painful life to leave.

 B Brian Bradley 12:03

Now, thank for that those sour grapes come up is there's a big difference between the person who goes to their job and everyone assumes that they're heterosexual. And something negative is said, and they choose to not address it whatsoever. That is very understandable. I think we're the bitter taste in some of openly gay people's mouth is when that gay person participates in that also. I mean, can't give Roy just one sentence that will lead to the rest of his life. But I can remember my mother always telling me when something horrible would happen to her, she would always say, Well, this bad thing may be the best thing that ever happened to me, there's a step that Roy is going to have to take, that's going to be a huge risk. And he's going to lose something, inevitably, he's not going to get out of the life he's in now into the life he wants to be without giving something up and losing something. And maybe he is going to lose the very things he doesn't want. He's going to gain more than he'll you could ever envision. And so, I mean, he's just going to have to take

 S Scott Lewis 13:10

the step. Let's take another phone call, Kevin. Hello. Hi, you're on the air. You have a question?

 13:16

Yeah. Want to call in just to share with feelings that, you know, I've, I've come out of film. I really am both being homosexual.

 13:32

Good for you, Kevin. Thank you. Yeah, that's, that's a real terrific step. And it's really terrific to say it on there. And then that means a lot. It means a lot to the people listening.



Scott Lewis 13:41

Hey, Roy a minute ago brought up another issue that that's real prevalent in later life when you get older, which is fear of firing, he talked about seeing his supervisor when he was on Q-Patrol. How did those kinds of fears affect you? There's fears of coming down here. Number one, you have a fear of being seen by anyone that might know you, then there's a fear of violence on the streets. How do you advise to deal with that,



14:11

with fears of just everyday life? I mean, how do you deal with fears like that there's really you've got to realize there's real fears, like walking down the street and and holding your lover's hand and having people throw bottles at you and scream at you. That's a real fear. And that's a fear that we need to be aware of. And there's unreal fears, which is that I'm going to be chased off the continent for people finding out I'm gay, or that, that whatever is happening in their life will completely collapse. They do have to know that there's a light at the end of the tunnel and they do have to picture that light actually, and what I would advise to Roy and maybe what Kevin is seeing is that is that you see, you have to see the light at the end of the tunnel and you have to To say, Well, I'm going to be a happy person. And this is the picture I see for myself and go for that picture. And then the negative starts to fade away.



Scott Lewis 15:09

Tell us about just real quickly the mantras Counseling Center you the services you offer, and make them available affordably really directed at gay and lesbian people.



15:20

That's right. We're a nonprofit agency united way we are. We have many grants, and we're funded, thankfully, by the generous people in the community. We are a very low fee. Center and we see upwards of 600 people a week. Imagine that we have one of the largest gay and lesbian counseling centers in the United States, one of the elders to Yes, and one of the oldest 15 years this year,



Scott Lewis 15:44

how does somebody that's listening, get in touch with the counseling center if that was something they were looking for?



15:49

Yeah, they can give us a call or it looks up in the phonebook, Montrose counseling centers at 5290037. Again, that would be monetarist Counseling Center 5290037.

 Brian Bradley 15:59

And you're in your new offices now at 701. Richmond. Yes,

 16:02

we are in those beautiful new office,

 16:05

MCS and lovely

 Brian Bradley 16:06

plastic plants don't tell and Robeson.

 16:11

We can save on the water bill with both certainly.

 Scott Lewis 16:13

We're very thrifty. Great, Greg, we appreciate it so much. Thanks a lot.

 16:17

Thank you.

 Scott Lewis 16:19

Now we have to go to this way out.

 16:31

decision of the Senate is bad policy, bad politics, bad immigration law.

 16:37

New York Boycott Colorado at no time demanded Celestial Seasonings give us \$100,000 To

stop the boycott action against



16:45

African Americans are of the opinion that we don't exist. So in not only fighting society as a whole just by being gay or lesbian. And we have to also fight the African American community on issues of visibility.



16:57

It was actually frightening because I believe at that point, they had sacrificed the policies of our church for their fear.



Speaker 27 17:20

Welcome to this way out the international lesbian and gay radio magazine. Lucid Chapelle is programming a prodigious provincial pledge drive and I'm Greg Gordon. The twice lifted us aids immigration ban may boomerang back. Block queers stand tall at the beach, but New Yorkers refuse to party with Colorado tea and homophobia costs. Another congregation is Pastor, all that and more because you've discovered this way out.



