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casement, community, called, gay, parade, congo, year, tickets, carol, listen, ireland, houston, met, pride, debutante, leopold, irish, people, lesbian, month

SPEAKERS

Bruce Reeves, Greg Gordon



00:01

Buchanan is also using Riggs as film as an example of what Buchanan calls pornography funded by the National Endowment for the Arts.



00:10

There's all kinds of problems that are confronting us as a nation. education, healthcare deficits, you know, unbelievable SNL scandal. For us to be at this point obsessed with so called pornographic art as a litmus test of what it means to be a true blue American. It's hard to fathom what's really going on in the mind of our so called leaders.



00:35

That's Berkeley filmmaker Marlon T. Riggs in San Francisco I met binder



00:42

Drummond is bad it's must be we got to win together well where you've tuned in to this way out the international lesbian and gay radio magazine. Gay and Lesbian researchers are continuing to unearth long buried or suppressed information, which helps to define the history and culture of our community. From gay BC in Wellington, New Zealand, producer Hugh young and present her Barry emson begin an illuminating biography of one of the many who've gone before.



01:54

balls on God Friday morning, all in the month of May. Chairman Schiff was signaling beyond doubt in that day,



02:12

the Broken Heart of Ireland, the life and death of Sir Roger Casement,



02:16

but no answering signals that come from lonely strikes.



02:30

It's the fact that again, casement



02:32

Good day, my son, I have been to the archbishop and he says, you must first express sorrow for any scandal you may have caused by your acts public and private, I do not. Then you know that in that case, my son, you cannot be received into the holy church. And tomorrow you will die in multiple sin.



02:55

Cardinal burn is trying to make me betray my soul.



03:00

May the Lord have mercy upon you. Amen.



03:04

And so it was that Roger Casement was faithful to us, to those he called our kind, right to the end. For on August the third 1916 He was hanged. The charge was treason. But what he was hanged for was homosexuality. And if you're Catholic, don't worry, he died in the church as we shall tell. Indeed, were it not for the church's view of homosexuality, we could very well observe the martyrdom of St. Roger Casement. Roger David casement was born in Dublin on September the first 1864. His parents were both Catholic, but when he was still small, both his parents died, and he was sent north to his mother's relative's house to Protestants of Scottish stock in County Antrim. So Roger was raised a Presbyterian and an Ultraman. From his childhood, he delighted almost everyone who met him. His favorite cousin Gertrude said, In appearance, Roddy was strikingly handsome. He was over six feet when he was 17. His eyes were gray and deep set, his face rather thin, and his hair nearly black and curly. He had good teeth, and a very clear skin, fond of painting and inventing stories and writing poetry. He had a beautiful baritone speaking and singing voice, and he was particularly interested in Irish history. His

uncle got him a job as a shipping clerk in Liverpool. But he begged a job as a Purser on one of their ships to BOMA near the mouth of the Congo. And this led to a lifelong association with Africa. In 1884, he went on an expedition into the African Congo with the Congo International Association on that expedition, the Congolese called casement Swami, meaning women's God and mana former son of a king Fred polesden, and adventurer on the expert addition said



05:00

he deserved both names for more charming, lovable man never lived



05:05

in 1890 casement met Captain Joseph course in your ski better known as the author Joseph Conrad, and he remembered



05:13

he is a limpid personality, most intelligent and sympathetic. There is a touch of the conquistador and him too. I have seen him start off into an unspeakable wilderness swinging or crook handled stick for all weapons, and a Luanda boy carrying a bundle for all company. A few months afterwards, I saw him come out again a little leaner, a little brown, with a stick dogs and around the boy, and quietly serene as though he had been for a stroll in the park.



