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Tue, Apr 02, 2024 3:06PM 30:23

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

gay, harvey milk, love, talk, march, rally, harvey, houston, harry, larry, people, gay rights, child, hill, involved, mayor, feel, gay lesbian, brett, called

SPEAKERS

Buddy Johnston, Harvey Milk



00:07

I want you to savor this next moment, I have the task of telling you that the official count of the lesbian and gay rights march, the official count is.



01:05

Strong,



01:06

I'm here partly tonight to say some good things about Texas. I'm proud to be a Texan. I know that I could not have heard Harvey Milk's challenge to me, had not something in my life. And this state prepared me to hear the word of freedom that Harvey spoke to us. I am here tonight, because it is time that all of us who love this state that gave us life and has nurtured us and taught us our values, to stand up and claim the history of this state for freedom and justice and human respect, away from the forces of narrow mindedness and bigotry. That too often dominates the politics of the state of Texas.



Buddy Johnston 01:59

The first thing you heard was from the National march on Washington for gay lesbian rights in 1987. When I can't remember who that was got up and announced that they're over 500,000 people standing on the Capitol Mall screaming and yelling at the White House, although they have a deaf ear to us and have had for well, at least the last eight years under right under Ronnie Reagan and Bush, you boy and the quail bonds, they're just as bad. But anyway, there were 500,000 Plus in Washington on that October day in 1987. And it was wonderful to be there and experienced that kind of emotion. The second person that you heard was Terry, Brett, for those of you that don't know, Harry, Brett was working with someone by the name of Harvey Milk back in the early 70s in San Francisco and moving up in gay politics little by little when

Harvey Milk was killed by an assassin's bullet a fellow supervisor and the city of San Francisco in 1978. Harry Brett's the one who replaced him. And if you're listening, and you don't know who Harvey Milk was, Harvey was the very first openly gay person ever elected to public office. He wasn't the first gay person ever elected to public office. He was the first openly gay person he was standing up saying, Yes, I'm gay, and I'm proud. And I can make a difference not for the gay community. But for humanity as a whole. I can make a difference because I care about what happens in the world. And I am involved in not only gay rights, but black rights and women's rights and he took a stand and a lot of people don't do that they get caught up in one little thing and one movement or one idea and they get hung up and they spin around in circles. And that's, that's not why we're here this morning. But Harry was talking to us talking about how he was proud to be a Texan. He was born in Port Arthur and grew up in Port Arthur, and he's now working in the same seat that Harvey Milk sat in for 10 years. And he is the newly elected President of the Board of Supervisors for the city of San Francisco Harry holds a second highest office next to the mayor in the city of San Francisco and it's very important for you to understand that there are gay and lesbian people in public office now not only following the vision in the example of Harvey Milk but living the dream out for us look at Barney Frank and Gary starts in the Congress. And there's a small town in Missouri that's had a gay mayor for almost 10 years. They're gay mayors all over the country openly gay mayors in cities across the United States. Jack Campbell, who will interview next week with club. The Ollie started out being clubhouse, but now it's club body centers across the country. Jack Campbell is running for mayor in Miami this year and there's a good chance from what I understand talking with the Democratic Party there that he will be elected and it's funny the Democratic Party is the one that pushed him to On not the gay community, and Jack's not running on issues concerning the gay community, he's running on issues that concern the city, poor police protection, poor, you know, city services and those things that affect our all of our lives. And it's it's real important to understand that these movements and these things only happen when when you get involved one one at a time. I'm going to talk to you in a minute about a rally that's going to be going on in June, June 17. There's an anti apartheid rally in Houston. It's going to be a statewide rally. And we're going to broadcast it live to you, I'm sure right here on Pacifica, so you'll need to stay tuned for that. But we wanted to take a few minutes this morning and talk to somebody that has been on many times. I remember the first time he called it was about maybe this time of the morning. And we'd been having the kind of fun that we had up until now. And he told me what his name was. But he said, although he enjoyed the show, he really didn't want anybody to know that he was calling. And something kept him back from what was it? Larry, do you remember? When you remember that morning? You call him the first time? Yeah. Do you really? Yeah. Do you remember what you told me?



06:22

Told you that? I didn't want to be on the air because I didn't want no one to know about me. But I wanted to tell you how much I loved your show and how much it done for me



Buddy Johnston 06:34

didn't how long ago that was.



