

DAVID Still concentrating on this being on the 6:00 news, and they've been quietly infiltrating into the school boards and
ROTHENBERG: the water commissions, and now elevating up so that they're running for statewide offices around the country.

JOYCE HUNTER: That's right. We've got to get on those school boards, we have to get and join those National Association of School Boards, we have got to be talking to the PTA, and we've got to get to those parents.

JULIE DRIZIN: And it has to be in large cities and small towns all across America.

JOYCE HUNTER: Across America.

CARLETTA JOY Joyce, what do you think? To me, that's the next front line. What do you think? I remember we had a
WALKER: conversation-- we ran into each other on the subway-- and you were saying there's so many professionals in AIDS and giving information but the information is not filtering down to teenagers. What are some of-- what are some of the things that need to be done?

JOYCE HUNTER: Well, one of biggest problems with a lot of the teenagers-- and we do have research that shows that teenagers are particularly knowledgeable, especially lesbian and gay-- I would say I need to correct that-- especially gay youth. The lesbians are not so knowledgeable. But the gay youth are, and they are not personalizing that knowledge. They're not-- and they're not personalizing that vulnerability, and we need to provide a kind of an education model that will help these kids to personalize that knowledge into behavior change.

JULIE DRIZIN: Thanks so much for joining us. Joyce Hunter, one of the pioneers of the Lesbian and Gay movement in this country, the co-founder of the Harvey Milk High School, and the president of the National Lesbian and Gay Health Association. I'm Julie Drizin with Carletta Joy Walker and David Rothenberg, bringing you Pacifica Radio's live coverage of Stonewall 25 here in Central Park in New York City. We'll be back with a really important message right after this, so stay tuned.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

SPEAKER 1: : And you are listening to KPFT 90.1 World Radio, and we are receiving live broadcast from New York City on the International March on United Nations to Affirm Human Rights of Lesbian and Gay people. Again, the show normally scheduled for this time slot is Bluegrass O and that will not be heard today. It will resume its normal slot next Sunday. But right now, we are receiving live broadcast from New York City on the International March on the United Nations to Affirm the Human Rights of Lesbian and Gay people, here on KPFT 90.1 radio.

JOYCE HUNTER: And good afternoon. I'm Julie Drizin from Pacifica Network News. You are listening to Pacifica radio's. Live coverage of Stonewall 25, an international march from the United Nations to Central Park. It's in progress. Right now, there was a mile long rainbow flag which led the procession here to Central Park, and I'm joined by Carletta Joy Walker and David Rothenberg.

Thank you all for joining us. We're going to take a moment away from the stage to ask you for your support. This broadcast is an expensive one and we're proud to be bringing it to you. For those of you who are listening who could not come to New York for this event, for those of you who care about the gay rights struggle or are following it, Pacifica Radio was the first broadcast medium to do a regular gay radio show-- happened here in New York on WBAI Radio-- and many of your Pacifica stations and community stations are the only radio stations in your communities that consistently do lesbian and gay radio programming.

Now's the time to support that kind of programming, and let me tell you what to do. Just go to your phone now, take a moment before we go back to the stage, and call 1-800-497-3223. That's 1-800-497-3223. Our pledge rates for this broadcast are \$25, \$45, \$60, and \$100. We're asking you for your support because we desperately need it.

This is an expensive broadcast. We had to lay phone lines all the way from WBAI to Central Park. We had to rent the satellite time and all of the equipment, plus our staff costs and our engineering costs. We're proud to do it, we're thrilled to be here, but we need your support. Now, David?

DAVID ROTHENBERG: A reminder that information is education and provides the change-- the kind of change that Stonewall 25 represents, to learn that the gay police force is escorting the marches, and the impression that they get is a protest against cops indicates that change is possible, and change is possible through commitment, and that kind of commitment comes from information and education.

And for those of you who are listening in the various cities around the country, and we are thrilled that we are reaching the far corners of this country, providing you with the information and the spirit of Stonewall 25, that your support will keep us here and keep the information flowing because the strength comes through knowledge. As we have learned, as we see a celebration of people who were outside the system, who are now the cops who are marching along, who are the openly gay Cops indicates that through struggle and through information change is possible.

And we translate that to you, as supporters of radio, that provides that information, to call us at 1-800-497-3223 and make us a pledge of support.

JULIE DRIZIN: And pledge whatever you can, but as much as you can, to help make broadcast like this possible. We'll be with you for another four hours bringing you the sound from the stage and many activists who helped make the lesbian and gay movement possible on the grassroots and national level. We're bringing all of this to you because maybe you couldn't be here, but we're glad to make it happen.

For a pledge of \$60, we're going to offer you some cassettes. But we're happy to present on one side, "Remembering Stonewall," which is a radio documentary on the birth of the movement which was produced for Pacifica National programming a few years ago; on the other side, an interview with Mel White, who was the author of *Strangers at the Gate*. He is a former Christian fundamentalist who wrote speeches for Oliver North and Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson, and is now an out homosexual who is taking on the Christian right. And on a third cassette, an interview with cartoonist Diane DiMassa, who is the cartoonist of *Hothead Paisan*, which is a lesbian cartoon.

Our phone number is 1-800-497-3223. Please pledge whatever you can to support Pacifica Radio's live coverage of Stonewall 25. Carletta Joy, anything you'd like to add to encourage our listeners out there who couldn't be here but may be queer?

CARLETTA JOY WALKER: Actually, I do think people should pledge. I would like to just make a little announcement, though, for people with disabilities. This will take two seconds. If you need to get up to the stage, stay on the west side of the park up to 84, and then veer into the left to the Great Lawn, and apparently there are ramps, so I just wanted to interject that.

Now, with the pledging, yes, this is-- the wiring is overwhelming, the number of wires here.

JOYCE HUNTER: We're wired.

CARLETTA JOY And so we need to pay for each and every one of them. So a pledge-- the pledge, the \$25, the \$45, or the \$60, or **WALKER:** the \$100-- and the \$60 pledge will get you one of the programs that was mentioned. I assume \$100 will get you that as well.

JULIE DRIZIN: Yes. If you pledge \$100, you also get those great cassettes.

DAVID One of the things that people pledging do that you can do, if you are pledging, is that you're providing support **ROTHENBERG:** for those who cannot contribute. For example, many, many prisoners are listening to this program, and our support through the years of Pacifica for inmate rights and for prisoner rights and for opportunities for ex-offenders, so your contribution will enable them to get the kind of information that is necessary.

JOYCE HUNTER: And that phone number is 1-800-497-3223. Thank you for your support.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

SPEAKER 1: : And you are listening to KPFT here at 90.1 FM. We are providing you with live coverage today of the New York City International March on United Nations. Back to the live coverage.

JULIE DRIZIN: Radio's live coverage of Stonewall 25, we're thrilled you're joining us. I'm Julie Drizin with Carletta Joy Walker, and joining us from WBAI, here with us is Victoria Star, a producer at WBAI, and she was out in the crowd as the march began. Tell us what it was like down at the UN this morning, Victoria.

VICTORIA STAR: I was actually over on the Fifth Avenue contingent, and it was really, really exciting.

JULIE DRIZIN: That's the, we're here, we're queer, we're not going shopping contingent?

VICTORIA STAR: That's exactly what it is. I think it was a-- they were trying to make a-- bring some attention back to some of the issues that have maybe been sidestepped a little bit. I know there's so much going on, but there's a lot of commercialism going-- a lot of things for sale, and it is very exciting to take home your commemorative t-shirt, but I think there are a lot of people who are concerned about some of the more serious issues getting a bearing.

I will say, though, when I arrived at 42nd Street in front of the main library, just as the group was coming up, it was so exciting-- leading the march was a bright red Mustang with about six or eight very large bull dykes, followed by a silver-blue convertible Cadillac filled with drag queens, and it, of course, was the Stonewall veterans. And very, very exciting--

CARLETTA JOY What year were the cars?

WALKER:

[LAUGHTER]

You know, what are we talking here?

VICTORIA STAR: Well, my understanding is that the convertible was one of the cars impounded--

JULIE DRIZIN: This is about to be a test, isn't it?

VICTORIA Right. My understanding is that the convertible was one of the cars impounded during the Stonewall riots, and it
STAR: has been preserved and will continue to be preserved.

CARLETTA JOY Oh, we have the real deal here now?

WALKER:

VICTORIA This is the real thing.

STAR:

JULIE DRIZIN: The cars have historical value?

CARLETTA JOY Right.

WALKER:

VICTORIA The best part was the chant, tell the Pope we're coming.

STAR:

[LAUGHTER]

And I thought that was a lot of fun.

CARLETTA JOY So get ready.

WALKER:

VICTORIA Exactly.

STAR:

JULIE DRIZIN: We're going to hear more about the beginnings of the march, but right now we're going to the stage where NGLTF
president Peri Jude Radecic is--

PERI JUDE Radecic!

RADECIC:

JULIE DRIZIN: There she goes.

[CHEERING]

PERI JUDE I was so afraid it would rain [INAUDIBLE]. We are organizing for our lives. As we gather here today to celebrate
RADECIC: our international movement for change and Stonewall 25, we are celebrating 25 years of survival.

Our community is under attack by the radical right at every level of our lives-- on college campuses, in school
boards, with stealth candidates, removing positive images from our libraries, and erasing our history, all while
waging anti-gay ballot initiatives in seven states across this country.

Homophobia, fueled by the organizing of the radical right, has allowed the continuation of the AIDS epidemic, and
the future holds no cure. Homophobia, fueled by the lies of the radical right, allows violence and discrimination to
continue to be a major threat to our lives.

Today, the world is watching, and our message to the world from our community is that this is not business as usual. Today, we are called into action, and we will organize for our lives because our lives depend on it.

Every four years, the world comes together to celebrate multiculturalism, to build bridges of hope for the future. Every four years, the world comes together in an international event called the Olympic Games.

The 1996 International Summer Olympic Games are being hosted by the city of Atlanta, Georgia. However, Olympic volleyball is scheduled to be held in one of the most racist, anti-Semitic, sexist, and homophobic counties in the United States of America, Cobb County.

[BOOING]

It is an international disgrace to host an Olympic event in Cobb County, where bigotry and the radical right find their home. As the world watches today, we say with one voice to the organizers of the 1996 Summer Olympic Games, get the Olympics out of Cobb County!

[CHEERING]

As the world watches today, we say with one voice, Atlanta, we will descend on you, we will shut down Atlanta, we will stop traffic in Cobb County, we will tie Atlanta in an Olympic knot!

[CHEERING]

Get the Olympics out of Cobb! We are organizing for our lives, and we will not let racism, anti-Semitism, homophobia, and the radical right win the golden bigotry of volleyball. Get the Olympics out of Cobb. And we invite each and every one of you down to Atlanta to shut that city down in an international gay rights event in Atlanta in 1996.

[CHEERING]

This November may be our D Day, D as in possible discrimination. Seven states are likely to be voting on measures to ensure discrimination against gay men, lesbians, bisexuals, transgendered and drag people.

As absurd as it may be to have the civil rights of a minority voted up or down by the majority, the fact remains that we are facing a tremendous threat. The power to battle this, the power to battle racism, and sexism, and anti-Semitism, homophobia, and the radical right lies within each and every one of us.