05:46

The boy was probably a young adult, and may well have contributed to his serenity. The villain of this part of the story is King Leopold, by a lot of clever dealing. He secured the so called Congo Free State now's a year as his personal property, and the wealth of the Congo Free State was rubber. This was the beginning of the age of the inflatable tire, and countless other uses for the sap of the rubber tree. Leopold had expelled the slave traders, but instead, he allowed his agents to force the Congolese to provide a weekly quota of rubber. If they failed, they were shot down and their hands or feet were cut off and taken as trophies, and Leopold himself was embezzling the profits from the rubber trade case was made British consul in Angola in 1895. He was appointed to the Consulate of the Congo at Kinshasa and continued to collect information and forwarded to the Foreign Office. In 19 103. He led a secret mission into the Congo Free State. Meanwhile, he was going on other secret missions. His diary for February the 18th 19 103 reports so enormous, beautiful, and on his way back to the Congo, he stopped at Madeira, where he met us like Agostino kissed many times splendid. Juan 18 BISAZZA has 20 years and Pepe 17 bought cigarettes, March bueno, X 16 pesetas the first few pages of his diary are missing. We shall learn why toward the end of his life story. casements report on the Congo was mucked around with endlessly by the Foreign Office and Leopold put out countervailing propaganda. But British public opinion swung in behind casement the British finally sent a commission and a 19 105. A chief showed them how many people had been killed by laying twigs on their table.

B

Bruce Reeves 07:45

These are four chiefs. These are men



07:53

these smaller Apple women. And these smallest These are children,



08:01

a total of 110 twigs, and one by one natives that appeared to show their mutilated arms until the commissioners could stand it no longer. It wasn't plain sailing from then on. The Foreign Office was more concerned with its building relations. But Leopold had to make some reforms. And when he died in 19 109, his son made more for his work casement was awarded the C m g. The Foreign Office then sent him to South America. In 19 108, he sailed to para now known as bell in a damp unhealthy town on the mouth of the Amazon. But a year later he was promoted to consul general in Rio. It's there that the only external record the casement might be homosexual was made. A father told that his good looking son was to have lunch with casement was overheard to say with a smile, be careful. casement must not only have been stunning, new discreet, he must have been stunningly lucky. Because his diary for the same period has notes like



09:08

the young thin dark gentleman a Vicar's date I'd constantly and wanted would have gone But Gabriel waiting in very deep thrusts, lovely, young, 18 and glorious, biggest senseless been



09:21

perfectly huge. He had he was a romantic, and had a longer lasting, more intense affair with one or AMone many Irish patriots today rather than believe their hero was a power of art. Still Believe the diaries were forged.



09:36

They tried to foul your memory as they burned to your cops with lime. But God is not an Englishman. And truth well tell in time.



09:46

No gay man today would doubt for a moment that a gay man had written them. The exuberance of these increase is amazing considering that casement himself considered homosexuality to be a terrible disease, and there was nothing like aggregate community as we know it. He wrote poetry much of it about love, the love object, unspecified.



10:07

Love took me by the heart at birth and wrought out from its common Earth with soul at his own skill like asked a furnace, my own breath should last. Why this was done I cannot tell the mystery is inscrutable. I only know I pay the cost with heart and soul and are lost. I only know to death to give my love yet loveless Can I live? I only know I cannot die and leave this love God made not I.



10:34

He returned to build fast in May after a chance encounter with John McGonigal awfully keen, ex foreign sixpence x being a private code, but the entry x in deep thrusts gives us some clue. And in Belfast the same day, he met an old love Mila, and took him to an hotel



10:53

turned in together, not a word said till wait Island tired and then grand. First time after so many years and so deep mutual longing, huge told of many grand.



11:07

He also found time to go to often boss Tales of Hoffman in London. He found the bunker all heavenly.



11:21

But life for the rubber workers in the upper Amazon was hellish. And a newspaper called Truth headlined a story about it. The Devils paradise. The villains this time we're landowner Julio cheese are Arana and one of his henchmen Armando Normand on a tributary of the Amazon called the put a mio on the border between Brazil and Peru. This time, the Amazonian Indians were flogged tortured and shocked if they failed to bring in the robber. On one occasion, nor Amanda said to have lined three men up and shot them with one bullet casement described him as a loathsome monster, and a 1911 he reported back to the Foreign Office. His report was so strong that a mere threat to publish it was filled sufficient to force the Peruvian government to make reforms. Though it didn't work out that way. And for his work, casement was knighted. He accepted the honor though he felt a traitor to Ireland, and it was to Ireland that he devoted more and more of his energy. So far, he'd involved himself in the promotion of the Gaelic language, but more and more in the home rule movement. Born of Catholics in Dublin, but raised by Protestants in Ulster casement was well placed to promote Irish independence in both the north and the south. There was an Irish party, but its view was a narrow one of power in Westminster. Instead, he followed the lead of a Dublin journalist Arthur Griffith, who had founded an Irish separatist party whose name is still powerful in Ireland today, Shin Fane Shin fain means ourselves often translated ourselves alone. The Unionist Party northern Protestant anti home rule, but still pro Irish was led by Englishmen into our next villain, one of those

