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SUMMARY KEYWORDS

lesbian, gay, talking, hear, work, community, law, group, coming, brenda, music, today, massachusetts, happened, place, eric, domestic partners, god, aids, vocals



00:02

Good evening and parade started like three, three o'clock and we were just a tad bit late.



00:09

I'm familiar with that.



00:12

We went ahead on and caught a cab and paid him to move extra fast to go down the streets get us down to mothers where we were supposed to catch on float tonight and Eric and this other guy just took off run and I guess they saw the flow Brynden are running behind him the float had already started down the street Oh, I saw tonight his hair whipped around the corner gone and Brendan Where did they go where they go we asked him about this you see tonight and we heard them way down at Dunlavy because Brendan I stopped and Wendy's okay we need a big injury and then we she said no well maybe we can catch up so we ran I mean everybody saw just everybody's saying get on the phone all dressed up and so bring down heels thank God I put on some flats we got him down and then levees screaming around the corner and and we can and it was so fun and when we got to the float it was close and all the way around I didn't know how to get in the back in the middle of the street How can we get in we saw tonight's arms hanging from the smash in the in the trunk and it was just so fun. But at the end we got on we did our show and saying everything and Martin was so grateful they were so great for that we really appreciate that and



01:33

finally while I was in the in the after hours Oh really? So we were right at the beginning of the parade so I stayed at the very end and I saw you coming down and screaming



01:48

we didn't think it was gonna catch up with him because I mean we just know that writing we're

here somewhere



01:53

and you know it was by seeing you can see it's up on the front when they let it down. Oh, but it was fine with me I know the monitor service center and relax and take showers Nice.



02:09

Well tell me about your music because I want to you know we want to introduce your music to the Houston area people who haven't heard it yet. Who were your influences? I know you've done some covers. Yeah, I've heard that



02:25

a lot. Our harmony is kind of enhanced between I use I always see the Pointer Sisters. We have harshit we have a little bit our voices a little bit harder. Um my personal influences are probably Sylvester Oh yeah. The Jones girls definitely. Oh yeah. The point is sisters I got a whole like real personal favorites. I like the groups that I kind of the person that like the groups that didn't that only have one or two hits. I kind of have things that are really Yeah, because the other ones that really add impact also, but you don't hear anything about them. They and they just it's really it's hard to do. It's really hard to say I know everybody else deforms a different way those are mine.



03:22

Yeah, that's Eric the original the basis for my music was classical because I had a four year scholarship to University of Louisiana and after a couple of years into the program I decided that it was not exactly the type of music that I want to go in and so after meeting today and being in Houston about four years I decided to go into what is known today is our will be dubbed as techno pop music. We are self contained group and we do all our vocals two tracks and everything is synthetically done or electronically done you know on trains and that's the type of music we perform. The album I can't I myself came up with the concept for the new album is entitled vocal dancing and this is because today has always grown the group to really would be a protege of the type of sound in the 70s that service had a lot of for for poor holiday, a lot of full background really into the vocals, but not neglecting the music we like to be we like to music we want the kids to dance, but we also want them to know that we can sing



04:27

well that's the whole idea. Yeah, a lot of



04:29

the stuff that that you really don't hear anymore. When you hear people say what happened to the good old song.



04:35

Yeah, what happened to the talent? Well, a lot of music today is people talking and that being electronically altered. It's really not



04:46

it's really the department's fault because the artists today the producers are all projection sound. You got you got you have so many groups now that are out they all sound alike. Everybody is a carbon copy of the other one. And the producers are concentrating on making you get up and dance. And then they're not, they're ignored who's singing. And that has always bothered me because I always felt that when you are group, you're supposed to hit everybody or you at least hear somebody.



05:15

Well, that's what I kind of liked about your performance, you kind of showcase everybody gets a chance and got something to give to the group.



05:23

You don't want to put just one person on front all the time. I had enough of that already.



05:29

So what's the history behind alto, there's been some ups and downs. There's, there's been some



05:38

we outdoors will do so much. Outdoor started off as another name with my two original sisters, my real sisters. And we broke up after we were young, you know, and my, my sister does not have families. And I made this thing in my head that I was gonna have a group and I was just gonna keep going regardless. Okay, so that's what it takes. So I went out and I started looking for different girls, but it see we all have different backgrounds. Because two of us, Brenda and Eric had never performed live. Donna and I do yeah, we did back at work for somebody else. And Donna's dad is Archie Bell. Yeah. So we have the most experience and we met just by accident. We happen to be in the same studio, and we were working with somebody else. And we just, you know, I just thought that she would be just the perfect person. Brenda, relative, my lover. She was working at Wendy's. And I heard Haven't we never told me that he knew this girl that he really listening and told me to talk to who she said, Okay. And when I heard her say I

couldn't I could not say no. I'll say girl. I'd either. Absolutely Brenda's voice. Yeah, no, because there's really no way this is Eric Farley on that area. Eric, four years ago, I was on tour. And I was I was doing the Southwest I had done like, well, maybe six or eight states. And I was almost at the end of it. And I had stopped to Alexandria to perform. Yeah. And I was on stage at one of the clubs there and Eric. What happens?