Our local, state, and national, and international strength lies with each and every one of you. As the world watches, we say with one loud world voice-- we are organizing for our lives. Get the Olympics out of Cobb County. One day, justice, fairness, and equality will prevail in our lives. Thank you for being here. Come to Atlanta! Shut the city down! Get the Olympics out of Cobb County!

JULIE DRIZIN: That's Peri Jude Radecic. She's the executive director of the National Lesbian and Gay Task Force, one of the national gay organization's political groups, which is based in Washington DC. And I'm Julie Drizin with Pacifica Radio's live coverage of the march. We'll be going back to the stage in just a moment.

While we're here, Victoria Star, a WBAI reporter, is with us. She was at the Dyke March last night. What was that like?

VICTORIA I got to tell you, it was crazy and it was happy. We spoke with a number of people last night. Sapphire probably summed it up best. She said it was probably one of the happiest moments of her life, and it was just really exciting partly to relive what we did last year in Washington when almost spontaneously 20,000 dykes just took to the streets on Saturday night.

JULIE DRIZIN: It's like a right wing nightmare come alive.

VICTORIA [LAUGHS] Their very worst fear. It clearly is. But it was really exciting. And I know the Lesbian Avengers were in the middle of some circle of people. I could barely break the circle--

JULIE DRIZIN: The Lesbian Avengers is a lesbian activist organization, direct action group similar to ACT UP that does civil disobedience.

VICTORIA I think what was interesting about last night is that the march last year-- the Dyke March in Washington last year was organized by the New York chapter of the Lesbian Avengers. Immediately following that March, hundreds, thousands of dykes went to their hometowns and organized Lesbian Avengers chapters around the country. So this march last night had all of these chapters from Madison, Wisconsin, and Kansas City, and all these places. It was really wonderful.

JULIE DRIZIN: And it goes to show that on that level we can recruit and reproduce, right?

VICTORIA [LAUGHS] Definitely.

STAR:

CARLETTA JOY Well, do you know poster out-- this art who has the poster with the-- they're not the Lesbian Avengers, but they **WALKER:** were kicked out of the Navy and they're mad?

VICTORIA Uh-huh.

STAR:

CARLETTA JOY This is what I'm envisioning as you talk about this. It's a great poster. It's advertising the movie. It's all over New **WALKER:** York City.

VICTORIA Oh, I've seen that.

STAR:

CARLETTA JOY And it's a great poster. But there's no movie. But it looks just like you keep reading it, and it's out-- I think the **WALKER:** Lesbian Avengers are on the poster somewhere.

JULIE DRIZIN: Yeah, I actually know the woman who made that poster. And when I saw it, it looks exactly like a real movie. I think it says-- I think it says they came out and got kicked out of the army. Now they're mad and out for revenge.

CARLETTA JOY Yeah.

WALKER:

[LAUGHTER]

JULIE DRIZIN: Speaking of movies, I noticed that you have a tattoo on your arm for *Go Fish*, which is a new lesbian romance film. Have you seen it?

VICTORIA Yeah. Excuse me-- [COUGHS]-- I saw it about a month ago at a preview screening, but it did open--

STAR:

CARLETTA JOY So good you got a tattoo?

WALKER:

VICTORIA Yeah, well, we were at a party yesterday morning, a little brunch that they had for Rose Troche, who's the

STAR: director, and some of the cast and crew of *Go Fish*. And I think it's really amazing to see not only a film about lesbians-- because those have certainly been out there before-- but a film that is made by lesbians that really reflects the reality of our lives. It wasn't sort of a titillating thing that made by some guys, you know?

JULIE DRIZIN: A new film called *Go Fish*. We're going to the stage now. We're hearing the voice of a woman from Abigail, which is a South African lesbian and gay rights group, Theresa Raizenberg.

THERESA --of South Africa, Cape Town. We bring you a message from lesbian and gay people in South Africa. We are very
RAIZENBERG: proud to be-- because what has happened in South Africa is the best proof that gays and lesbians around the world have a common interest. Our new Constitution contains a clause in the Bill of Rights prohibiting discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation.

[CHEERING]

South Africa is the first country in the world to have such a clause in the Constitution, and this is a great breakthrough for gays and lesbians internationally, and particularly in Africa. We are sure that as the Democratic movement spreads, that more countries will follow our example.

We recognize that this would never have been possible had it not been for the event of Stonewall 25 years ago. The event here in New York made it possible for gays and lesbians to come out of the closet and begin the long struggle to take place in our society.

Stonewall is important to us because it was arrived by the drag queens. The most discriminated against group in our community is the drag queen. In Cape Town, the traditional thing was for gay boys to become drag queens. We leapt out of the closet and were accepted in the poor community long before Stonewall, but we also felt that prejudice and discrimination from the right and the government.

With gay liberation, the gays [? in suits-- ?] the gays in [? suits ?] came forward, leaving us behind. They could head-- they could enter where we were excluded. At the Stonewall 25th anniversary, let us dedicate ourselves to removing the discrimination in our own community.

[CHEERING]

Viva gay rights [INAUDIBLE] South Africa! Viva!

SPEAKER 2: Viva! Lesbians in South Africa, as everywhere in the world, have to contend with male domination as well anti-gay prejudice. Amongst working class lesbians, we are very few opportunities to discover as a woman. Religious conservatism, tradition are used to keep us in the kitchen. We demand to change our attitudes.

The gay lesbian movement is important because we stand for the right of each person to freely live out their sexual orientation. In doing this, we are doing something for the freedom of all people, not only gay, but lesbians.

But the struggle is far from over. In South Africa today, there is still a law for the Sexual Abuse Act, which makes it a crime for us to make love. The age of consent for homosexuals is 19, and for heterosexuals it's 16. We still have no rights in our partnerships or other recognize, and do not qualify for the privileges with straight marriage.

All of this is in direct conflict with the Bill of Rights. We know also from experience of the Afro-American's struggle that having something guaranteed in your Bill of Rights does not mean that you will get it in practice. We know that there are many ways in which to focus the conservatism can operate to deny our rights. That is the message of the people in South Africa, the Association of Bisexuals, Gays, and Lesbians. Viva, South Africa! Viva!

[CHEERING]

JULIE DRIZIN: And we just heard from two members of Abigail, winners of the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission's Maria de Celso award. And they're a Black lesbian and gay, bisexual group based in Cape Town, South Africa.

As you probably know, the new South African Constitution under President Nelson Mandela is one of the few constitutions in the world that recognizes the rights of lesbians and gays. However, there is some legal work to do for true freedom to be there in South Africa. But they were members of Abigail.

I'm Julie Drizin with Pacifica Radio News and David Rothenberg and Carletta Joy Walker. Here at Pacifica Radio's live coverage of Stonewall 25, we're joined now by former NFL hero Dave Kopay--

DAVE KOPAY: How are you?

JULIE DRIZIN: One of the pioneers of the Lesbian and Gay movement. What's it like for you to be here today, Dave?

DAVE KOPAY: It's really nostalgic for me in a way. I can remember when I felt so alone and being around so many athletic and physical people here, and of course, just the numbers of people, you don't feel alone anymore.

DAVID ROTHENBERG: David, it was 18 years ago that you, a 10 year veteran of the National Football League, revealed to the world that you were gay as a result of a series being written in the old *Washington Star*. And yet, in these 18 years not a major football, baseball, or basketball player has come out. It's difficult to believe that there is not one other gay man in professional sports.

We've had gay Greg Louganis, and we certainly have suspicions about many other athletes and have heard rumors, but I know you got hundreds of letters from athletes-- high school, college-- saying thank you you're there, and you speak for me, and yet not one. Is there anyone that's coming out-- will there be-- is it possible?

DAVE KOPAY: I know for a fact, there are both men and women that are on a professional level that are gay or bisexual. I've heard from them and I've talked to them. There's also others that I haven't spoken to directly, but I know of, although I haven't been in bed with them, but I believe that's their truth.

DAVID ROTHENBERG: Well, is it because of endorsements that they fear they won't get--

DAVE KOPAY: I think so. I also think it's probably the depth of the closet, and also the-- I think the pressure, the super machismo, the image, it's just so hard to discard.

DAVID Well, how did your teammate-- your former teammate's-- it was the teammate's owners-- where is the block?

ROTHENBERG:

DAVE KOPAY: I think now today, if it was going to be any problem it would be the owner's, not the not the teammate's. When I was playing--

JULIE DRIZIN: What happened when you came out?

DAVE KOPAY: Well, I was out of football a couple of years and it was my anger that really motivated me to speak out. I wasn't getting anywhere with even getting a look at the coaching profession. And then I was at a time also when I was married. My wife happened to know that I was gay, but that's a whole other issue.

But when I was in Washington and spoke out, a number of players came to me and supported me right away. In fact, nobody ever blasted me when I spoke out there in 1975. I'm sure it happened behind my back, and I know Jerry Smith, who is now, of course, dead from AIDS, I know that he had a little difficult time, but he totally supported me and was behind me all the way.

CARLETTA JOY Are you familiar with E. Lynn Harris? He's just written two novels that-- he's a Black professional. And he self-published the first one, and then he picked up a Doubleday contract for the next one. But nobody would touch him. But he deals with Black football players who-- well, he says he's not gay. He really just likes to be in the gay community-- but the book, it really is challenging because it shows how the lines are crossed and how silence, one, equals death and silence also equals a lot of trouble because he never acknowledges anything.

And in interviewing him, he said, you know, yes, this was based on someone. He's not saying who it is because the person isn't willing to come out. But it's also, like, people really make these assumptions, he cannot possibly be gay, and I'm sure people though that about you.

DAVE KOPAY: Well, I think now today, though, it could happen and someone could speak out because it just seems to be so much room. I know for years, I was always worried about-- or wondered about, maybe, possibly looking to get a job and getting into the coaching profession. Of course, I don't look at it that way anymore.

But It. Seems now that young people are taking the position that yes, I can do it, and yes, I am a valid human being and a capable human being, and they're going to speak out and they're not going to just put up with all the BS and all the crap that I put up with.

CARLETTA JOY Well, even in tennis though, when you think about it, which is not the same image blasting as coming out in football-- there's still, I mean, people seem to be wary, even though it's--

DAVE KOPAY: But everybody said that Martina would just totally be ostracized and totally shut out of everything. And what's happened? Martina has become the most loved tennis player in all of sports. Of course, that has a lot to do with her professionalism and the way she's carried herself and her talent, and that's what it should be.

DAVID David, the Christian right has made a great issue about anti-homosexuality, has created a climate against gays

ROTHENBERG: revealing themselves in sports, and yet many of the married men have been revealed as users of substance abuse, of being wife abusers. Do we address that as an opportunity for gay men and lesbians to reveal themselves as reasonable role models?

DAVE KOPAY: Well, of course, and they are role models. I don't quite know exactly how to answer that. We're almost being drummed out of the ballpark.

JULIE DRIZIN: We have noise from the stage.

DAVE KOPAY: Yes. I think the Christian right, it seems like the militaristic aspects are prevalent in the Christian right and that's so ingrained in football and following the rule and following the program.

JULIE DRIZIN: Being the all-American hero. The football player is the image of the All-American hero in this country.

DAVE KOPAY: Right.

DAVID ROTHENBERG: But so many of the owners are corporate-- represent the corporate America at its most extreme right with vested interest in perpetuating what they have, and I think that it is my impression that they use homosexuality as since the fall of the evil empire, that the opportunity to identify the enemy, that the gay community, the fear is fanned by corporate America, and the owners are right in there with them. They're the owners of the teams. And the players are torn between their need for being part of the team and--

DAVE KOPAY: You know, it's kind of interesting how along the differences between the players and the owners and the coaches-- I was invited to a team dinner a couple of years ago and was on the elevator--

DAVID Which team? Washington Redskins?