Englishmen if II Smith, and an added complication was Northern Irish support for the Kaisers, Germany going back to German born King William of Orange casement believed that the Home Rule bill then being toyed with by Parliament was just an attempt to secure Ireland against the Germans, not a real attempt to grant self government are united and free Ireland became an obsession to him. And it was about this time 1913 That people's opinions of casement began to be a little less ecstatic. To one young nationalist, he gave an impression of instability and restlessness and the wife of an English supporter, thought him crazed. And next week, we'll tell you how casement died for Ireland and for us.



13:57

So in small bald bald, you're on the long lead



14:12

this series was written and produced by Hugh Yang.



14:15

It was presented by Barry Empson.



14:30

Thanks for choosing this way out the international lesbian and gay radio magazine. This week Cindy Freedman, Mark Sokka mono Matt binder, Keith Clark and Hugh young and Barry Empson contributed program material.



Greg Gordon 14:43

BlackBerry performed some of the music you heard and Kim Wilson composed and performed our theme music.



14:48

This way. I was brought to you each week by a 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 Pol wrap Pour Foundation and the funding exchange



Greg Gordon 15:03

audio cassettes. At this way our programs are available by mail individually or by subscription. Write to us for more information.



15:09

We would also love to hear from you with any comments, suggestions or questions you might have. Or just to let us know you're listening right to this way out post office bucks 38327 Los Angeles, California 90038



15:25

This way out is produced by Lucia lb Greg



15:27

Gordon and we thank you for listening on WSU Iowa City CJ M Windsor and k n o n Dallas among others and for supporting this local community radio station.



15:38

Stay tuned.



B Bruce Reeves 15:41

And you are listening to after hours on KPFT 90.1 FM Houston. We got a press release in the mail today are they from planet Earth productions Indonesias Chambliss proudly presenting Monica grant, a California singer songwriter and comic with special guest, Nancy Ford of our Houston own. They will be performing at 8:30pm on Friday, April the third at the bayou terrorists 711 Franklin tickets are available letting cleans and well adding cleans at 1846. Richmond. And she was kind enough to provide us with some tickets to give away on the show. So if the first person that is caller number five.



16:34

Are we confused? Can



B Bruce Reeves 16:35

you be the second person that's caller number five, you have to be the first person that's caller number five and five to six 4000. We'll get those tickets in the mail to you. Again, that's caller number five to six 4000. And I see the little phones are starting to light up. So you want to start dialing that number five to six 4000. And we'll get you those two tickets. And we will probably have one more to give away later in the show. So you want to make sure you keep listening. And while we're waiting to find out who the grand winner is. We're gonna



17:12

wow check it out. All the little. I love it.

B

Bruce Reeves 17:17

So let's listen to Kermit the Frog. And we'll be back in just a minute. We've got an interview with Jack Valinski and Carol Clark with Lesbian Gay Pride Week. 1992 coming up at two o'clock, so be sure and stay with us.



17:33

Hi, this is Kermit the Frog. And this is one of my very favorite places a forest. You know, forests are home to lots of animals and they give us wood delay, keep our water and air clean. Unfortunately, these days our forests are in trouble. They're being threatened by development and people who don't treat them with respect to find out what you can do to help right to forests, National Wildlife Federation, Washington, DC 2036 remember

B

Bruce Reeves 18:07

and that was Lin lavner. From her you are what you were album and the festive little neighborhood of mine. And we'd like to congratulate Jamie for picking up those tickets to tickets for the Monica grant concert. We will have one more ticket to giveaway later in the show. So be sure you stick around and listen for that.



18:29

And just if anybody's interested I'm sitting here looking at the flyer and she's cute.

B

Bruce Reeves 18:33

And the planet Earth productions and Denise have us they sell all our tickets its general admission and the cost of the tickets based on a sliding scale so even if locks are hard to come by you know you can probably still go to the concert or people can have a good time once in a while. Now I've got a we're gonna do something fun here. I don't like the look on your way along with me Put your headphones on what's going on?