07:28

Well, actually what happened was it was one night I don't know if it was a Friday or Saturday night, but it was late like last quarter I thought I'd run in the bar just to see what's going on for a few minutes and run out. And I heard what I thought at that time was recording artists Treme haka singer, her new hair fall down, but actually when I got an award, I see this six foot gorgeous golden Moon from head to toe in the middle of stage and I told my sister she lives thinking like she's singing it and after, you know, sitting there thinking about for a few minutes, I realized that that he was he was singing and not lip synching that I thought to myself, wow, this guy has a really really nice voice. So after shows up, I went backstage and I met him and everything and we exchanged numbers and what have you because I had at that time, like I said, I'm planning on moving here to Houston to continue my schooling, which I am now a full time student art institute in Houston. And after training, I taught I thought to myself I said, I'm gonna come to Texas I'm getting ready to go to school and we should hook up and I don't know if she thought it was a joke or what but I ended up on her doorstep about a week later with all my dragon



08:41

extended an invitation okay. So so tell me what you've brought for us tonight.



08:53

This is our this is our new thing. Gosh, how rough is it? These these are the instrumental tracks. vocals have been added because they were just as this is fresh. Now if I go the first people that are gonna hear now, wait a minute, we're not gonna get to hear you say, well, we got some help. Okay. And



09:22

we're, we're right now in the process of finishing out the finishing touches. We won't have anything finished. We got another week. We've got we got to showcase this 129 Okay, Santa Fe MGRS. Yeah,



09:34

we want to talk about that. All the all. All the dates you've got lined up. We're gonna talk about that. After we after we hear this.



09:43

Okay, this is this is the cocktail so production, and um, this is the name of it. Not an hour and a half.



09:51

99 and a half. Here we go. Sweet kitty, Kevin.



12:16

and you're listening to after hours radio celebrating life from the heart of Montrose. 90.1. FM, Houston, KPFT Houston, and we're back with alto. So that was 99 and a half minus the lyrics



12:39

he's done.



12:40

Oh, yeah. It really is. We're talking to Kevin here he does beatbox and his eyes were sparkling.



12:50

We have we have so much we we've seen, we're very proud of these people. We, we've been real fortunate. We have there. We people are being brought to us. But we meet them in real, you know, the real positive things, positive ways. Kyle is I met many



13:11

people who were helping you with that. Yeah, I



13:15

used to walk up and meet people like this. And it was just a coincidence how I met Kyle. I hear. It was really Aucoin coincidence on that call, because I had been talking to two other musicians that I knew. And they sort of turned me on to people. And they just started giving me people's names and stuff. And me and Eric happened to I remember Carl's name, and it didn't click a bail until one day mean Eriko or going to the was record shop, and they had little things that would you put the name the advertisements? No, yeah. And Kyle had a thing for demos. And I had already somebody already told me about him. And I said, Oh, you know, it's too early to get caught up. I was asked my father, he had done the synthesizer for erasure. Yeah. And once all

he said was erasure. And then I said, you know, what? Do we do, you know, because I listened arranger and I love erasure. Yeah, and, and I just gave it the opening of my mind, educate me a little bit to know just what direction and style of music and it's amazing because he clicked immediately. All I had to do was say, This is what I want. And it came out for the first time somebody actually heard me and I said, this is what I want, and it was exactly what I wanted. Isn't that amazing? Yeah.



14:36

What are your What are your dates coming up? With what's happening with with alto? You've got something coming up next weekend and



14:43

we got the 29th Santa Fe Jr's what is it? What is it? Yeah.



14:55

Yeah, okay. Okay,



14:56

we're gonna be the plus they also have an a pre guarding party thing. Pretty guarded party brush. Something that would



15:00

be Saturday, or Sunday or Monday. Okay,



15:03

and right now negotiating with the wave in Dallas. Oh, yeah, plus, we're gonna get ready to hop on it. Matter of fact, Mark is in Dallas. Now he's done meeting with the people with the village station and the wave. And hopefully, what we're trying to do is be booked in the wave in order to grab the attention of Oakland records. Right, Cooper? And, hopefully, you know, we can we can impress him enough to we want to be signed. Yeah, we don't really have any signage probably next year. We hope to just have enough exposure and and, you know, be on the road, hopefully, so that we can push everything.



