

**SUBJECT 1:** --really ready. They get it. They're willing, they're here. You've heard many of the speakers today. There's people in here, political leaders all across the country and in this city who are willing to work, which is something that 10, 15 years ago was very, very rare. I just before my time is up here before we go upstairs--

**JULIE:** Oh, please stay with us. Please stay with us as long as you can.

**SUBJECT 1:** I'm just honored to be here with David Rothenberg who I hope the viewer-- the listeners, not the viewers--

**JULIE:** We can see him, but you can't.

**SUBJECT 1:** We can see him, and he's gorgeous. But he is an absolute pioneer in the history of the gay and lesbian political movement. And he was one of the first openly gay people to run for political office. He ran for city council in 1985 here in New York city, and the Rothenberg campaign brought together a whole lot of people who went on to create a national political movement like the human rights campaign [INAUDIBLE] and all [INAUDIBLE] [? that ?] it is today, so it's an honor for me as a political activist--

**DAVID** I may cry.

**ROTHENBURG:**

**SUBJECT 1:** And to know, to be here with you. David, I mean, it must be so thrilling to be here to see this happen that you have created.

**DAVID** Here in the dust for the behind the-- well, it's been an exciting 25 years. It's been an evolution for all of us.

**ROTHENBURG:**

**JULIE:** [? Irve, ?] I wanted to ask you the lesbian and gay community seems to have its foot in the white house door. We keep stubbing our toes--

**DAVID** The big toe,

**ROTHENBURG:**

**JULIE:** We keep stubbing our toes, but they keep slamming on us. But we do have some support in the White House. There's Roberta Achterberg over at HUD, there's Bob Hataway in interior. There seems to be some level of visibility and awareness. Is that to our advantage now or are we stronger when we're on the outside?

**SUBJECT 1:** Well, it's to our advantage without question, because you have to have access in order to get anywhere. And that's what our political movement, one of the biggest victories is access, political access.

**CARLETTA:** I think one always has to wonder though where you get with access.

**SUBJECT 1:** That's right. That's exactly what. That we're--

**DAVID** And being compromised, but where is Mitch Constanza when we need him?

**ROTHENBURG:**

**SUBJECT 1:** But you know what, access is not power is the way I would frame it. And part of the mobilizing that needs to be done is to generate true constituent power, which is not something that we are never going to do on our own as a minority, whatever our percentages are.

**DAVID** Now you better off with the big toe in the door, because when the whole body goes through [? to ?] the door,  
**ROTHENBURG:** you're a part of the system and you compromised yourself. But I certainly found out political--

**SUBJECT 1:** Ginny Apuzzo, bless her heart--

**DAVID** But she is one in a million.  
**ROTHENBURG:**

**SUBJECT 1:** Always says that the danger of a movement when you get in the door is appeasement. And she cautioned against appeasement last year. And I think she meant that caution should be replayed all the time, because that's part of what happens. The people who are in these positions then end up in the position of defending an administration, which you know quite frankly did the wrong thing on the military--

**CARLETTA:** It was a back stab.

**SUBJECT 1:** It's doing the wrong thing on health care by backing in and caving in. They should wage a principled fight, and they'd have a lot more support. [INAUDIBLE] I hope. Bill and Hillary are listening. Stand up for something for God's sake, and it's never going to work.

**CARLETTA:** But that's the nature. I think it's also not to put out a [? lead. ?] In the nature of politics you cannot get to be a President of the United States and stand up for too much of anything--

**SUBJECT 1:** Unless you pick some corporate career.

**CARLETTA:** But then you're talking about something else, and you're not going to be the president. I mean, it's a--  
[INTERPOSING VOICES]

**SUBJECT 1:** No, Reagan stood up for their agenda.

**JULIE:** He had an agenda, yes.

**DAVID** But it's easy for the right, because they don't believe in anything so compromise is what they are. Well, that's not  
**ROTHENBURG:** even compromise. It's look out for self.

**SUBJECT 1:** I actually have a lot of respect for the right. I've got to say.

**JULIE:** Remember this, you heard it here first.

**DAVID** I have a lot of fear.  
**ROTHENBURG:**

**SUBJECT 1:** I have a lot of fear too, and--

**CARLETTA:** I'd like to see some of the-- fail to see some of the distinction.

**DAVID** But when I put the whole body in politically, I realized that I wanted to get involved politically because I had  
**ROTHENBURG:** some passion about social issues, and I was constantly being told to compromise. And the only way I could continue with that is to get out of mainstream politics and work with the organizations that provide the pressure to the mainstream people.