19:11

Okay, my headphones are on I'm ready. The when

B

Bruce Reeves 19:43

you said next Sunday, that's one week from today. Miss camp America is going to be presenting the first annual spring cotillion and almost debutante ball and the theme of the ball is the sound If exposed, I hope it's going to be at 330 from 330 to 7pm. At Rich's 2401 Senior Center, there is a \$5 cover at the door and the money raised at the door will be used to be helping to put on the mask camp America pads in in August, but over and above that the debutantes are raising money beforehand for the pet patrol. So if you know a new a new debutante a I know one for Miss camp America and you would like to support them in their efforts to become debutante of the year be sure and get a hold of them before next Sunday because they will be turning all their monies in beforehand. And that money is some portion of it at least 50% On to the pet patrol. So and they tell me that a lot of money has been raised for that it should be quite an entertaining event especially if everybody else has 400 yards of tapeta in their living rooms. So well gonna be spayed space show



21:14

I excited I can't wait to see the show. Take my camera.

B

Bruce Reeves 21:19

So anyway, pod, Scarlet, nice guy that we've got, there's just we've got a million things in our calendar, and most of which probably aren't gonna get announced tonight. Because we just we don't ever have time to do everything we want to do but be sure and listen to the other gay and lesbian programs here on Pacifica. Wildenstein is on Monday nights from nine until 10. They have a very complete calendar. It's the most complete calendar anywhere in the gay and lesbian community. And I think Jamie just knocked on the door to get her tickets. Lottie, Dottie Toki what was I gonna do and pokey is on. Thank you.



22:08

Do you mind? On Friday,

B

Bruce Reeves 22:11

you do that? Well, thank



22:12

you very much.

B

Bruce Reeves 22:13

And, of course pokies show is mostly geared to the lesbian community and she plays a lot of women's music, and she's got lots of interesting and good tidbits that she throws in every once in a while for all of us as well. We got a newsletter from hatch and they asked us to be sure and

let everyone know they have a new phone number. It's 9427002



22:40

Sure, I'm glad to see them getting off the ground again. There. You don't want to hear this.



Bruce Reeves 22:45

We got a flyer for the wrestling switchboard, which is another service provided by the Houston wrestling club. And in plain English, this is not a phone sex line, but they have a new switchboard, and that number is 713-522-5994. So if you're into wrestling and all that fun kind of stuff, you might want to call them the Montrose softball league is getting ready to gear up for the summer season. Their season begins in early April. They have two divisions, a recreational division and a competent competitive division. Hey, good. English is not my strong point this morning. So if you're interested in playing softball, be sure and get a hold of them. You can reach them at Post Office Box 541954. That's Pio box 541954. Houston 772-547-7254. The women's group we'll be meeting this morning at 10am and the Sojourner Truth room upstairs at the First Unitarian Universalist Church and their speaker will be D. Hawkins, who's a longtime activist and visionary who was recently honored by Barbara Bush for her contributions to the city. Why are we laughing at me? Ms. Deborah Bell, who's one of the co host co anchors for the vaad and Stein show asked us to announce that this Thursday, March 26, at 7pm at the G RPC offices at 900 Lovett Boulevard, there will be a 1993 March on Washington planning meeting. Of course, that's coming up April 25 1993. It'll be here before we know it. And one more time just to make sure everyone got the information. And the Ann Landers column two Sundays ago, a reader where I began talking about and now that a lot of genetic searchers researchers are saying that, you know, we're we're born This way, folks, was wondering how that would change the public's viewpoint and of course, answers she's not real sure that it will ever change public's viewpoint but that it might. But she's wanting to once and all settle the question of whether the gay and lesbian community considers homosexuality a special bonus, or if they would rather be straight. So she would like you to send her a postcard. I'm a rather a letter, you know how she long columns that are boring to born to bore people to death. But so wait a minute, let's give her credit where credit's due. This letter, that's true hands come a long way. In the 20 years, I've been reading her column, she told someone to play with herself the other day because her husband wasn't helping. Let's get back on anyway, back on task here. Send a card to Ann Landers, Pio box 11562, Chicago, Illinois 60611. And write either yes, I'm glad I'm gay, or No, I would rather be straight. And she's going to announce the results in a few weeks. And that address again is Ann Landers, post office bucks 11562. Chicago 60611. Excuse me. We're trying. So that's everything I pulled out. There was some rather unsettling news, I guess, or disappointing news. For those of us that are into roller skating. I'm going into mourning. The carousel skating rink was damaged by flood water and the recent floods, I guess. Anyway, it was damaged by water. And it's now on the market to be sold. So all of the people that have normally have rollerskating parties, which was like every Tuesday night, I think somebody had a roller skating party at the carousel rink. Those have all been postponed until such time as they can find a new location. So hopefully that'll happen real soon. But it was kind of sad to hear that the carousels gone away.



