

JORGE 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 What are the most repressive-- obviously, the Soviet Union must be among the most suppressive countries. What
ROTHENBERG: are the suppressive, and what other countries do we-- can we in the United States learn from?

JORGE Well--
CORTINES:

DAVID But [INAUDIBLE] a question.
ROTHENBERG:

JORGE And I need to complicate the question because unfortunately a human rights organization doesn't put itself in the
CORTINES: business of saying one country is worse or better than the other.

DAVID And that's your work at the UN right now, is it not?
ROTHENBERG:

JORGE Well, the work that we're doing this week at the UN is meeting with as many missions from as many countries as
CORTINES: possible, to try to lobby them in that international forum. Many of those countries have been lobbied by activists back home, but--

DAVID What kind of a response are you getting at the UN?
ROTHENBERG:

JORGE The whole gamut. For example, the Dutch government has been very receptive, is hosting a delegation from the
CORTINES: Dublin, International Lesbian and Gay Association in their mission. And then there are governments like the United States government, for example, where the ambassador is never around, never seems to be--

JULIE DRIZIN: Madeleine Albright, you're referring to.

JORGE She's a very busy woman. Very busy.
CORTINES:

DAVID When it comes to human rights.
ROTHENBERG:

JORGE [LAUGH] And then other governments, for example, where activists aren't able to get appointments. The Russian
CORTINES: mission, for example, isn't granting the activism any.

DAVID How can we-- is there a place where we can write to get information? Do you have an information bureau that
ROTHENBERG: people can write to to get information about countries around the world?

JORGE Absolutely. We have a publication that we put out bi monthly that's a series of urgent actions about different
CORTINES: countries and where activists are asked to write letters, send telegrams, and sort of let governments know that what they're doing to sexual minorities around the world is going noticed. And the best thing for listeners to do is to call our offices in San Francisco, and that number is 415-255-8680.

DAVID And we have a lot of inmates, prisoners, and people who probably cannot reach you by phone. How would they
ROTHENBERG: write you?

JORGE That address then is 1360 Mission Street Suite 200, San Francisco, California, 94103.
CORTINES:

JULIE DRIZIN: Jorge Cortines of International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission. It seems like in the last week we actually did have a victory here in Washington. Janet Reno came out and said that the Justice Department would consider lesbians and gays who were subject to oppression in their own countries, violence, and discrimination in their own countries to apply and qualify for asylum. Here, how many cases is that affecting now?

JORGE Finally. It was a long time in getting her to say that. There's about 40 cases that we know of, and there may be
CORTINES: more of lesbians and gays and bisexual people in this country seeking political asylum based on their sexual orientation.

JULIE DRIZIN: I know there was a man from Turkey who is applying.

JORGE That's right. A man from Turkey in Washington, a Russian lesbian--
CORTINES:

DAVID Are the Turkish really suppressive? I have heard that homosexuality is open in Turkey. They don't even
ROTHENBERG: acknowledge it, that everybody is bisexual.

JORGE It's one of the contradictions in several cultures and countries around the world where same sex relationships
CORTINES: may be ubiquitous, it's nonetheless very dangerous to organize politically around that identity.

CARLETTA JOY You know-- oh, I just wanted to say, in India, it was interesting that you can get two years to life imprisonment
WALKER: and some of the sentences are enforced, except transvestites are often invited to dance at parties and entertainment. There's a whole tradition. And in fact, there's a whole-- one of the Christian-- and one of the gods-- there's a homosexual god.

JORGE That's right.
CORTINES:

CARLETTA JOY But you still-- if you organize openly in terms of homosexuality, can, in fact, go to prison. That's both in India and
WALKER: Pakistan. So it was interesting, a contradiction.

JULIE DRIZIN: We need to go to the stage now where Latina lesbian comic Margot Gomez is speaking to the crowd.

MARGOT There's very little food. Hey, that's a lot of makeup, but you can still fit it on your face.
GOMEZ:

[CHEERING]

Not that I'm-- Not that I'm bitter. I'm not a bitter person. I've seen bitter people, I'm not one of them. I saw them on the *Phil Donahue Show*. The topic was white racists and their children. Not the royal family, but American white racists. And one of the white racists really said this on *Phil Donahue*, well, I think all the Puerto Ricans should go back to Mexico.

[BOOING]

Buy me a ticket, you [? wimper ?], you! Those white racists, they're something, aren't they? I love those titles they give themselves. Imperial Wizards. Aren't they overestimating their intellectual capacity a little bit? How about a little truth in advertising? How about Imperial Illiterate? How about that?

[CHEERING]

I'm Puerto Rican and I'll go back to Mexico again. I had a great time there. I went to Mexico on a lesbian cruise with Olivia Records. Hundreds and hundreds of them-- they're all here. Hundreds and hundreds of lesbians on this ship going to Mexico, disembarking in this port where they've only see heterosexual couples.

Everybody's coming to our ship. Widows from the village are swimming to our ship to look. Everybody's looking at all these dykes leaving-- they don't know they're dykes, though. They're trying to figure it out.

All these women, they're watching, they're watching. Hundreds. They're going, where are the men? They're wondering. They asked me. They asked me excuse me, miss? Are you all, uh, school teachers?

[LAUGHTER]

I said yes. We are school teachers. Uh-huh. School tea-chers. And your daughter is in my class.

[LAUGHTER]

I played in Utah this year-- Salt Lake City, Utah. Not my kind of town. Couldn't get a cappuccino anywhere. No, we don't serve Mexican food here.

[LAUGHTER]

I was the only Latina in Salt Lake City, Utah. People were so curious about me. They stared at me. They all wanted to talk to me. But they didn't understand. They figured my name is Gomez, I couldn't possibly speak English. They didn't speak Spanish, so they figured the next best thing was to talk to me in an accent real loud because Latinos are hearing impaired, of course.

(ACCENT) Hello, [INAUDIBLE]! Wel-come to Jou-tah! Play, won't you sing "La Bamba" now?

And I did because I know it. All Latinos know "La Bamba." We are taught at a very young age. Ba, ba, ba, ba, La Bamba. Honey, she said La Bamba, we're so-- that's all the Spanish I know, you know? "La Bamba," [SPEAKING SPANISH]. I knew more Spanish when I was little, but you see, when I was young I was raised by a pack of wild Irish nuns.

[LAUGHTER]

Yeah. Oh, they call it the Catholic school. Very strict one they rolled with barbed wire. Uptown Manhattan. But you know, our lesbian nuns are fantastic. Do we love them, those lesbian nuns?

[CHEERING]

They're wild. Wild. Do you know they rented the Clit Club tonight? They're having their own thing? Dominique and Nicka Nicka World? Yes, they are.

[CHEERING]

And I say, give me a lesbian nun over [? a damn ?] nun any day.

[CHEERING]

[LAUGHS] Tell me, what were Sam Nunn and General Coleman and all those other colons so worried about? Why couldn't they lift the ban on gay men and lesbians in the military? Well, they're afraid that if they did, suddenly millions of us would enlist. I don't think so. Don't you have to get up early there?

[LAUGHTER]

I will do that one day a year for the parade, and that is it. They missed our point. There are already gay men and lesbians and bisexuals in the military. We just want to be honest. We want to be out. We want to be all that we can be in the military.

For instance, my lover and I, we want the right to have a legal wedding. OK? But we don't want to get married. No. No, we're queer, we're not crazy.

[CHEERING]

You know, what were they afraid of? They were afraid that if they lifted the ban, suddenly we would be out? There would be chaos in the military. We wouldn't respond to command? Company halt! No, we have to dance now.

[LAUGHTER]

Or we wouldn't salute anymore? We would just snap. Yes, girl. [SNAPS] Not that way, you know, because I've been reading the Bible. I've been reading the Bible because I travel a lot. I stay in hotels and that's all they give us. They leave it there for traveling salesman and horny lesbians like myself.

And I have to say-- I know we have people of different religious beliefs, but I have to say, as I read the Bible, I find some passages offensive. I have some issues as an adult female homosexual with the Bible. So now what I do when I travel, I pack a bottle of Wite-Out and a typesetting machine. Thank you very much!

[CHEERING]

Thank you! You are so intensely great. Thank you.

JULIE DRIZIN: And so are you, Margot Gomez, Latina lesbian comic who's getting a lot of attention these days. You're listening to Pacifica Radio's live coverage of Stonewall 25, the celebration of 25 years of the modern gay and lesbian rights movement. Pacifica radio is broadcasting live from Central Park. I'm Julie Drizin with David Rothenberg and Carletta Joy-- sorry, Carletta.

DAVID
ROTHENBERG: I'm here today and the excitement is incredible. They have portable bathrooms, which I've decided are heterosexual bathrooms because there are no mirrors in there.

[LAUGHTER]

CARLETTA JOY You've been worrying about those mirrors all day.

WALKER:

DAVID I know.

ROTHENBERG:

CARLETTA JOY Can somebody bring David a mirror?

WALKER:

DAVID I have a comb and I don't know--

ROTHENBERG:

JULIE DRIZIN: You look beautiful and marvelous, though.

DAVID But the inhalation of dirt here is rather paramount, but we're withstanding all of that because of the excitement

ROTHENBERG: of seeing 1 million people celebrating the diversity of the lesbian and gay community--

JULIE DRIZIN: Flaunting it.

DAVID And people from all over the world, and Jorge is giving us important information about the worldwide struggle.

ROTHENBERG:

JULIE DRIZIN: We're going to go back to the stage now because Harvey Fierstein famous--

DAVID Fierstein.

ROTHENBERG:

JULIE DRIZIN: Fierstein, famous gay playwright and actor--

DAVID *Torch Song* trilogy, Tony Award winner playwright.

ROTHENBERG:

JULIE DRIZIN: Here he comes with that-- a voice like no other. You'll recognize his voice in a moment. His arms are up. He's waving to the crowd and they're welcoming him. Pacifica Radio's coverage of Stonewall 25.

HARVEY Hello, gorgeous!

FIERSTEIN:

JULIE DRIZIN: There he is.

HARVEY I'm so proud to be here with all of you, my children. My loins hurt. You are so gorgeous. If only you can see what
FIERSTEIN: you look like from up here. You know, all my life I've wondered why are they so scared of us? But I look out and I say, be scared. Be very scared.

[CHEERING]

We are stronger than any of their lies. They have to fear nothing but our love, so thank you for coming out here. We've got a great hour for you, and just have a great time. Varga. Oh, by the way, if your Portuguese is better than mine, you'll be very happy this hour is translated into Portuguese.

[CHEERING]

I did.

MARGOT GOMEZ: Did you learn it from an athlete last night?

HARVEY FIERSTEIN: Well, last night-- who was there last night at Yankee Stadium?

[CHEERING]

Where are you from? Where are you from?

JULIE DRIZIN: The gay games closed last night at Yankee Stadium to a sellout crowd, 75,000 lesbians and gays--

HARVEY FIERSTEIN: We've got some surprise treats for you this hour, so don't you go nowhere. And let me know one more thing.

MARGOT GOMEZ: Go to the porta potty.

HARVEY FIERSTEIN: When you go over to the baseball diamonds, there are tables selling Stonewall commemorative stuff-- t-shirts and stuff. Give them a couple of extra bucks.

MARGOT GOMEZ: Buy Stonewall.