ROTHENBERG:

DAVE KOPAY: No, with Marty Schottenheimer, with the Kansas City teams. One of his coaches, I was the best man at his wedding and he just invited me to, as a friend, over to the hotel to visit, and Marty knew that I was there and he just invited me up to the team dinner, which was an incredibly, I think, warm thing to do.

But there was a couple of players who approached me in the elevator and said they had read my book and it really was shocking to me that they had at least taken that step and would even acknowledge that. And so it wasn't-- it just didn't seem to be a big issue with them, you know?

CARLETTA JOY For our listeners, I just want to say, because I'm sure you can hear the music in the background and it's a great, **WALKER:** but there's someone in high heeled black leather boots in there--

DAVE KOPAY: I can't hear you at all.

CARLETTA JOY Well, there's baton twirling, high leather-- I'm just talking about the stage-- high leather boots. I think it was kind of a halftime show going up on the stage. I'm just explaining to the listeners-- we're back here doing this interview, and then all around us, in various stages of nakedness is going on--

DAVID And an estimated 1 million people in Central Park--

ROTHENBERG:

CARLETTA JOY Half of them are naked.

WALKER:

DAVID To celebrate-- well, it's 90 degrees. Their nakedness is as much attributed to the heat as it is to their sexual sense of freedom, as we sit here clothed and respectable.

JULIE DRIZIN: But there is a beautiful flag routine going on on stage, and the audience is going crazy. A lot of men who never got to be never got to be cheerleaders--

DAVID But when a million people gather in one place at one time and there's such a sense of freedom--

ROTHENBERG:

JULIE DRIZIN: It's cosmic, almost.

DAVID The absence of repression-- even the policemen here seem to be in a state of joyous celebration.

ROTHENBERG:

JULIE DRIZIN: We're going to the stage now. You're listening to Stonewall 25 on Pacifica Radio.

SPEAKER 3: Black impounded Stonewall car, and one of the founders and current presidents of the Imperial Queens of New York.

[CHEERING]

SPEAKER 4: We are the Stonewall survivors!

[CROWD CHEERING]

SPEAKER 3: Please welcome [INAUDIBLE].

[CHEERING]

JULIE DRIZIN: Right now on stage, Stonewall veterans are coming out. These are the men and women who were there and helped spark the riot that gave birth to the modern gay and lesbian movement. Some of them are dressed in drag. They're coming out and blowing kisses to the crowd. One of them is approaching the mic and will begin to speak now.

SPEAKER 5: Thank you very much.

JULIE DRIZIN: She's wearing a blonde wig and a beautiful, long, pink dress. She looks beautiful.

AUDIENCE: Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

And the crowd is chanting thank you, thank you. To one of the pioneers of the Lesbian and Gay movement, those who resisted, you had a typical police raid on a dive bar in Greenwich Village-- bar that was run by the mafia. Typically, people would get rounded up, arrested. Their pictures and names would be in the paper the next day.

Some lives were destroyed, people were thrown out of their homes and lost their jobs as a result of these raids, but some drag queens and other lesbian and gay people fought back. It was an event that was informed by the radicalism of the 1960s, and it was an end to passive resistance. Lesbian and gays would just walk right into the paddy wagon and go down and get arrested.

Back to the stage now. Stonewall 25, Stonewall veteran speaking.

SPEAKER 5: And I want you to know that just like old times, when this time [? in New York City ?] very gracious--

JULIE DRIZIN: They're off mic? Yeah, they're difficult to hear. They're having a technical problem on stage.

[CROWD CHEERING]

CARLETTA JOY Yeah, our last guest, David Kopay, I think it's important to mention that *The David Kopay Story* is still available,

WALKER: and it was recommended by the American Library Association who are all high school students. He first published that in 1977 and was republished in 1989. And the co-writer with that, or with-- the assistant writer was Perry Deane Young. So *The David Kopay Story* is available, and in this time it's in paperback. So I thought that was important to add too.

JULIE DRIZIN: And it was a brave thing for him to do, to come out at a time when lesbians and gays in professional sports were silent, and are still today.

CARLETTA JOY Yes.

WALKER:

DAVID I read a report that the fastest man in the world is gay, but we're not allowed to give his name because we don't

ROTHENBERG: out people, and that a former mayor of a city is gay-- of a large city in which we sit-- but--

JULIE DRIZIN: But my understanding is that Ed Koch used to go to the Stonewall Inn. That was one of his favorite-- according to *The Advocate*, this month's edition of *The Advocate*--

DAVID I have no comment on this subject, but someday I'll tell that story. We've here--

ROTHENBERG:

CARLETTA JOY Stop it.

WALKER:

JULIE DRIZIN: No kissing and telling.

DAVID We've been joined by--

ROTHENBERG:

JULIE DRIZIN: Don't ask, don't tell.

DAVID We've been joined by one of the angriest old activists in the history of the gay and lesbian movement. Ron Gold's

ROTHENBERG: anger inspired me so much in the early days, and he was the press liaison in the first Pride marches of this March, when just hundreds before there were thousands. You were the first march in New York was when, Ron?

RON GOLD: 1970.

DAVID And how many of us were there then?

ROTHENBERG:

RON GOLD: Oh, there were quite a few. We were maybe 2 or 3,000?

DAVID And Bette Midler sang-- you don't remember that? Bette Midler sang in Washington Square, and the big issue

ROTHENBERG: then--

RON GOLD: No, that was a couple of-- three years later in Washington Square.

DAVID And as the lead liaison to the press, did you have any response?

ROTHENBERG:

RON GOLD: Well, barely. We had a few cameras once in a while. They would come for about the first two minutes and split. And then we had a few reporters, and we'd get about three lines in the back section.

DAVID It was rather startling today to read a celebratory editorial in the August *New York Times*, celebrating 25 years of

ROTHENBERG: Stonewall. Where were they 25 years ago?

RON GOLD: What? The *New York Times*?

DAVID That was one of your-- you were a reporter then for *Variety*.

ROTHENBERG:

RON GOLD: Well, no, not when I was a repressed person. I quit *Variety* in order to become a full time activist.

JULIE DRIZIN: One of the things that you did, Ron, was you were a lobbyist for the American Psychiatric Association during a time that the APA continued to consider homosexuality an illness and a disease and recommend that its members try to cure homosexuals through psychotherapy, electroshock therapy, aversion therapy. That seemed to be one of the pivotal struggles of lesbian and gay rights, to get the psychiatric establishment to turn around.

What was the challenge at the time? Was there are a lot of political and medical resistance to that--

RON GOLD: Oh, medical. Don't call the whole thing medical. It's edgy. It's horrible when at the task force, the National Gay Task Force-- which I was one of the founders-- when that finally happened, the headline on our newsletter was the world is round.

[LAUGHTER]

DAVID I remember, Ron, you saying at a meeting of the National Gay Task Force that the battle line is in three areas--

ROTHENBERG: political, medical or psychiatric, and religious. That those three institutions were the greatest blockade towards the acceptance of gays and lesbians. What's changed in the 25 years from those three major institutional powers?

RON GOLD: Well, what's changed is that we're more and more visible. That more and more of us are out, more and more of us are known to the public as who we are and not some kind of fictional thing they made up in their own head. And they can't pretend we're something else when we're right in front of their noses.

DAVID Has respectability made you less angry?

ROTHENBERG:

RON GOLD: Maybe-- well, never. No, no.

DAVID No, I was never implying that you were respectable. I would never dare do that.

ROTHENBERG:

JULIE DRIZIN: Our movement.

RON GOLD: Oh, I think that's one of the problems we have today, that it's too damn respectable. It's all these people saying, we're just like everybody else, told to that one. I mean, if we're just as boring as everybody else, I don't see why we're bothering with it.

I think we have to go back to a kind of sense that there's a theory of gay liberation, that there's some kind of moral imperative behind what we're up to, and not just let's have our rights. I like-- they just were hollering liberation. That's a good word. We haven't heard it for quite a while.

DAVID In many of the movements, in the progressive movement, whether it be anti-war, whether it be for justice for **ROTHENBERG:** people involved in the criminal justice system, or whether it be for acceptance of the broad spectrum of racial and religious identity in this country, your anger has always been so channeled.

How would you-- I'm not asking you for a 30 second *Today Show* kind of guidance-- but the channeling of anger to make work for progressive forces rather than against, where did you go with your anger?

RON GOLD: Oh, I tried to get away from it. I mean, I-- no good for me. Some people get me angry, and I mean, you have-- in order to do the job right back then, I had to be angry most of the time, and that's why I thought I couldn't bear to be angry all the time. I try not to be angry at all anymore.

DAVID How can you not be angry and watch what's going on in the world?

ROTHENBERG:

RON GOLD: Well, sure, but you have to understand yourself, some people can be angry and get over it in 10 minutes, and I shake for the week when I'm angry. So I had just realized it [INAUDIBLE].

DAVID But you also challenge some of the most powerful institutional forces in this country. You marshaled the forces **ROTHENBERG:** against the American Psychiatric Association to change their attitude. That was channeled anger. That was an inspiration to me.

RON GOLD: Well, what can I tell you? It was work.

DAVID Ah, there's the word. Work. You mean it's more than [? love ?]?

ROTHENBERG:

RON GOLD: I mean, look. When I made a speech before the American Psychiatric Association in Hawaii in 1972, I thought I was in hostile territory, or so I thought. But when I finished and 3,000 psychiatrists gave me a standing ovation, I was ready to fall down flat on my head.

DAVID You said when they cheered, where did I go wrong?

ROTHENBERG:

RON GOLD: But you know-- no. I really felt, like, happy.

DAVID Well, what you're saying--

ROTHENBERG:

RON GOLD: I always wanted to tell this story.

DAVID Go ahead.

ROTHENBERG:

RON GOLD: Because it was-- there used to be a thing-- I didn't know about until I got out there-- that was popularly known as the Gay PA, and that was a whole bunch of gay psychiatrists who would get together every year and have a convention on the night of the annual ball and go to a local gay bar and have a party. And it was all very quiet and undercover and sub rosa, and none of those people were helping us at all in trying to change the category and getting homosexuality out of the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual*.

But nonetheless, they invited me to the party, and I brought along a psychiatrist who was the one that we were grooming to write this proposition for us. And I brought him to this meeting, and in 10 minutes-- in 10 minutes, they realized that he was not one of them and were getting very nervous. And I told them to just screw off because really, he was helping us and they weren't.

Anyway, just this argument was taking place, in came this person in full army uniform who took one look at me-- very thin skinned-- and put his arms around my neck. He turned out to be an army psychiatrist who had been at that meeting that night, and never in his life been to a gay bar, but after he heard my speech, had decided he'd do the first thing, go to the gay bar. Well, he came to this gay bar and there were all these gay psychiatrists and me, and he just was transformed.

Well, that night, because of that name-- whose name I don't even remember-- Dr. Spencer, who was the one who wrote that proposal, said, tonight I'm writing the proposal, and he wrote it that night.

DAVID And that's when gay people became well. The American Psychiatric Association--

ROTHENBERG:

[LAUGHTER]

JULIE DRIZIN: You are all cured in one fell swoop.