27:12

I know that's like a gay landmark on certain nights of the month, every summer by the Bel Air rink and in open it up on Tuesday night, so I might even learn to skate for that rather than going. Certainly. Oh, Tallinn six, eight blocks from a real happy home. I know.

B

Bruce Reeves 27:30

Okay. Okay. No. We have a ringing tonight. Okay. Um, check. Let's check. Yeah, why not? Why not further?



27:44

I don't know.

B

Bruce Reeves 27:47

Joining us now are Jack Valinski and Carol Clark, the co chairs of Lesbian Gay Pride Week. 1992.



27:55

Yeah, another year.



27:56

We're running. We're running with it. We're running with it. Good

B

Bruce Reeves 27:59

morning. How's it going? Actually, it's going very well. We are very pleased. Actually. We're scared. It's frightening are very organized. We at least we think we we really are those Carol and I sort of jumped into it. Last year now I've been part of Pride Week, sort of off and on for the past 10 years. Yeah, it seems like forever. And I've been part of it in certain aspects during the guide or doing publicity or stuff like that and never realized how tough it was to actually try to run this whole thing. In last year, due to some circumstances that are both male and female co chair had to resign that Carol and I took over we never realized how tough it was. To get through we squeezed through last year. Are you figuring out now how tough it is. After the last year how tough it was. It's a little it's better this year. We've got some really good people working with us. I think also, both Jack and I acted last year both kind of wanted to, to run again. And so we both kind of knew that that and we were able to plan much earlier. I think that when Jack and I talked way back in August, we kind of mapped ourselves out and what we wanted to do and you know this is a 10 month commitment almost even a whole year so you have to y'all did something last year no one else had ever managed to do rain. I know. Not just the rain Carol, but y'all y'all manage to pull off the parade without any controversy. Yeah, so

there's a few rough edges now of course, you know about controversy because you were co chair one or two years I can one year okay. It sort of gets blurry as you look back there to me. I remember all too well the back patio of that part of that you and Deborah and I'm trial



29:59

yes



Bruce Reeves 30:00

Well, we sort of learn. And also, I think part of it too, is that maybe Pride Week has sort of run its course in that there are other things that people are involved in if they want to get real controversial. That's true. And it's not that we want to be just this little wimpy organization that just as a party. Yeah, I but I think, you know, we do have a purpose. I mean, otherwise, we wouldn't be wasting our energy just to keep a party going, in a sense, very possibly, generally, the population or community doesn't really know that there's a pride committee, they just kind of show up in June and hears this parade you not. So and they don't know. You know, that this committee is working in bigger existence for, you know, eight months, and even that is pray to 1314 years running and so. So, you know, you're, I think generally, a lot of people that have who have been activist in community keep up with all of the comings and goings. So I think generally, the population just shows up and has a good time. So as long as you you know, you give them a good parade, that's kind of what they are. That's what they see. Well, you know, I sort of agree and disagree, which we do a lot, Carol and I work together very well. I mean, we both have our opinions, but I think we can compromise and work together, which is really important. And also our entire executive committees is very much that way we, we discuss things and we, you know, we have some verbal arguments, but we basically come to a consensus. And our meetings, we have open meetings every month, and after you attend to meetings, you become a member, so you can become a voting member. And our meetings aren't packed, but there are we have representation from a lot of different parts of that community that are there. And, you know, I think, because we're sort of listening to the community, and we don't have a personal political agenda. I think that's one of the reasons it's gone a little smoother, but also are, in a way a little bit well known in some respects, because we're the only organization that does a monthly newsletter that's distributed widely throughout the community. We've also tried to do a lot of outreach, going to some various communities within the community and speaking and speaking to some owners and business owners around here to get their feeling of what they want. So we can try to listen to them and go from that way, but we never do enough. There are so many groups in this community, and they're they, they're so busy with so many of their own problems and agendas and things like that, that we don't get enough time to reach out to them or them to reach out to us, and especially the minority communities within our community, we'd like to do a much better job to have that representation to be able to serve them. So do we have a date for the present? Yes.