HARVEY FIERSTEIN: Stonewall committee is broke. They are broke bringing you this. They are in debt. Please, please buy t-shirts, give donations. Anyone wearing a gray t-shirt that says crew can take your donations. It's against the rules of the park, but give, give because we want this every year, all right?

MARGOT GOMEZ: For all the pickpockets, give us all your money!

[CHEERING]

HARVEY FIERSTEIN: Why don't you introduce our next speaker?

MARGOT GOMEZ: OK. Our next speaker, AB Griffin, is a Sydney based transgender and queer activist. He's a journalist, and he is coauthor of--

JULIE DRIZIN: Pacifica Radio's live coverage of Stonewall 25. I'm Julie Drizin, and joining us now, a gay activist from Mexico, Marco Osorio. Bienvenidos.

MARCO Muchas gracias.

OSORIO:

JULIE DRIZIN: We're glad you could be with us, and we're glad that you're here in New York to celebrate Stonewall 25. Could you tell us a bit about the experience of lesbians and gays in Mexico?

MARCO Well, it's really difficult that one person can speak about the experience of lesbians and gays. I can speak about
OSORIO: my own experience.

JULIE DRIZIN: Please do.

MARCO Yes. Well, I was involved in gay movement in 1979 when the first lesbian and gay groups were organized and just
OSORIO: decided to go out on the streets and show the Mexican society that we were real persons, that we weren't robbers or-- because they had this idea, because [? general ?] press, when you say maricon, homosexual, people come with this idea that we are perverts, that we are drug users, that we are the worst of the society, in their perception.

And well, since then, we've been working very hard just to coming out, to impel people to say yes, I am gay and lesbian and I have rights, and I have the right to live and the right to be as any other person in this society.

So it has been very long years of working with things coming up and down because it's very difficult, but at that time the gay movement was integrated mostly by people coming from the universities. So when they'd grown up, they just decided to do some of the things around--

In the middle of the '80s when AIDS beat us in Mexico, most of the very strong activists just died and the movement came into a paralysis. Fortunately, some organizations were built and we could start again to do this work.

The situation in general is just like in some other countries in Latin America. There's a very, very big discrimination--

JULIE DRIZIN: Well, you have a very strong Catholic faith in Mexico and in Latin America. Are you finding that the church is the place that's putting up the most resistance? We know the Vatican is very anti-gay.

MARCO Sure. They are very anti-gay. And there are some very conservative groups in Mexico, like Pro Vida, which is
OSORIO: mostly against AIDS-- well, against any prevention of AIDS, which is against gay and lesbians and all this. It is very difficult to be open for this.

DAVID Marco, have you been one of the people that have gone to the United Nations? Have you found any-- have you
ROTHENBERG: found any response from your delegation at the United Nations?

MARCO I wasn't there, unfortunately.
OSORIO:

DAVID Jorge, has there been any response into-- with the Mexican delegation? Is there any opportunities for pressure
ROTHENBERG: being applied there?

JORGE CORTINES: You know, I don't actually know if the Mexican activists that are here are after-- or if they got a meeting with their mission. So I can't say. I know that the activists and Marco would know more than I, are very actively lobbying their government in Mexico.

DAVID ROTHENBERG: Marco, is there-- have you gotten together-- is there a Mexican contingent here that you-- and do you know how many numbers there are that have come up with Stonewall 25?

MARCO OSORIO: I met them this morning. There are 40 or 50 coming from Mexico, and there's lots of Mexican [INAUDIBLE] here in the States, that were in this country.

DAVID ROTHENBERG: Have you had a celebration? Have the Mexican people gotten together, men and women, the gays and lesbians this week?

MARCO OSORIO: There are so many people here, and some of it-- and we are very few, so it's a little difficult.

DAVID ROTHENBERG: Do you [INTERPOSING VOICES]?

MARCO OSORIO: --two days ago. On Friday, there was a very nice Latino party, and we would find each other and see--

CARLETTA JOY WALKER: What about the-- what about the connection in Mexico? Mexico is a very large country. And I know I was there and I heard about gay/lesbian movements, but you know, have access. Do you have much access to each other? Is there a national movement?

MARCO OSORIO: No. Actually, the gay movement in Mexico is somehow weak. After the AIDS crisis when all the big leaders died, it was very difficult to organize. It's very strange because in Mexico, we don't have a gay history as you have here in the States. So many times, we are starting from zero, reinventing the wheel.

JULIE DRIZIN: This is a very special time in Mexican history right now. You have a big presidential election on the horizon, you've got the PRD and the [? Pine ?] Party and the PRI. And are any of those parties talking at all about lesbian and gay issues?

MARCO OSORIO: Well, in these days-- weeks, we've been asking them about gay and lesbian issues and about AIDS too.

DAVID ROTHENBERG: How are they answering?

MARCO OSORIO: Well, the only answer-- the only official answer coming from the parties from PRD, that they say, well yes, you're welcome--

JULIE DRIZIN: That's the party of [INAUDIBLE]?

MARCO OSORIO: [INAUDIBLE]. Sí. They are saying that we are welcome, that they recognize that we are members of the society, and that is why people arrived. But well, in this very moment, this can be only very, very demagogic. Almost all the parties say-- are trying to answer this way.

JULIE DRIZIN: We want to thank you so much for joining us, and good luck with your work. We were joined by Marco Osorio from Mexico and Jorge Cortines, program director from the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, sharing their stories of fighting for civil rights around the world. RuPaul is on the stage. We'll be back with an important message after this.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

SPEAKER 1: And you're listening to KPFT 90.1 here at Pacifica Radio. And we are providing the live coverage from New York City, Stonewall 25, live coverage of the International March on the United Nations to Affirm the Human Rights of Lesbian and Gay People.

JULIE DRIZIN: And I'm Julie Drizin with you in Central Park. RuPaul, the most famous cross-dresser in America, is on stage singing to the crowd of more than a million lesbians, gays, transgender and bisexual people who are here to take back their rights today. I'll tell you, if a spaceship were circling over New York today, they might believe that there were--

CARLETTA JOY WALKER: Well, we were worthy.

JULIE DRIZIN: That we were worthy, that maybe lesbian and gay Americans made up the majority of people. But there's a really great happening going on here today.

I'm Julie Drizin. Joining us now is Bill Wax, the producer of this show--

BILL WAX: Co-producer.

JULIE DRIZIN: Co-producer, along with Lauren Flanders. And we need to take a moment away just to ask you to please support this broadcast. It's a very expensive broadcast. It cost us \$15,000 to lay down the wires and the line to get all the engineering together to bring it to you, but so far we've only raised \$2,000 to cover our expenses.

We're thrilled and proud to be here, but we need your support. And our phone number to call to make a pledge is 1-800-497-3223. Please call us now.

BILL WAX: Oh, please. Absolutely. Julie's absolutely right. It costs us about \$15,000 to do this broadcast. It's phone lines, it's equipment. It takes a lot of people to do something live in the middle of an event like this. We have co-hosts, we have engineers, we have production assistants, we've got directors, we've got producers-- it takes an incredible amount of people to help out.

Now, the reason we can do these broadcasts is because in the past, you all have been so supportive when we've asked you for your support. Pacifica has a long history now of doing special events-- events that no one else really wants to bring to you in their entirety, and basically uninterrupted from what's going on out here.

That is why we continue to do them. You all have always supported us. We've raised around \$2,000, the last check we had. We need another \$13,000. 1-800-497-3223. That's the phone number.

CARLETTA JOY I think maybe people need to know what these premiums are. This radio documentary on Stonewall, **WALKER:** *Remembering Stonewall*, is about New York City's Police Department public morals section. They raided Stonewall Inn June 27, 1969. The Stonewall Inn was a popular gay bar, but the patrons fought the police, thus starting a riot.

This program uses views of the participants, examines gay life both before and after the event, and its impact upon gay politics and history in the United States. So this is--

JULIE DRIZIN: The award-winning documentary.

CARLETTA JOY Right. They have an 80-year-old lesbian, Jeri Bayor who's a part of this, and Joan [INAUDIBLE] giving information **WALKER:** from the Lesbian Herstory Archive. So that looks interesting. And then this next premium that you could get for \$60--

DAVID You get all three of them for \$60.

ROTHENBERG:

CARLETTA JOY You get all three.

WALKER:

DAVID You get all three of the shows. *Remembering Stonewall*--

ROTHENBERG:

CARLETTA JOY This is more generous than I thought.

WALKER:

JULIE DRIZIN: Please call us.

DAVID Mel White's *Stranger at the Gate*, and the *Hothead Passion*--

ROTHENBERG:

JULIE DRIZIN: *Paisan. Hothead Paisan.*

DAVID Sorry. Homicidal lesbian terrorist.

ROTHENBERG:

CARLETTA JOY [INAUDIBLE] passion here.

WALKER:

DAVID Absolutely. Plenty of passion here. 1-800-497-3223 is the phone number. Please call. We only got a couple more

ROTHENBERG: minutes on this break, we need to hear from you.

CARLETTA JOY 1-800-497-3223.

WALKER:

JULIE DRIZIN: Maybe you couldn't afford to come to New York for the celebration and be a part of it. Maybe you're a part of your local Gay Pride activities. Maybe you're a straight person who supports lesbian and gay rights. But as statistics show, the more people who acknowledge knowing someone who's gay in their family or a friend tends to be more supportive of gay and lesbian rights. Maybe you're a parent of a lesbian or gay daughter--

CARLETTA JOY [INAUDIBLE].

WALKER:

JULIE DRIZIN: Yeah, please support us. 1-800-497-3223. This is the kind of broadcast that you would never hear on commercial radio. It's the kind of broadcast that you wouldn't see--

DAVID Won't see on commercial television.

ROTHENBERG:

JULIE DRIZIN: Commercial television. It's a progressive analysis of where the lesbian and gay rights movement fits into social change agendas here in the US. Please support it. 1-800-497-3223. It's the number. Please, whatever you can, but we desperately need your support to help cover the expenses of this program.

DAVID Please call right now. We need you to do it now. We are very-- we're falling very short on our fundraising goals.

ROTHENBERG: We don't need to necessarily make every penny of it, but we have to make a good deal of it if we're going to be able to do the next march that comes along, and there will be other marches. There is no question that this is the way various human groups get a chance to present their issues and get their word out on a nationwide audience. 1-800-497-3223. Call right now.

JULIE DRIZIN: And I wanted to say there are many of us who have friends or lovers who are not here, people who have died of AIDS, people of-- women who have died of breast cancer alone, perhaps, who are supported by groups in your community. It's a sad thought that there are a lot of people who would have loved this event and loved to be here. Please make a pledge in their honor. 1-800-497-3223. Thank you all for your support.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

SPEAKER 1: You're listening to KPFT Houston.

JULIE DRIZIN: And the spirit of Stonewall is alive and well here in New York City. I want to let you know I'm Julie Drizin with Pacifica Radio. There is a huge flood of blue next to me. There's a march of police officers walking by. Apparently, there is a celebrity in the audience who is going to come to the stage momentarily, somebody who needs about 3,000 police officers to protect him or her.

It's ironic because 25 years ago, it was the police that lesbians and gays were afraid of, the police who were causing the most harassment. The Stonewall riots began when police tried to raid the Stonewall Inn, the gay bar in Greenwich Village. It was a routine raid, but lesbians and gays would not go into that paddy wagon, would not go gently into that good night, and instead fought back and said, we're mad as hell, we're not going to take it anymore.