06:38

It was last summer about August.

B

Buddy Johnston 06:40

Yeah, it was about right after that, or before it was in between the parade and all that kind of stuff. But Larry called up just like he was listening, just like you're listening. Now. We said five to six 4000. That's the number to call. And he called. And he told me how excited he was about the show, and how much he believed in what we were doing. But he was afraid to come forward and get involved himself. And last year, two years ago, we had the March on Washington, the big march in Washington, DC last year, in October, we had National Coming Out Day, that was a day where every gay and lesbian person was encouraged to come out, take a next step forward and make a statement for yourself and your friends or your family or whatever. And you called on National Coming Out Day, right? Yes. And said what? They had come out to my sister. Why did you think that was important? Well,

i

07:37

I wanted someone to know about me. And I needed someone to talk to. So I thought she'd be the closest thing to talk to. And she told me that she loved me. And she was honored that I came out to her. And I was really happy. I thought she was gonna kill me, but she didn't make me feel so good. And

B

Buddy Johnston 07:57

then last year, as we were planning the rally down in Cydia in front of City Hall, the Harvey Milk rally, Larry called me up and said, I would like to help with the rally Do you remember? And I said, Do you want to park cars or make sure people are seated? Because you got to understand this is the same guy that call and said I don't want anybody know I'm going to be on the radio. Right? What happened up until, from that time until the time you called when we help with the rally what had happened to change

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08:30

your thought about it in listening to the show really encouraged me and made me feel proud of myself. Because at the time that I'd called you the first time I was really scared. And I really wasn't sure if it was okay to come out. In listening to your show. It just really made me feel so much better about myself. And I felt that I had to I had to come out for myself. So I could be more free. I had to find myself a little more freer.

B

Buddy Johnston 08:57

As that happened.

o

09:50



08:58

It has we'll talk



Buddy Johnston 08:59

about that in a second because Larry did involve getting or did indeed get involved in the rally. We I really didn't know what didn't have you do and Harvey Milk. read a poem that are it's not a poem. It was a speech that he made in Dallas actually. But he talks Well hang on just a second let me this is this is what Harvey said in Dallas and this is what Larry said at the at the rally



Harvey Milk 09:33

somewheres in Des Moines or San Antonio with a young gay person for all of a sudden realizes that she or he is gay knows that if the parents find out to be tossed out of the house, the classmates would taunt the child and the need of Ryan's and John brings are doing their bit on TV and that child had several options. Stay in in a closet. Sue aside, and then one day that child might open a paper it says homosexual elected in San Francisco and there are two options. One option is to go to California stay in San Antonio one night, two days after I was elected, I got a phone call. The voice was quite young. It was from Altoona, Pennsylvania. And the person said, thanks. And you've got to let gay people so that that young child and the 1000s upon 1000s, like that child know that there's hope for a better world. His hope for a better tomorrow without hope. The only gays but those blocks the Asians, disabled seniors, the essence essence without hope, the essence give up. I know that you cannot live on hope alone. Without it, life is not worth living. And you and you, and you got to get home.



Buddy Johnston 11:17

Were you scared when you did that at City Hall?



11:19

I was nervous talking to people. Well, you



Buddy Johnston 11:23

really couldn't see the people for Yeah, with the lights that you knew they were out there.




11:27

Yeah. I didn't know how many was out how many people were out there. But I knew there was a lot.



Buddy Johnston 11:33

 Buddy Johnston 11:32

When you got up and did that. Harry Brett came up to me with tears in his eyes. I mean, he's a big man had all kinds of tears in his eyes, and he put his arm around me. And he said, you put on one hell of a show, kid. And I said, Harry, I didn't do anything. All I did was get Larry Rodriguez excited enough about his life. To come down here and stand here and read those words. And it was incredibly beautiful. It made the whole thing worthwhile. But your little phone calls all along up until then made it all worthwhile. And then last Sunday, you went to Galveston, right? I

 12:19

went to Austin. Oh, the other way. The other way.

 Buddy Johnston 12:22

Why did you go to Austin? Well,

 12:24


they happen to be a march there. Yeah, very important march for lesbian and gay, lesbian, gay rights.