17:50

I'm Alonzo morality.



Speaker 13 17:51

And I'm Cindy Friedman with news



17:53

wrap a summary of some of the news in or affecting the lesbian and gay community for the week ending February 20 1990. The US Senate has approved a measure that outlaws people with HIV from entering the country. The measure was attached to a bill authorizing spending for the National Institutes of Health and passed the Senate via veto proof vote of 76 to 23. I record has been is an Immigration Attorney in Miami, and he says he's disappointed with the Senate vote.



18:20

I think the decision of the Senate is bad policy, bad politics, bad immigration law and worst of all, an effort to substitute what is clearly a medical judgment which should be left in the hands of medical professionals.



18:34

Core has been described the Senate vote is pure politics and says it has little to do with stopping the spread of AIDS. I



18:39

show you how silly this whole process is. We allow 15 million people into the United States each year without giving them any medical inspection, many of whom may be HIV positive. This slide does nothing to address that.



18:54

The ban on immigrants with HIV has been US policy, but it had never been enacted into law. President Clinton had said he wanted to lift the ban but congressional action seems aimed at preventing that. The measure now goes to the house where a similar effort is underway to enact the HIV positive immigration ban into law.



Speaker 13 19:11

bans on immigration by people with HIV are also a source of controversy in other countries. In Israel policy requires any visitors staying more than three months to be tested. At least 10 foreign workers have already been deported as a result, about 1/4 of people with HIV in Israel have emigrated from African countries where the infection is common. But the center of the debate there is treatment of foreign Jews hoping to use the Law of Return to obtain Israeli citizenship. Government policy is not entirely clear on this point. But apparently HIV status takes precedence over the Law of Return.



19:53

Vietnam also requires HIV testing of anyone staying in the country for more than three months, even though no AIDS diagnosis has been reported there yet. Vietnam is also prohibiting anyone with HIV from getting married.



Speaker 13 20:05

Conservative foreign aid Minister Carl Dedar. Stronger has proposed requiring HIV testing before allowing refugees from countries with high rates of infection into Germany. The human rights group Pro Asyl called this plan racist, and a Social Democratic Party spokesperson claimed it would increase neo-Nazi attacks against refugees.



20:28

An activist who demanded better police response to the murders of gays in the Mexican state of Chiapas has now himself become another victim. A drive by shooting with a high caliber weapon to claim to the life of Neftali Ruiz in the Chiapas capital of Tuxtla Gutierrez, Luis was vice president of Grupo gay diversity, and it became a media presence protesting police failure to solve more than a dozen murders of gays in the area during the last year. Most of these murders were committed with high caliber weapons and showed other signs of similarity and professionalism.



Speaker 13 21:00

And while Chile is another hotbed of gay bashing, a new organization is now firmly established there to work for lesbian and gay rights. Moving me into deliberate Rossi on homosexual is based in the Chilean capital Santiago.



21:15

The human rights abuses against gays and lesbians by death squads in Latin America were a major topic this month when San Franciscans testified before the US commission on improving the effectiveness of the United Nations. The commission established in 1985 and composed of 16 Federal Appointees will submit a report to President Clinton in September,



Speaker 13 21:35

a social scientist in Zimbabwe is predicting that tolerance for gays and lesbians there will increase as the country moves from socialism towards a free market society tophatter own Omaha also denies the party line that homosexuality is the product of Western civilization, saying, quote, homosexuality has always been there, but as continuously been suppressed in the society. With the development of individual independence, there is now room for gays to come out in the open and quote, homosexual acts can lead to up to 10 years in prison in Zimbabwe, but growing numbers of gays and lesbians are coming out. In the past two years, the membership of the gays and lesbians club of Zimbabwe has grown to more than 150. Activists in



22:25

India have been joined by a coalition of Asian gay and lesbian organizations in campaigning to repeal section 377 of the Indian Penal Code. Section 377 and 1861 relic of the British Raj prescribes life imprisonment for carnal intercourse against the order of nature. Activists believe it violates the Indian constitutions guarantee that no one shall be deprived of life or liberty. Nevertheless, gay men are organizing in India, the group friends India based in mahanagar, Luke now organizes social events and distributes a newsletter.