32:46

Oh, I think so. June 28.



B**Bruce Reeves 32:49**

But any father, father last weekend in June? Yes. Yeah, the Pride week starts the 19th of June, and it runs through the 28th. We've already got a couple applications for events. But there's there's plenty, plenty of room for more applications. And if anybody is interested in getting some information, they can either write to us at our post office box, which is six, peel box, 667166071 Houston 77266, or call us on our pride line, which is 5296979. And maybe we should go back a little bit into the history of why we have Pride Week in the parade and stuff like that, and maybe compare it to some of the other celebrations around the city as your memory down. Well, I don't I don't personally, I was still in high school. And I have no idea when that happened. I actually didn't listen that far growing up from there is about a three hour drive. This is our 14th year, I don't know the exact number 13 to 1419 69 when it was very convenient for the cops, police to arrest people all over the country for even going into a gay bar. And actually, most places it wasn't even legal to have a bar that catered to same sex as the same sex couples. So a lot of them were illegal or off licensed or you know sort of that type of place. And conveniently the cops used to come in arrest them and put their names in the paper and it was sort of a way and there is no protection, nothing like that even though we still don't have a lot of protection. What happened on in late June 1969 in New York, it was very hot. Sort of like the hot weather we get even earlier in the year but in June it was very hot. It was right after the the funeral of Judy Garland and I believe it was a full moon all those things coming together. When they read it this bar called Stonewall number the drag queens and sort of the term gay bikes They're there. They just got tired of it. It's my in we don't know all the details, but some of the sketchy, sketchy things was that he put one of these one drag queen in a police car and she got out the other side. And a number of things happened, including them taking their Hills heels to us as a weapons to protect themselves and pulling up parking meters and stuff like that using as a bat. Basically, they sort of got the cops in or some of the police people inside the bar and got them barricaded inside. And this righteous erupted in and it was the first time nothing was ever resistance. Usually when people were arrested in these bars, they were just like hiding their faces, and they got down there and they pay the fine to get out and, and never never thought about fighting this thing. Well, they fought they had a riot. And actually within the next few days, there is a little bit more of that Riot going on. And that's not the only thing that happened in those days with that sort of the pivotal point of saying, retired, you know, we've had it. It's sort of like what happened in a different sense here on July 4, last year in Houston when Paul Bussard was murdered. Finally, after so many different murders, and people were beaten up and things like this, we had witnesses, people finally says we're tired. The Press finally listened to us and a lot of stuff just snowballed in this community. Well, that happened in New York, in 1969. So guess is basically why Pride Week is celebrated in June, mostly throughout the country. Varies city to city and later, still in the middle of summer. So what's the point? The basic of your major cities. The year after that? I believe it was Morris Kike, and a few other people in Los Angeles formed a little group called Christopher Street West. And that was like a year later. That was the first celebration ever since then other cities come online and did things and like Carol says Not everybody does it the last Sunday in June. In fact, in certain places like the East Coast, they staggered a little bit. So some of the people from one city conjoined in another city. I think Christopher streets always, Yes, last weekend. No, usually they're the last weekend. Long Beach is like a few weeks before the two biggest committees and most successful fundraising and keeping it going are Christopher Street West and Los Angeles than the Long Beach committee in Long Beach. But San Francisco has their Freedom Day Parade, which is like the largest parade and just goes on for hours and attracts more people than anything else for in tourist than any other thing that happens in San Francisco. New York has a very big parade. But definitely Los Angeles has long beach is the most financially National Organization of gay and lesbian pride coordinators in which Jack and I

