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SUMMARY KEYWORDS

lesbian, gay, people, gay bars, homosexual, called, public television, community, hear, stonewall inn, pro choice, vote, morals, include, astrodome, drag queens, police, night, women, school board



00:00

For some folks, I think it's also unfortunate that TV stations would not take a stand to say we're going to reflect the lives of all Americans, and that includes 10% of the population 25 million Americans who happen to be lesbians and gay men.



00:20

Edelbrock disputed the claim of some critics of PBS like North Carolina Senator Jesse Helms, that public broadcasting is meant on presenting only liberal or minority viewpoints.



00:32

The concern among a few senators about what is being portrayed in public television is simply a way of trying to pull funding and censor any kind of media that tries to look at a broader range of human existence in this society. The commercial television stations are already bought and sold by commercial advertisers. Public Television is the only place where a broader base of society has some outlet to an expression of their concerns of their lives of their thoughts. In a society in which killing 20 people on primetime television and a cops and robbers kind of chase or sexually explicit scenes that depict women in secondary or exploitative positions if that's somehow allowed. It's hard for me to understand how loving human relationships between people with the same sex would be at all, threatening or bad for the minds of or morals of anyone who watches television, to victims of lesbians and gay men isn't particularly normal, at least by television standards, but it is a real way of life. Just as nice as dogs get and they use that taxpayers money on tobacco and freedom of expression. But if you're not sure what you like, and just



01:59

and when gays and lesbians want to speak for themselves on TV, the controversy really hits the fan. Condemnation of a proposed monthly variety show on public television called in the life has even found its way into the US Congressional Record. Jenny Bourne has the details.



02:18

In the live producer John's Gagliardi says it's time there was a regularly scheduled gay and lesbian television program. He created the pilot for in the life with funds gathered from individual subscribers and grants. He says the program is designed in part to counteract stereotypical images of lesbians and gays



02:36

in our society. Gays and lesbians are perceived as problematic, you know, the problems we have over dealing police and, and and anti gay bashing, those types of things, questions of health, all those, what we wanted to do was open it up to include a lot of other areas too. So by having what we call a variety show, we can bring in talents as well as problems, and it allows the viewer to see a whole range of the gay and lesbian experience in this country. In the



03:16

show designed with slick graphics and a studio audience is a showcase for gay and lesbian talents, issues and ideas posted by comedian Kate Clinton. The pilot for the program is a celebration of gay and lesbian pride, featuring the Gay Men's Chorus and musicians Castleberry and to pray. I am your



03:35

host, or as I like to think of it the dominatrix. Well, it's tough to be a dominatrix in a kinder, gentler nation. Now I know a lot of you are thinking gosh, not another show on gays and lesbians on television.



03:53

The program attracted the attention of Senator Robert Dole, who read his criticism of what he called this Ed Sullivan Show for gays into the Congressional Record. Dole asked if this is what taxpayers had in mind when they donated money to PBS. The show's producer says



04:09

it's too bad that public television isn't more funded by the taxpayers dollars, but very few dollars now are going into public television. In our case, none more. Gays and lesbians are major funding source for the right and America. You see leaflet after leaflet or whatever direct mail after direct mail within the fundamentalist community, which says, you know, the only way we can have family values and stop the homosexuals is for you to give us money. It scapegoats a group people such as gays into an area that people can divide and hate and that is what they're primarily up to.



04:47

Producers are still looking for funding for this series conceived as a monthly program, but they say they'll begin production this fall with or without the money to continue. I'm Jen Eborn



05:02

in the hi this is Greg Gordon for this way out. I'm pleased to tell you that sitting across from me is Jeff Horton, the openly gay member of the Board of Education of the city of Los Angeles. Jeff, the impetus of getting you in front of the microphone, was the proclamation issued unanimously surprising to me anyway, by the school board, declaring June as Lesbian Gay Pride Month in the Los Angeles city schools,