DAVID The purpose of the--

ROTHENBERG:

JULIE DRIZIN: They are--

DAVID They think the crowd is going to storm the stage?

ROTHENBERG:

JULIE DRIZIN: They are protecting somebody very, very famous, who is about to come out on stage. We're not sure who that is.

CARLETTA JOY So this is a good time for stealing [INAUDIBLE].

WALKER:

JULIE DRIZIN: The rumors are rampant, but we're going to take you to that famous person in a moment. But first, another famous heroine is with us. Pat Norman is with us. She's the co-chair of Stonewall 25, a longtime lesbian activist who got involved in '71 when she formed the Lesbian Mothers Union to address custody issues for lesbian, one of the most important issues still facing lesbians today. Thanks so much for joining us. I bet you're going to feel a lot of relief by the time this is over.

PAT NORMAN: Tomorrow. No, Friday.

JULIE DRIZIN: Next Friday. [LAUGH]

PAT NORMAN: Yes, we're very excited.

DAVID Who are they bringing you out?

ROTHENBERG:

PAT NORMAN: I can't tell you that yet.

DAVID The mystery guest, did they sign in?

ROTHENBERG:

PAT NORMAN: They will sign in, and Liza Minnelli is up next.

JULIE DRIZIN: So part of it is Liza Minnelli?

PAT NORMAN: Part of it is Liza.

DAVID We keep hearing Madonna's coming.

ROTHENBERG:

JULIE DRIZIN: Well--

PAT NORMAN: That's possible.

JULIE DRIZIN: It is possible. Pat, tell us about the event today. Do we have any statistics on how many lesbians, gays, transgender, bisexual, and supporters are out there today?

PAT NORMAN: Yes. We have an estimate of all of the people who have participated today to be about 1.2 million.

JULIE DRIZIN: And is that the statistic that the police are supporting too?

PAT NORMAN: Well, that's the one that we came up with the normal formula they used for New York Gay Pride, and so that's the one that's always been used before and has been accepted by the police department. And you know, we're still marching.

JULIE DRIZIN: Oh, really?

PAT NORMAN: Yeah.

JULIE DRIZIN: Tell us where the march is now.

PAT NORMAN: I don't know, but I know that they're coming in and it's thicker than it was before and it looks incredibly beautiful. And I'm, like, so happy, that I just am totally amazed at the turnout here.

JULIE DRIZIN: What's the highlight today for you, Pat Norman, one of the organizers of the Stonewall 25.

PAT NORMAN: There are so many of them, but the international flavor of this, the flags of all of the different countries being marched down First Avenue in front of the United Nations, saying very, very clearly, even though these people face torture and murder and possible imprisonment, et cetera, et cetera, going back to their countries, they are here. And they are out, and they are beautiful.

DAVID We had a wonderful woman from New Zealand, and a man from Mexico, and people from San Francisco are
ROTHENBERG: coordinating the international political aspect of it, and they have been briefing us on the wide spectrum of struggle from total acceptance in countries like Thailand to total repression in countries like the Soviet Union.

JULIE DRIZIN: And something in between in countries like the United States of America.

DAVID Which doesn't know which way it's going yet.

ROTHENBERG:

PAT NORMAN: But it has to go forward, because we're going forward and we're pulling it, dragging and screaming, with us.

JULIE DRIZIN: You were the co-chair of the 1987 March on Washington for lesbian and gay rights. How does this event compare for you?

PAT NORMAN: Oh, boy. They're both so exciting. The one in '87 was focused on the United States. This is the global aspect of it. We've expanded-- we know that we are everywhere, and this, the hands around the world kind of feeling that we have at this point, we're not going to let go.

And this is a global movement. We are making a very clear statement that we do not intend, under any circumstances ever, to allow another person to die without being recognized as a person who is, and a prisoner of conscience, a prisoner of war.

The other significant part of this that I really think needs to be stated is Amnesty International has been very much involved with this.

JULIE DRIZIN: Finally.

PAT NORMAN: Yes. They only took 25 years of pulling and screaming. However, now that they're here, we are ecstatic. We know that, in fact, it's going to continue to support us internationally, and we are working very hard.

CARLETTA JOY Pat, may I ask you, someone-- you're someone who I was also aware of when I lived in San Francisco, and was
WALKER: talking about Pat Parker earlier, and people who are making life safe and being out there.

PAT NORMAN: She was my roommate.

CARLETTA JOY Oh, wow.

WALKER:

PAT NORMAN: In 1971.

JULIE DRIZIN: Was that in quotes? Or is that a--

PAT NORMAN: Well, we were in a commune, and we had seven or eight women, all of us activists and poets and writers.

CARLETTA JOY It was quite a community.

WALKER:

PAT NORMAN: Yes.

CARLETTA JOY Yeah.

WALKER:

PAT NORMAN: Yes. We lived down the street from Maud. We were two blocks from Maud.

JULIE DRIZIN: Maud's the bar that was featured in the film *Last Call at Maud*.

PAT NORMAN: That's right. And you know, we got up in the morning and we talked politics. It was wonderful today to hear the poetry of Pat Parker. I was with her when she died, and it was very moving for me because I know that she would be here in fury and in purple.

CARLETTA JOY Absolutely. And in rhythm. She read her poetry with such drive, and I still hear it in my head when I read her

WALKER: poetry.

For you, what-- if something is-- if there's something you could point to that has clicked for you, or changed for you, or that you feel satisfied with in the progression over the last 25 years, what would it be?

PAT NORMAN: Visibility.

CARLETTA JOY OK.

WALKER:

PAT NORMAN: Visibility would be-- the things that I would like to be able to do, however, are to walk down the street and hold my lovers hand without fear. My children would like to be able to be clear that they don't have to suffer from any kind of bigotry because they are the children of lesbian and gay people.

And I think that-- you know, I have older children and grandchildren, and now my lover and I have started on another family--

DAVID They must be so proud of you for what your efforts in this struggle.

ROTHENBERG:

PAT NORMAN: They are. And that's amazing. You know, it's sort of like my children are proud of me. They couldn't be here.

JULIE DRIZIN: That's a blessing.

PAT NORMAN: It is.

DAVID They might be listening. Where are they?

ROTHENBERG:

PAT NORMAN: They're in Sacramento, California, [INAUDIBLE], and San Francisco.

DAVID So then they may well be listening, or watching on C-SPAN.

ROTHENBERG:

PAT NORMAN: Yes, I hope so.

JULIE DRIZIN: Thanks so much for joining us. Pat Norman, the co-chair of Stonewall 25, one of the women who's been behind this movement. Joining us now is Vicky Starr of WBAI, one of our reporters in the field, and the author of a new book, the unauthorized biography of the lesbian Elvis, KD Lang.

VICKY STARR: Shake, rattle, and roll, huh?

JULIE DRIZIN: That's right. So tell me what you found out there in the field.

VICKY STARR: I've been out roaming around-- there's no doubt that the celebrity quotient is rising rapidly here in Central Park. There's a number of excited--

JULIE DRIZIN: Do you have your KD Lang antennae on, by any chance?

VICKY STARR: Well, I wasn't sure if we--

JULIE DRIZIN: Is there gay-dar going on?

VICKY STARR: I wasn't sure if we had spilled the beans yet, but there are-- human barriers are being formed now towards all the pathways leading up to the stage. The cops have now surrounded-- have practically joined hands, surrounding the stage--

DAVID The cops are holding hands.

ROTHENBERG:

VICKY STARR: I would say that any minute now, don't you think? I saw a couple things earlier-- it was really funny. I was walking back here and the team Dallas had hijacked Judith Light, and had thrown her up on their shoulders and were making a human pyramid with her on the top. Next thing I turn around, Harvey Fierstein was up on top of that pyramid with one of the little-- what do the cheerleaders use? What do you call those things?

JULIE DRIZIN: Megaphone.

VICKY STARR: The megaphones. So he was becoming one of the Dallas cheerleaders. I thought that was kind of cute.

JULIE DRIZIN: Well, you know, there is a ring of police officers around the stage. I think that they may form hand-- sing "Kumbaya" and levitate the stage off the ground. You're listening to Pacifica Radio's live coverage of Stonewall 25, and for awaiting word of what celebrity, who she or he may be.

DAVID Well, it's obviously a megastar because--

ROTHENBERG:

JULIE DRIZIN: Well, it's was not President Clinton. I can tell you that.

DAVID Might be Hillary. She'd be more comfortable.

ROTHENBERG:

VICKY STARR: Do we not want to say?

JULIE DRIZIN: Well, let's keep--

DAVID Well, it's either Madonna or KD Lang or Liza Minnelli. Those names have been circulating.

ROTHENBERG:

JULIE DRIZIN: Well, it would be-- it would be-- we know that Liza Minnelli was scheduled to come to the event today.

DAVID She sang last night at the stadium.

ROTHENBERG:

JULIE DRIZIN: And she sang last night at the stadium. And what's most interesting is that the Stonewall riots broke out on the night of the funeral of her mother, Judy Garland, and some people credit Judy Garland, who was loved and supported widely by the gay male community throughout her career-- credit the death of that diva with the onset of the Stonewall Rebellion.

CARLETTA JOY There's a play right now in New York City, *Judy at Stonewall*.

WALKER:

DAVID There's another one called *Stonewall*.

ROTHENBERG:

CARLETTA JOY You know, David, you've been alluding to this all day, and the fact that it's been said that Madonna's going to be

WALKER: here, [INAUDIBLE] announced he wants a big secret. But we've been talking about the fact of who gets focused on in terms of stars and celebrity, and whereas this is not a football star, I think the mentality is something that is worth commenting on while one is glad that--

DAVID While we're waiting--

ROTHENBERG:

CARLETTA JOY [INAUDIBLE]

WALKER:

DAVID Let us hope that the movement does that-- the slogan's like, hate is not a family value, it's wonderful. But it

ROTHENBERG: should not be a movement of slogans and posters--

CARLETTA JOY Absolutely.

WALKER:

JULIE DRIZIN: And poster children.

DAVID The stuffing of the envelopes day after day after day in any movement, any progressive movement that is trying
ROTHENBERG: to affect change on attitudes is dependent on the long haul commitment. While it is exciting, and I recognize the need for the celebration of coming together, that there is a danger that we become so preoccupied with the stars who legitimize our being-- that we are legitimate and they are here because we are legitimate. They are here because there are a million people to cheer them on, and we are in love with the fact that they have chosen to come, but we are the stars.

CARLETTA JOY Absolutely.
WALKER:

DAVID A million point two are the stars.
ROTHENBERG:

CARLETTA JOY And [INAUDIBLE] rotation of them is problematic, and also they're always here-- this is always self-promotion,
WALKER: especially at certain levels, and that's not, again, to put them down in any way. But I think it's important that the important people like who've been stuffing envelopes--

JULIE DRIZIN: The grassroots people.

CARLETTA JOY Who are doing this at some point, and will continue even if it goes out of favor are very important to keep
WALKER: [INAUDIBLE].

VICKY STARR: Although I will say, having worked sort of in the entertainment industry as a journalist for a while now, that part of-- a large part of the problem is the mainstream media.