Speaker 13 23:00

Poland now has its first gay and lesbian community center. The gay information and advice Center is located in Gdansk. A new gay bar in Cafe jambalaya is now open 24 hours a day imposed on

♂

23:16

back in the US an effort to repeal Montana's sodomy law will not come to a floor vote in the state legislature. Sponsoring Democratic Representative Vivian Brooke realize the votes weren't there to pass the measure and chose to avoid a potentially divisive debate. Meanwhile, the Montana Senate killed a bill to extend the law against sexual harassment to gays and lesbians. Despite a solid Republican block against the bill. It was approved 26 to 24 Until Democrat Betty brewski mouse changed her vote to NA. She later explained quote, I'm just afraid of it. It could put a stamp of approval on homosexuality, which I feel is immoral, unquote.

S

Speaker 13 23:54

Support for repeal of Missouri's sodomy law is coming from local prosecutors around the state. Morgan County prosecutor Mary Greer testified before a State House committee that the law was ludicrous. To other prosecutors sent written statements with Jackson County prosecutor Claire McCaskill writing, quote, I cannot justify expending any resources pursuing the prosecution of consenting adults for conduct that is no one else's business and quote, the sodomy law was defended by lobbyist Carrie Messer of the Missouri family network, who called repeal, quote, a threat to public health and quote,

♂

24:34

but in Texas openly gay stay Representative Glen Maxi has moved to realize one of conservatives worst fears. He's introduced a bill to give same gender couples the same rights as heterosexual married couples. He admits there's no chance of passage this session, but says he hopes to begin the debate in a rational manner.

S

Speaker 13 24:53

Two thirds of the people in New Mexico oppose legal marriage for same gender couples according to his statewide poll of 400 adults by the Albuquerque journal. But the same poll found that half supported statewide protections from discrimination based on sexual orientation, while 40% oppose them. It's a timely question, because the campaign is underway to add sexual orientation to the categories now protected under New Mexico's Human Rights Act with a measure called Senate Bill 91. The Senate voted down a similar measure two years ago when it was first introduced, but after a concerted campaign to replace opposing senators with supportive ones in the November elections, activists have gone on to develop a large and diverse coalition of organizations in support of Senate Bill 91. Some Republican legislators are supporting the measure for the first time and even the New Mexico Catholic Bishops Conference has endorsed it. The city of Santa Fe passed a resolution in support of Senate Bill 91 Earlier this month, activists believed the boycott following Colorado's passage of

Amendment two may have helped the New Mexico rights campaign, both by sending Colorado's business across the border to New Mexico and by posing a threat of lost income to estate heavily dependent on tourism.



26:19

If the constitutionality of Colorado's amendment two is upheld, it will overturn local gay and lesbian rights ordinances. Cities and towns in Colorado are asserting their autonomy. In the meantime, the citizens of Telluride Colorado have approved a human rights measure which includes gays and lesbians by a vote of more than three to one. A newly formed coalition called Voices in unity is actively organizing for other municipalities to pass gay and lesbian rights measures. They're currently targeting Crested Butte and Vale where the town Council's have passed resolutions opposing amendment to



Speaker 13 26:52

as the debate on gays and lesbians serving openly in the US military continues. It's interesting to review the situation elsewhere. us journalists had been overwhelming the Netherlands defense ministry, which opened military service to out gays and lesbians in 1974. Gay and lesbian rights activists last month advise German defense minister Volker Roya that there's a glass ceiling operating in the military there that despite official acceptance, open gays and lesbians are informally denied promotions to officer rank. closeted French military officers told a similar story to Reuters reporters. Britain also officially tolerates open gays and lesbians in the military, but those who actually engage in sex are rejected. In Ireland and Russia. sodomy laws remain in force even for civilians, and the military is no more tolerant.



27:51

And finally, the recent lifting of the military ban in Australia has created an interesting situation in the island state of Tasmania Tasmania has a sodomy law providing for sentences of up to 21 years imprisonment, although that law is currently being reviewed by United Nations Commission as a possible human rights violation. But as Rodney Croom of Tasmania is gay and lesbian rights group, but the military is governed by the Australian Capital Territory Criminal Code, because this code does not outlaw gay sex. And because homosexual sex is no longer grounds for dismissal from the military. We have the ironic situation that the only gay men who can have sex legally in Tasmania are those in the defence forces.