DAVID The gays and lesbians became well. It was like the longest Hallmark card that was ever received.

ROTHENBERG:

JULIE DRIZIN: It was a massive healing. Thanks to Ron Gold, the Stonewall veteran and the co-founder of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, lobbyist who helped overturn the American Psychiatric Association's definition of homosexuality as an illness.

I'm Julie Drizin with David Rothenberg and Carletta Joy Walker here at Pacifica Radio's live coverage of Stonewall 25. Stay with us for a really important message after this.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

SPEAKER 1: : You're listening to KPFT here in Houston on 90.1 FM. We are receiving the live broadcast from New York City on the International March on the United Nations for Gay and Lesbian People.

JULIE DRIZIN: Live from Central Park, I'm Julie Drizin with Carletta Joy Walker and David Rothenberg. You're listening to Pacifica Radio's live coverage of Stonewall 25. A group of Stonewall veterans has just left the stage. A group of men and women, some dressed in drag, those were the women who fought back and the men who fought back when the police tried to raid the Stonewall Inn back in June of 1969, giving birth to the modern gay and lesbian rights movement.

We're taking a short break here to ask you for your support, which we desperately need. This is an expensive broadcast. We had to lay telephone lines from WBAI, Pacifica's New York station, all the way to Central Park. There's a lot of wires all over here. It's a complicated broadcast, but we're thrilled to be able to bring it to you, and we can only bring it to you with your support.

Let me give you a phone number where you can call and make a pledge of support. Our number is 1-800-497-3223. That's 1-800-497-3223. 1-800-49-PEACE, P-E-A-C-E.

Pacifica Radio has always been there with the lesbian and gay movement from its beginnings. The first lesbian and gay radio show was on WBAI in New York, and many of our Pacifica stations and many of the community radio stations on which you're hearing this broadcast have been committed to the struggle for lesbian and gay liberation since the beginning, bringing voices of lesbians and gay men to the airwaves to discuss the issues that affect that community.

And if that's something that you appreciate, we need to see some appreciation now with a pledge of your support-- \$25, \$45, \$60 \$100, to 1-800-497-3223. Please make that call now. David?

DAVID We have been making a plea for gays and lesbians to support us during this program, but it shouldn't be
ROTHENBERG: restricted to people based on one sexual orientation, because if you understand the movements, the fact that the relationship is clear and powerful-- I came through the Civil Rights movement and the Prisoners' Rights Movement, and it was my understanding of the struggle for people that when the gay movement began, that this too was part of the struggle.

I made that identification. I learned from the people in the Civil Rights Movement. I learned from the Prisoners' Rights Movement. When the gay movement started, I realized the connection was there. It was about removing injustice, about understanding opportunity for everyone, and that our plea to you in supporting us and providing information and education and sharing is for people who are heterosexual as well as for those who perceive themselves as homosexual.

It is all related. If you understand justice, if you recognize the pain that you may have felt in being excluded or watching others excluded, then this is part of it. And our ability to reach you is dependent on the support that you give us. So if you call and make a pledge, our number is 1-800-497-3223. And there's someone sitting in some lonely little city with phones waiting for contact.

JULIE DRIZIN: Headphones on.

DAVID And telephones, and--

ROTHENBERG:

CARLETTA JOY Is this a fantasy of yours?

WALKER:

DAVID No. I guess we're-- I always put somebody at the bottom of a well sitting in some small Midwestern town

ROTHENBERG: accumulating the money and feeling isolated, and I want to make a connection with whoever those people are at the 800 number, that we're reaching out to them, and we hope that people call them and make some contact with pledges.

CARLETTA JOY I hope they're paid well. Y'all have the contacts being made. The number is 1-800-497-3223. And for the \$60 **WALKER:** pledge, in the premium-- there's premiums with that-- three programs-- *Remembering Stonewall*, a radio documentary on the birth of a movement, *No White Strangers at the Gate*, and the *Hothead Pisan*, a homicidal lesbian terrorist. That's what the \$60 pledge. And of course, when you make a \$100 pledge, you get that as well.

And this broadcast is national. I don't know how many cities, but we're reaching several cities. David has been collecting where we're reaching. And also, the fact that people are here from all over the world, making this international, so it's-- we're here in New York, we're in Washington, we're in Berkeley, Los Angeles, Houston, Bridgeport, Boulder, Portland--

JULIE DRIZIN: Tampa, Florida.

CARLETTA JOY Right. Tampa, Minneapolis, Columbia-- we were trying to figure [INAUDIBLE], right?

WALKER:

JULIE DRIZIN: Missouri.

DAVID We picked Columbia, Missouri, and there are many, many other cities, and we'll only know when they call and **ROTHENBERG:** pledge from the 800 number what cities are listening today.

CARLETTA JOY So let us know where your city is on the 800 number.

WALKER:

DAVID I hope we're also conveying the sense of enormous exhilaration and hope that's going on here today.

ROTHENBERG:

CARLETTA JOY 1-800-497-3223. Keep going.

WALKER:

DAVID There is an enormous sense of joy and hope and togetherness that's permeating in Central Park in New York City **ROTHENBERG:** today, with nearly over estimated 1 million people.

And for those cities around the country that are concerned with gatherings of gay and lesbian people who know how to have referendums, I would suggest you write to the New York Chamber of Commerce because business is booming here, and if your cities around the country are concerned about gay rights movements and referendums coming up and the opportunities that the gay people-- the bottom line that the business community understands is that the-- one restaurant man said, if we could only keep the gay community here one more week, we would wipe out all the monsters we have from this terrible winter.

CARLETTA JOY And our bottom line is 1-800-497-3223. That's 1-800-497-3223, with a \$25, \$45, \$60, or \$100 pledge so we can **WALKER:** continue to bring you this rally, this march, and many others.

JULIE DRIZIN: Yes. Pacifica has always been committed to peace and social justice, and we hope that you'll share that commitment now with a pledge. Thank you so much for your support.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

SPEAKER 1: : And you are listening to KPFT 90.1 FM here in Houston on Pacifica Radio. And we are receiving live from New York the broadcast of the International March on United Nations to Affirm Human Rights of Lesbians and Gay People. Here on 90.1 KPFT.

JULIE DRIZIN: Pacifica Radio's live coverage of Stonewall 25. There's quite a lot of activity happening on the stage right now. There's a huge lesbian and gay dance routine going on to some very loud music, which you're hearing behind us. The stage is filled with a lot of speeches and entertainment, celebrating 25 years of the modern gay and lesbian struggle. The city is teeming with the energy of queer liberation, and we're bringing it to you here on Pacifica Radio.

We're joined now by an activist from New Zealand who-- could you pronounce your name for me? And if we could turn on your mic, then you could share your voice. Go ahead.

SPEAKER 6: [INAUDIBLE], everybody. My name is [INAUDIBLE], and I am a First Nations person from Auckland, New Zealand. I am a Maori of New Zealand, and it has been wonderful, inspiring, utterly and totally indescribable to be here with you today.

DAVID You knew about this 25th anniversary Stonewall from New Zealand, and you were informed and chose to come
ROTHENBERG: here?

SPEAKER 6: Yes. I'm actually on my way to London at the moment, but I have been active in the gay rights movement since the very, very early '70s. I was, I guess, what might be described as a pre-feminist lesbian. I came out in the--

DAVID In what?

ROTHENBERG:

JULIE DRIZIN: A pre-feminist lesbian.

SPEAKER 6: I came out in the late '50s, early '60s, and for me, the realities of Stonewall was something that changed my life. In fact, it was as a result of the Stonewall that we generated in 1972 our own Gay Liberation Front organization, and I was one of the founding members of that.

CARLETTA JOY What is the name of the organization?

WALKER:

SPEAKER 6: Gay Liberation Front.

CARLETTA JOY OK.

WALKER:

SPEAKER 6: That was in 1972. It has since, of course, turned into many different organizations, including, for example, the New Zealand AIDS Foundation, the Issue With [INAUDIBLE], the Gay Feminist Collective, and the organization for which I have, I suppose, the most energy and time, and that is what we call Kuia 2000. Kuia, K-U-I-A, in my dialect, in my language means revered older woman. So Kuia 2000 for us means lesbians of 40 years of age and over.

JULIE DRIZIN: We need to go to the stage right now for a moment where Amanda Bearse will be speaking. Right now, she's just waving to the crowd. She's one of the few people in Hollywood who's been willing to come out as a lesbian. She's on the show *Married with Children*. She's having a good time up there on the stage, and in a moment she'll be speaking. You're listening to Pacifica Radio's live coverage of Stonewall 25, the march from the UN to Central Park.

AMANDA Oh, hey!

BEARSE:

JULIE DRIZIN: There she is, Amanda Bearse.

AMANDA I am Amanda Bearse, and I am your next door neighbor.

BEARSE:

[CROWD CHEERING]

Today as I walk the several miles of our route here to the park, I march behind the original participants in the event we're here to celebrate, the Stonewall veterans. Those very brave queers who, one by one, stood up together that hot June night 25 years ago, and by their individual courage brought a whole new concept into being. The concept was simply this, that gay men and women deserve equal rights, and that together we are strong.

25 years later, we're still fighting for our equal rights, and together is still an important word, maybe even more so. Because today, intolerance and hatred of those who are different still exist as they have for centuries. Today, intolerance and hatred of those who are different continue to breed misery. This is a theme as insidious as it is vicious, and we must not let it destroy us, divide us, or diminish us. We must not let intolerance and hatred take away what we know, what we have won, and who we are.

Today, we must raise our voices, and despite our differences, we must do so together. Everyone watching us today can see we are a community as vibrant and diverse as any group on this planet.

[CROWD CHEERING]

We are men, we are women. We might look like one, but be another. We're Black, we're tan, we're pink, and white. We're Asian, Latino, American. We're Christians, we're Jews. Some of us are conservative, and some of us are outrageous.

[CROWD CHEERING]

But we all have the right to live here, to be here, and to work here. Make no mistake, for us to gather as we have this week, to show our strength so publicly, for us to dance in the streets and hold our games and our parties and our banners and our lovers' hands is wonderful for us.

[CROWD CHEERING]

But it is a red flag to the intolerant haters of our world, and we make a serious error if we underestimate the strength of their reaction to our displays. These people want to annihilate us. The nice ones want us back in the closets. The bad ones would like to put us someplace much worse, and they're taking strong concerted actions to put us there. We must react with even more concerted action and with greater strength.

Truth, justice, and self-love will not win us a place at the table. It will certainly not protect us from the wrath of those intolerant haters. But strong, politically active efforts will.

[CROWD CHEERING]

We cannot go home after an event like this and let the euphoria dribble away. We need to do something. Last Sunday in the *LA Times*, author Paul Monette quoted F. Scott Fitzgerald when he said, action is character, and I agree. And I quote Paul Monette who said, there's no turning us back now. From now on, we have each other, freedom is on our side, and there is no America without us.

[CROWD CHEERING]

We live in a democracy, and we can do something about the conditions we live with, but only if we act. If we gather the courage to say who we are, then stand up together and demand to be counted.

Politicians read numbers. Look at us. Look at these numbers. We must use them. We must make our voices heard by our actions, or all of these efforts, all of this money and energy that we spend on gay games and t-shirts and parties will be wasted. Let us not waste this marvelous energy, this fantastic momentum. Instead, let us now, this moment, make a commitment to making a difference.