15:44

I've talked with you before, and when we were talking, you were saying that that Midtown Spa has been real good and, and helping you all out?



15:56

Okay, I don't even know how to explain how good they've been. They have been real good.



16:01

Meet people that have that must trust to put out monies and do things. When I heard on the Fourth of July to look concert. I mean, I thought they were going to be we were just just like stone I 90 there was going to be other entertainment. But it was just for us. Yeah. And I cannot believe that. I mean, he was and he was so excited himself. You know, his mother. He said Mark loves doing this kind of stuff. And I can just tell he was so excited. And that made me feel so good. I cannot believe it. You know, you just don't find people that will just do that for you out of the blue without knowing anything about you. You know,



16:39

I think the group is going somewhere. Yeah. Yeah, very positive.



16:44

That made me feel good overall, about the group here. And, you know, we were real happy



16:49

to see that a gay business was putting something back into the community. Yeah,



16:56

I'm very thankful because everybody, they feel good now. And I'm glad I'm glad we feel. But for me, it's a little bit more deeper because I have prayed so hard for this. And for the first time in my life, and it took me a long time to even just get where I am now. I'm happy that we like to I wish it would I really do it deep in my heart. I really wish it was my sisters. But unfortunately didn't turn out like that. But we are family. I love them. I love them. I love them just about the same. You know?



17:30

Tell you any of our game lesbian listeners out there know what you're talking about, you know, I'm





17:36

saying and it's just for the first time of my life. I put together something and it actually it's working out the only way that it's not even a way you can say thank you because i You can't say thank you it's just definitely because Mark see I don't even more games even know me. He wants to ej says I blew her like Lucy gave me a card. And I thought the Newton's law Yeah. But you know it was just something to see it tryna you call him and I did. And he was a year tryna you know, you could really say you know now they're all young you know and he said I really want us to do something with you well, I you know all my life I've been told stuff and I don't want to tell them nothing about it. But then slowly but surely you don't want a serious I thought you know it was I just couldn't believe I really couldn't I thought this is not something good is happening. And it's just slowly but surely we you know, we I just don't believe that. I have to err I really believe that God is doing this to us. He's doing it again. And so on all this I thought I was just going to use it. And I just feel that we've given the right opportunity. All we needed was wasn't our time to shine. There you go. And I just think God all our all our answers that I live long enough to tell my story. They can take me blow me away with a juicy smoked turkey drumstick in my head.



19:11

Well, you got something else for us. We



19:13

we have a file, download it. Yeah, download it, and we're gonna do it. We're gonna do it. Well, let's do it. I'm actually this lie. Oh, okay. So what do



19:23

we need to do here?



19:25

We got to kill it if you did it already. And we Donna wrote that. Yeah. And it's entitled eight love strange. And



19:40

was arranged by Dwayne guardi another friend of mine in Dallas, and he's done a lot of producing everything and and I helped him out because he was he was coming coming out of HCC. And this was like a project his last project and I wrote a song we got together And he's another good musician that can give you exactly what you want. I sang a couple of verses or something, a half written song. And the next thing I knew I had a complete song that just came straight out of my head exactly the way I wanted it. And I like to give him credit for that. And



20:21

that's wonderful when you can work together with someone like, that's really, yeah. Yeah,



20:26

just like hear all of our voices. We didn't have a problem. Eric can tell you about how we find keys. So great work on people that just nose has an ear and nose really?



20:39

is kind of strange, because we don't we really don't. Well, I will I have I mean, we all have some, some degree of formal training as far as music is concerned, today and Donna have done more of a pop sort of thing and have done more in the industry that I actually have as far as pop music is concerned. But it's so amazing because everything we learn, we learn by ear, or we learn by what is called rote we simply Yeah. And we begin to sing and everybody files the court files a load of files, begins to jail



21:09

is wonderful listening to you perform as you sound like you've been doing it for years all



21:14

together. Yeah, we have been doing it for years. Not altogether. That's just Well, no, I



21:18

mean, they work so well. We've



21:20

been together. I know you for I don't air for a year, Brenda, what a year to two years. And it was rocky at first, it was rocky because Brenda really wasn't convinced that I really wanted to group Well, you know, you can't blame her. Well, Brenda wasn't ready yet. Because Brenda hadn't healed too quick.



21:40

Trying to get over that stage fright, which I am over now.