And you know, my position on this has been that someone like KD Lang is incredibly important because she is in my family's living room on a regular basis. My parents know who she is. The world at large knows who she is. Now, how she got to that elevated position, I think, is problematic, but now that she's there, I'm sure happy--

JULIE DRIZIN: In part through the brilliance of her music.

VICKY STARR: Yeah. And I'm sure happy that she has now come out of the closet. Gregory Hines is also here, and there are a number of people who've come out who are not part of the gay community, but who are here supporting it. And I think, David, that's what you're talking about. And I think that we should be proud of ourselves that we have been able to build our presence in a way that we demand recognition.

DAVID Well, before I came here, I talked with Linda Lavin, who is starring on Broadway in *The Sisters Rosensweig*, and
ROTHENBERG: they have a matinee this afternoon, and she said, we're going to be listening in our dressing rooms between acts because we'll be missing the key part of--

JULIE DRIZIN: Well, let them pledge in support while they're at it.

DAVID They can pledge support. But the fact that there are people who are straight, who have so many friends in the
ROTHENBERG: gay community that they feel a part of the struggle because they make a connection, that people they love have died from AIDS-- men and women who have been outside of the mainstream of society of factors in their lives, and they understand that. So when Liza Minnelli chooses to come here, she is making a statement about her affinity to the gay and lesbian community.

CARLETTA JOY I think it's also important when we talk about straight-- I mean, I don't make delineations. I don't think sexuality is that delineated. And there are many people in terms of their sexuality who benefit from this, whether-- even if they identify as heterosexual. The loosening of a rigid sexual standard is really important. People are not really heterosexual.

And I think that's important that what you're supporting are not gay rights. Support your own rights and your own liberation.

JULIE DRIZIN: Human Rights. Human Rights and sexual freedom.

CARLETTA JOY Human sexual rights and freedom. That's absolutely [INAUDIBLE].

WALKER:

JULIE DRIZIN: I'd like to hear more about what happened out in the crowd from Vicki Starr and John Beaupre, our two reporters who were floating around in the crowd.

VICKY STARR: Let me just interject here. We can do this. I have been-- I see Kathy Najimy's up there. I have been given a warning that at any moment now, this is-- the big celebrity thing is going to happen.

JULIE DRIZIN: Well, Kathy Najimy is up there. She was in *Sister Act*, and she's a big supporter--

DAVID *Kathy and Mo.*

ROTHENBERG:

JULIE DRIZIN: --of lesbian and gay rights.

VICKY STARR: So I'm assuming someone's going to give us a cue, and when it is time, we may have to just cut away. But in the meantime, John is sitting here and I'm going to pass the mic to him. And we've both been out sort of roaming around the field for the last couple of hours.

JULIE DRIZIN: Roam if you want to. Roam around the world. So John, who is a reporter and gay producer from Pacifica station KPFK in Los Angeles, joins us now. John, tell us what you've seen today.

JOHN BEAUPRE: First of all, I want to tell you what an incredible job that Julie and Carletta Joy and David have done here. It's been a real treat to be listening in on this. You cannot believe, those of you who are listening on the West Coast and in the middle of the country, we are now-- what-- about four hours into this rally and celebration here.

The crowds are still screaming in from the south end of Central Park, which is to say, a good mile away. It is almost shoulder to shoulder, four hours into the march. It's unbelievable to turn the corner. I mean, the sheep meadow, see the duck, smell the elm blossoms in the air, and the bay blossoms in the air, and see this crowd of incredible people.

Some of the groups I saw-- the contingency from Minneapolis marching into the city-- marching-- we're going to go quickly here-- marching in, we're singing the theme song from Mary Tyler Moore, and also chanting, Rhoda was a [? tyke, ?] St. Patrick's Cathedral--

JULIE DRIZIN: Now I know why I loved Rhoda so much as a kid.

JOHN BEAUPRE: Saint Patrick's Cathedral was like a fortress. We need to cut away here.

JULIE DRIZIN: We need to go to the stage where actress Kathy Najimy is speaking to the crowd and getting a very strong response. We'd like you to hear what she has to say. We'll be back.

KATHY NAJIMY: --closing games yesterday.

[CHEERING]

Is that amazing? Too bad they gave the great Patti LaBelle a Mr. Microphone, did they not have? She was amazing though. And then the Beacon Theater, the live feed concert where they had KD Lang holding hands with Melissa? It was a lesbian Shangri-La.

You know, this is a true story. A reporter called me up the other day and he said, Kathy, as a straight woman, what do you think of the new lesbian chic? And I said, they're a great band. I don't know. And he said no, it's very hip and fashionable to be lesbian right now. And I said, it is? And he said, very, very hip. What do you think? And I said, just a minute. Let me ask my lover. Susan? What do we think?

[CHEERING]

It's true. I actually came back to him and I said, well, it sounds a bit objectifying and a lot tokenistic, but I guess it's better than white redneck asshole close-minded chic.

[CHEERING]

This is my backup choir. What's going on over here? All right. Pay no attention to the choir behind the curtain.

[LAUGHTER]

Why am I here? They always ask me, why are you here? When the journalists at the March on Washington, the gay and lesbian march on Washington, asked me why I'm here, I thought, are you mad? Why the fuck wouldn't I be here? I mean, why-- where is everybody else? The Two Bunch Palms? Come on.

[CHEERING]

I am here because as long as America continues to hate fags, it will continue to pay no attention to AIDS.

[CHEERING]

I am lucky to be here because not a day goes by that AIDS does not only creep into our lives, but comes up and slaps us on the face. I'm here because I still dream about my friends Jim Hansen, Emile Arellano, Greg Silverman, Fausto Barajas, and Doug Webb. I'm here because if you're bored hearing about AIDS, then get your ass up to a hospice and go visit and remember.

[CHEERING]

I'm here for all the people in my life-- my family and friends and all the gay community who have supported me since day one. And I'm here to remind us all that Pride is not only shouts and multicolored rings, but it's a commitment to release the shame and indignity and pain inside.

You know, we should all-- we all have the right to wake up in the morning and be just a little bit surprised at how much we accept ourselves.

[CHEERING]

And finally, I'm here because I'm a feminist. And there you go.

[CHEERING]

I'm a feminist, and I believe that everybody has the god-given right for equality and integrity and respect, and it's really that simple. You know, I told a friend that I was coming here today. Her name is Aunt Mattie. I told her I was coming for.

And she said, that's wonderful, darling, but why are you celebrating Stonehenge? The rocks should be free? You want to free the rock? And I didn't really understand it, but my good friend Sylvia Dunleavy will now join me to try to explain why we celebrate Stonehenge. That's it. Sylvia?

[CHEERING]

Darling. Leave the black light out on on the stage.

SYLVIA Well, where would we be without rocks? We wouldn't have rock and roll.
DUNLEAVY:

KATHY NAJIMY: That's true. We wouldn't have the rocks in our aquarium. They should have life.

SYLVIA We wouldn't have the rock guns. Can you see me in my age mowing lawns?
DUNLEAVY:

KATHY NAJIMY: Oh, absolutely not.

SYLVIA God, no.
DUNLEAVY:

KATHY NAJIMY: And we wouldn't have-- you know what I think?

SYLVIA What?
DUNLEAVY:

KATHY NAJIMY: Rocks should hold hands in public.

SYLVIA [? On the ?] rock.
DUNLEAVY:

KATHY NAJIMY: That's right. [INAUDIBLE].

SYLVIA Right out in the open.
DUNLEAVY:

KATHY NAJIMY: That's right. Whatever you do in your own free world is strictly between you and your government.

SYLVIA Amen. And you know what I always say.

DUNLEAVY:

KATHY NAJIMY: What, darling? What do you say?

SYLVIA What's barking at night could very well be a cat in the morning, so wear your rubbers.

DUNLEAVY:

KATHY NAJIMY: That's right. Absolutely. I believe in that.

SYLVIA Amen.

DUNLEAVY:

KATHY NAJIMY: Listen to me.

SYLVIA What, darling?

DUNLEAVY:

KATHY NAJIMY: Do not walk in front of me, or at the side of me. You walk behind me as my equal.

SYLVIA Amen.

DUNLEAVY:

KATHY NAJIMY: All right?

[LAUGHTER]

SYLVIA And if by chance we should meet--

DUNLEAVY:

BOTH: It is beautiful.

KATHY NAJIMY: That's right. Thank you so much. I'll crumble for you.

SYLVIA I will crumble right back.

DUNLEAVY:

[CHEERING]

HARVEY Kathy and Mo on our stage today. Kathy and Mo. What a show we got for you people!

FIERSTEIN:

[CHEERING]

These people are not here--

JULIE DRIZIN: The unmistakable voice of Harvey Fierstein up on stage at Stonewall 25, live in Central Park. You're listening to Pacifica Radio's live coverage of the 25th anniversary of the birth of the modern gay and lesbian rights movement. Harvey Fierstein speaking.

HARVEY FIERSTEIN: I would now like to introduce from MTV, John Norris and [? both ?] BJ and news personality on the channel for four years. This fall, he joins the new syndicated entertainment news show, *Extra*, as a featured correspondent. To introduce our next musical act, I give you John Norris.

[CHEERING]

JOHN NORRIS: Thanks, Harvey. Welcome to all you guys. Hope you're having a great Friday. Beautiful day for it. As Harvey said, I spent a number of years at MTV. In fact, it occurred to me that since Stonewall-- the 25 years since Stonewall-- MTV has been on the air, I think, 12 of those 25 years, and I have a feeling a lot of you might suggest we haven't done quite as much as we could to put out gay positive messages.

AUDIENCE: Yeah.

JOHN NORRIS: I thought as much. Anyway, there have been a few things on the channel we can be proud of, and one of them was a couple of years ago when we brought the concert for AIDS awareness. It was a tribute to Freddie Mercury. And one highlight of that show for me, anyway, was the finale, and the finale headlined by this next woman, joining the Stonewall Chorale, which you see next to me here-- please welcome, everybody, a Stonewall 25 welcome, to the one and only Liza Minnelli.

[CHEERING]

LIZA MINNELLI: Thank you.

[CHEERING]

[INAUDIBLE] greatest.

[APPLAUSE]

Thank you. [INAUDIBLE] audience should beat that. [INAUDIBLE]. I wrote down a few thoughts because I've been thinking about you so much, and you're always in my heart, and you know that.

OK, this 25 year commemoration of Stonewall as a time to look back, and to remember, and to live, and to act, and a time to face tomorrow with hope and trust and conviction. This commemoration also marks a significant year for me. It's 25 years exactly since my mama died.

[CHEERING]

She'd be so happy.

[CHEERING]

From every corner of the globe, to New York City, from the United Nations to Central Park, from 1969 to 1994, we have all come a long way. I've watched and I've admired the gay community that implores people of the world to take care of themselves, to take care of each other. I've watched in awe the integrity of the community that invented and demanded safe sex.

[CHEERING]

And because of days like today, the government is starting to hear because the people of the world understand that the reality is we must find a cure for AIDS. We must.

[CHEERING]

[MUSIC - LIZA MINNELLI, "THE DAY AFTER THAT"]

I'll do something. I will sing this song for you whenever you need me to, if you will do something for me. The next time there's a rally or a march, I want to hear you singing. And keep singing it, and keep singing it.

(SINGING) Someday we'll be free. I promise you, we'll be free. If not tomorrow, then the day after that. And the candles in our hands will illuminate this land. If not tomorrow, then the day after that. And the world that brings us pain that fills our lives will fear, on the day after that we'll kiss you.