**SUBJECT 1:** Yeah, it's a tough challenge for people who are political officials. But you got to believe. And I see around the country, there are tremendous folks at the state and local level who have done great, great work like Dale McCormick, an openly lesbian state legislator up in Maine, like Berkeley here in New York.

**DAVID ROTHENBURG:** Oh, yeah but Lincoln, New York and Tom Duane have been--

**CARLETTA:** I don't think the point is to deny that. I think that's very important that change happens. And that it's important I think at whatever level someone's working at, it becomes very important. But to think that it's going to make some of the fundamental change. It can accommodate a certain kind of change in the system and I think people have to [? get ?] [? started ?] there.

**JULIE:** And we're joined now by our famous lesbian comic, Kate Clinton. Kate, have you been having fun today?

**KATE:** It's been a blast. It's been like a gay lapalooza. When you look out there, it looks like Where's Waldo?

**JULIE:** How does this compare from the other marches that you've been on a stage for?

**KATE:** Oh. This is a little more festive I think. The gay pride march in D.C. is very serious and very political. This is wild and very New York.

**JULIE:** Well, you're sitting across the table from your partner, your lover. And you're an example of a very strong powerful together political progressive lesbian couple and--

**KATE:** Oh, shucks.

**JULIE:** [? I ?] [? was ?] wondering what advice you might have for other people out there, or about anything about relationships?

**DAVID ROTHENBURG:** We're going to over a 100 cities around the country.

**KATE:** Therapy. Just T get to therapy at some point. And go to therapy when you think you're really doing well. That's the ticket.

**JULIE:** Don't wait till a crisis.

**KATE:** No, don't wait till a crisis. Wait, until you really-- when you're doing well, that's when you go to therapy. But I think one of the best things about our relationship besides--

**DAVID ROTHENBURG:** Is that you're so cute, both of you.

**KATE:** Is that we're both very cute and the sex is fabulous, but-- oh my goodness.

**WOMAN:** Honey.

**KATE:** But the most important thing about our relationship--

**DAVID** Is your being [? reticent ?] about it.

**ROTHENBURG:**

**KATE:** Is that we share. Is that we share a lot of the same political vision, and we are so happy. We're so happy to share that.

**JULIE:** What are you working on now?

**CARLETTA:** How about her humor though? Does her humor compete with yours?

**KATE:** No, she has the biggest laugh in the world, and she laughs all the time.

**WOMAN:** Especially at my own jokes.

**KATE:** At her own jokes, yeah.

**DAVID** But we're going into communities like Bridgeport, Connecticut

**ROTHENBURG:**

**JULIE:** Oh, great.

**DAVID** And Salem, and there's Oregon, and Columbia.

**ROTHENBURG:**

**JULIE:** Been there.

**DAVID** Columbia, Missouri, and Boulder, Colorado.

**ROTHENBURG:**

**JULIE:** Been there.

**DAVID** And people may be isolated, but we're a million and two of us here estimated today, and they're there in the  
**ROTHENBURG:** communities as activists and as a couple. Give us a Dr. Ruth at counsel.

**WOMAN:** You know [INAUDIBLE] Dr. Ruth.

**KATE:** That's her roots.

**DAVID** She's here and she can't see us.

**ROTHENBURG:**

**KATE:** She's smart, she can still-- But you know I think that one of the things is that you're not alone. You're absolutely not alone. And you can advertise for a potluck, you can get people to come over. You are not alone. You're not alone as a single person, you're not alone as a couple. And that you just have to reach out, and come out of the closet in your own best way.

And there are people out there. And the potluck is the standard way of meeting, and so I think that people need to meet can meet that way, they can meet doing AIDS work together, doing any rape crisis work, all of the ways people meet in a community.

**SUBJECT 1:** Well, the other thing I would say is that this movement is not going away and people should take heart in that, no matter what the setbacks are. And some people are facing some really grisly situations and really hard times. Whether it's about AIDS, or violence, or the organizing of the right wing.