05:34

we adopted a motion to create a gay and lesbian Education Commission back in the fall. This will be a community group from our community of people to make recommendations to the school board, particularly as regards gay and lesbian students. So that was one step. Then we adopted a document, which I had helped on over the past couple of years called educating for diversity, which was a framework for all kinds of diversity, really, mostly racial and ethnic diversity, but which included sexual orientation, gender, handicap and other cultural issues as well. Then when I brought this resolution, I just don't think people really want to argue about it. They sort of thought it was right even though they were definitely not eager some of them to deal with it. One board member abstained Warren furutani, the president of the board, everybody else voted for it. Surprisingly since then, Barbara Boudreau has sort of recanted and has joined some of the the one demonstration that a handful 100 or so parents and other community people had downtown against the resolution, she did address them as her people.



06:43

Among her people is the Christian Coalition, which claimed responsibility for a petition circulated during Sunday services at several area churches. The form letter addressed dear principal reads in part, I am appalled that the LA school board voted to accost my child with immorality by designating June as gay and lesbian Pride Month. My child is not to see one thing including posters, work handouts, printed materials, videos, etc, that have anything to do with the promotion of the gay and lesbian Pride Month. My child has not to hear anything connected with homosexuality, bisexuality, pedophilia, Beastie ality or cross generational sex. In addition, at no time in the school year is my trial to hear, see or participate in anything that has to do with the gay and lesbian lifestyle. A definition of such anything to do with the sexual activity is of that deviant behavior, or even hear the words, the teaching of the immoral behavior or lifestyles mentioned above violates my moral convictions? Reporter Garrett Gallagher spoke briefly with Christian coalition spokesman James bowl Bush about his group's objections to the Pride Month proclamation,



07:49

I don't believe you're born. Homosexual is a choice. And when you're talking about what we

believe is a sin outside of outside of marriage, we believe sex is a sin. And that includes, you know, heterosexual as well as homosexual and it just doesn't need to be taught to our kids. Why should a



08:05

group of students suffer? Because a small group is opposed to them. gay and lesbians do suffer from a higher dropout rate and suicide rate?



08:16

Well, when you're talking about going into the classroom, I don't think that they really do personally. I mean, they may and you know, we can change people I you know, I'm not against the homosexuals, you know, if they want to, you know, live that lifestyle, that is their choice. But when they go into the school system and trying to export that down to the kindergarten level, that's where we have a problem.



08:38

I'm so sick and tired of the morality issue being laid out at us. And I'm just wondering how you react to all of this.



08:46

I am pleased as I could be that so much controversy was stimulated by it, frankly, because it means that it was being discussed all over the place. It was near the end of the month before anybody noticed it, and then it hit pretty hard for a week or two, there was a lot in the various media about it. So I know it was being talked about in lots of places and what more could we ask for?



09:09

And there doesn't seem to be any indication as far as you can see, the school board recanting Oh, normal vote



09:15

any that might consider that I've really made it clear to them that the controversy was much greater. If I were to rescind it, that coordination and lots of people would be that and then we would really organize against them. So they're just taking the heat and they're getting support to you know, the community is supporting. We really are relying on the gay and lesbian teachers frankly and parents but mainly the teachers to step forward at their schools and think of things that can be done appropriate to age next year to celebrate this month.



09:53

Thanks for choosing this way out the international lesbian and gay radio magazine this week Cindy Reedman Mark suck Amano Matt binder Tom Young Jenny born Garrett Gallagher and Emil Harris contributed program material. Thanks also to Herman pedia Susan gage Mike alkali, Graham Underhill and Don rush and Pacifica network news,



10:15

Heather Bishop, Loudon Wainwright, the third and romanovski and Phillips performs some of the music you heard and Kim Wilson composed and performed our theme music.



10:23

This way out is brought to you each week by a staff of community volunteers and is sustained by financial support from the community. Funding for satellite distribution in some expenses has been provided by the Paul Rapoport Foundation and the funding exchange



10:38

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



10:44

And please let us hear from you with any comments, suggestions or questions you might have. Or just to let us know you're listening right to this way out, Post Office Box 38327, Los Angeles, California 90038. And be sure to include the call letters of this station. This way I was produced by Lucia Chapelle and Greg Gordon, and we thank you for listening on W ITR, Rochester planes FM, Christchurch and krcl, Salt Lake City, among others, and for supporting this local community radio station.