 Buddy Johnston 12:30

And you marched through the Capitol through the streets of the capital? Yes. With 30,000 Plus gay and lesbian people. Can you tell me about walking down the street and you said you turn and look back up the hill,

 12:42


wanting to cry? I was so happy. I couldn't believe how much love and support and how many, how much how many people cared about what was going on in our community, and cared about our future. I was I turned in, I seen young people my age. And I was happy that they were there because I was there with them. And we were talking and we were saying how wonderful this was to see all the people. I mean, I'll turn back and I could still see people at the beginning. And here I was at the front. It was really nice.


 Buddy Johnston 13:19


Do you remember when you first call? Yeah. Were you lonely?


 13:24


Oh, yeah. I was literally in the closet.


 **Buddy Johnston** 13:27
Are you afraid? Yeah.


 13:30
I was really afraid.


 **Buddy Johnston** 13:33
How would you compare that? With turning around and Austin looking back up that hill?


 13:39
I think that's one reason when I cried. Because I couldn't believe I was out there. I had never been to March. In now I saw myself marching and I felt good. I felt like a coldness in my whole body. It felt good. My adrenaline just went high.


 **Buddy Johnston** 13:56
What would you say baby to other people that are listening, not just young people. But people my age is today's my birthday. And I'm 35


 14:05
How old are you maintain?


 **Buddy Johnston** 14:07
18? Well, I can't even remember 18 But you haven't just covered his eyes. Oh, what would you say to people everywhere 18 to 80 who are listening and afraid to come out and get involved? What would you say to them? That

 14:25
only gets better because it has for me. They need to get involved with their life. That it's the only way to satisfy your heart is actually holding my heart I feel so much better than I'm out. Because I'm much freer. And it's better that way from


 **Buddy Johnston** 14:43
what about the fact that you may come out and lose your family or friends or?


 14:51
Well, if they don't love me for what I am then they really don't love me at all. And I'm leaving for me. Because if if they're up The fact that the fact that I am gay, and I'm sorry, there's nothing I can do about that. I'm me. And I'm happy with myself. I love myself now. More than I did yesterday. That's how I feel.


 **Buddy Johnston** 15:18
You're smiling?


 15:21
Because I'm happy.

 **Buddy Johnston** 15:21
Are you really, really? Even if somebody calls you a faggot?

 15:25
I'll say I'm damn. I'll say I'm proud can say.

 **Buddy Johnston** 15:30
It's just seven other words, you can't

 15:35
I'm proud to be gay. I'm proud.

 **Buddy Johnston** 15:39
What next?

 15:40

11 15:40

What next? Yeah.

B Buddy Johnston 15:42

I mean, you, you called up this Queer radio show, and you didn't want to be on the radio and you came out to your sister. And wasn't there incident where you came out to someone at school?

15:52

I came out to a lot of people at school. And I've learned that, that the majority of the people that I told over 50% Love me still now and they love me more people that I've told, came up to me and hugged me. And they said, It's all right. And I really appreciate people like that. I love them. I'm glad they love me too. Wasn't

B Buddy Johnston 16:13

there an incident you told me about where you came out to someone who also was gay or

16:18

Yeah, Stacy.

B Buddy Johnston 16:21

And they, they knew, but they didn't know or something. Um,

16:28

I kind of figured that he was gay, but I wasn't sure. And I wanted someone to talk to in school, someone that I could relate to. And, and it was hard coming out to him in a way because we weren't sure of each other. We were just both trying to figure each other out. And we finally did we call I called him and I came out to him. And we were just, we, we told stories that that happened through our lives, and we related to each other and how much better it is that we that we are gay. I don't think I wouldn't have been anything else. So

B Buddy Johnston 17:01

then you got involved in the Harvey Milk rally? Yeah, stood up in front of our community here in Houston. And you're just now getting back from Austin net. What's next to it mean? What are you going to do next? So you're going to be in another? Well,



17:15

I hope I can march in the Houston for a pride parade. I would love to. I want to so much.



Buddy Johnston 17:24

What do you want to do? You're 18 years old. I mean,



17:27

I wish I didn't get more involved, like in groups. And I love to. I wish there was a group where I lived. I live so far away from here that it's it's half an hour to 45 minutes. It's but I'll do it. Just to get involved. Don't do it. I wish there was a group out there. I wouldn't mind starting a group out there. But I don't know where to start.



Buddy Johnston 17:54

You just do it. If anybody can do it. Yeah, I have a feeling you're gonna



18:00

do it. I would love to.



Buddy Johnston 18:03

But you're the next ray Hill.