Speaker 13 28:37

That's news wrap for the week ending February 20 1993. Follow the news in your area and informed community is a strong community



28:48

news wrap is compiled and written by Cindy Friedman, for this way out. I'm Alonzo morality

S

Speaker 13 28:53

and I'm Cindy Friedman.

S

Speaker 27 29:03

Colorado has passage last November of a constitutional amendment banning laws to protect gay and lesbian rights has made the state the target of a nationwide boycott. This despite an injunction putting amendment to on hold until its constitutionality is tested. Supporters of the boycott are asking vacationers to stay away from Colorado's ritzy ski resorts to refuse to patronize Colorado companies and to boycott the state's products. But the targeting of one company in particular has become a source of controversy within the boycott movement itself, and the company is making a federal case out of it. Scott Schlegel explains

♂

29:37

the boycott is intended to send a message to Colorado once as well as the rest of the nation that passing laws allowing discrimination against gays and lesbians carries a high price tag. In New York City, several restaurants are joining the boycott. They're refusing to sell popular flavors of Colorado made Celestial Seasonings herb tea, such as sleepy time or grandma. As Tammy meant, at the request of the group New York Boycott Colorado, however, the FBI is investigating the allegation by Celestial Seasonings that New York Boycott Colorado demanded a \$100,000 contribution to its campaign against the state. And that if celestial didn't pay, the company would face an all out boycott against it in New York. New York Boycott Colorado at no time demanded Celestial Seasonings give us \$100,000. To stop the boycott action against them. Chip Duquette is a spokesperson for New York Boycott Colorado. He declined to be interviewed about the controversy but read a prepared statement that includes the following Celestial Seasonings is intentionally making an absolutely false statement in order to incorrectly color the motivations in New York Boycott Colorado and to create a smokescreen that obscures their very conservative refusal to speak out against an amendment to as a matter of policy. New York Boycott Colorado does not accept money from Colorado companies. We do recommend that they spend such money in their home state toward the legal battle against amendment to or to educate Coloradans about the amendment. Its true meaning and its ramification. Duck it says New York Boycott Colorado attempted to work out a compromise with Celestial Seasonings at their request to avoid the boycott. Dakota such a compromise would have to involve celestial speaking out against amendment to celestial chairman and co founder mo Segal declined to be interviewed for this report. But celestial spokesperson Catherine Bessemer says that boycott organizers made it clear during a meeting with Seagull that in order to avoid being a target of the New York boycott, a large contribution was expected.

♂

31:43

They said that they wouldn't boycott us if we would do three things. The first thing was that Celestial Seasonings speaks out as an opponent of amendment to on a national local basis and the company has its name actively put on a campaign against amendment to secondly that mo

personally take his time and play an active leadership role in the opposition of amendment two. And thoroughly they wanted the company to fund an educational campaign about the overturning of amendment to to the tune of approximately \$100,000. And we said no, we don't do that. We're not a political organization. We never have and we don't want to add to begin doing that.



32:20

Bessemer did not attend the New York meeting with Segal and boycott organizers. She says celestial takes the New York boycott seriously because it's the herb tea makers largest market. The targeting of Celestial Seasonings as part of the boycott of Colorado is ironic. The company is based in a city and county that voted overwhelmingly against passage of Amendment to Boulder as well as Denver, Aspen and Telluride have passed ordinances prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. New York's boycott puts it at odds with gay rights groups in Colorado. This pre recorded message explains the group boycott Colorado's advice for boycott opponents in its home state. It has always been the policy of Boycott Colorado incorporated for people who live in the state of Colorado to support businesses located in counties which voted no on amendment to Therefore if you live in Colorado, please buy Celestial Seasonings tea. However, New York Boycott Colorado spokesperson ship duckets says a celestial boycott will continue because boycotts are effective tools for achieving political change. I'm Scott Schlegel in Boulder.



34:04

Florida and Washington they came from Maine to California, even from as far away as England in the Netherlands almost 1000 Straw



34:11

be here as the African American lesbian mother. You know, it's just real rewarding watching people bond watching people come out of the closet. I think



34:22

it's the chance just to be in a room where black lesbians and gays are the majority, if not the entirety and especially networking with other cultural workers, writers and poets and artists.