11:17

Keep on staying tuned.



11:21

And we'd like to thank you for listening to after hours here on KPFT 90.1 FM in Houston. And where you can hear this way out every Saturday night, Sunday morning at 1:15am. We had a caller call in just as this way I was getting started that wanted to make sure we mentioned something about the latest letter from the Vatican. Vatican threatening letters about oh yeah,

he's the last one came out in 1987. It was it's known in church circles is the rat zing or letter because Ratzinger wrote it. But it basically said that we were all there morally evil or some such, I don't remember the exact wordings. And I didn't get up here with mine newspaper article that talked about the latest letter from the Vatican. But it basically reiterates what the Vatican has said about us before in 1987. But it takes it a step further, because most of the the church hierarchy in the United States has kind of not really turned a deaf ear to the letter because most of the church hierarchy anywhere is not real favorable towards our gay community. But it's specifically directs the bishops in the United States to do everything in their power to ensure that laws that criminalize homosexual behavior remain on the books are trying to do everything in their power to ensure that new laws protecting the rights of homosexuals don't get passed, to make sure that everything in their power to keep laws from being passed that would legalize our relationships, or protect our jobs or whatever, as as a civil rights issue. They don't want any of that to happen, because they feel like we're still morally bankrupt. And



13:36

how very interesting.



13:38

So it goes, hmm, I



13:41

wonder how all the gay priests and ministers and nuns and so on and so forth down the line feel about that role, I'm



13:49

sure they probably aren't real supportive of it. But the other side of that coin is unless they can all band together and come out at once. So to say, they're in fear of losing their jobs,



14:03

because if we're in we're 10% of the entire population, they've got to be 10% of that population.



14:10

A priest friend in Oklahoma told me once that from the numbers of people he had met in the Catholic community that were off that he knew were gay, that he would put that number in the priesthood a closer to 60 to 70%. That's kind



14:29

of what I would figure two. Their jobs are on the line just like mine.



14:35

So you know, if they could all come together and come out all at once, then the church wouldn't have much of a leg to stand on because they can't fire we will fire all of their leaders in the country.



14:46

Well, what are these lovelies do one Sunday mornings? Well, I



14:50

mean, it would leave a lot of their churches floundering. But so we've talked about that. We had a phone call from Ryan wanting to donate give me a homosexual donate. Dedicate



15:06

whichever. donate



15:09

whatever. So Matt This is from Ryan with love



15:29

would you like to do something interesting I believe what awaits us first is to pretty ladies that were down the block that greed house with three dogs in the yard. And I asked the water so Daddy at their house. So they said it's because they they told me it. Yes. And I see the kiss each other goodbye on their porch yesterday, I would ask model mother and she knew what a lesbian was. She said she didn't know. So I told her. She knows now that I will change by April either. Towards the end. I think it sounds cute.



16:16

And



16:18

I just love to thank him, he'd be paying me to think lesbian.



16:23

And before that we heard a song.



16:28

Yes, we then give me a homosexual and something else.



16:33

PHILLIPS And something else that just kind of



16:36

kind of walked away from a concept.



16:42

But two o'clock, we're going to we're going to play the Stonewall type, the history of the Stonewall Riots runs about 30 minutes long, a wonderful team that's coming up here in about five minutes. Matt called back he had called us originally that's to make sure we mentioned the the new Vatican letter. And he said, as he read what he read about it that you know, I mean basically says that not only do they feel like gay and lesbian rights should not be protected as civil rights. But that gay and lesbian people don't deserve civil rights.



17:27

Wonder when they're gonna open the concentration camps again. Any day, I'm straining for thought.