18:07

Know how you'll be the next meal is too much. My idol, Ray



Buddy Johnston 18:12

Hill started out just like you did one step at a time, baby.



18:17

That would be nice. I can be like Ray hill but Rachel doing



B

Buddy Johnston 18:20

it. You're already doing it. Don't you see? You're you're more Ray Hill than what Ray Hill is because that's why Ray Hill has struggled for so many years.



18:32

I remember Ray Hill have shedding a few tears that night that Larry's had his speech too.

B

Buddy Johnston 18:40

In fact, he commented on it when he got up to speak himself. Daddy happened you're you've already become history. You're already in the pages. Someday when they write gay lesbian history, you'll be one of those chapters that they write. It's already a dream for me, but it's real. You You've done it.



19:04

Okay, I guess I have I like to do more though. I don't think that's enough.

B

Buddy Johnston 19:10

I sounds like Harvey Milk. So you would encourage people to get involved?



19:18

Yes, I would. It made me feel so much better. They need to. If they care about themselves. They need to they don't do it for anybody else. They should do it for themselves. What

B

Buddy Johnston 19:28

about the family they might lose for the friends they might lose?



19:32

Well, let me tell you one thing if they lose her family, I'll tell you they've got a larger family right here. If they just look around. And when I went to the March, I thought about it. I thought if I lose my family, look at the family I have here. These people the crowd was so big I couldn't believe it. And and I was really amazed at the people that were straight that were supporting us. So happy to see them there. I wanted to cry then. It was nice. I just think people should come out.

B

Buddy Johnston 20:10

If you remember anything at all, from the march in years to come, what do you think that'll be?

⦿

20:21

The love and the support in the people chanting for their gay pride, the chants they were chanting. I've always, I've always heard the show in at the beginning where they say, what do we want gay rights. And also, it was so much fun for me to do that. And it really, I meant I really meant it on I said it.

B

Buddy Johnston 20:43

Are we going to march down the street here in Houston in June?

⦿

20:48

I hope so. I really would like to.

B

Buddy Johnston 20:53

So you want to encourage people to call us now and get involved in the parade? Oh, yes. Five, to six 4000. So here on the radio, Mr. DJ, you invite him down here to become a part of the after hours listeners. It's really easy. You just say if you're listening and you'd like to help us in the parade, here's what you do.

⦿

21:23

number to call is 526 4000. No, no,

B

Buddy Johnston 21:27

you can't get out that easy. You have to say if you're live, you

⦿

21:31

care about your community. And if you'd like to get involved, call this number of five to six 4000. And come down in March with this and come down and watch this for a

B

Buddy Johnston 21:43

Jimmy's just not holding the cue cards apparent. That's it. That's it. Maybe I love you so much.



21:49

I love you tonight. I



Buddy Johnston 21:50

love your show. If it wasn't for you. It's not my show, though. It's your show.



21:54

I love our show. It's our show and for our show. I don't know where I'd be today I'd be in the



Buddy Johnston 22:02

really me if it wasn't for our show. I don't know where I'd be there. And what's the phone number again 526 4000 And we're waiting to hear from you.



22:12

Those began with a routine police raid on a homosexual bar the Stonewall on Christopher Street in the heart of the West Village.



22:36

Going back I want you to savor this next moment. I have the task of showing that the official count of the lsb and gay rights



Harvey Milk 23:03

we must destroy the myth swings and draw shatter them we must continue to speak out and most importantly most importantly every gay person must come out



23:41

now you're watching



24:11

now you're gone



24:26

you may come out



25:53

As president as President of the Board of Supervisors, it's my duty to make this announcement. Both Mayor Moscone and supervisor Harvey Milk have been shot and killed not in Kansas anymore.



Harvey Milk 27:07

We must destroy the Miss Swinson for our shadows. We must continue to speak out. And most importantly, most importantly, every gay person must come out the other can't be a man. Come on out You must tell your immediate family you must tell your relatives you must tell your friends if indeed they are your friends, you must tell your neighbors you must tell the people you work with you must tell the people in the stores who's shopping once they realize that we are indeed their children and we are indeed everywhere every every lie every innuendo will be destroyed once and for all. And I asked I asked people to do one thing in America



28:37

sponsored KPFT Houston and don't you forget it



29:06

everybody's dance know you'll get to like if you give it a chance



29:26

you'll come on



29:38

got



29:49

it chain



29:55
motion