34:33

I've had a board meeting folks. Definitely join my family



34:37

bill is the world's largest gathering of African American homosexuals. This conference featured

workshops on topics as varied as living with AIDS to spirituality in the gay community. Conference co coordinator Valerie Wagner explains that the concerns of black lesbians and gay men are different from those of the gay community



34:55

at large. Several African Americans are of the opinion that we don't exist, you know that there No black gay and lesbians. And it's perceived as a white thing, unfortunately. So I think in not only fighting just society as a whole, just by being gay or lesbian, then we have to also fight the African American community on issues of visibility.



35:19

keynote speaker at the opening plenary session on Saturday was educator and activist Angela Davis.



35:25

The vocation of gay rights. At this moment in the public discourse, has a strange way of being marked as white gay rights. We also need to acknowledge the ways in which people of color are directly affected by anti gay institutional policies within and outside the military.



35:51

What started six years ago as a small gathering of like minded activists in Southern California has grown rapidly, and now hosts entertainment, vendors of African and gay oriented books and merchandise, a sold out dinner dance, and the bestowing of awards to those who have demonstrated extraordinary contributions to the community. There was even a powerful and moving press conference in support of the lifting of the ban on homosexuals in the military, or several African American military women announced to the world for the first time that they were lesbians,



36:20

I feel



36:29

the spirit of the gathering was one of mutual support and validation, making this the place to come to meet old friends recharge emotional batteries, and generally let their hair down as friends among friends. And emotional high point of the conference occurred on Saturday when activist singer Terry Kennedy sang to the gathered crowd his composition, I'm still standing tall stand up, Mr. Wonderful. Six feet five inches tall. from Long Beach, California for this way out. This is John Bo gray.



37:11

If there's something to be learned from examining the pie,



37:21

it's that institutions change or around they do.



Speaker 27 37:31

There's a small Presbyterian Church near Albany, New York 150 miles north of New York City on the Hudson River until she resigned earlier this month. Few in her congregation knew that Minister Kathleen Buckley is a lesbian, but she's not going as quietly as she may have liked. With production assistance from Chris Chung Todd Wilson prepared this report.



38:07

Growing up in rural Massachusetts, Kathleen Buckley never thought she'd become what some would consider a radical lesbian minister.



38:15

My father wanted me to be a veterinarian, but I thought that was too much school. That was eight years of college. Instead, I went 12. It was in high school, that I had my first relationship with a woman and from then on until really 1986 or so, had relationships with both men and women. So I want to say that there was 1520 years there, and it was a real struggle.



38:39

The Presbyterian Church has been debating its sexual theology for more than 20 years. Last November, the church's permanent judicial commission ruled unanimously that the downtown Rochester Presbyterian church could not hire the Reverend Jane Spar because she's an open lesbian, or as some in the church would say, an unrepentant sinner. Two years ago, the church's General Assembly debated and then rejected a human sexuality report that would have accepted lesbians and gays for ordination.



39:08

When it was not adopted in the 1991 General Assembly in Baltimore. I was in extreme turmoil. I would be hard pressed to find a time in my life when I felt more shaken to my core. The overwhelming 90 to 95% vote not to adopt was something that I'll never forget. It was actually frightening. Because I believe at that point, they had sacrificed the policies of our church for

their fear. Had that been different. I would have had a lot more hope for my ministry and rather than feeling a rope pulled tight around my soul, it would have loosened it was all of the papers as you might remember, and I was being confronted by people on the streets and to me Well, what do you think of that?



40:01

I asked Kathleen how the congregation responded after they were told she was resigning solely because she was a lesbian.



40:09

The session voted unanimously to not concur with my resignation. And I knew that they loved me. And I knew that they would support me. What I didn't expect was for them to be so willing to be public about it. That's a whole nother matter. And they were very willing. In fact, they had thought it out to the point that some people said well, now the James bar case was about a pastor that wasn't installed. You're already our pastor. So can't this be a different test case? We haven't done this yet. Halfway.



40:47

Done Herbert church organist was outraged. Obviously,



40:50

the issue here is not an issue of job performance. Even people who objected to Kathy's lifestyle, found themselves very confused when they were speaking against against that at the congregational meeting and talk themselves in a complete circle so that they were completely confused and had nothing more to say. With the issue.