21:44

She was she was not ready yet. It was like, you know, I don't believe you want you want a group. You know, it was like, I don't believe you know, and I just I knew then, once once we put together once I convinced you that we were serious, and that we really, really had, we knew we wanted, we just we had to put it together in a matter of time, you know, it'll eventually will turn out to be something big. And I just, I said just everybody just be patient. You know, be patient, it's gonna work out. And we will look back on this and say, you know,



22:18

that's great.



22:22

Well, when it started well, when we started at Missouri Street station that wow, that was very exciting. I mean, that, to me, those are good times,



22:30

but big old memories, because I used to do cabaret. Oh, yeah, I rock star. When I the first place I sang it was used to be it used to be inside outside Studio 13. And I remember the first week he opened, he had a piano upstairs. And I didn't work there. And at that particular time, I was confused on being I didn't know if I want to be a female person or a singer. So I went there and they had there was an open mic night. And I started talking. Oh, yes, they are because he was like, telling people, they were drinking and I thought oh my god, what kind of music do I do? Because I was like, Ooh, so I just started improvising. And the guy that played for me back then I can't remember his name. But he had a perfect year for me. And all I did was just started singing acapella. And he fell right in. And for that I just thought, oh my god, this guy, you know, and we had never worked here. I didn't know anything that I got there, that sort of thing. And I just started singing on a weekly basis. Yeah, it was hard to convince people. The hardest part was convincing people that I could do it and drag. Because I had a I had a problem with gender problems. And I had so many people telling me through my, throughout my career that you know, oh, it ain't gonna work. You got to take off the dress, you got to be a boy, you got to be a guy. And I thought, well, if I'm a guy, I'm gonna be that they're gonna be nothing spectacular about me. You know, it's nothing unusual if I'm a guy. So I said, I have to do something different. I'm gonna have to do something that's gonna make me stand out. I'm gonna do it and drag, you know, and that didn't, not too many people got, they didn't want it like that. So then a friend of mine, which is really important, we told him how he kept tell he was the person that I go to for all my advice. It's not our musical director. And it's like, he's literally one thing you can say. If too many people tell you that something can't work unless you know you're onto something. So I stuck with it.



24:41

Okay. Um, we're we're gonna have to take a break right now. And we traditionally run a news program at at 130. So can you stay on till two and we can Yeah, we can listen to your your number after that. Good that'll make you not get nervous now. The anticipation about this is

number after that. Good that it make you get good nervous now. The anticipation okay this is after hours. So radio celebrating live from the heart of Montrose KPFT Houston.



25:14

Imagine a world in which millions of people are at the mercy of a small band of extremists in which works of art are subjected to government censorship, and freedom of expression is a crime. Now stop imagining Welcome to America 1990. This is calling you Hearst. As an actress, I'm terrified by what is happening in our country today. extremists like Jerry Falwell, Pat Robertson and Senator Jesse Helms are trying to destroy freedom of expression for their own political and personal needs. And since this freedom is so powerfully demonstrated in the arts, they especially want to silence the artist. That's why they're determined to restrict the National Endowment for the Arts, an organization that supports artists all across America. We must fight back. Please call or write to your member of Congress today. Because silence for the arts is silence for America



26:09

sponsored by the People for the American Way Action Fund. I remember an incident four years ago when I was walking through an amusement park holding hands with my lover and was called queer by a child six years old. And from that day forward, I've been all too aware of who the child molesters in this society are. These are gay and lesbian people hanging out here what's your reaction to



26:26

that? I have a little boy and I would hate for my little boy to be like that those are animals



26:30

think it's terrible had a rocket



26:40

all the queers want equal rights Why don't you do things way God made us do it your mother father led any person who is gay. Children sounds



26:53

of the waves brushed up against the sand or he's written both of your names with a heart around you we're looking at the sky burning red with a sunset. Quickly a car drives up alongside of you we stopped for red light. Suddenly the car is surrounded they circle your

blanket coming in closer bottles are thrown out of car windows, the sound of glass breaking
baseball bats against metal hand grabs your hair less at your feet in your face in your eyes, a
fist across your face again



27:21

and again I quit.



27:28

Homophobia can kill. Education is the only lasting weapon against bigotry. Which is why as a lesbian and gay public awareness project wanted you to hear and think about this message. For more information write us at Post Office Box 65603 Los Angeles, California 90065.



27:48

Okay, we're going to run this way out now because we need to run that at 130. That's scheduled time. Altos coming back after we run this way out around two, and they've got some new music. I'm really excited about this. I think I mentioned that before that. I'm a New Music freak. And in fact, I've got another piece of new music later on in the show by an female artists named Chris McKay and I'll be talking about that later. And she's got a new one coming out called the bigger the love it's, it's a real neat song. And like I said, I'm really excited about alto coming back after this way out. Coming out right now, okay.