And the war we fought to win, I promise you we will win, if not tomorrow, then the day after that, or the day after that.

Someday we'll be free. I promise you we'll be free. If not tomorrow then the day after that. And the candles in our hands will illuminate this land. If not tomorrow, then the day after that. And the world brings us pain that fills our lives with fear, on the day after that, we'll kiss you.

And the war we fought to win, I promise you we will win, if not tomorrow, then the day after that, or the day after that.

CHOIR: (SINGING) Oh, if not tomorrow, then the day after that.

LIZA MINNELLI: Or the day after that. And the candles in our hands will illuminate this land.

CHOIR: Tomorrow--

LIZA MINNELLI: If not tomorrow--

CHOIR: Then the day after that.

LIZA MINNELLI: Or the day after that. And the world brings us pain that fills our lives with fear, on the day after that, we'll kiss [INAUDIBLE]. We'll kiss [INAUDIBLE]. And the war we fought to win, I promise you we will win, if not tomorrow, then the day after that.

CHOIR: Or the day after that.

LIZA MINNELLI: Or the day after that.

CHOIR: The day after that.

LIZA MINNELLI: Or the day after that.

CHOIR: The day after that.

LIZA MINNELLI: Or the day after that.

CHOIR: Or the day after that.

LIZA MINNELLI: Or the day after that. Or the day after that.

CHOIR: Oh!

[APPLAUSE]

JULIE DRIZIN: A standing ovation for Liza Minnelli singing with the Chorus behind her on stage before a crowd of more than a million lesbians, gays, transgender, bisexual people here to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion, which gave birth to the modern gay and lesbian rights movement. I'm Julie Drizin with you, covering it for Pacifica Radio heard around the United States on your community radio station.

DAVID I would imagine that--

ROTHENBERG:

JULIE DRIZIN: David Rothenberg and Carletta-- go ahead.

DAVID I would imagine with a crowd of a million, too, with this great entertainment being provided, that a lot of people
ROTHENBERG: who are neither gay or lesbian or transsexual are drifting into Central Park just to share in the joy because one of the things that's happened in New York this week is the celebration, and the diversity has been celebrated, and many, many people who are not gay or define themselves as gay have been reaching out and joining in, have marched in the parade--

JULIE DRIZIN: Some of them are gay for a day here.

DAVID Well, they're gay friendly, and they feel unthreatened. And people like Reverend Diaz, who were so concerned
ROTHENBERG: about all the people that were coming into the city, have been silenced. And the cities around the country that are listening to us, you can tell your political leaders that the celebration in this city has been-- made this city rich. Not only for the businessmen who have made so much money, but in the hearts and souls of the people living here.

JULIE DRIZIN: It's been an incredible week of activity, which--

CARLETTA JOY Liza Minnelli's wearing red.

WALKER:

JULIE DRIZIN: She looked gorgeous, but--

DAVID And she's walking right near us. We may touch her hand if she comes any closer.

ROTHENBERG:

JULIE DRIZIN: I don't think so. But there's been a week of political actions, and film screenings, and poetry readings, and meetings, and parades, and celebration, and it's been a great weekend, including the International Gay Games.

And John Beaupre, our reporter from KPFK, is here. Tell us more about what you heard-- Kate Clinton is on the stage. We should bring you Kate Clinton, one of the most openly visible lesbian comics. Longtime lesbian activist on the stage here at Stonewall, Central Park.

CARLETTA JOY I think she's wearing green.

WALKER:

KATE CLINTON: Go back home, come out! And now, it's my great pleasure to introduce a wonderful actor and an activist. All the way here from England, please welcome Sir Ian McKellen.

[CHEERING]

JULIE DRIZIN: Sir Ian McKellen, who is--

IAN MCKELLEN: Hello!

JULIE DRIZIN: Much loved. Shakespearean.

IAN MCKELLEN: How are you? What a week it's been! The Gay Games, the cultural festival, and cruising in the Village. But today is a special day. Today, I marched with the contingent from the United Kingdom, with representatives from some of the 500 British lesbian and gay organizations.

One of these is a full time lobby group staffed by professionals and volunteers in London which educates politicians, the media, and the public in the fight for equality for lesbians and gay men. We call our group Stonewall. Thank you, New York City, for the name and for the inspiration.

I have a personal thank you for the United States of America because it was here, only six years ago, that I made my decision to complete my coming out journey. One of the best things about being out is the wonderful people you meet. People like you. And not just on this special day, but every day. So if you are still in any doubt, take my advice. Come out and make today last for the rest of your life.

JULIE DRIZIN: Sir Ian McKellen on stage at Stonewall. I'm Julie Drizin. Joining us, as I said before, KPFK reporter John Beaupre, who was out amongst the sea-- the multicultural sea--

KATE CLINTON: Sir Ian McKellen, and now--

JULIE DRIZIN: Of lesbians and gays.

JOHN BEAUPRE: I think the tempo of our celebrities seems to be picking up here a bit also. We're still listening to Kate Clinton. I know one of the groups that I saw-- one question I ran into, a group from Nevada, my home state, and I said, well, what is this like being here? And she shrugged and she said, oh, it's no big deal. It's just like any other million in the quarter lesbians and gay men getting together in the middle of a big city.

The dust is blowing around us, and fortunately, the clouds have come back a little bit to make it a little bit cooler. It's been sweltering and hot, which would have normally made a lot of us cranky, but with the incredible amount of events that have gone on here this week we've had a really great time.

We got a listing of events that was not part of the official sanctioned Stonewall 25 of the Gay Games, and that list was 25 pages of events, meetings, colloquia, seminars, protests, and marches.

One of the groups that was just sitting behind us here is the group Fraternity for AIDS Cessation in Thailand. Five kids who came on their own expense, their own work, in absolutely beautiful costumes with satin and mample-- caps-- metal caps, and they performing in the cultural festival and making aware, just an example of all the countries from, as I think David was saying, from Zimbabwe to Albania-- I don't think Albania-- to Argentina. I'm sorry.

JULIE DRIZIN: No, I think there are Albanians here. Right now behind us on the stage, the Dallas Cowboy cheerleaders.

DAVID No, they're not. The football-- these are guys.

ROTHENBERG:

JULIE DRIZIN: These are the Dallas cheerleaders.

JOHN BEAUPRE: Dallas cheerleaders.

JULIE DRIZIN: [LAUGHS] They're having a great time, though, and they look very nice.

DAVID Should I ask-- it's very colorful back here. I think there are men and women dragging-- there may be women and

ROTHENBERG: women drag back here.

What's it like out there? I mean, I've been watching somebody in this wonderful yellow kind of parade back and forth all day. What are people dressed like?

JOHN BEAUPRE: Well, I must say, when we talk about the rainbow colors of our community-- whoa, spectacular air flip by the Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders-- who we saw last night on the-- [CLEARS THROAT] excuse me-- on the great stage at Yankee Stadium for the closing ceremony--

JULIE DRIZIN: Of the Gay Games.

JOHN BEAUPRE: I'm sorry. The Gay Games.

DAVID John, I suspect we're not celebrity free yet because the cops are still in place, so one would expect more icons--

ROTHENBERG:

JOHN BEAUPRE: Well, I think they're actually in awe of our broadcasters. They're protecting us from the celebrities who want to get up close to our booth.

Carletta, to answer your question, we talk about a rainbow community. The colors, both in drag and out of drag, are spectacular. Men and women, even-- actually, a fair number of children-- think we do-- a fair number of children, which is an amazing thing to see.

JULIE DRIZIN: No, I was thinking about all the different slogans on t-shirts that I've seen. Nobody knows I'm gay, nobody knows I'm a lesbian-- there's just a lot of really great slogans out there. Hate is not a family value.

JOHN BEAUPRE: One of the visuals that I saw that sort of knocked me out as I came into the park by Columbus Circle, and the crowd was just installed in Columbus Circle as it is up here in the park, I came around a corner and I was behind a group of about 100 marchers who had placards that were approximately 24 inches square-- have to wait for my two seconds on the air to have a [INAUDIBLE]. And--

CARLETTA JOY We'll just have a real good one.

WALKER:

JOHN BEAUPRE: There we go. There's a lot of dust in here actually.

JULIE DRIZIN: There is very-- it's a Dust Bowl.

CARLETTA JOY And also, while he's doing that, though, for people who don't know New York, he's talking about Columbus Circle.

WALKER: It's 59th Street, which is about-- so we're talking about 59--

JOHN BEAUPRE: Mile.

CARLETTA JOY So we're talking about a good 20 long blocks of people, solid.

WALKER:

JOHN BEAUPRE: Well, I came around to the front of the group, and I realized it was the group marching with buddies. And their banners-- their placards were all photographs of their friends or their loved ones who had passed away.

Well, in a day and age when those who have died of AIDS, or are still suffering from AIDS, have become so invisible. To see up close and in your face hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of faces of loved ones and friends who have died brought it home in a really, really powerful way.

DAVID It's sort of like going to-- visiting the quilt when we witnessed that and discovering people you knew whose
ROTHENBERG: names are remembered on the quilt, and the power of that. I remember when I first heard of the quilt, I thought, well, you know, Betsy Ross. So what?

And then when I went to see it and saw the miles of names, and then started discovering people I knew, you just stood there and cried because, you know, you go through periods of first, acceptance, and then denial of the people you loved who died of AIDS, and then to be reminded, as we have to be reminded, and the power of it. And so as you said John--

JOHN BEAUPRE: There's an incredible power in seeing the quilt. There's no question of [INAUDIBLE] other than the names associated with it. But there's something altogether different to be looking into the eyes and looking into the souls of those people who are no longer with this.

Women-- my mom always astonished at the percentage of those marchers who are women, women who proportionally don't suffer as men-- as much as the gay men do, but who are taking disproportional responsibility for that care and that support.

CARLETTA JOY And also, it is important to mention that a number of women are dying [INAUDIBLE] program. The other day, that

WALKER: older women dying, especially in the Black community. There's going to be the march in July. And after I did the program, I found out a woman who was 65 had just passed and had AIDS, and it was-- the information just needs to be out there. It's very important.

JULIE DRIZIN: You're listening to Pacifica Radio's live coverage of Stonewall 25.

CARLETTA JOY She's from Dallas.

WALKER:

JULIE DRIZIN: A nice breeze is blowing the dust all over us, but it's a nice cool breeze--

CARLETTA JOY The Dust Bowl.

WALKER:

JULIE DRIZIN: Here in Central Park. Kate Clinton is on the stage getting ready to introduce the next guest, but let me introduce to you our next guest who is Christina McKnight of the Lesbian Avengers civil rights organizing project. The Lesbian Avengers is a direct action lesbian visibility and rights group that is basically spreading all across the nation. Welcome.

CHRISTINA Hi. How are you?

MCKNIGHT:

JULIE DRIZIN: I'm doing well, thanks. I wanted you to tell us a little bit about what the Lesbian Avengers is doing these days.

CHRISTINA Well, the Lesbian Avengers is the group, as you said, focused on lesbian visibility and survival. And actually,
MCKNIGHT: we're just coming off our big Dyke March last night. We had, like, thousands and thousands of women who took Fifth Avenue and just say, we're here and we want our rights, basically.

And we're about to do this big civil rights project. We're going-- we have chapters in 35 cities across the country, and some in other countries. But right now, as we have this wonderful march day, we have to remember that there's anti-lesbian, bisexual, transgender, transsexual, and gay referenda on the ballots in eight states. We really need to fight that.

So we're going on a project to do grassroots organizing for that, to help other radical dykes in other states to do this and to really go beyond what the mainstream campaigns are doing, and really have a lesbian focus, and really share resources with people that are fighting really hard against this terrible time.

JULIE DRIZIN: I noticed that your Lesbian Avengers t-shirt has a bomb on it. Like, a bomb ready to explode-- to ignite a movement.

CHRISTINA Yeah, I think it's been a long time coming. And I think that women really-- lesbians really need to take the lead in
MCKNIGHT: their struggle for civil rights and really be powerful. And I think a lot of the things we do are direct action, and they are powerful, and they are explosive.

JULIE DRIZIN: But you know, lesbians have been involved in every civil rights movement throughout this century, in some cases more visible than others, but certainly at the forefront of the right-- the movement for the rights of people with AIDS. A lot of lesbian activism, and ACT UP, which Lesbian Avengers is in some ways informed by ACT UP and queer action and other radical action groups.

CHRISTINA Right. I think that we've always been at the lead of a lot of different movements, but I think it's about time that
MCKNIGHT: we were at the lead of our own movement. So that's what we were all about. We're taking that.

JULIE DRIZIN: We need to go to the stage in a moment, but I just wanted to ask you briefly if you could just share your personal feelings about being here today and part of all of this wonderful activity.

DAVID And were you alive when Stonewall began 25 years ago?

ROTHENBERG:

CHRISTINA No, I wasn't.

MCKNIGHT:

DAVID One suspects you're very, very young.

ROTHENBERG:

CHRISTINA Yes, I'm 27 actually.

MCKNIGHT:

CARLETTA JOY So you were alive.

WALKER:

DAVID You look 16.

ROTHENBERG:

CHRISTINA Thank you. I think that this is a wonderful thing, but I think that when we leave here, we all need to understand
MCKNIGHT: that it's not a party, that Stonewall was a riot, that our rights are very important, that we have a lot of work ahead of us, and as women, as lesbians, we really need to take the lead and we do need to ignite the riot. We need to get out there and fight and do everything in our power to make this not a celebration, but the beginning of a real movement for social change.

DAVID On the celebrity watch, I just saw Carol Channing go behind us into one of the-- so one suspects that Dolly will be
ROTHENBERG: in route to us. And the cops are moving to another area, which means we're having a celebrity come up from somewhere.

CARLETTA JOY You've been kind of watching all evening here.

WALKER:

JULIE DRIZIN: He's our Star Watcher, David Rothenberg, here.

CARLETTA JOY I don't think he's watching the stars.

WALKER:

DAVID No, but there is star activity going on.

ROTHENBERG:

JULIE DRIZIN: And you're listening to Pacifica Radio's live coverage, which will continue after this. Stay with us for an important message.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

RAY MILLER: Hello, I'm Ray Miller, and you're listening to KPFT in Houston.

JULIE DRIZIN: And you're listening to Pacifica Radio's live coverage of Stonewall 25. It began this morning at the United Nations as lesbians and gays from around the world, mostly from the United States, gathered to march on the UN to demand that the UN recognized that lesbian and gay rights are human rights. The city is teeming with the energy of queer liberation, and we're bringing it all to you here on Pacifica Radio.

CARLETTA JOY For a price.

WALKER:

JULIE DRIZIN: Yeah, for a price. We'd like to ask you right now, just a few minutes before we get back to the stage, to support this broadcast. It's an extremely expensive production. We had to lay telephone lines down from WBAI, Pacifica's New York station, all the way here to Central Park.

We've had to line up guests. We've have engineers. There are lots of wires and microphones. I won't get in on all the technical stuff, but it's a huge production, and we are so thrilled to bring it to you, but we cannot afford to bring it to you without your support. So put your money where your mouth is and give us a call.

Our number is-- go ahead.

CARLETTA JOY 497-3223. That's 1-800-497-3223. And actually, you're putting your money where our mouths are.

WALKER:

DAVID And maybe you shouldn't support us to pay for the technical equipment, you should support us because of the
ROTHENBERG: people that are being brought to you, the exchange of ideas, the people from around the world that we've shared with you this afternoon, and the excitement and understanding that no matter where you're listening, in whatever state you're in-- if you're in Missouri or if you're in California or Oregon or Florida, around the country where we're speaking, that you're not isolated and that you're not alone.

That there are people around the world who have come here to New York today, and we are proud to be bringing them to you. And we urge you to support us so that when events like this come in the future, we can say there was a public out there that support us, and that our continuity and the continuing of progressive radio in a sea of negativism and conservatism on radio airwaves today, that we have to make a statement of support.

And your support now will keep us not only on the air today-- we're here. You're not going to get rid of us today. But in the future, it's an investment in your future.

JULIE DRIZIN: Let's give out that number.

CARLETTA JOY 1-800-497-3223. That's 1-800-497-3223.

WALKER:

JULIE DRIZIN: You know, David, earlier, you mentioned that if a Jerry Falwell or a Pat Robertson turns on the microphone or the camera and asked his supporters, his millions of people around the world with his global TV network, to support his anti-gay, anti-feminist movement, the phones light up. And it's practically--

DAVID They paraded Paula Jones up and down Pat Robertson's back, giving specific-- you know, those family value
ROTHENBERG: people couldn't get enough of the sexual implications and the sexual innuendos of Paula Jones. And if you have any response--

CARLETTA JOY She's going to have a [INAUDIBLE] clone now right?

WALKER:

DAVID Yeah.

ROTHENBERG:

JULIE DRIZIN: But these are the same people who excommunicate their lesbians and gay children, you know?

DAVID But if you in Columbia, Missouri, or Bridgeport, Connecticut, or San Francisco, or Los Angeles are repulsed as we
ROTHENBERG: are by that, we urge you to make the same kind of fiscal commitment that the religious right is doing over and over and over again.

They don't even make a plea. They just give a number and they negotiate eternity. They tell you if you contribute to oral or anal or to whoever they have on the air those days-- that's Oral Roberts brother, Anal Roberts-- they tell you that if you contribute, you can negotiate your way into heaven.

Well, we're not negotiating on your way into heaven. We're talking about the here and now.

CARLETTA JOY WALKER: Negotiate your way into hell. Come on, 1-800-- that's where it's going to be fun. It's going to be burning down there.

DAVID No, we're talking about your days on this planet, and whether we're going to have a planet of civility, of
ROTHENBERG: acceptance, of justice, of fairness, and that's what the communication to *Pacifica* is about.

JULIE DRIZIN: And we're trying-- I mean, it's a short order. We're just trying to change the world. There's nothing about that. Yeah.

Please give us a call. 1-800-497-3223. Pledge whatever you can. If you pledge \$60 or more, you're going to get a special gift from us, which I'm sure you're going to want, which is the award-winning documentary *Remembering Stonewall*, a radio documentary on the birth of a movement; on the other side, an interview with Mel White, who used to write speeches for Oliver North and Pat Robertson and Falwell and all of those right wingers who hate us so much.

And then he came out of the closet as gay. And now he's fighting all those people that he used to support. And on the third cassette, the *Hothead Paisan*, an interview with Diane DiMassa, the cartoonist of a Homicidal Lesbian Terrorist.

Please support us. 1-800-497-3223. We've only raised a few thousand dollars. Our expenses are more like \$15,000 for this broadcast. And if it's important to you, you want to help change the world, you want to help keep bringing progressive critiques of society into your living rooms, give us a call. 1-800-497-3223. Thank you all for your support.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

Live from Central Park, New York City, I'm Julie Drizin with *Pacifica Radio News* bringing you live coverage of Stonewall 25. Joining us now is Kathy Acey, who's the executive director of the Astraea National Lesbian Action Foundation. And Astraea is one of those few groups in the country where lesbian women and feminist women can get support for their artistic work. Tell us a little bit about the work of Astraea.

KATHY ACEY: Yes. Astraea is the oldest lesbian foundation in the United States, and we're funded primarily through individual contributions-- primarily women, but also men. Astraea is-- our main mission is to raise funds to economic empowerment for lesbians, and distribute those funds back into the community nationwide, to organizing projects, advocacy--

JULIE DRIZIN: What kinds of things have you funded?

KATHY ACEY: We funded groups such as the lesbian health projects across the country, the lesbian and feminist cancer projects. We funded cultural programs, film and video that reflect the lesbian lives and the issues faced by lesbians in society.

Also, a very important philosophy is we're a multicultural, multiracial organization, so it's very important for us in our own work and in the groups that we fund to look at the intersections of race, gender, and class, as well as sexuality.

JULIE DRIZIN: And I've been aware of the work of Astraea for a long time, and it seems like these are times, even since-- even though we have a Democrat in the White House, there's still a lot of resistance to putting money into the work being done by lesbians. There were a few women who were part of the NEA 4 that could not get funding for their work.

KATHY ACEY: There is still a tremendous resistance and obstacles to raising money for lesbians. That's part of why we exist and other organizations exist, and we're trying to build, actually, a coalition of groups across the country. Astraea's also part of a national movement of women's funds.

DAVID Where are you headquartered in?

ROTHENBERG:

KATHY ACEY: We're headquartered here in New York City, and we have board members throughout the country.

DAVID If people want information, can they write you?

ROTHENBERG:

KATHY ACEY: Yes. You can write us 666 Broadway Suite 520-- that's here in New York City, 10012. Cell phone number is 529-8021.

CARLETTA JOY Spell Astraea for people.

WALKER:

KATHY ACEY: Astraea, which means goddess of justice and truth, is spelled as A-S-T-R-A-E-A.

JULIE DRIZIN: And that is a goddess that we should all boil down to. That's the Pacific goddess.

DAVID And a celebration of Stonewall 25, obviously, means a great deal.

ROTHENBERG:

KATHY ACEY: Absolutely. I think this is a very important moment in lesbian and gay and bisexual transgender history. But we have to realize that this is a moment. After the dust settles tomorrow, we have to look at what are the work we are doing within our movement, how are we making connections with other organizations and communities throughout this country, and what's the strategy, or strategies, that are going to really move us forward into liberation and social justice.

CARLETTA JOY WALKER: And you're certainly somebody with a vision. I've known Kathy for a while now, and she really gets a vision, moves people along, and it's really, really incredible what you do. Has been committed for a long time, and it's really wonderful what you've done here, and turning Astraea into a national lesbian foundation. She, I mean, very instrumental in that. You're currently in this campaign Dollars for Dykes?

KATHY ACEY: Yeah, our Dollars-- yes. We have a campaign going on now called Dollars for Dykes. And as I said earlier, one of the main things for us is to link up economic power with social justice. And we have a campaign going on throughout the country. We're asking people to sign on to economic self-empowerment and to get themselves on our mailing list and lists throughout the country, and as a symbolic gesture to give \$1. And we hope that people will give more.

JULIE DRIZIN: There's a perception, at least, that in the lesbian and gay community, that the men have the money and the women do not because women still make less than men do. And if you factor in race, the number of cents per dollar even goes down further. Are you finding that it's hard to raise money from lesbians because lesbians don't make money?

KATHY ACEY: That's a good question, and it's a complicated answer. But of course, men do have more money than women, and gay men have more money than lesbians.

But lesbians do have money. There are lesbians of all classes with money, with earned income, as well as inherited wealth. Astraea is the kind of place where people-- our contributions range from anything from \$1 to \$25,000, and part of the-- point of the piece is to educate lesbians that it's OK to give to ourselves. Lesbians give time and volunteer hours, hard work and dollars to many things.

DAVID ROTHENBERG: Kathy, the women's community and the lesbian community has reached out, as we've said over and over today, to men with AIDS in the early-- throughout the AIDS movement, and the time has come for the lesbian community to say to the gay men, support us.

KATHY ACEY: Yes.

DAVID ROTHENBERG: Work with us.

KATHY ACEY: Yes. And Astraea has a brothers and sisters program that does exactly that. And we're very grateful to the gay men who have taken leadership in that program, and talked and raised money for lesbian causes.

JULIE DRIZIN: Well, we do have to continue to support each other.

DAVID ROTHENBERG: It's part of the moment. You know Kathy said before, when the dust settles, the work continues. The dust is settling in our throats as we speak, as dust storms blowing up at Central Park--

JULIE DRIZIN: Getting brown lung disease here.

DAVID ROTHENBERG: --where a million and two people have gathered for the 25th anniversary celebration, bringing people from around the world celebrating.

JULIE DRIZIN: Thanks for joining us. Kathy Acey, executive director of the Astraea National Lesbian Action Foundation, currently running a Dollars for Dykes campaign. I'm Julie Drizin with David Rothenberg and Carletta Joy Walker, bringing you live coverage of Stonewall 25 here in Central Park.

Our next guest, as we're waiting for something interesting to happen on the stage, as I'm sure most people out in the crowd are-- the 1.1 million lesbians, gay men, and bisexuals, and transgender people who are here to fight for their rights today-- our next guest is Paula Ettelbrick, the director of public policy at the National Center for Lesbian Rights.

Wow, it's hard to believe such a center exists in some ways. Tell me how it got started.

**PAULA
ETTELBRICK:** Well, in 1977, some lawyers in San Francisco basically felt that there was a need for some direct representation of lesbians, particularly in custody and visitation cases-- child custody and visitation cases-- and it's just grown from there. We are still based in San Francisco. Last summer, the summer of '93, we opened an office here in New York to do some policy work.

I go down to Washington, I spend time working on issues like national health reform, which is very satisfying, given where Congress is at right now-- the federal civil rights issues, and I do some work on the family law as well.

But essentially, we exist to give representation to lesbians who face discrimination, to assist lawyers who represent women in the lesbian community who have cases in court, and to educate judges about how to treat our community.

JULIE DRIZIN: Well, I have a judge in Virginia that I think could use a little education.

**DAVID
ROTHENBERG:** That must be a rallying point for you, the case in Virginia of the lesbian mother whose mother was trying to get custody of her child.

**PAULA
ETTELBRICK:** Well, in fact, we did help that judge-- those judges understand, and we were very involved in the appeal in that case, the Sharon Bottoms case, in which justice passed Tuesday, or Monday rather-- the Virginia Court of Appeals ruled that a lesbian parent should not be denied custody or visitation simply because of her sexual orientation.

**DAVID
ROTHENBERG:** The mother today announced that she said the grandmother is appealing that, trying to get custody of her daughter's child because the two women kissed in front of the judge.

**PAULA
ETTELBRICK:** So yeah, she's going to appeal that to Virginia Supreme Court.

JULIE DRIZIN: We're going to take a quick break to go to the stage where actress Judith Light is speaking to the crowd.

JUDITH LIGHT: I am here not as a straight woman, but as a person. A person who believes in the dignity of every human being.

[CHEERING]

I am honored to be a part of acknowledging something with so much meaning and power, not just to gays and lesbians, but to everyone. Stonewall demonstrated with dramatic purity that the only response to being abused is to stand up with pride and determination.

[CHEERING]

And this community has been demonstrating lessons for all of us to learn ever since. We learned from you when people demean and vilify you, stand up with pride and come out. When people assault you with their hatred and bigotry, reflect back to them that homosexuality is not the problem. The problem is hatred and bigotry.

[CHEERING]

When people discriminate against you, appeal to the simple truths known to everyone, that no one's rights are safe until everyone has equal rights.

[CHEERING]

You in this community have forged a path of leadership the whole world can be grateful for. And this past week, when New York became the center of unity for the world is yet another example. I congratulate you.

I appeal to you. Do not give up. Keep coming out. Keep rising above hatred and oppression. Keep teaching the lessons of what are right and just. Keep putting the spotlight on government neglect and social irresponsibility. And keep on being such overwhelmingly powerful demonstrations of pride and love. I thank you.

[CHEERING]

JULIE DRIZIN: Actress Judith Light--

KATE CLINTON: Judith Light!

JULIE DRIZIN: Here on stage to express her support for the lesbian and gay cause.

KATE CLINTON: Judith Light, Liza Minnelli, I am totally [? plussing. ?] OK, now that we have-- sadly, we have lost a lot of friends since the March on Washington, and I think it's important that we remember them right now.

JULIE DRIZIN: Comedienne Kate Clinton speaking now.

KATE CLINTON: I'm thinking especially of my good friend Michael Callan. Michael Callan. What-- oh, longest survivors of AIDS, one of the hardest working AIDS activists. So I think just a little-- maybe a seventh inning stretch. What you need to do is give the old [YELLS] for Michael Callan. Can we all do it? And you can stretch. It's just one arm back and say, [YELLS]

[YELLS]

Oh, looks like the kind of youth group I wanted to be in.

[LAUGHTER]

OK. Now, let's see. Our next speaker is a veteran journalist who turned-- thank God for all of us-- a lesbian activist as an original member of ACT UP New York. Remember ACT UP New York? Act up, fight back, fight AIDS. She was one of those arrested for demonstrating inside Saint Patrick's Cathedral.

Jeanne-- woo! Talk about who's the boss? She's a member of the Board of Directors Gay Games 4. Please give a strong welcome to the fiercest of the fierce, Ann Northrop.

[CHEERING]

ANN
NORTHROP: First of all, I want to let you know, for those of you considering leaving, there is an extremely fabulous event coming up here. You will kick yourselves if you leave now. For years to come, you will want to say that you were here when this happened. Do not leave the park.

[CHEERING]

JULIE DRIZIN: And do not leave the broadcast, for those of you listening.

ANN
NORTHROP: (SINGING) I love New York in June, how about you?

Sorry, there was just so much music today. Good afternoon. I am impressed and moved by your presence here today-- I'm sorry. They made me write this. I have to read it. Clearly, you understand the importance of showing up and standing up for your own dignity, self-respect, and human rights. And clearly, you represent hundreds of millions more around the world who can't be with us here today.

[CHEERING]

As both an organizer of Gay Games 4 and a member of Gay and Lesbian Americans, the new national activist group which has fought unsuccessfully this week to get an official Fifth Avenue March permit, I have had a glorious and horrible week.

I have been thrilled by the courage and beauty of figure skaters, swimmers, divers, runners, and softball players, dancers, musicians, and artists, out and loud and proud. I have been stunned and infuriated by the mean, nasty stupidity of New York City officials who, instead of welcoming and celebrating this tremendous International March for Human Rights, have made its execution as difficult and ugly as possible.

[CHEERING]

Homophobia lives in New York City.

[CHEERING]

But although there is much joy and celebration today, I have come to make an angry statement. What I really want to talk about today is what we do to each other.

My worst experience this week came Tuesday night at the so-called comedy event hosted by Sandra Bernhard. To my horror, Sandra's theme was how ugly, stupid, and unfashionable lesbians are.

[BOOING]

Of course, I think she hasn't gotten over her rejection by Madonna, but that's another story.

[CHEERING]

Sandra said we should grow out our hair, dress more fashionably, and lose weight if we want to be accepted. She also told the audience, don't isolate yourselves from straight people. It's not a good idea to go off on your own. I would like to thank and quote comedian Karen Williams, who had the best line of the night, fuck you, Sandra Bernhard.

[CHEERING]

But the most disturbing part of all this was that Sandra was cheered by gay white men in the audience. It turned my stomach. You think I'm mistaken or kidding? One of those men called his lesbian friends a couple of days later to say, oh, it was great. She was saying all these great things about fat lesbians. You should have been there. He was shocked-- Michael, you know who you are. He was shocked when she yelled at him.

So I'm here to say to every man who thinks and acts like that, don't you get it? Do you really think you can continue your racism and sexism and elitism and get anywhere in this world?

[CHEERING]

Do you think spending 12 hours in front of a mirror, and then partying on the Battleship Intrepid is what this moment is all about?

[CHEERING]

This world can be a very ugly place. I call myself an activist because I am dedicated to principles of valuing the intrinsic worth of every human being. I am looking for a movement dedicated to true feminist principles. I am sickened by a world where men wage war, pillaging and destroying, raping every woman in their path, forcing clitoridectomy on girls, enslaving culturally different populations.

I am sick of hatred and selfishness and greed. I yearn for a world of peace and joy and cooperation. If the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender communities are not willing to enlist in this battle and assert these values that are not marching anymore, why do we, who have been so oppressed, want to oppress others?

[CHEERING]

It's a recipe for disaster, and it's exactly why we have an epidemic of AIDS and an epidemic of breast cancer among lesbians, because we are not committed to the value of every human being. I remain committed and optimistic and ready to fight, but I am not tolerating any more racism or sexism from gay white man. Thank you.

[CHEERING]

JULIE DRIZIN: Journalist Ann Northrup, New York based lesbian activist, on the stage at Stonewall 25, here live in Central Park.

I'm Julie Drizin. With us is Paula Ettelbrick of the National Lesbian Rights Center, and we were talking not long ago about some of the legal issues that lesbians face. You were talking about the child custody battle in Virginia. Is that same kind of battle happening in other places around the country?

PAULA ETTELBRICK: Yes. I think what people need to know about the Sharon Bottoms case, and the likelihood of children being taken away from lesbian parents, is that it's a very strong likelihood in a lot of states.

What is so significant about that case, and what is, I think, a turning point in the way lesbian moms and gay fathers are going to be treated in the courts, is that it was a Virginia court. Virginia still has a sodomy law that prohibits sexual conduct, and Sharon still lives with her partner, April Wade, and yet the judges were willing to give her custody of her child. But this is a significant problem that lesbians face always.

CARLETTA JOY WALKER: Is there still litigation around that? Are they taking it further?

PAULA ETTELBRICK: The mother has said that she's going to appeal to the Virginia Supreme Court.

JULIE DRIZIN: Which she may be successful at. Back to the stage with Urvashi Vaid, former director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force.

URVASHI VAID: Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people, where do we go from here? 25 years from now, when our movement marks Stonewall 50, what will it mean to be gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender? What do we want it to mean?

The answers to these questions are not simple, nor are they clear. And we do not agree with each other on the answers, nor might we ever agree. But my own attempts to answer these questions lead me to three conclusions.

First, that the task of replacing what Adrienne Rich called compulsory heterosexuality, with what our predecessors in the gay liberation movement called sexual freedom remains a task as pressing and as dangerous as it was 25 or 50 years ago.

Beyond this moment, beyond this beautiful moment of gay visibility and lesbian chic, underneath the alluring relief of mainstream integration, behind the gay advertising and smiles of corporate marketers lies the unyielding, unshifting, and largely undented bedrock of heterosexual supremacy. And that bedrock, my friends, in turn rests on a very narrow definition of manhood. Our assertion-- our assertion as queer people, that we are as normal, natural, and healthy as heterosexuals, threatens the uneasy manhood of this nation to its core.

[CHEERING]

That's what the military fight revealed. That's what the right wing is so freaked out about. To advance, we must find new words to face straight America's sexual anxiety. We need new courage, a kind of patience that we don't have right now, and we need to be really as honest as we dare about the beauty and diversity that is our lives.

The second point that I want to make about our future, it's that no political movement can change consciousness and laws without a sustaining moral vision.

Now, morality often adopts the pose of divinity, but its operation is quite secular. Moral frameworks are built out of the interaction of human lives. Our actions give meaning to right and wrong, good and evil, just and unjust. Gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people, by our existence up end, we broaden and we redefine what it means to be moral, to be spiritual, to be good.

And in the next 25 years, my friends, I call on us to deepen the meaning of that morality. Let us bring to this planet the most inclusive, responsive, progressive, and therefore prophetic moral vision of freedom that humankind has known.

[CHEERING]

Finally-- finally, my friends, the task of a political movement lies in the organizing and disciplined use of power. It takes power to bring about the changes we seek, and the exercise of that power depends on every one of you who can hear my voice. You must be political. If you are going to be gay, that's all there is to it.

[CHEERING]

Now, doctor-- yes. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once gave a beautiful definition of the power that I think we as a movement see. He said, quote, power is justice implementing the demands of love. Love is the foundation for all movements of social change and social justice. The demands of love challenge us to be compassionate and fair. The demands of love require a human embrace of human difference.

Love demands a commitment to alleviate poverty and suffering. Love demands kindness and respect. Love demands justice. Require, require our movement to speak out against racism and sexism and poverty and warmongering. We have to do it,

[CHEERING]

This next 25 years, call on our people to address the big questions of life, questions of hunger, shelter, and human misery. Questions of how to keep the focus on ending the AIDS epidemic. Questions of racial and ethnic hatred. Questions of gender inequality, gay visibility, gay pride.

The process of coming out of the closet are but the first baby steps we have taken to answer these larger questions. The more difficult steps are the enduring ones. They are steps that Nelson Mandela took for five decades as a fighter against racial hatred-- 27 years in prison.

They are the steps that gay South African activist Simon Nkoli has taken to organize against AIDS in South Africa. They are the steps of the gay and lesbian movement that India is taking as an organizers. They are the steps of the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights movement. They are the steps that each of you will take when you go home. Get involved. Keep up the resistance. We're going to win.

[CHEERING]

JULIE DRIZIN: A call to action from longtime lesbian activist and former director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, Urvashi Vaid. You're listening to Pacifica Radio's live coverage of Stonewall 25. I'm Julie Drizin with David Rothenberg and Carletta Walker.

Paula Ettelbrick, we want to thank you for joining us. If you could just briefly remind people what the National Center for Lesbian Rights is working on now, and how people can reach you.

**PAULA
ETTELBRICK:** NCLR addresses issues of discrimination and family and employment and other areas for lesbians. You can reach us through our New York office at 462 Broadway Suite 508, New York, 10013.

JULIE DRIZIN: Thank you so much for your work. I'm inviting everybody to stay tuned. There's much more ahead. Actually, not that much more, but some interesting things ahead. There are some folks performing on the stage now. Please stay with us for an important message after this.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

RAY MILLER: Hello. I'm Ray Miller, and you're listening to KPFT in Houston.

Stay tuned for *Radio Adventures* coming up in 24 minutes on Pacifica station KPFT.

JULIE DRIZIN: We're here in New York City's Central Park celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion, which gave birth to the modern gay/lesbian rights movement.

Before Stonewall, homosexuality was the love that dare not speak its name. People lived with their families in hiding until marriage. Gay people had to run away from home. In some places, they were sent to mental institutions or to prisons for acting on the love that they felt in their hearts.

And this is certainly a different time. Lesbians and gays have a great deal of visibility, but Pacifica Radio has been there documenting and following the lesbian and gay rights movement since its beginning before Stonewall, beginning in 1962 with a radio program on WBAI, and there are many lesbian and gay programs on Pacifica stations and community stations now around the country that are modeled on that program.

And we need to take a moment away from the march to ask you here for your support, which is desperately needed to defray from the costs of this very expensive broadcast. If you've been listening to this all along and have been glad to hear the voices of Urvashi Vaid and her call to action, and comic Kate Clinton, and actresses Kathy Najimy and others, telling you about why they are lesbian and gay, and support the gay rights movement if they're not, and talk about their own experiences, please give us a call. 1-800-497-3223. This is your last opportunity to support our broadcast. Carletta?

DAVID And it is an opportunity.

ROTHENBERG:

CARLETTA JOY Yeah, 1-800-497-3223. We've been out here all day greeting the program, sharing with you, sharing our
WALKER: perspective, bringing people from the stage who've been on the stage, people who haven't been on the stage. And we need your support to continue doing the work. We need to be here.

I was very moved. We covered Sweet Honey in the Rock, one of their anniversary concerts, and Bernice Reagan just said, we're important. You need to be here. Support us. And it was just moving to be in New York listening to the broadcast of Pacifica from Washington, and her saying, we support you, and knowing how long she's been in this struggle. And there are a lot of activists out here who know about the various stations around the country.

So call. Send us-- call and make your pledge to keep it on the air, all of you. 1-800-497-3223.

And this is an honor system. You know, you can listen, and you have listened all day. You cannot pay, but you can just contribute what you have. And it's \$25, \$45, \$60, \$100.

JULIE DRIZIN: And we're proud and thrilled to be here. It's obviously the kind of thing that Pacifica Radio's been doing for years, covering lesbian and gay marches, feminist marches, marches for reproductive freedom, marches for civil rights on Washington. We bring you those events because we know not all of you can get to Washington or New York to be there, and we're proud to bring you this event. But we do need your support.

1-800-497-3223. A pledge of \$60 will get you a couple of great cassettes to listen to at home about Stonewall and current lesbian and gay issues. David?

DAVID
ROTHENBERG: I just ran up on the stage and took a look out there to see what the million two look like, and you said at the beginning, the love we once called the love that dare not speak its name, today, and through us, it's the love that dare not shut up its mouth because there is so much to say, so much to communicate, so much to feel, so much to be emoted about, and it's an honor for us to be here with you.

And we hope that through your support to Pacifica-- I was going to say WKAI from many years of training-- but we hope that through your support that we will be at rallies like this in the future so that the progressive voice can be heard.

We're almost as weak compared to the dollars. We have the donuts from the dollars to donuts that Pat Robertson and Jerry Falwell and the repressive forces on the right are able to raise with their negotiating-- for you to go to heaven. We're telling you that heaven is here on Earth.

JULIE DRIZIN: And we're helping to make it that.

DAVID
ROTHENBERG: And we want to make it that way in this celebration of diversity. The notion at Pacifica is not that people who are different cannot be a part of it, but that we can embrace each other and find a bridge in which to find emotions and politics and human experiences that we can share. So your call to support us makes this possible.

CARLETTA JOY
WALKER: 497-3223. That's 1-800-497-3223.

JULIE DRIZIN: We're going to be speaking with Urvashi Vaid in a moment, but we want to continue to ask you for your support. If you are a lesbian or a gay man who first found a community-- or both at the same time-- first found a community of support through your public radio station and their local gay and lesbian programming, please give us a call. 1-800-497-3223.

I want to thank all of you who've helped to make this broadcast possible with your pledges. Please call your friends and tell us to-- tell them to call us at 1-800-497-3223. Thanks for your support.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

SPEAKER 2: This is your brain.

[POP]

This is your brain on KPFT, Houston.

[WASHING]

Any questions?

JULIE DRIZIN: This coverage continues. Joining us now is Urvashi Vaid.

URVASHI VAID: Urvashi.

JULIE DRIZIN: Urvashi? I'm sorry. I'm pronouncing your name wrong. You'll have to forgive me. But you gave an incredibly impassioned speech. It was a call to action. What are your concerns now about where our movement is headed?

URVASHI VAID: Well, I think that our movement is in very good shape, I mean, in a lot of ways. But we are facing some very dangerous times. There is an organized opposition that is mobilizing at the state level, and against that opposition quite frankly, we are weak.

The movement is stronger as a cultural movement. Gay people are more strong and proud and free, and creative communities all over this country and the world in which we can go to each other and take care of each other and strengthen each other, empower each other.

But our political movement remains fairly weak. We saw that last year in our inability to change the military policy. We see that in the losses at the state levels and the ballot boxes against the right wing. And I think that that, somehow, we have to find a way to bring the cultural and political together [INAUDIBLE].

DAVID ROTHENBERG: It's been said over and over again today that at school board levels, where there's been incredible inroads from the Christian fundamentalists, and yet many people in the gay community are not with children and don't get involved in school boards. How can we mobilize to be at that grassroots level in such vital areas like education-- like boards of eds and school boards and Board of Commissioners when we're-- well, we're everywhere, but there are actual factors that limit our participation?

URVASHI VAID: Yes. It's a big challenge. I think that it requires us to organize a much stronger stake in [INTERPOSING VOICES].

JULIE DRIZIN: Decentralize the movement?

URVASHI VAID: We've got good national organizations, but they can't do the job. Like, look here in New York. Empire State Pride Agenda is a state organization that exists, but it barely has any staff. People who live in New York and Albany and Rochester, large gated communities all across the state, aren't necessarily members.

It takes about \$10 to be a member. I mean, you know? That's one step. And through those kinds of networks-- see, we're in a disadvantage stage because the right can organize through the churches. They've got these institutions. They can reach people every week. They can keep going. And we have to create those institutions at the same time that we're doing education. The only national institution that our movement has is the gay and lesbian bars across this country.

JULIE DRIZIN: And Pacifica Radio.

URVASHI VAID: And-- right. Right.

DAVID ROTHENBERG: And states like Oregon and Missouri, which are now providing referendum on which people can have very repressive legislation. They have zeroed in under the radar and have taken over way beyond their numbers, and we have to develop a strategy--

URVASHI VAID: Well, you know, this is the beauty and the kind of terrifying thing about participatory democracy, a really well organized group-- a really well organized minority can exert tremendous influence, and that's what the Christian right is showing as it takes over the GOP state by state. They're doing it. And the Republican Party denies that they're doing it, but we see that happening in Texas, Virginia, and Idaho, and Iowa. I mean, you only have to wake up and look.

Now, there's nothing-- they have every right to organize like we do. That's not the point. The point is that these people have a very narrow agenda, and it's a dangerous agenda for all sorts of people. And our progressive movement is not together. It is not unified. We are all in single issue movement organizations.

DAVID Perhaps then it's incumbent on the gay and lesbian community to let progressives who are not gay and lesbian to
ROTHENBERG: know that they have something at stake and to create bridges, and understand the concerns of other facets of the progressive community for gays and lesbians to be visible outside the gay and lesbian movement. And coalition is our strength.

URVASHI VAID: And the wonderful thing about this moment is there are a lot of non-gay people who are really ready to get it. They're willing, they're here-- you've heard many speakers today. There's people and political leaders all across the country, and the city is willing to work.