17:34

But, of course, the big political news of the week is that Ross Perot is not running for president. I don't have to move to Canada. After the things I heard about him, from several people in Dallas, that were down for the Democratic state convention in June, that it can definitely be considered a sigh of relief from our community, because from what they were saying, basically, he makes George Bush look liberal. Where our issues are concerned, regardless of what he has said about our issues, but he said, you know, he has said things on many occasions, but his actions speak a lot louder than his word. So



18:19

Mr. Pro has been around in Texas for an awful long time in history just kind of stands on its own. So leverage, just don't change your spots overnight. And that's the thing that people have to remember when they start talking about voting and registering to vote and so on. You don't just register to vote and go out and push a few holes, a little piece of paper. on voting day you have to study you have to find out who you're voting for and what they're all about. And it's not everything that's on television. Do your homework.



18:52

And of course, the Democrats just finished their national convention and in his acceptance speech on Thursday evening, while he didn't specifically say the words gay and lesbian, do they ever, do they? Bill Clinton did refer to traditional family values, not just for what the Republicans consider to be a family but also extended families. And I have no doubt that Mr. Clinton intended for that to include our communities, families and definitions of families as well.



19:28

Let's face it, Miss Richards was up there on that stage. He wouldn't dare say anything otherwise it should go back and and get that man if he's not careful.



19:38

So that's going to be shaping up. Very interestingly, needless to say, as things progress in August, of course, the Republicans will be here having their convention at the Astrodome. Yeah, I'm excited and there's going to be a rally April. Choice rally. Actually, I've I've got two different dates here. I have a date of Saturday, August 15, for a pro choice rally at three o'clock in the afternoon, but I'm not sure where. But the phone number for that is 9812884. And then on Monday, at six o'clock in the evening, there's going to be to do a march and rally for pro choice. We have some



20:40

fliers. My goodness, this is gonna be a busy month



20:45

to be able to do it here. So



20:46

the one on the 15th.



20:48

Okay, the one on the one on Monday, the 17th is at 6pm. It's a march from Hermann Park at the corner of Fannin in North McGregor to the Astrodome. And this is saying, Oh, I'm sorry, that's not that's not choice. That's why I've got two different dates. The choice rallies on Saturday, the 15th at three o'clock, and I'm not sure where the march on August the 17th at 6pm. Is, says storming Astrodome, the time for talk is over 11 plus years into the AIDS crisis in the federal government still has no national AIDS plan their reports and empty promises are not enough join act up the AIDS coalition to unleash power in a mass mass protest and civil disobedience at the Republican National Convention. And since I know the group was denied a parade permit, I'm sure that the March will be considered a form of civil disobedience. And it will be interesting to see how that handled locally. So it is something that you could be could be risking arrest for. But if you would like more information on that you can call coordination locally at 5292969. To get more information on exactly what's going to be happening there.



22:17

She give the number for the other for the



22:21

pro choice rally. Again, the phone number is 981 to 884.



22:25

From what I understand that that's the now organization, they're bringing in like 20,000 people,



22:34

there will be there gonna be people sending on the city of Houston for all kinds of reasons, gay and lesbian rights, the AIDS crisis. pro choice, obviously is a major issue to a lot of people. And there are a lot of women in the Republican Party who were who are saying they're going to vote Democrat this time because of the Republicans stance against choice.



23:01

Well, if we're not real careful and don't start making these things, then we will end up like the nice ladies in Ireland.



23:07

And that was a well actually there was another interesting thing that Clinton said in his speech Thursday night, and NSA said i i read his speech in the paper on Friday morning because I

wasn't home Thursday night. But in the copy of the text that the Chronicle printed, he made the comment. I'm not pro abortion. I'm pro choice. And there's a big difference. But the party is pro choice, and I am pro choice. And we will do everything in our power to ensure that a woman always has the right to choice.



23:46

There is a big difference. And I'm not sure how many people don't realize there's a big difference in even just the two phrases. And that's another case of doing your homework.



23:56

So it's two o'clock so let's go to the history of the Stonewall riots, and find out a little bit about how our gay movement came about.