[CROWD CHEERING]

Each of us can make a difference. It's not enough to just be here enjoying this celebration, because if everyone chose only to enjoy celebrations, then, my friends, we would soon have nothing to celebrate. Our silence would be deafening, and by our silence we would be defeated. So let us not confuse this marvelous celebration with action, but let us use its energy to motivate to action. Let us promise to each go home and every day do something that makes a difference. It begins with coming out.

[CROWD CHEERING]

That is the single most important political action any gay man or lesbian can take. And when you have come out to those closest to you, come out to someone else. Make a commitment here and now to live every day telling the truth about who you really are.

[CROWD CHEERING]

Make a commitment here and now to join a gay and lesbian organization, to participate in your communities' events, to write letters to your local and national elected officials, urging them to support fairness and equality for lesbians and gays. Get involved and be visible. It is only by such actions that we will continue to read that judges return children to their lesbian mothers.

[CROWD CHEERING]

That they award back pay to the wrongfully fired, and reinstate military officers.

[CROWD CHEERING]

It is only by such actions that we will affect change. I know that for me and my own courage, if I can even call it that, has been helped along by the countless others who have come out before me. The people who have stood up in corporate America, and in the military, in courtrooms, and in boardrooms, and who have said over and over, I'm here, I'm queer, get over it.

[CROWD CHEERING]

And if I owe a debt of thanks, it's to the many thousands of gays and lesbians whose names I will never know, and whose voices I will never hear, but who have bravely spoken out one by one, quietly but firmly making themselves known, demanding respect and equality until loud and clear they have become in unison a chorus singing songs of freedom with lyrics of truth.

[CROWD CHEERING]

And if I, by my own actions, can inspire others as I have been inspired, to step forward and be seen, then I will have repaid the debt that I owe. I ask you to join me in this effort.

Please take the joy and the energy you have received here home with you. Use it to inspire you to do whatever you can to make a difference because you not only can make a difference, you will, and you must.

[CROWD CHEERING]

You know, I had the great good fortune of marching this morning with two very courageous women, Sharon Bottoms and April Wade. Yes, you're probably familiar with your continuing legal battle in Virginia over custody of Sharon's son Tyler. The original ruling denied Sharon the right to raise her son, based solely on the fact that she was a lesbian. As a mother and a lesbian myself, I am thrilled with the recent victory that overturned the judge's decision.

[CROWD CHEERING]

But their struggle continues with Sharon's mother's appeal. I'd like to introduce them to all of you so that you can shower them with your support. So please join me in encouraging these two women to not give up the fight, Sharon Bottoms and April Wade.

[CROWD CHEERING]

JULIE DRIZIN: Coming out on stage now, Sharon Bottoms and April Wade holding hands with Amanda Bearse. They are the lesbian couple in Virginia. Sharon's child was taken away by the courts by a homophobic judge who determined that she could not be a good mother and a lesbian at the same time.

They got in trouble because they did kiss in front of their small son Tyler-- they're raising the child together. A judge, a higher court judge in Virginia just last week reversed the ruling. It is headed for the Virginia Supreme Court, and it is a landmark lesbian custody case.

The stage is out behind us, and they're out there waving to the crowd, April Wade and Sharon Bottoms, with a landmark lesbian custody battle.

DAVID ROTHENBERG: Isn't it interesting that judges-- it's interesting that judges will make such a ruling, and then view an act of love as a factor in the court, and yet an act of violence at home is postponed, delayed as we have seen in the news over and over and over again. Obviously, acts of love are much more threatening than acts of violence in some of the courtrooms in the country.

[CROWD CHANTING]

JULIE DRIZIN: The crowd is chanting to the lesbian couple in support of their struggle.

AMANDA BEARSE: Please welcome the world's most famous homosexual, Jimmy Somerville.

[CROWD CHEERING]

JULIE DRIZIN: He's-- Jimmy Somerville as a musician, for those of you who don't know him.

JIMMY SOMERVILLE: Good afternoon.

[APPLAUSE]

This song I'm going to do unaccompanied, and this is for all of those who have lost loved ones. OK, I'll just have to get my note.

JULIE DRIZIN: Jimmy Somerville's very popular among--

JIMMY SOMERVILLE: (SINGING) When the boy--

JULIE DRIZIN: The lesbian and gay dance crowd.

JIMMY (SINGING) In your arms is the boy in your heart, then you've got everything. When you're holding the dream
SOMERVILLE: you've been dreaming you'd hold, you're as rich as a queen.

So hold him tight and never let him go. Day and night, let him know you love him so. With the love of your life, spend a lifetime with love. make him yours forevermore.

So hold him tight and never let him go. Day, day and night, let him know you love him so. With the love of your life, spend a lifetime with love. Make him yours forevermore. Make him yours forevermore.

[APPLAUSE]

Thank you. Goodbye.

JULIE DRIZIN: Jimmy Somerville, live on the stage at Stonewall 25. Openly homosexual performer. Live from Central Park, you're listening to Pacifica Radio's live coverage of these events, celebrating the 25th anniversary of Stonewall Rebellion, which gave birth to the modern gay and lesbian rights movement.

I'm Julie Drizin, and joining us now is Douglas Hattaway, a spokesperson with the Human Rights Campaign Fund, the nation's largest lesbian and gay political organization with a membership of 80,000 people nationwide, continuing to recruit new members to HRC.

The Campaign Fund lobbies Congress, and contributes funds to federal election campaigns, and organizes local and national activists. Most recently, just this past week, the Campaign Fund was instrumental in the introduction of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act sponsored by Jerry Studds and Barney Frank and Ted Kennedy, and this is an act just introduced this week which would prohibit job discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, which would be a remarkable thing if it happened. How did that come about?

DOUGLAS Well, most Americans don't realize that federal civil rights laws do not cover gay and lesbian people, that you can lose your job, even get kicked out of your house, refuse service in a restaurant-- it's still Jim Crow days for us, as far as the federal civil laws are concerned-- civil rights laws are concerned.

We did some research and found out that when people learn that, when people realize that we're not covered, they strongly favor protections for us. But like every other civil rights movement-- with women, African-Americans-- if they had to, in their history, go one step at a time-- win voting rights, win housing rights, win employment rights-- then we need to do that too.

JULIE DRIZIN: Chip away at the discrimination, one facet at a time. David Rothenberg? [INAUDIBLE]

DAVID Uh, hopeful announcement that there are also several states introducing referendums that will put us on the
ROTHENBERG: defensive, that are Oregon--

DOUGLAS Exactly.

HATTAWAY:

DAVID South Carolina, is it?

ROTHENBERG:

DOUGLAS Right. There are seven states right now in the Midwest and the West in which the radical right is gathering signatures to place on the ballots in the fall on Election Day, proposals to prevent us from getting civil rights protections.

JULIE DRIZIN: Which is being billed by the right wing as special rights.

DOUGLAS Special rights. And they're taking advantage of the fact that people don't know.

HATTAWAY:

DAVID Also, there's a lot of money coming in for the right. Have you been able to identify who's financing these **ROTHENBERG:** campaigns? It's certainly not grassroots.

DOUGLAS Big group-- big national groups like the Christian Coalition, which has a million members. We're the largest gay **HATTAWAY:** organization with 80,000. They have a million people. Their budgets far outweigh ours.

JULIE DRIZIN: Not to mention access to national television networks at the drop of a hat.

DAVID And of course, their negotiating for eternity for membership. They promise if you give a-- if you give a little bit of **ROTHENBERG:** money, they promise you eternity in heaven.

CARLETTA JOY Also, I think that anti-gay and lesbian-- the anti-gay and lesbian agenda is one that's easier to mobilize around, **WALKER:** but I think that that also shouldn't be a shield for some of their generally repressive attitudes and ideas that they're promoting.

DOUGLAS But what we're finding is they are using gays and lesbians as the latest in a series of vulnerable populations **HATTAWAY:** around which they can organize. Remember of the ERA fight for the Equal Rights Amendment? They were saying oh, this is going to be in single sex bathrooms, and they're trying to scare everybody about that, and they raised a lot of money and they got people out to vote.

And they're using us now, but their agenda is much broader than preventing us from having equal rights. They want to roll back our advances in freedom of choice, in women's rights, and a whole array of civil rights. They just want to take power. They're using us as the scapegoats right now to scare people.

JULIE DRIZIN: And it's bankrolling their campaign. I mean, they are raising a lot of money off of anti-gay hysteria. I spoke with Tim Miller recently, the performance artist who's one of the NEA 4, and he said that he thought that if it were popular today to raise money off of open racism, that they would be doing that.

DOUGLAS Sure. Absolutely. And that's why we have to beat them. That's why they have to lose in these states, and we can **HATTAWAY:** say right now that we have a couple of victories under our belt. Just last week in Montana and Nevada, they failed to gather enough signatures to qualify to place their measures on the ballot. We still face them in seven states, in Ohio, Michigan, Missouri, Oregon, Washington, Arizona.

DAVID States where we're going right now. We're being heard in states that you're mentioning.

ROTHENBERG:

DOUGLAS Absolutely. If they win, they get to say, see-- they get to say to Washington, see? People don't want you **HATTAWAY:** supporting gay people. If we win, we get to say see? America repudiates you.

CARLETTA JOY Also, I think the subtle ways they approach these things, too, in terms of saying racism is funded, people do raise

WALKER: money around it, that these crime bills that he talked about, are codes, so that we had to look very carefully because it's always asserted well, you want these rights, and certainly the Civil Rights movement indicates that vigilance-- and in terms of African-Americans-- constant vigilance is needed.

So I think in terms of interfacing, it's very important to know that and watch carefully because when it doesn't win one way, it goes around the corner and we get another bill or get attacked in a different way.

DOUGLAS Well, we have right now, for the first time, the mainstream, if you will, Civil Rights movement has taken us under

HATTAWAY: their wing. Just Thursday, we had a press conference in Washington with Coretta Scott King and Larry [INAUDIBLE] who is the head of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, which is the largest Civil Rights Coalition-- been behind every civil rights law ever passed in the past half century.

On Thursday, they came out and stepped to Congress and said, equal rights for gay people is a priority for us now, and they're supporting us in passing Employment Non-Discrimination Act as the first step.

CARLETTA JOY And then these out coalitions are very important, the Civil Rights Movement on Washington in 1964, Bayard

WALKER: Rustin, a gay man-- gay Black man, was very instrumental in that, and it was a decision that he had to be sort of in the background. But I think that now that this is being done is not only good for the future and the present, but it also goes in some way to heal some of the past, because a lot of the energy in all the movements has always been gay and lesbian [INAUDIBLE].

DOUGLAS Absolutely.

HATTAWAY:

JULIE DRIZIN: Yeah, we're with Doug Hattaway of the Human Rights Campaign Fund is with us. You're listening to Pacifica Radio's live coverage of Stonewall 25. Behind us, Fem2Fem performing on the stage. Two of the members of Fem2Fem are open lesbians. Doug, what are the chances that this bill is going to go through? There's a lot of anti-gay feeling in Congress.

DOUGLAS We have 30 sponsors in the Senate-- Republicans and Democrats. We have 107 sponsors in the House--

HATTAWAY: Republicans and Democrats. What we've found is that employment discrimination resonates. Americans, by a strong majority, our research shows 77% of Americans support equal job rights for gay and lesbian people.

JULIE DRIZIN: But not in the military?

DOUGLAS Sorry?