28:45

Those men not being able to identify themselves as gay to receive the messages around AIDS prevention can have a devastating impact on our people in our community. The amendment



28:55

was a concession we made to the opponents and ultimately that proved to be their undoing. The



29:00

kids said show our faces we will not cry, we will not be ashamed.



29:07

No one will stand up for your rights if you don't stand up for your home.



29:26

Welcome to this way out the international lesbian gay radio magazine. I'm Greg Gordon.



29:31

And I'm Louis Chappelle. Opportunistic denial infection takes its toll among blacks,



29:36

Massachusetts, religious reactionaries trip over their own Trump,



29:39

and are we trying too hard to save our children? All that



29:43

and more now that you discovered this way out?



29:53

I'm Richard Cisneros.



29:54

And I'm Cindy Friedman



29:56

with news wrap a summary of some of the news in or affecting the lesbian and gay community for the weekend in July 15 1990. In June 1969, New York City gays and lesbians fought back against a then routine police raid at the Stonewall Inn, a gay bar on Christopher Street in Greenwich Village, beginning the modern Gay Rights Movement.



30:23

From 320 in Boise, Idaho to hundreds of 1000s in Amsterdam, New York, Los Angeles and San Francisco, the 21st anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion was observed last month around the globe 1000 celebrated in Oklahoma City 8000 at Philadelphia, 30,000 in Seattle, Washington, and 70,000 in Boston. In several cities, parades, festivals and picnics took place for the first

time. In Cincinnati, Ohio, a record 600 people participated in the annual lesbian and gay pride parade. Several speakers assailed Cincinnati Mayor Charlie Lukens, perennial refusal to declare an official gay and lesbian pride day in the city. John Kelly of Cincinnati's black gay men support group stressed the importance of community diversity and political activism.



31:08

We have survived eight years and Ronald Reagan, and so many years of Mayor Charlie Luke. We are surviving the AIDS epidemic and we are preaching safer sex and AIDS prevention. So we can survive, but we must move past survival to achievement and empowerment. Get out of the closet and stay out.



31:40

As long as we remain invisible, we will continue to be oppressive victims of homophobia. If we are ever to bring about diversity in our community, we must seek out minorities and make them feel welcome in organizations.



32:03

In order to celebrate our diversity, we need a coming together of the men and women's community and says



32:17

my third recommendation is for you to become politically active. And please do not use that excuse. Well, I'm just not into politics. No longer stand up for your rights if you don't stand up for your home.



32:36

That was John Kelly speaking at Cincinnati's Lesbian and Gay Pride rally.



32:40

The Danish government has released statistics showing an average of 260 lesbian and gay marriages have taken place each month since the civil ceremony was legalized last October. Gay and lesbian couples now make up one out of every five marriages in that country, the Netherlands, Sweden and Norway are all considering the legalization of homosexual marriages.



33:03

The first statewide domestic partners law in the United States has been introduced in the

Illinois General Assembly at the request of the Illinois Gay and Lesbian Task Force. The law would allow two unmarried people including lesbian and gay couples to file a declaration of domestic partnership with their county clerk. The legislation would provide specific qualifications for filing the declaration and establish responsibilities and rights of the partnership, as well as procedures for its termination. No hearings on the proposal have been scheduled during the current legislative session. Its early introduction will allow informal debate to begin while the Illinois Task Force completes a final draft of the proposal to be introduced early in 1991. The comprehensive bill will include such areas as hospital visitation rights, as well as insurance, real estate and inheritance laws.



33:51

A proposal by US Senator Jesse Helms, which would have prohibited people with AIDS from working as food handlers, was defeated on July 11, by a vote of 61 to 39. Helms argued that restaurants would be forced into bankruptcy and then employers should be allowed to transfer HIV infected workers from food handling jobs because of public perceptions about the disease. Both houses of Congress are completing final revisions on the historic Americans with Disabilities Act. The law bars discrimination in hiring and public accommodations against disabled persons, including those infected with HIV.



34:29

The American Federation of Teachers adopted a sweeping slate of 11 resolutions affirming the rights of gay and lesbian school staff and students at its biennial convention earlier this month. 3000 convention delegates agreed by voice vote to include sexual orientation in the unions anti discrimination protections to urge local unions to bargain for these policies and for bereavement leave for domestic partners and to condemn harassment or violence against students based on sexual orientation. In addition, the new resolutions protect the rights of students and staff who are HIV infected.