24:21

Today, this white two story building across from Sheridan Square in Greenwich Village is a clothing store and a closed Chinese restaurant 20 years ago. This was the Stonewall Inn. I'm Michael shirker and I'm working on the first comprehensive history of the Stonewall riots. In 1969, the Stonewall was one of the most popular gay bars in New York City, and, like all other gay bars was routinely rated by the Vice Squad. The patrons of these bars many of whom were frightened and having their identities revealed Would by at least submit to any orders coming from the police. Yet, on June 27 1969, that all changed. The patrons of this bar with the drag queens at the forefront decided to fight back against the police. What happened here on that night would spark a revolution.



25:22

My I'm Jean Harwood, and my age is 80.



25:30

I'm Bruce mero.



25:33

He wants to go so we'd like to know what your age is. So



25:36

my age 78 Yes,



25:40

I don't, I don't, I don't know if it's really true. But now people do refer to us as the two oldest gay men in America. We do have I think, have baby or a record relationship of almost 60 years together, Bruce's memory started going bad in 1984 Fortunately, we have we have our music together, which we've which we've done over the years, we've we've written any number of songs, Bruce remembers the melodies very well and the lyrics of the songs. When you would, when you took my thing happen, I had



26:39

never been



26:41

gay before Stonewall was was a very difficult proposition because we felt that in order to survive, we had to try to look and act as as straight as possible. The attitude the general attitude of society as far as employers were concerned and landlords, all of these people were very hostile and and to protect ourselves, we had to act as rugged and manly as possible to, to get by



27:21

and my name is Randy. I was the first openly gay person to appear on radio in 1962. And on television in 1964, as a self identified homosexual in the air before Stonewall people felt a need to hide because of the precarious nickel position they were in, they would lose their jobs. There was a great hostility socially speaking in the sense of people found out you were gay, they assume you were a communist or a child molester. Any of another dozen stereotypes are rampant in the public media at the time.



27:58

I'm Jerry fair, and I'm 80 years old. I started a gay lifestyle in 1948 when I was around 3940 At that time, if there was even a suspicion that you were gay, that you were a lesbian. You were fired from your job. And you were in such a position of disgrace that you slunk out without saying goodbye, even to the people that liked you when you like, never even bothered to clean your desk. You just disappeared. You just disappeared. You went quietly because you were afraid that the recommendations that would come if you even stood there protested would be worse than just



28:53

leave. My name is Sylvia Rivera. My name before that was bravery bear until I started dressing in drag in 1961.



29:04

There are before us now war. As a hider. There was always the gay bash wins under drag wins



29:15

by heterosexual man, women and the police. We learned to live with it because it was part of the lifestyle at that time, I guess. But none of us were very happy about it.



29:33

My name is Seymour pine. In 1968, I was assigned as Deputy Inspector in charge of public morals in the first division in the police department which covered South Manhattan from 38th Street to the battery, including the Greenwich Village area. It was a duty of public morals to enforce all laws concerning vice In gambling, including prostitution, narcotics, and laws, and regulations concerning homosexuality. The part of the penal code which applied to drag queens, was section two four 0.35. Section four, being masked, or in any manner disguised by unusual or unnatural attire, or facial alteration, loiters remains or congregates. In a public attack



30:38

time we looked at the sky around not to try to figure out when and when this harassment would come to an end. When knowing and we would always dream that one day, it would come to an end when such and we prayed and we looked for it wanted to be human beings



31:18

My name is Rob Mahoney. I've been hanging out drinking, partying and working and the gay boys for the last 30 years. In the era before Stonewall, all, all of the boys 90% of the boys were mafia controlled. They were controlled because the mafia had the right connections. There wasn't there wasn't that many gay boards. It had maybe one two uptown. In the Upper East Side, they would get closed down and they'd be wanted to in the west side, they get closed down and midtown they'd be 123, maybe open. As they would get closed down, they'd move around. And they would