HATTAWAY:

JULIE DRIZIN: But if you included the military in that question--

DOUGLAS They think the military is a special case. We don't think that.

HATTAWAY:

DAVID I have to add one note. Doug, when you talked about the far right always talking about the fear of single gender

ROTHENBERG: bathrooms, I grew up in a home where there was a single gender bathroom--

JULIE DRIZIN: You're kidding?

DAVID And it didn't break up the family values in my home.

ROTHENBERG:

JULIE DRIZIN: It brought your family closer together.

DAVID It brought us closer together. The tooshies that shared the toilet bowl together, [INAUDIBLE].

ROTHENBERG:

DOUGLAS What this bill is going to introduce, they're going to call it the gay quota bill. I guarantee you. They're going to distort it, they're going to say we're trying to get special privileges. That's not true. This bill simply says, you're not allowed to discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation.

JULIE DRIZIN: For firing, hiring, and promotion.

DOUGLAS Exactly. Not the [INAUDIBLE]. The quota is specifically prohibited in the bill. There's no preferential treatment allowed.

JULIE DRIZIN: Well, we wish you luck with the Human Rights Campaign Fund's effort to get that bill passed. It's the Employment Non-Discriminate Act-- Non-Discrimination-- I can't even say the word-- Act, which was introduced this Thursday in Congress. Doug Hattaway of the Human Rights Campaign Fund. Thanks for joining us.

DOUGLAS Thank you.

HATTAWAY:

JULIE DRIZIN: And I'm Julie Drizin with David Rothenberg and Carletta Joy Walker. Fem2Fem performing behind us. If you're just joining us, this is Stonewall's 25th anniversary. The music is getting even louder.

DAVID Thank you.

ROTHENBERG:

JULIE DRIZIN: And I want to add that Fem2Fem is performing on the stage partially clothed. Our next guest--

CARLETTA JOY Nobody has any clothes on out here.

WALKER:

JULIE DRIZIN: Yeah, right.

CARLETTA JOY I suggest you fly in. Actually, give a train. Start walking.

WALKER:

JULIE DRIZIN: Some of us are a little too shy to take our clothes off, even if we're just behind a microphone and not in front of a camera. We're being joined now by G. Winston James, who's the performance chairperson for other countries' Black Gay Men's Writing Collective. Thanks for being with us.

G. WINSTON Hey!

JAMES:

JULIE DRIZIN: Why don't you tell us what it feels like for you to be a part of today, this whole big event?

G. WINSTON Well, considering I am now 26 years old-- so the Stonewall-- the Stonewall event-- the Stonewall riots are--

JAMES:

DAVID You watched it from your crib?

ROTHENBERG:

JULIE DRIZIN: Well, you're someone who can say you knew exactly where you were when Stonewall happened.

G. WINSTON No-- well, I guess I can, actually. Today is history. It's history in the making, still. I came out when it was possible

JAMES: for a homosexual man to come out fairly safely in New York City, so it's hard for me to understand really what these people went through 25 years ago.

DAVID Are you a New Yorker?

ROTHENBERG:

G. WINSTON I was born in Jamaica, I grew up in New Jersey. And now I'm a Brooklynite.

JAMES:

DAVID Now you're a New Yorker.

ROTHENBERG:

JULIE DRIZIN: As an African-American gay man, there's a lot of politics in the gay community, a lot of racism in the gay community. There's still the spirit of exclusion, and I'm wondering if you could talk about how you experience that personally?

G. WINSTON Well actually, it's very difficult, I think, for a Black gay man, in terms of relationships with other races, especially,

JAMES: because politics is involved with everything. Politics is involved with all writing. Politics is involved with our sex. Politics is involved with just our friendships.

It's difficult in New York, considering that there are no-- there are very few spaces that are predominantly Black, or are solely Black. So for a Black man to go into any of the clubs here in New York, we feel very much as if we are entering someone else's space that we have to share.

Even this event-- this event, we don't necessarily feel that this is a Black gay Pride event. There are other cities that do have Black gay Pride events.

JULIE DRIZIN: Washington, DC just did a few weeks ago.

G. WINSTON Atlanta, Georgia does as well. There's a feeling that New York needs to do that as well so that we are

JAMES: empowering ourselves.

CARLETTA JOY Winston, Dave and I both whipped out copies of your book, the anthology that you included in *Sojourner, Other*

WALKER: Countries. We both got our copies of your book. We both excitedly carrying them around, which is a wonderful collection of writings by Black gay men. It's *Black Gay Voices in the Age of AIDS, Sojourner, and Other Countries* is the collective doing many things. Could you talk about some of what they're doing?

G. WINSTON Well, other countries is, especially this year, some of the kind of upstarts in the organization are really pushing and revitalizing the organization. We're looking to put out a journal perhaps twice a year. It is that Other Countries is not only an organization of Black gay men writing, but it's almost as if we are literary and life historians, considering that since I joined the organization maybe five years ago, probably 15 to 20 of our members have died. So it's very important--

JULIE DRIZIN: Was Joe Beam a member of the collective? Joe Beam?

G. WINSTON I liked Joe Beam. Actually, Joe Beam died before I joined the organization. Many of my friends-- it's meaning and sad at the same time. One week you're meeting an old friends in there, and then two weeks later you are meeting for a funeral and you're reading that person's work. So it's very important for us to publish journals like *Sojourner* so that we're not forgotten, and so we see ourselves in print.

And I think it's only recently that Black gay men are writing. Melvin Dixon, who died recently, unfortunately, and others, it's hard to find Black gay-- positive Black gay characters in modern literature.

CARLETTA JOY I don't know that it's just that they're writing, but writing and getting published is a whole other issue. And the **WALKER:** fact that you're publishing, this is very important.

I mentioned E. Lynn Harris earlier, and I was just amazed at his story, which seems solely the reason he was not published by even some of the alternative gay press is because he did choose to focus on Black gay life. Not as denigration of white gay life or anything else, but that was just a community, and that seemed to be an impediment to getting published, and his books have taken off like wild fire. He's really loved.

G. WINSTON His books have. And interestingly enough, I think many of the writers in the Black community did not feel that *In* **JAMES:** *The Light* was a Black gay book, but was a Black bisexual novel. I think *Just As I Am* is much more of a Black gay novel than *In the Light* was.

CARLETTA JOY What's the process?

WALKER:

G. WINSTON What's the process? Oh, it is a process. It is a process.

JAMES:

DAVID But there is a history of Black male writers that certainly had a great effect on my life. Richard's writing about-- **ROTHENBERG:** and Ellison and Baldwin certainly come to mind. Probably Langston Hughes more than anything else. And I'm wondering if young Black writers are reading Langston Hughes. It's the-- simply, these stories were just wonderful part of my growing up to being introduced to literature.

G. WINSTON I think many of us are reading these writers, but we're reading them in school, and we're not reading them after **JAMES:** school.

DAVID I'm saying that because I hope that-- I hope Hughes and Ellison are not being forgotten.

ROTHENBERG:

G. WINSTON No, they're not being forgotten.

JAMES:

CARLETTA JOY And Randall Kenan who has just participated in Other Country's function-- what, Randall Kenan, Sapphire, and

WALKER: you remember who's the third?

G. WINSTON Lisa Marie Bronson.

JAMES:

CARLETTA JOY Right. And then the open mic was incredible. But Randall Kenan has done a young people's biography on James

WALKER: Baldwin, which I'm looking forward to seeing.

DAVID Yes. There's a reissue of the *Simply Stories* that I think Vintage is putting out an update [INAUDIBLE].

ROTHENBERG:

CARLETTA JOY And this is Other Countries second volume, and I understand you're putting together another volume.

WALKER:

G. WINSTON We have called for submissions for a third volume.

JAMES:

CARLETTA JOY OK.

WALKER:

JULIE DRIZIN: Thanks so much for joining us. I want to let everybody know that Fem2Fem is performing on the stage. Two of the members of that pop group are performing without their shirts on. They're a very popular women's pop group. It's women singers. Two of them are open lesbians.

DAVID And they're performing before 1 million people in Central Park.

ROTHENBERG:

G. WINSTON Here-- right. Here in the middle of Central Park, for Stonewall 25, I'm Julie Drizin with Carletta Joy Walker and

JAMES: David Rothenberg. Please stay with us for an important message right after this.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

SPEAKER 1: : And you are listening to KPFT 90.1, Pacifica Radio. We are receiving the live coverage from New York City, the March on Nations-- oh, gosh. I forgot. [CHUCKLE] Got it around here somewhere. We are receiving today the live coverage of the International March on the United Nations to Affirm the Human Rights of Lesbian and Gay People, and that is here on 90.1 KPFT.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

JULIE DRIZIN: And the spirit of Stonewall is alive here in New York City. I'm Julie Drizin with Pacifica Radio, with David Rothenberg and Carletta Joy Walker. We're broadcasting live from the Stonewall 25 celebration. Behind us, Fem2Fem performing partially clothed on the stage before an audience of over 1 million supporters from around the world, marching from the UN to Central Park to demand that lesbian and gay rights be recognized as basic human rights.

We're bringing you this broadcast because we feel that this is an extremely important event that gave birth-- Stonewall gave birth to the modern gay and lesbian rights movement. And of course, being broadcast live on Pacifica Radio, the radio network, the non-commercial radio network long committed to peace and social justice.

We're taking a brief moment here to ask you please for your support for this broadcast. Our phone number is 1-800-497-3233, and all you need to do is pick up the phone and call and make a pledge of \$25, \$45, \$60, or \$100, whatever you can support to show your commitment to the struggle, or your support for the programming like this being brought right into your own living room.

Many of you weren't able to get to New York to participate. We're glad to bring this event into your living rooms, into your kitchens, into your headphones if you're listening in private, into your workplaces if you're listening at work-- we're proud to be here, but we need your support in order to pay the bills to make this broadcast happen, a very expensive broadcast. 1-800-497-3233 is the number to call and make that pledge right now. Carletta?

CARLETTA JOY Yes. 1-800-497-3233. And I think it's important that this is another movement for human rights, gay rights,

WALKER: lesbian rights, as human rights. And again, the connections are very present. Malcolm started talking about human rights and taking the plight of African-Americans to the UN, and there's been a tremendous focus in that direction, which has internationalized many movements. And certainly Pacifica nationally and WBAI locally has been at the forefront of reporting in all of that.

And it does take money. We're not commercial. So it's 1-800-497-3233 with a pledge of \$25, \$45, \$60, or \$100. It's very important.

JULIE DRIZIN: David Rothenberg joins us.

DAVID In your support of this program, we have presented to you what I have learned so much, and I hope you feel the **ROTHENBERG:** same way. The young man who was 26 years old, who was one years old when Stonewall, and his perspective; the woman from New Zealand giving a perspective and the inspiration that Stonewall has meant to her. She is of what tribe?

CARLETTA JOY She's Maori.

WALKER:

JULIE DRIZIN: Maori.

DAVID Maori.

ROTHENBERG:

CARLETTA JOY And you know, there, '86, homosexuality was decriminalized there. They're ahead of us in terms of the struggle, **WALKER:** and they're advancing things now too.

JULIE DRIZIN: And we are asking you now for your support. 1-800-497-3233. And Sapphire is now on the stage, but we're going to bring her over later to share her poem with you.

Please make that pledge to support this kind of programming. You know, Pacifica Radio has always been about free speech. Free speech radio. But the speech itself is not exactly free. This is a very expensive broadcast. It's costing us about \$12,000.