35:02

On June 25, activists in Tacoma Washington officially began the campaign to restore anti discrimination protections for lesbians and gay men to their city's law books. This way out. Tony Scott has this update,



35:16

Tacoma may see a rematch this November between human rights advocates and conservative Christian groups. Over that city's anti discrimination law. Gay rights supporters filed 5600 signatures on an initiative to put a sexual orientation clause back into the city's human rights law. If at least two thirds of those signatures proved valid to Commons will vote again on the gay rights question this fall. Last year, the sexual orientation clause was repealed by a margin of just 850 votes.



35:47

In other stories making news this week, the state of Pennsylvania's House of Representatives defeated a bill which would have increased penalties for hate crimes against lesbians and gay men.



35:57

A lesbian and gay rights ordinance has been approved in the city of St. Paul, Minnesota. But a group calling itself citizens alert has vowed to work for its repeal. Over 100



36:06

gay men and lesbians formed a contingent in New York City's Puerto Rican Day Parade and were well received by an estimated 550,000 onlookers. The State



36:15

of Indiana Civil Rights Commission is looking into charges that the largest ambulance service in the city of Indianapolis is treating people with AIDS differently and charging them more than other patients



36:28

and the United Presbyterian Church USA decided at its annual convention to postpone until 1991, a proposal to consider the ordination of openly lesbian and gay clergy.



36:38

And finally, God is alive and well and selling customized balloons in Iowa City, Iowa, at least according to one true believer and that small college town. The state of Georgia's privacy coalition had ordered several 100 balloons with a repeal sodomy message planning to float them over Atlanta's annual gay and lesbian Pride March. The balloon house of Iowa City refused to honor the order. However, when asked to explain why Manager Lin Gree Bong replied, because we are Christians, we do not print any material that is lewd, offensive, racist, immoral, wicked or evil. It is our opinion from reading the Word of God that homosexuality is immoral, lewd, unclean and unrighteous. Because the Lord owns this business, we cannot accept business which displeases Him, homosexuality is your game, and it is filthy, disgusting and wrong, and you know, it's wrong. Sue Hyde, director of the Privacy project of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force was one of the speakers at the pride celebration held in Iowa City on June 23. I was not aware that the Lord owned a balloon company or any other earthly commercial concern, she said. If he did, however, I feel confident that he would consider this display of bigotry to be filthy, disgusting and wrong. And Lynn Gree Bong knows it's wrong.



38:13

That's news wrap for the weekend in July 15 1990, written by RJ curry of the gay and lesbian Press Association, compiled from publications and broadcast throughout the world.



38:23

Remember an informed community is a strong community. Find out what's happening in your area by monitoring your local gay and lesbian media for this way out. I'm Cindy Friedman.



38:35

And I'm Richard Cisneros.



38:41

Nicely fairy



38:54

no hiding place all over the nobody knows



39:15

say they do. You can tell them. You really homophobia and denial are seriously impeding AIDS prevention and education efforts in the African American community. According to a recently released study by the National Association of Black and White men together for an Avery Brown talked with the author of the report and other aids caregivers in San Francisco. Then Williams admitted publicly he was gay at age 15. But he says many of his sexual partners deny they're gay or even bisexual. he speculates that they somehow believe if they're not openly gay, they won't be susceptible to aid. But he also says coming out of the closet can be more costly emotionally to blacks than to their white counterparts.



40:07

Nobody really wants you. The black community once you come out really wants either you to stay quiet, get out of the community, and the gay white community represents the racist society that exists in America as a whole.



40:20

A recently released study on the knowledge, attitudes and behaviors of black gay and bisexual men found that admitted gays are worried about large numbers of gays still on announced. Reggie Williams author of the study says the denial factor is taking a heavy toll on the African

Reggie Williams, author of the study says the denial factor is taking a heavy toll on the African American community



40:38

as that relates to AIDS and HIV, it can have a devastating impact and is having a devastating impact on our people in our community. From those men, finding solace, and in marriage and relationships with black women, and not using condoms and not being able to identify themselves as gay to receive the messages around AIDS prevention, and carrying the HIV virus further into our community



41:06

being black and gay says Williams in a society that still engages in racist and homophobic practices causes many gays to not only stay closeted, but to avoid seeking AIDS treatment when necessary. The Reverend Yvette Philander can testify to that. She's executive director of arc, a national AIDS education and research project funder says her clients avoid or deny their sexual practices to a fault



41:31

happens mostly among the African American men that are our clients, even if they suspect that they're HIV positive even after they become symptomatic, or if they have been partners, sexual partners, someone else who has become symptomatic, it's like a denial. And we wait and wait and wait and wait. And even when we do go seek care, it's like it's a point where there's nothing that can be done easy to DDS is not effective.



41:57

The survey which reviewed the habits of over 900 black gay and bisexual men found that 59% would not tell family members if they were diagnosed with aid and an alarming 62% believe their families would not support them throughout the illness. For an Avery brown San Francisco



42:16

step by step



42:25

may stones to save my.



42:50

Saline saline saline saline saline you've tuned in to this way out the international lesbian and

same, same, same, same, same. you've turned in to this way out the international lesbian and gay radio magazine with Lisa Chapelle I'm Greg Gordon. The Massachusetts gay and lesbian civil rights bill was signed into law by the state's governor Michael Dukakis on November 15 1989, after a 17 year struggle. The day after the signing a group called Citizens for family first began a campaign to repeal the law. They had gathered over 60,000 signatures. But on July 5, the Massachusetts Supreme Court ruled that the law was ineligible for the referendum process because of an amendment to the law which exempts religious organizations. I talked with David LaFontaine of the Coalition for lesbian and gay civil rights. And I asked him to explain the unique aspect of the state constitution, which effectively put an end to the referendum campaign and secured anti discrimination protections for lesbians and gay men in the state of Massachusetts.



43:56

According to Massachusetts law, if any segment of a law pertains to religion, even if it is an amendment to the law, then the matter can be placed before the voters. The Massachusetts Supreme Court ruled that because the gay rights law had a religious amendment that it was ineligible for the referendum process. The amendment was a concession we made to the opponents. And ultimately that proved to be their undoing.



44:23

David, what do you think the keys to victory were? And what would you recommend for other people engaged in similar kinds of struggles,



44:29

it's really important that the struggle for gay rights be a very public one, because what we found is that the more open we were in terms of organizing rallies and doing outreach to the mainstream press, that more and more gay people came out for the bill. And we also found that a lot of straight people rallied around us. For many years, a low key approach was used, which was not that effective in terms of galvanizing support. We had to demonstrate that we had strong grassroots support behind us. We really had to make it a popular issue and the sense of building all these coalition's getting dozens and dozens of organizations beyond our own community to sign on their support, approaching TV and radio stations and getting them to do positive editorials. Ultimately, what happened is that a lot of public education went on. And what we found is that it had become a very meaningful thing to people in our community, because literally 1000s of people played a role in getting it through.



45:25

What do you see as the immediate benefits of the law?



45:27

I think what has happened is we now have a foundation, a statewide organization that really is

puts us in excellent shape. As far as moving on to other issues. The emphasis is really going to be on encouraging people to come out, because the law should really give people a base of security that we haven't had before. And in New England in particular, we're going to see in the next several years that several other states are going to follow Massachusetts as lead, Maine, Connecticut, and Rhode Island have excellent chances of passing gay rights legislation next year or the year after.



46:02

I'm talking with David LaFontaine from his home in Cambridge, Massachusetts, David's with the Coalition for lesbian and gay civil rights. David, what's next on the agenda for your organization?



46:11

We have a plan to introduce domestic partner legislation in Boston City Council, David Scott Andrus, Boston's openly gay city councilor will be the sponsor. And now that we don't have to worry about fighting this referendum, that's probably going to be the top legislative priority of the year. Plus, we have another bill in the state legislature. The bill focuses on the problem of the high suicide rate of gay teenagers. The next logical step is to get into high schools and try to change the curriculum and to make teachers, counselors and people who work with adolescents aware that there are many, many gay and lesbian, young people in that they're suffering terribly from the effects of prejudice.



46:52

Well, David, I can hear the homophobes raving right now you're talking about going into the high schools and you're bringing up the issues of children again, and aren't you really fulfilling the dire prophecies of the homosexual agenda that all of the opponents of gay and lesbian rights have been screaming all these years?



47:07

Our philosophy is that we can let the homophobes define our agenda for us. And simply because they accused us of doing something there's no reason to shy away from something that's really a strong need in the community. And I think also too, we've been very honest, in the process of lobbying for the bill. We never denied that there were many other issues we were concerned with. We never said that. We didn't want full equality.



47:34

With David LaFontaine of the Coalition for lesbian and gay civil rights I'm Greg Gordon for this way out



47:48

it's a dream justice game in and your mind is blind here is in your head in your heart and your when you learn what the signals are you



48:20

your own private place and you'll die and you're trying to erase every trace of your love of your thoughts of yourself. But the tug in your heart leaves your car



48:44

you decide your camp hide anymore. You just hope you can open a door and find a person to cast one person with whom you can whisper and shout.



49:04

Former CBS news producer and Northrop shucked vac career a few years ago for a staff position with the Hetrick Martin Institute, a social service agency dedicated to serving the needs of lesbian and gay teenagers. During her keynote address at Cincinnati's gay and lesbian pride rally, she talked about her work with the institute's Harvey Milk High School for stigmatized and abused lesbian and gay students in New York City, and the continuing need for effective grassroots organizing



49:31

by him here today relate to celebrate our victories. And I know we can talk about a lot of doom and gloom. God knows I go around screaming at people all day about doom and gloom, but I'm actually very optimistic. A couple of months ago, I attended a conference in California, it brought together lesbians and gay men who led organizations from around the country. The conference was half men, half women It was 41% people of color. What we spent three and a half days discussing was diversity and inclusion, and power sharing, which is really what it's all about. And that means bringing everyone to the table from the beginning. We don't plan events, and then try to get people to join as token representatives to put forth a face of diversity. It means we all sit down at the table from the beginning, and work it out together. There's a new direct action group formed on lesbian and gay issues, a group called queer nation. And they're continuing debates over the name. But next weekend, and queer nation will lead a march, people who are angry at gay bashing around the streets of lower Manhattan and visiting places where people have been bashed, they come into our community, to beat us up and yell at us and kill us. And we're starting to fight back. But we all have to fight together. Disorganized disorganization is our biggest enemy. fighting each other, not tolerating each other's opinions is our biggest enemy.



51:30

I want to talk to you about kids for a second because I do teach at the Harvard Law School. And

I want to talk to you about kids for a second because I do teach at the Harvard Law School. And one aspect of diversity we haven't talked about today is age. There has been a very great desire to protect the kids we serve and not to put them in dangerous situations. We do not, for instance, recommend that kids come out to their parents, unless they are capable of living independently because so many gay kids are thrown out of their homes. Half the homeless kids, the 15 to 20,000 homeless kids on the streets of New York are gay or lesbian. And that is a report by the city of New York. So while there has been a lot of press attention to the Harvey Milk school, there have always been strict rules, take pictures from behind, don't show faces, don't use names. And that's been to protect the kids. While the kids have slowly gotten angrier and angrier about this policy, and they finally became revolting. The kids said no more,



52:44

show our faces,



52:47

we will not hide we will not be ashamed. out there. And as I left there, we're going into a meeting with four members of the administration of the agency including the executive director, to demand a change in the system and to demand that they be allowed to speak with their own voices fully and clearly to the world. I'm very proud of



53:25

I think I'm proudest of a kid in New York, I met recently named Henry Diaz, some 17 years old and attends LaGuardia High School in New York. He got involved with queer nation, there are a lot of young people involved with clear vision. And he decided he wanted to do something for his high school. And so he in conjunction with some other members of the group, put together a flyer, have facts about homosexuality, have a list of famous people through history who are gay or lesbian. It had lists of resources for kids who might want to discuss the subject. And it had an essay by Henry signed with his full name, talking about what it meant to him to be isolated as the young gay man and that's cool. And then Henry and half a dozen members of queer nation stood on the sidewalk outside that school at eight o'clock in the morning, and handed out that flyer to all the students, all the teachers, everybody going into that school. And the result of that was dozens of kids coming out of high school in the next few days.



54:47

And Henry took an enormous risk. I don't want to underestimate for a second, the burden we all face and having to come out and having to come up all the time over and over and over again. It's not easy, and they put us in this position and I'm god damn angry at them for it. And I think we need to forgive each other for the times we aren't so great at it. But we also have to take the risks because it's really a lot easier than you think. And it's a lot more positive and no one no one is happy in the closet



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55:39

you're the type that is ripe for a cause and the unknown that you won't ever tell the flaws and been challenged and change overturn rearrangement you're then you're then you're then you're



56:21

Thanks for choosing this way out the international lesbian and gay radio magazine. This week, RJ curry, Cindy Friedman, Richard Cisneros, Verna Avery Brown and Tony Scott contributed program material. Thanks also to Michael Chanak, Josie Ketopia Sandy Dwyer and Gary Taylor.



56:37

Mary Watkins, Sweet Honey in the Rock am Tom Wilson. More recently Tom Wilson Weinberg performed some of the music you heard and Kim Wilson composed and performed our theme music



56:47

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56:52

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56:59

We'd also like to hear from you with any comments, suggestions or questions you might have. But just to let us know that you're listening right to us at this way out. Post Office Box 38327 Los Angeles, California 90038.



57:13

That's post office box 38327 Los Angeles, California 90038 is way out. It's produced by Lisa Shapiro



57:21

and Greg Gordon and we thank you for listening on KK FYI, Kansas City,



57:25

W O Mr. Provincetown and Cfu V Victoria, among others, and for supporting this local community radio station. Stay tuned. You're listening to after all