went up to in October up in Boston. So most of all of these communities is Jackson's from the major communities. But we had wonderful people that from Boise, Idaho and Kansas, all Kansas, they're in Cape Cod, and all of these other small communities that were there that really gave a balance between the bigger cities and the smaller cities. And so I think appreciate it. And sometimes when Jack and I think all the problems we have when we take a look at I mean, people were getting their permanent as appraised and the minute they were marching off the ready to go. I mean, some of these communities were just amazingly small communities. A few about a month ago, I had a meeting that Larry Bonner Reese who was like one of the founders of the original Pride Week, parades and celebrations. And he was telling me the stories about a meeting with the police here in Houston and getting the parade started things like that. And if anybody remembers Larry binaries, who's run for political office in New Orleans is working in that community a lot. One of the one of the officers or one of the people in charge there says what do I got here? A Mexican tried to put on a parade, you know, and he says, Well, I'm not Mexican, I'm Black is now used to always change his color, depending on the situation in their face. And we've come a long way. Now, it's like we call up for a parade permit and they're ready for us. They know we're coming. They know we're coming. They've got the day reserved and stuff like that. And we still have lots and lots of problems. And also, as Caroline, were talking some of the other committees around the country. We don't have some of the problems the other communities do, where some of the inside groups will like stopped the parade, lay dad and just stay there for like a half an hour. We've been very lucky that we don't have that problem. Because we don't have a lot of inner looseness. Do we have a lot of inner fighting not in in the community but outside of the a&r community also and where lots of I think your larger communities have a real rough time. There's so many communities I think San Francisco, we they are actually paid to run the parade. And, boy Beckett's touching Oh, Carolyn's you get your 400,000 to start a bank. But seriously, the reason that we do this is to let people know there's a community out there. And, you know, Carol and I, one of the things that this committee is doing this year is taking over the rally here, the celebration afterwards, and we'll talk about that a little bit later. But in 1981, late 1981, I moved to the city in 1982 was the first time it was ever at a rally of that sort. And, and at that time, it was at spots Park and to be able to see all those people out there and see that there's a community. I remember just walking up the side of the hill there and just watching everybody dance with 1000s of people, they're having a wonderful time and seeing the flag or the you know, the the rainbow color flag going through the crowd and people up there on the stage and, and politicians being up there. And I remember when our mayor used to join us at the rally and be able to talk about things this was right after her election. And it was just really incredible to have the mayor up there, the Comptroller, some city council people. I mean, we've we've come to good times and bad times since then. But just the idea that seeing that there's a community there that we never saw that I never saw before. And we do this to get our names in not our names personally, but the name of Pride Week in the press so that the younger people growing up the way that there's a community out there i plus sometimes, you know, this is the only weekend that a lot of people come out. Which is kind of sad in some respects. But it's something that if this is if they only come out from this one weekend loose one day, then they should you know they should feel proud that one day and have a feeling of the community. One of the things I've always noticed is there's always some people they're either in mask or with the paper bag



41:53

over there. Really? That's right.

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Bruce Reeves 41:57

Yeah, gonna be there. But they don't want to be seen. Yeah. Okay. Yeah. And yeah, I mean, it's also that we've had, like now, National Organization for Women. And some of the parents groups PFLAG. I mean, it's really wonderful to see other groups join us a peace coalition group. So it's not just for gay and lesbian people. It's really for people, everybody, right? And what's conscious last night thought there, the outreach, the outreach, just as KPFT, we're very lucky to have the station of this community. As I've been involved with KPFT for the past 10 years, it's really wonderful outlet that we can go beyond the closet door, that there are young people, especially that have access to after hours after midnight, where they may not be able to listen at other times in the day or week. That's what privately tries to do. I mean, KPFT is broadcast a parade live for I don't know, the past four or five years. And I hope we're going to do that again. This year. We're planning to we're working on I can do that again. Well, I hope so too, in making arrangements, you know, to be able to accommodate y'all, because that's an outreach that we know everybody can't be at the parade, but maybe you can listen to the parade. And maybe you can learn a little bit more about the community and because it's an educational experience for everybody fully this year. We'll get to stay on the year till the parade. Well, I hope so because that was last year we went off right before the rains to the rally. The history of the rally originally the rally was the after the parade celebration was called a rally star night over the years. The rally was originally sponsored by the gay and lesbian at that time the gay political bomb at one time I don't know how many years it went on. It was up in spots Park the number of years he's to me man the problem that spots Park was first of all, you couldn't charge for it to help pay for the costs because it was a park you couldn't close it off. Number two, it wasn't an area that wasn't always the safest, not so much the park because we had security there. But people had a park all around the neighborhood there which wasn't always the safest area. And it just became a very expensive thing. Then over the years. Montrose Activity Center took over the responsibility for doing that. And they eventually called it star night. They had it one year at the Metropolitan multi service center which was two years ago and it was a I thought a very very nice event unfortunately it was it just cost them too much and they lost some money on it. And last year they had it as a quick copy lot and still because it's so hot this community a lot of people want to go to their bars they want to go home last week. The rain they also the rain right now bless both right I think 70