We had to lay phone lines down from WBAI all the way to Central Park, and we've got lots of audio equipment out here, wires all over, engineers, mixing boards. It's not just a couple of microphones. It's a very complex broadcast. Our engineers have been here since 7:00 in the morning to bring it to you. Please make a pledge to help defray the costs of this broadcast. 1-800-497-3223.

And if you make a pledge of \$60, we're going to send you a premium, which is a cassette-- a group of cassettes that we know you'll want to listen to and share with friends and family-- *Remembering Stonewall*, a radio documentary on the birth of the movement by David Isay, an award-winning documentary; and interview with Mel White, who used to write speeches for Oliver North and Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson, came out of the closet and moved away, is now trying to fight the Christian right; and an interview with cartoonist Diane DiMassa, the cartoonist of *Hothead Pisan*, the homicidal lesbian terrorist, which is a satirical comic strip about a woman of color, a lesbian, and an artist.

Our phone number is 1-800-497-3223. Please make that call and support Pacifica Radio's live coverage of Stonewall 25. David?

DAVID ROTHENBERG: This is a connection, our connection. Our voices are your connection with a passionate memory of what happened 25 years ago, bringing speakers to you. And your commitment will permit not only for the payment of this, but for Pacifica to continue this kind of programming, to bring you voices that would otherwise not be heard, linking all aspects of the progressive movement together.

So your support, your generosity makes it possible for voices of clarity and sanity amidst the uprise of the religious right. It is imperative for you to make a commitment, dollars and cents wise, along with your passion, along with your political sentiments, so that the voices that are heard--

When Pat Robertson gives his number, thousands of dollars are raised automatically. One of the ways that he can be answered is by those who can communicate the ideas that differ from the religious and fanatic right have the community support because in numbers there is strength, and one of our numbers of strength is 1-800-497-3223.

If you want to vote for progressive, forward-looking, community-building, bridge-building America, the America that is possible, in an answer to the fanaticism of the religious right that wants to cut us off from each other, which does not want to celebrate the diversity of America, you have your choice. We urge you to support us with a dollar and cents commitment. 1-800-497-3223.

JULIE DRIZIN: And don't waste any time. Make that phone call now because we'll be taking you back to the stage with all of the events and the entertainment and the speeches commemorating the 25th anniversary of Stonewall. Pacifica Radio has always been radio with vision, committed to issues of peace and social justice. We broadcast live from every National Gay and Lesbian March, from every National Civil Rights March. And we do that because we know not everybody can make it there, and it's important that you hear these voices that do not get access to the mainstream media. And when they do, they get criticized.

Our phone number is 1-800-497-3223. Please go to the phones and make a pledge of \$25, \$45, \$60, \$100, more if you have more money. Put your money where your mouth is, put your money where your politics are, and make the pledge of support.

CARLETTA JOY 1-800-497-3223.

WALKER:

JULIE DRIZIN: We want to thank you all for your support. We'll be back in a moment.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

SPEAKER 1: : And once again, just to let you know, you are listening to KPFT 90.1. This is World Radio, and we are receiving live from New York the coverage of the International March on the United Nations to Affirm the Human Rights of Lesbians and Gay People.

JULIE DRIZIN: Live from New York City's Central Park, I'm Julie Drizin of *Pacifica Network News*, joined by David Rothenberg and Carletta Joy Walker of WBAI Pacifica Radio's New York station, broadcasting live from the 25th anniversary celebration of Stonewall, the event that gave birth to the modern gay and lesbian movement.

The day began with a march from the United Nations, beginning with a mile long rainbow flag. For those who don't know, the rainbow flag is the symbol of gay pride. It's the largest-- the world's largest flag.

And at the head of that march were some of the veterans of the Stonewall raid. One of them is with us now, John O'Brien. He's one of the founders of New York City's Gay Liberation Front, the radical gay activist group that was born the night of the Stonewall Rebellion. He's currently the president of the Board of the International Gay and Lesbian Archives in Los Angeles. Welcome.

JOHN O'BRIEN: Thank you. I'm glad to be here.

JULIE DRIZIN: So 25 years later, the name Stonewall has taken on mythic proportions. The event has become a symbol of gay pride and gay activism. Is all of the myths true? Are there things that people are placing in that story that never really happened?

JOHN O'BRIEN: No, some of the things aren't. But I think the importance of Stonewall is not taken alone in the context. It's part of something that happened at the time-- the '60s, the Black Civil Rights movement, successes, the countercultural movement. And the fact is that gay and lesbian people have reached a point where they're starting to say it's our turn too.

It's not that there wasn't a gay and lesbian movement before Stonewall. Many brave people, in fact, were-- there was a gay movement before Stonewall.

JULIE DRIZIN: [INAUDIBLE], Daughters of Elitists.

JOHN O'BRIEN: The difference is that what Stonewall did, that in conjunction with the forming of the Gay Liberation Front and eventually the Gay Activist Alliance, is the new stage for militance sake, and because of Stonewall, some of us who were activists-- I was on the first Pride committee-- what we did is we decided to commemorate Stonewall.

And so what happened is the tradition of Stonewall-- holding parades every year in March to commemorate Stonewall-- is what's grown Stonewall to what it is today.

DAVID But John, is it also not true that in those early days, that some of the most effective people from the gay and **ROTHENBERG:** lesbian community were people who brought in their strength and energy and commitment from the Civil Rights and anti-war movement? They knew the machinations, they knew where the enemy was, they knew the strategies, and they knew how to organize, and our affinity to other movements is so strong and clear.

JOHN O'BRIEN: Well, I think the people who came before Stonewall in groups like One, [INAUDIBLE], BOB, had experience of people who were also involved in the Civil Rights movement to various levels of degrees. I think the difference then, it just came, that right time and right place, there was a great authoritarian-- anti-authoritarian movement in this country, questioning all values, questioning the government on every possible thing, and so it became quite natural.

The sexual revolution was on the way, with the liberation movements underway, and we could ride in with them. And I think it was just, we were fortunate to have it.

Had we had not had Stonewall, it would have happened anyway. Would've been another place and another time. It was bound to happen.

DAVID It was waiting.

ROTHENBERG:

JOHN O'BRIEN: But I think the significance of the Gay Liberation Front and the people who continued the events of Stonewall in the political struggle after that, organizing gay and lesbian people to stand up and come out and start fighting back in a more militant way than those who preceded Stonewall, that's why we have the movement we have today.

DAVID Do you find it as extraordinary as I did that there is a gay cop contingent acting as a liaison with the gay

ROTHENBERG: community when we consider what the police officers represented back in 1969?

JOHN O'BRIEN: A year ago, they came to me and asked to march behind the veterans and I said, no way. I said, you marched back in March in your contingent. We just want other contingents. But there's no reason why you should march with the Stonewall veterans. There were police officers who were involved, obviously, in the Stonewall Rebellion, but I don't consider them part of the Stonewall veterans.

DAVID But do you find it a measurement of change or progress that there is a gay police contingent?

ROTHENBERG:

JOHN O'BRIEN: It's progress. Some of the things--

DAVID 1,000 members.

ROTHENBERG:

JOHN O'BRIEN: I always knew they were there.

JULIE DRIZIN: They were there at Stonewall.

JOHN O'BRIEN: We know there's more--

JULIE DRIZIN: Dressed in blue.

JOHN O'BRIEN: We know there's more than that. I mean, there have been presidents of United States that have been gay. I mean, the point is we've always been there.

DAVID Don't blame us for them.

ROTHENBERG:

CARLETTA JOY It's also a mixed progress, and I think you can't-- I mean, it doesn't determine how one is going to act in the same way that the comfort one derives from having an African-American police person, like a woman. It does-- it gives you some information, but I think, to me, that's limited information. But I do think it's progress in the sense that it's a step through to a place where maybe we won't have people walking around with guns on.

JOHN O'BRIEN: Well, our strap is-- every one of us, every gay and lesbian person out there getting involved in an organization, moving in a group, becoming involved in doing things-- that's the legacy of Stonewall. Every one of us is responsible for continuing the legacy of Stonewall.

And the reality is how this movement develops and how it grows is up to each and every one of us. Those who are progressive, like myself, who come out of a progressive background, we shouldn't despair about the fact that a lot of new people coming in, they're very conservative, they're very-- they don't have a lot of traditions or understanding. That's our job to educate them and to move them. We shouldn't be afraid of them coming in. We just have to make sure they understand why we've had views up to now.

And now, some of those views are not being heard. And some, it's true-- there are some gay white males, in fact, who are coming in, feeling very comfortable with staying where they are, and still be able to come out and take advantage of that. But that's our job to point out you can't do that, and I mean, there's no place for you. You can't hide there because you're still a faggot.

And the thing is going to stand in connection with your people because we are a people. More than what we do, as far as sexually.

JULIE DRIZIN: There's a culture of Pride.

JOHN O'BRIEN: Of identity.

DAVID Is it not true-- the real work then is creating a support system which makes it possible for people to come out.

ROTHENBERG:

JOHN O'BRIEN: I know. That's wonderful.

DAVID I know that there is a writer, whose name I blessedly have forgotten, who has come out with a book talking about

ROTHENBERG: the-- he has suddenly come out, forgetting the fact that there were thousands and thousands that made room impossible for him to come out, who has suddenly decided to tell us all that the gay movement has been too radical, and therefore must find its connection within the war--

JULIE DRIZIN: Chris Bower, with *The Place at The Table*.

DAVID I truly refuse to remember his name. But I get so angry in reading him, and I feel that we must read him to know from where hence he comes. But the fact that he doesn't acknowledge throughout the book and his articles, that seem to be ubiquitous, that people have created room for him to make that step forward, and suddenly he is making links between the gay movement and those that are so comfortable with what happened in Houston at the Republican convention.

CARLETTA JOY I thought about that on the way down here, because I walked in plus-- a lot of people-- police officers in

WALKER: particular, and especially women thinking they're here because of a lesbian movement, women's liberation movement, and, I mean, I couldn't identify the one--

DAVID People like John made it possible.

ROTHENBERG:

CARLETTA JOY Right.

WALKER:

DAVID They're here to make sure that we don't act up and get out of control.

ROTHENBERG:

CARLETTA JOY I didn't mean here. I meant they were on the force. Their right to be on the force was because of movements--

WALKER: political movements that they're now controlled-- out to control.

JOHN O'BRIEN: That's why they got the job.

DAVID There's a man named Jimmy Flowers. He's been causing trouble for 25 years, and he made it possible for other

ROTHENBERG: people to feel free about themselves.

CARLETTA JOY To cause more trouble.

WALKER:

JOHN O'BRIEN: I just want to say one thing, which is I think everybody listening to this should support Pacifica Radio. Pacifica Radio was the first radio station to allow a gay program on in New York City. Many, many years ago, 25 years ago in fact, there was a gay radio program on in New York City, and that was WBAI, when nobody else would come hear it, nobody else would touch it.

And every gay and lesbian person out there, anybody who supports gay and lesbian rights, need to support this station because we need a progressive voice in this community, and WBAI will always be there for it.

JULIE DRIZIN: And that show was on in 1962. Thanks, John O'Brien. We'll give you the phone number to support us. 1-800-497-3223.

DAVID And I will tell you what the *Journal American* wrote about that article-- about that appearance on WBAI back in

ROTHENBERG: the early days.