32:07

dump on Joan Nestle, co founder of what is now the largest collection of lesbian culture in the world. The police raided lesbian bars regularly. And they did it. They both did it in the most obvious way, which was calling women away and paddy wagons but they there was regular weekend harassment, which would consist of the police coming in regularly to get their payoffs. And in the sea colony, we had a back room with a red light. And when that red light went on, it

meant the police would be arriving in around 10 minutes. And so we all had to sit down at our tables. And we would be sitting there almost like schoolchildren. And the cops would come in now depending on who was on which cop was on. If it was some that really resented the butch women who were with many times very beautiful women. We knew we're in for it because what would happen is they would start harassing one of these women and saying hi, you think you're a man come outside, we'll show you and the woman would be dragged away. They throw up against a wall. And they'd say so you think you're a man? Let's see what you got in your pants and they would put their hand down our pants don't Whoa,



33:25

that was good. That was just to get into the stone wall. You'd walk up and you'd knock on the front door. In knock and the door would open in a Mary sent me good conning girls, you know, when you walked in to your right was your ballroom, no windows down at the far end of the bar was an opening in the wall going into the dance room with the jukebox in that room. And no one does in that room either. The stone wall, like all gay bars at that time, were painted black. Charcoal, black. And White was the funny but the place would be so dimly lit. But as soon as the cops are going to commend to collect their percentage or whatever they were coming in for, from it being a nice, dimly lit, dump. The place was lit up like Luna Park



34:27

fell wild to guys and that's very often what we sent in would be two men could handle 200 people. I mean, you tell them to leave, and they leave. And you say show me your identification and they all take out their identification and file out and that's it and you say okay, you're not a man, you're a woman, or you're vice versa and you wait over there. I mean, this is a kind of power that you have



35:03

and you never gave it a second thought a drag queen took a lot of oppression and we had to. We, we were at a point where I guess nothing would have stopped us. I guess, as they say or as Shakespeare says, We will ladies and waiting just waiting for the thing to happen. And when it did happen, we were there.



35:38

On Friday night, June 27 1969, at about 1145 eight officers from public morals First Division loaded into four unmarked police cars. From their headquarters on 21st Street and Third Avenue. They headed downtown and then west toward the Stonewall Inn here at Seventh Avenue and Christopher Street. It was the second time the bar was raided that week. The local sixth precinct had just received a new commanding officer who kicked off his tenure by initiating a series of raids on gay bars. And New York was in the midst of a mayoral campaign. Always a bad time for homosexuals. Mayor John Lindsay had good reason to agree to the police crackdown. He had just lost his party's primary and needed a popularity boost. And the Stonewall Inn was indeed an inviting target. Operated by the Gambino crime family without a

liquor license. This dance bar drew a crowd of drag queens, hustlers miners, and more masculine lesbians known as Bulldogs. Many were black or Hispanic. It was a warm night in New York City and a somber day for many. Judy Garland, who had died earlier in the week was buried that morning. It was almost precisely at midnight that the moral squad pulled up to the Stonewall Inn, led by Deputy Inspector see more prime,



37:08

there was never any reason to feel that anything of any unusual situation would occur that



37:17

night. He could actually feel it. You really could. I guess Judy Gall was just really helped us feel he had



37:27

fed for some reason. Things were different this night. As we were bringing the prisoners out, they were resisting.



37:36

People started gathering in front of us Sheridan Square Park right across the street from Stonewall. People were upset. No, we're not going to go and people started screaming and hollering



37:55

one drag queen, as we put her in the car, opened the door on the other side and jumped out at which time, we have to chase that person. And he was caught back into the car made an another attempt to get out the same door the other door. And at that point, we had to hand cut the person. From this point on, things really began to get crazy.



38:31

My name is Robert Rivera. My nickname is Bertie. And I've been cross dressing all of my life. I remember the night of the riots. The police were escorting the queens out of the barn into the paddy wagon. And there was this one particularly outrageously beautiful queen with stacks and stacks of wood with the style with his tail style hair. And she was asking them not to push her and they continued to push her and she turned around and she matched the park with her high heels. She knocked them down and then she proceeded to frisk him for her the keys to land and so on.