**AUDIENCE:** Poverty.

**SUBJECT 1:** I think that people have to take-- yes, indeed. Have to take heart and keep the faith, because as my favorite poet W.H Auden said, goodness is timeless. Goodness is timeless.

**DAVID ROTHENBURG:** The movement isn't going away, but we're told the broadcast is.

**SUBJECT 1:** Oh, we love you. Support your public radio.

**DAVID ROTHENBURG:** We're getting signals from all sorts of signals of people at authority.

**SUBJECT 1:** Support Pacifica.

**DAVID ROTHENBURG:** That was good.

**SUBJECT 1:** Support Pacifica.

**JULIE:** Thank you both so much for joining us.

**DAVID ROTHENBURG:** Authority reigns supreme even at Pacifica. When we think we're independent and free, the power of the clock takes its toll.

**KATE:** Thanks guys. [INAUDIBLE].

**JULIE:** Well we do still have a few minutes left. I'm Julie Drizin with David Rothenberg--

**DAVID ROTHENBURG:** Today.

**JULIE:** [INAUDIBLE].

**SUBJECT 1:** Today, right.

**JULIE:** Carletta, Joy Walker. We've been with you for the last 5 hours, got off to a bit of a rough start technically. But we hope that you've been able to hear

**CARLETTA:** We smoothed it out.

**JULIE:** Right? [INAUDIBLE]

**CARLETTA:** We shield all the people out here.

**SUBJECT 1:** Well, we brought you a day that has been highlighted by some great political speeches like the one that Irv did not long ago. Right now there is a speech being signed on the stage. We've seen RuPaul, Carol Channing perform. Liza Minnelli performed.

**DAVID** [INAUDIBLE] the Dallas Cowboys, or whatever they were. And a beautiful troupe from Thailand of men and  
**ROTHENBURG:** women dancing. Gorgeous.

**JULIE:** But there have been choruses, and dance groups, and drag shows.

**DAVID** Fairies and everything. Dykes on bikes. Oh, what a gala.  
**ROTHENBURG:**

**JULIE:** It's been an incredible day bringing together all the diversity and beauty of the lesbian and gay community.

**DAVID** We should have Beatrice Lillie singing there are fairies on the bottom of my-- at the bottom of my garden right  
**ROTHENBURG:** now.

**CARLETTA:** (SINGING) There are fairies at the bottom of my garden.

**JULIE:** We'll have Carletta sing it for us. Any thoughts from you, David?

**DAVID** The thought is that I am totally exhausted and stimulated at the same time, exhilarated and filled with dust, and  
**ROTHENBURG:** hopeful that people can still call in and support. We love being with you below these last three days broadcasting to you. Oh, it's only been 6 hours.

**JULIE:** It's felt like a week, hasn't it.

**DAVID** No, the minutes have flown by like hours. But we hope that your support of us will keep us with you. And the next  
**ROTHENBURG:** time a major event of progressive, and political, and social, passion, and importance that we will be with you. And a barometer of that will be your fiscal support of us. And I'd be given something to read, but I don't have my glasses on.

**CARLETTA:** 180049 PEACE. That's our number. 18004973223. That's 18004973223. Make a pledge.

**DAVID** I don't even know how to thank you?  
**ROTHENBURG:**

**JULIE:** Carletta, some thoughts from you?

**CARLETTA:** Well, you know what I thought? We've been here talking about the dust, and it certainly is oppressive, but--

**DAVID** [INAUDIBLE]  
**ROTHENBURG:**

**CARLETTA:** Not to have a heavy note, but I think about the workers. Cotton, cotton dust. I think about the [? mines ?] who really have to suffer this dust because of cheap prices and all sorts of things. And I don't like to breathe dust, and I don't like the pollution. And one of the things that I thought even coming here is the next time I come to a demonstration in the next few years, I would like to see all these motorcycles with solar energy power or something like that, and I want to clean up the brown lung.

**DAVID** And we also want to say hello to Larry [? Guttenberg ?] from Pacifica who was to have joined us. And health

**ROTHENBURG:** conditions have kept him away from us today, but he's been with us in spirit. He's been present with us, and we love you, Larry. And hope that you're feeling strong and that this broadcast if you're listening with us today, is empowering you.

**CARLETTA:** Absolutely.

**JULIE:** 25 years ago lesbians and gay men fought back on a routine police raid at our mafia-owned bar in Greenwich Village known as the Stonewall Inn. They were mad. They weren't going to take it anymore. The police got barricaded into that bar.

**CARLETTA:** We're here and we're queer.

**JULIE:** Some queens, right? Some queens picked up a--

**DAVID** Queens from the Bronx.

**ROTHENBURG:**

**CARLETTA:** They took off their high heels and said, OK, you see what this-- let me show you what this can do.

**JULIE:** Right. They fought back and began our movement, which more than anything is a movement about dignity.

**CARLETTA:** Yes.

**JULIE:** As well as a movement about international human rights. And what was born out of the Stonewall riots were the Gay Activist Alliance and the Gay Liberation Front, two of the groups that gave birth to the modern gay and lesbian rights movement. Of course, there were gay "activists," in quotes, before then. Mattachine and B.O.B, but they were more mainstream.

**DAVID** I was a gay passive before that.

**ROTHENBURG:**

**JULIE:** Before you were-- you remained passive?

**DAVID** And it politicized me. I was living across the street from Stonewall and watched it all from behind Venetian blinds

**ROTHENBURG:** that I looked out, and thought I couldn't dare go out on the street because if someone recognized me, I would be identified as part of the movement. And 25 years later, I can't keep my mouth shut talking about it. And I hope that we are here, and every time there's a celebration for freedom whether it be part of the gay movement or the anti-war movement, or a continuation of the civil rights struggle

**JULIE:** The rights of workers.

**DAVID** The struggle for justice, and for people in prison, and for all the people who link up with Pacifica emotionally and

**ROTHENBURG:** hopefully financially.

**CARLETTA:** Can I also mention Judy [? Grant ?] who is a white working class lesbian whose work impressed me and started to press. A lot of this is readers-- people took things into their own hand out in California, heard a handful of women just did this. And a woman I know in Philadelphia who wrote a book a *Black Lesbian in White America*, Anita Cornwell who's in her 70s. And just it does everything, and just put this out here powerfully. People have been doing this, and they've been doing it alone, and then they're doing it together, and then they just keep doing it. So this goes out to a lot of people.

**DAVID  
ROTHENBURG:** And Kate Clayton said you are not alone, and we are not alone.

**CARLETTA:** Absolutely.

**JULIE:** And these are very important times. Times when there are battles over school boards, and battles over sex and AIDS education, and the rights of artists who are gay and lesbian to express themselves, the right wing is attacking. Thank you all for your support once again. Our phone number is 18004973223. You've been listening to Pacifica Radio's live coverage of the Stonewall 25 march and celebration here in Central Park.

Thanks to member station WBAI, and other Pacifica stations, and their listener supporters. Our engineers were John O'Leary and Grace [? Challoner. ?] Our technical director was George Wellington. Reporters, Victoria [? Starr, ?] John [? Beaupre, ?] and Bob Storm. Production assistants included Ellen [? Kahn ?] and Sayeeda [? McLaughlin, ?] and Felicia Phillips.

Thanks to Amy [? Eddings, ?] Marilyn Pittman, Joseph Charles for their reports. Our director was Mario [? Murillo. ?] Co-producers Bill Wax and Laura Flanders. For David Rothenberg and Carletta Joy Walker, I'm Julie Drizin reminding you to support Pacifica at 1800497323. Thanks for being with us.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

**MAN:** You will not hear me refer to anyone's lifestyle. If you want to know what a moronic word lifestyle is, all you have to do is realize that in a technical sense Attila the hun had an active outdoor lifestyle.

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

[MUSIC PLAYING]

(SINGING) I say I am. Yes, I am. Yes, I am. Yes, I am. I am your passion. Your voice--

**WOMAN:** Mellisa Etheridge, one of many lesbian and gay voices. Lesbian and Gay Voices is a program that brings the lesbian and gay community as close as your radio. We feature local, state, national, and international news, music and community events, interviews, book reviews and commentary. So tune in Fridays from 6:00 to 8:00 PM to Lesbian and Gay Voices on KPFT, World Radio 90.1 FM.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

**BILL:** And this is Bill [? Facen. ?] You're listening to Pacifica station KPFT in Houston broadcasting on 90.1 FM from the heart of Montrose. Stay tuned for Radio Adventures.



[MUSIC PLAYING]

**PRESENTER:** It's Saturday night. We're--