CARLETTA JOY And I will tell you, we've been playing stuff-- I think it was on again last night. I was listening to tapes that I

WALKER: [INAUDIBLE] wasn't in New York to hear. So all week, WBAI has been running programming.

JULIE DRIZIN: That was John O'Brien, a Stonewall veteran, one of the founders of New York City's Gay Liberation Front, which was the gay radical activist group that was born the night that the police tried to do a regular raid on the Stonewall bar, but the drag queens and gay men and lesbians who were there would not just walk into the paddy wagon. Instead, they resisted, several days of rioting, and a gay liberation movement was born.

I'm Julie Drizin. You're listening to Pacifica Radio's live coverage of Stonewall 25. Joining us now is Sapphire, an African-American lesbian poet and author of *American Dreams*, which is getting fabulous reviews. She's going to join us now and read a poem by her mentor and lesbian leader, the late Pat Parker. Thanks for joining us.

SAPPHIRE: OK. The poem I'm going to read was written in 1978. Pat Parker, a working class Black lesbian in San Francisco, addressed the right-- the religious right at that time with this poem, realizing then what a threat we were coming under. The poem is called "Where Will You Be When They Come?"

Boots are being polished, trumpeters clean their horns, chains and locks forged, the crusade has begun. Once again, flags of Christ are unfurled in the dawn, and cries of souls savior sing apocalyptic on air waves. Citizens, good citizens, all parade into voting booths, and in self-righteous sanctity x away our right to life.

I do not believe as some that the vote is an end. I fear even more it is just the beginning. So I must make assessment, look to you and ask, where will you be when they come?

They will not come a mob rolling through the street, but quickly and quietly move into our homes and remove the evil, the queerness, the faggotry, the perverseness from their midst. They will not come clothed in brown and swastikas, or bearing heavy chest with gleaming crosses. The time and need for ruses are over.

They will come in business suits to buy your homes, and bring bodies to fill your job. They will come in robes to rehabilitate and white coats to subjugate, and where will you be when they come? Where will we all be when they come? And they will come.

They will come because we are defined as opposites, perverse, and we are perverse. Every time we watch the queer hassled in the streets and said nothing, it was an act of perversion. Every time we lied about the boyfriend or girlfriend at coffee break, it was an act of perversion.

Every time we heard, I don't mind games, but why must they be blatant, and said nothing, it was an act of perversion. Every time we let a lesbian mother lose her child and did not fill the courtroom, it was an act of perversion. Every time we let straights make out in our bars while we couldn't touch because of laws, it was an act of perversion.

Every time we put on the proper clothes to go to the family wedding and left our lovers at home, it was an act of perversion. Every time we heard, who I go to bed with is my personal choice, it's personal, not political, and said nothing, it was an act of perversion. Every time we let straight relatives bury our dead and push our lovers away, it was an act of perversion.

And they will come. They will come. They will come for the pervert, and it won't matter if you're homosexual, not a faggot. Lesbian, not a dyke. Gay, not queer. It won't matter if you own your own business, have a good job, or are on SSI. It won't matter if you're Black, Chicano, Native American, Asian, or white. It won't matter if you're from New York, or Los Angeles, or Galveston, or Sioux Falls.

It won't matter if you're Butch or femme, not in the roles monogamous non-monogamous. It won't matter if you're Catholic, Baptist, atheist, Jewish, or MCC, they will come. They will come to the cities and to the land, to your front rooms and in your closet. They will come for the perverts. And where will you be when they come?

JULIE DRIZIN: The Poetry of Pat Parker, read by Sapphire, a clarion call for lesbian and gay radical activism, calling people to be out of the closet and resist, to come together across our differences, and to fight for our freedom.

On the stage, there is a drag show. In the lesbian and gay community tradition, the people who dress up-- the men who dress up with wigs and jewelry and women's clothing have often been pushed to the periphery of the lesbian and gay movement. There are many lesbians and gays who are gaining mainstream acceptance who would prefer this kind of show not be seen on C-SPAN or on television, precisely because it's what the mainstream media likes to do, to put on the air, to show that this is what we are.

But this is part of who we are, and it's part of the lesbian and gay tradition. And this march is for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender liberation. David?

DAVID Before, I said I was going to tell you what the *Journal American* wrote in 1962, when WBAI of Pacifica had their **ROTHENBERG:** first program with six gay men.

The *Journal American* had a clipping that I've held forever, and it said, radio station WBAI has reached the bottom of the barrel. They have achieved the pits. And the headline, the article said, WBAI has six homos.

It was one of the most defamatory articles that you could possibly imagine. But of course, WBAI has outlasted the *Journal American*.

CARLETTA JOY Good thing for that, too. And I wanted to say too-- I don't think it was mentioned-- Pat Parker died about four **WALKER:** years ago of breast cancer, which is a critical health problem, and I think that's important to mention in what has been in the forefront of gay and lesbian liberation.

Since I know, I think I first met Pat Parker in the early '70s, and she was just a wonderful person and always straight ahead, and she was that way until she went to the next place. Her poetry was all powerful in that way, and saying, pointing out the hypocrisy. Pat had a way of getting right in that space and sitting in it. And her words really did that powerfully.

And Sapphire, sharing that and bringing that again to the forefront for Pat Parker is not someone who is forgotten. It's very important because Pat was out there a long time when there weren't a lot of people with her, and certainly not noticing or beginning the celebration or the [INAUDIBLE]. So I think it's [INAUDIBLE].

JULIE DRIZIN: You know, what you say about Pat Parker reminds me of a t-shirt that I did see during the Dyke March last night. It said, the role of art in society is not to mirror, but as a hammer to actually tear down rather than just reflect.

DAVID And we certainly have to be aware of what the far right is doing on funding for the arts and the federal **ROTHENBERG:** government this week because of a gay man, with \$150 of federal funding in Minnesota, the Jesse Helms forces are utilizing that to cut down and reduce funding for arts across the country. Money for defense, money for police, but money for the creative expression is being questioned because of one man's artistic expression with \$150 of government money.

CARLETTA JOY You know, we better keep saying the far right too, but it's the far right is allowed by the right, and the right is allowed by the center, and this neoliberalism--

DAVID Is allowed by the silences. The silences.

ROTHENBERG:

CARLETTA JOY So I think all of that is important.

WALKER:

JULIE DRIZIN: Yes. We're going to go to the stage now where Simon Nkoli is speaking, South African activist.

SIMON NKOLI: Human right, and we believed that when they said all, they really mean all. The Freedom Charter has been the basis of our fight for lesbian and gay rights in South Africa.

Well manifesto set out by Freedom Charter has been warned. Today, 39 years later, Nelson Mandela is the president of South Africa. Today, I look out in this crowd-- I look in this crowd, and I realize that I am a free man. I'm a free Black South African celebrating the consumption of struggle that was launched 39 years ago.

Yes, it has been a long and arduous struggle. It is not over yet. Even within the National African Congress, the liberation movement that I went to jail for, there is still resistance, discomfort about lesbian and gay equality. There is still a lot prejudice among Black South Africans.

Many believe that homosexuality is not an African culture. Look at me. I am Black and I'm gay, and there are many other Black people in the Township of Saville, Soweto, and Gugulethu, and any other township in South Africa, they will be joining me.

Within our own gay community back home, we still have to deal with racism. The Stonewall of apartheid will take a long time to break down. Now that we have all of our freedom at the polls, we have to fight and make sure that we maintain it.

In so doing, we join gay brothers and lesbian sisters all over the world. It is great to be here. I take heart at the fact that there are hundreds of thousand people here today because I know that when you started your Pride marches many years ago, there were just a handful of you.

In South Africa, since 1990, about thousands of people take the streets of local for Pride Day. To my comrade back home, I say, look at the crowds here today. In two years, you will have hundreds of thousands of people marching in Johannesburg and Cape Town and many other cities in South Africa.

The Freedom Charter anti [INAUDIBLE] has been called. Today on the 39th anniversary of the Freedom Charter, on the 25th anniversary of the Stonewall, I would like you there, people, to repeat after me the following words. We have freedoms we will fight for, side by side through our lives, until we have won our liberty. Thank you.

[APPLAUSE]

SPEAKER 7: [SPEAKING NON-ENGLISH].

JULIE DRIZIN: You are listening with live from the stage of the Stonewall 25, where nearly a million, or more than a million lesbians and gays were listening to the voice of Simon Nkoli a South African gay activist, talk about the struggle in his homeland for lesbian and gay freedom.

We're joined now by Jorge Cortines, who is the program director of what's become known as IGLHRC, the International Gay and Lesbian--

DAVID IGLEHRC?

ROTHENBERG:

JULIE DRIZIN: IGLEHRC, yes. An International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, which is the international group fighting for lesbian and gay liberation around the world. Welcome.

JORGE Thanks. It's great to be here.

CORTINES:

DAVID Jorge, there are so many countries represented here. I was just talking to some people from Thailand. What are

ROTHENBERG: the countries-- what wide spectrum of, and what are the problems that the people from other countries have faced coming here for the Stonewall celebration?

JORGE Well, if you saw the march today, it was really beautiful. There was representation all the way from Albania and

CORTINES: Argentina, all the way to Zimbabwe.

DAVID They came just for this week.

ROTHENBERG:

JORGE Well, for this week, for the march, for the International Lesbian Gay Association Conference, which is happening

CORTINES: all of next week here in New York City. It's a really exciting time, and it's sort of unparalleled gathering of queer activists from all over the world.

DAVID What kind of struggles are they, in different countries, from acceptance to total non-acceptance? Are you running

ROTHENBERG: the spectrum?

JORGE The whole gamut. We just heard Simon Ncoli, Theresa Raizenberg, and Bobby Nelson were speaking from South

CORTINES: Africa earlier, and amazing victory there with a new Constitution. There are representatives here from Tasmania, which recently got the United Nations Committee on Human Rights to condemn the sodomy law in that Australian state.

And then we have situations that are very desperate. In Romania, where the sodomy law there includes prison sentences of 5 to 12 years for having same sex consensual--

DAVID And what country is that?

ROTHENBERG:

JORGE Romania. And that sodomy law is unique because it's enforced, and we think there are about 45 gay men at least

CORTINES: in Romania prisons for breaking that sodomy law.

JULIE DRIZIN: How about the prisons in Russia? After the breakup of the Soviet Union--

JORGE What's happening in the Soviet Union?

CORTINES:

JULIE DRIZIN: When I was in Moscow several years ago, I did meet underground, after taking many buses away from the city, with a group of lesbians and gay men.

DAVID And men used to meet on the steps of the Bolshoi Ballet.

ROTHENBERG:

JULIE DRIZIN: And I'm sure they still do. But there were men in prison that they were trying to free, and there were lesbians who were in mental institutions, subject to electroshock therapy at the time.

JORGE The situation in Russia is still quite serious. Article 121, which is the former sodomy law, was repealed.

CORTINES: Unfortunately, because of the chaos of the penal system there, it's difficult to get the Ministry of Justice to tell us exactly who is in jail for what reason, and we fear that there may be people lost in Russian jails at this minute serving time for a sentence that doesn't-- under a law that doesn't exist anymore.

The situation for the lesbians is also quite serious. The *Diagnostic Manual* used by psychiatrists there has yet to be revised, and lesbianism is still classified as a mental disorder that can get you locked up in a mental institution.

DAVID One of the most repressive-- obviously, the Soviet Union must be among the--

ROTHENBERG: