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SPEAKERS

Diane Williams, Brian Nunes, Greg Gordon, Jewel Gray, Cindy Friedman



00:01

AG, Roger, excuse me, part of the beauty of whack is is that there are women from all different levels of society, who are speaking about issues that are impactful to their lives. When a woman talks about something that's important to them, they're talking about something that's important to their fathers to their brothers to their children to their, to their men, friends.



00:24

When you say exactly to what I have not seen, you mentioned, man, that's because



Diane Williams 00:28

we're a bunch of women tonight. Right now, we're a bunch of women, what do



00:31

we count as well?



00:33

We do. We do support big factors we support.



Diane Williams 00:38

And we talked about this every weekend. We really did Jewel, Jewel and I especially, and lesbian rights. Yeah. And, and the men, the men had been really wonderful. The man especially have been great on the on the defense line with Houston defending choice we've had a lot of

really positive men, I at one point in time, I was standing in the front line with a man on either side of me. And we're all three of us just as scared as we could be just to shake. And as we could be in empowered and empowered by whack. I mean, the men are empowered by what I'm talking about Women's Action Coalition tonight, because they're new, and they're in town. And it's a voice that hasn't been heard. The reason I specifically invited these folks here is because, you know, we hear a lot about queer nation, and we hear a lot about, especially with me, you know, we hear a lot about Queer Nation, we hear a lot about act up, read a lot about other groups that are out doing visible political things. And we see mostly men in those groups. And that doesn't mean they're bad. And it doesn't mean they're good. It just means that women need to be more active as usual. Well, women need to be more active and more visible and this group is really going to help that and I'm really, you know, saluting that we tried to do a group that we started in queer nation called queer women and power quip. And I think that's going to be pretty exciting to think that a lot of the quip folks are going to be real active in wack and a lot of maybe the the wack folks can come, you know, wear our T shirts and do our stuff, too. I think it's a very participatory thing. You know, we don't have all women demonstrations. We don't have all men demonstrations. I think that it's important to know that we're all here supporting each other. And I'm really glad that y'all are here. Tell me once again, the meeting at Brasil,



02:26

Brasil Coffee House September the ninth Wednesday night 7pm.



D Diane Williams 02:30

Do you have any particular goals or any particular



02:34

Yes, not start the very first wack chapter in Houston, Texas.



02:39

Even more importantly, our goal is action. And I hope to see our first meeting, conclude with a great axon coming out of it. And that's pretty much what we're about. Yeah, great.



D Diane Williams 02:51

Is there anything that you particularly along the lines of wack are interested in doing? I mean, is there any particular thing that the 12344 of us at the moment that the four of you are interested in doing for personal reasons? I mean, do you have a personal agenda? I mean, like is it is like your agenda choice and your agenda, lesbian rights and your agenda, the rights to have childcare leave from your place of business? Or is it just a total health care, no social equality,



03:25

what's really important about wack is that everyone who is attracted to it or hears about it, or wants to be involved is coming to it with their own personal reasons. They're coming to it from their own personal experience. And, you know, what they find there and what they make of it is the important thing, and you know, why you were attracted to in the beginning, is, you know, personal to you, and that's okay. And there's a lot of room for that. And we have a lot of room in the group, we what we're talking about now is what we think are sort of, sort of fundamental committees. One of them is for example, Media Watch, where you look at how women are treated in the media, not just nationally, but now especially now because we are in Houston is locally, there are certain billboards that are not so good. There, there are a lot of areas we want have a kind of legislative committee that kind of watches what the legislature is doing and certain candidates and what their positions are. We want to have another committee on you know, local child care and health care things. There's violence against women border watch, and there. It's not as if there hasn't been in Houston those activities already. One thing we found out from being involved in work is that there are a lot of women here already who are doing those things. There's wave. There's a women's very large women's group. There's the Houston Women's Caucus for our There are women who have gotten together and have focused on their own interests and what they think is important to, to act on. And we have found out that they're all there, and they've been there all along. And we support them. You know, we support them all, and we'll be there for him.



05:16

I think that the real strength of wack is that it allows women to make I mean, everyone has their own personal agenda, that's just reality. And wack is a collective voice of women. Really, it's I mean, it's a women's collective voice, I guess, is the best way to say that. But at the same time, it's a collective voices grown out of one woman's idea or one woman's own agenda, we are run strictly by actions and their actions usually proposed by a single person, a person can stand up and say, you know, I'm really angry about child support, you know, I haven't been paid child support in two years and, or whatever. And there's a there's a group that forms around that of women who add one woman's personal agenda comes together to form a collective vision of what what it's all about. And I think that's what the real strength of whack is.



D Diane Williams 06:03

I want to ask you a question. What does family values mean to you? I hate that word. That word. Anyone have their own definition of that?



06:14

Family Values?



D Diane Williams 06:15

Answers have a definition for family values?

Anyone have a definition family values?



06:18

Well, it must mean a lot of children's surrounding bush and Quayle somehow,



06:24

are we talking about the Waltons. How are we talking about? Yeah,



D Diane Williams 06:27

talking about a deal a Jack in the Box? I have no idea



06:30

when I'm out. I really must know. They know who they are.



D Diane Williams 06:35

Yeah. But what does it mean to you? I mean, it to each of us as individuals, I'm sure that you know, we were raised by family, probably quite probably



06:43

a brother sisters. There you go. There you go. And from a small town, Wyoming, there you go water, those of you who are listening, chugwater, graduate, classify people, three cousins.



07:00

That works. It's one of the more moving statements that came out of the audio visual presentation was from an old African fable that it takes a whole village to raise a child. And that's basically what I think especially the Republicans have lost sight of is the village of the community that surrounds it and the support the community gives to families and children. And I think that is really the issue is we are the family



07:28

has a great to deal deal with it. We are the family



07:21



07:31

that supports children nowadays. And it's it's it's not always there for them.



07:37

I think essentially what has the Republican notion of what family values are, is yet again, another thing to fragment and isolate people division that we are we are each working in our little families for our own benefit, and no one else's



07:56

screen. So you don't have to deal with issues when you're talking about family values. I mean, that was brought up the whole kind of buzzword of family values was an outgrowth of the LA riots when you talk about, you know, what's the problem with the LA riots? Were those people didn't have family values? I mean, that's, I mean, I really questioned the whole kind of, you know, phrase itself. Yeah, I mean, I think it doesn't speak to the



08:19

thing of about me, they always have me and my sister as well. And my younger brother, three of us, were gay one out of a family of eight. Well, let me just speak to the issue of family values and issue who have never bought up. Yeah.



D Diane Williams 08:35

Well, that's because you didn't have to put a name on it, because you would have probably had a loving household. Mike, my question and my statement would be to the issue that you like, sort of brought up in the corner there for a minute religion. I think religion is very important and whether spirituality especially but I disagree. Okay, but but I just read to finish, but to finish my



08:55

point without religion, and we all survive through it. Right.



D Diane Williams 08:58

But to finish my point, my point is listening skills. To finish my point, my point would be spirituality of some kind is very important, even if you're an atheist, you know, that in itself. That is, that is scientific. And now I'm talking about spirituality in the form of Muslim or Buddhist or, or



09:21

the inside it doesn't come from a book. It doesn't come from religion. Spirituality is inside.

 Diane Williams 09:27

Yeah. But I think that, that the family values issue is being touted as a Republican religious fundamentalist issue. And it's not. I mean, we all know that family values means a loving family means people who care about you. It means an orphanage that cares about you. For those of you that grew up in orphanages, it means you know, decent support for working women. That's exactly right. That's exactly what it means. Do global family,

 09:57

decent education for children and all yours that they grew up. Yeah, it's a wider swath and they're willing to throw definitely, yeah,

 10:06

it seems what they're talking about really is a kind of unit with economic security. And that's all they need. That's all that it includes. I think

 10:15

one of the charming things that was very entertaining at the speakout mic was when a group of three women from Dallas, called The Dream Girls got up pregnant, in costume with Cabbage Patch dolls attached and tied to their legs, and sang about Republicans for choice and where their true choice was within the family value system of the Republican Party. I mean, it really just sort of brought everything into a great visual.

 Diane Williams 10:47

I wanted to say to that we're not Republican bashing, or I mean, we may be. But the bottom line here is

 10:53

that people do with their children. This isn't news today, where they tell their children to go out there because they could not. And they arrested all these children from times chaining themselves up there, because they had to stay across the street, but still, they would do their children. Because they couldn't.

 11:10

Well, it's kind of a same thing. As we saw out on the lines Republican nominee for choice. I'm

like, totally supportive and and cheering them every step of the way along their path. I mean, I managed to open the door. Now it's time to walk through it, lady to look at the broader issues that are affecting



11:29

us. And those guys were great to get that word. Yeah.



11:32

Well, I know also, that there's there's been an incredible uprising in the Republican Party, because they've been complacent over the last 12 years, that something like pro choice was voted down on their platform, and they're ready to take action. And I think that for the female audience out there, the Women's Action Coalition is a wonderful, diverse collective group. And for them to have their voice heard.



D Diane Williams 11:59

Yeah. Well, I'm just glad that y'all are here and I'm really excited to be able to bring you on. I think now that we broken into the m&ms, this would be a good time to check. I really wanted you to like crunch a couple on the air. Yeah, take some out. Like, roll them around in your hand here that m&ms m&ms. Oh, yeah. That's good. This is a slumber party fair, folks. Okay, we're gonna take a break now. And since I cannot hear anything's being played, I'm just gonna point ladies and gentlemen, the break.



J Jewel Gray 12:31

People whose lives have been touched by HIV AIDS are invited to come together for club Carville 90 to a free event sponsored by 10. Local HIV service providers. Club carnival 92 will be held on Sunday September 13. from 11am until 3pm. At the Metropolitan multi Service Center at 1475 West grey, free food and carnival style games we provided for the HIV AIDS infected individuals and their family and friends. Local jazz band Sebastian Whitaker and the creators will provide live entertainment. individuals interested in volunteering at this event should call 6236796 sponsors of this event include AIDS Foundation, Houston, others bearing community service Foundation, body positive critical care America, home nutritional services, IV team, NAACP, national medical care and the PWA coalition of Houston club Carvill 92 is not a fundraiser for any of its sponsors



13:32

come with me now and we'll open this black door the end of the quarter here. I will be able to keep it open the rate long and I think you'll understand why here like this just a crack and you listen.



14:00

Xeno file every Thursday night at midnight KPFT. Zeno file is open two and a half hours for public inspection. Inside you'll find a strange assortment of European progressive rock spaced out electronic music and avant garde noise all pieced together in a way that will boggle your brain. So if you're ready to adventure past Tiffany and Bon Jovi, open your mind and take a look into the Zeno file. Thursday nights at midnight and KPFT Houston where else but the space city



D Diane Williams 15:04

Okay, well guess what, folks we're back with the wack woman. And I want to any m&ms The m&ms are just rapidly disappearing. Let me see. Let me see another feature that we have nine minutes Susan, the technical director. We are talking just fine. Susan Take a chill pill. Susan, I had a summer party last night and it was a lot of fun. Yeah, we want to be friends. Dad can't turn Yeah. Oh, stop. It was Mike glad to by the way. We miss you Chester, Sally and Diane miss you. Okay, thank you and Susan today. I want to talk about the first time I saw wack. I don't know if this was the first time or not, but it was certainly the most memorable. We're standing on the line. Were you there at the clinic on hillcroft?



15:51

No, I didn't make the hillcroft clinic on helicopters the time.



D Diane Williams 15:55

Oh, God. I don't know. It was pretty early that day. That day was like 830 or nine.



16:00

That's maybe it felt like five hours later? Yeah, half your morning. Nine o'clock.



D Diane Williams 16:05

That's right. We got there at 5am. And then we took places after that. But we were staying on the line because we heard that or was coming. So we were taken from our San Jacinto Kneisel San Jacinto shaded clinic, to this outdoor spot in the middle of hell. It was hell, ladies and gentlemen. And we're sitting there and they don't show up. And or is not there. We're sitting around twiddling our thumbs trying to you know, make small talk and all of a sudden we hear an ice cream truck. They were like, cool ice cream. And all of us are like, Well, can we leave the line to get ice cream? And as it turns out, we could we we stood down, we all stand it down. We stood down. All right. And ice cream truck pulls up. And it's a convoy of women. And they start like singing and beating drums and doing all kinds of stuff. I want somebody who is here, right? To talk about that.



16:57

Well, you were firsthand witness to the mobile activities. Oh, Operation Desert Storm was the mobile wing of the drum corps basically. Convoy it was it was a con boy but the most noticeable flagbearer was was our good humor ice cream truck completely decorated over with wack stickers and our very carefully crafted menu with good old boys and Berry and Ollie contrary cones and all sorts of good good float recipes that people would appreciate. Anyway that was that was our morning activities where the drum court would load up in our in our ice cream van and basically go around to clinic sites pass out ice cream to you really yes you worried you should clinic, clinic defenders play a few good rhythms drown out a few Oh, our prayers. And then we move on again and we went to clinic sites we went to outlying neighborhoods, we jammed with the TSU oceans, ocean storm Bri sorry, ocean breeze drum corps and by the way, they thought we were pretty decent. So we basically went around to outlying neighborhoods and shopping centers to kind of basically call attention to what was our main event that evening. Our outdoor projections, you know, and



18:23

to let the other delegates be heard and try.



18:26

Oh, we did show up at a few Republican luncheons. But



D Diane Williams 18:29

I want to mention one thing too, that I heard and I don't know if this is true. I'm gonna guess that it is. I heard the child did a really good deed which was I know for a fact that y'all did one good deed as you're leaving the hilltop clinic one day and I was there. Everybody had packed up you had a convoy like a van, a car and the ice cream truck. Everybody packed up, you were singing you were ready to go. The car, the ice cream truck started off. And these two little kids came up to the van. And they were like ice cream and they had their money. They're looking for money. They're asking their dad for some money and the dads I go so we don't have no money and and the everybody stopped and the driver didn't hear. And you were trying to tell the driver to stop because somebody needed to get ice cream. And you stop the entire convoy for two little kids. It was a touching moment. And I really appreciate all you have family value. All right. I also what I wanted to mention was I heard I heard tell which is very southern, I heard tell that you guys went delivering the end one day delivering some of your goods and the rest of your ice cream goodies to impoverished neighborhoods. Is this true? Tell me about it. Who was there anybody? Well,



19:38

I mean, that was a big part of our message is basically going out to outlying neighborhoods that never see the light of day certainly not at the Republican convention or any media coverage of this and go out and if if we couldn't necessarily reach women who would be able to leave and

go to our downtown projection eight o'clock at night, we could at least go out and give their kid some ice cream, talk to them a little bit about some issues that we felt we shared with them and just basically go out and kind of be around. Be

 Diane Williams 20:11

visible, be empowering for them. I just think that was great. I wanted to ask you about the Speak app. As saw you there. I heard you at the mic one night. Want to talk about your involvement with that. At

 20:25

the speakout? Yeah. I basically addressed healthcare issues. My biggest concern was that the coal statistics that our legislators on all levels have in front of them are not viewed with a human eye. And that the horrific number of women that may be single mothers, or the 66% of women throughout this nation, that are that are at the poverty level, do not have adequate health care, more and more women are going out into the entrepreneurial with an entrepreneurial spirit opening their own businesses or working at jobs where they do not have the ability to pay for health care. And I find it atrocious. I think that it is something that we

 21:19

have to address. Our speaker was really I think the most successful thing, we were really what it was, well, it was an opportunity was an open mic. It was an opportunity for women, any woman to get up and just talk about an issue that was important to her. We talked earlier about personal agendas, and it was really an opportunity for women to speak. And we were actually concerned in the beginning that it wouldn't, the women wouldn't get up. And I mean, we had lines of women to get tell their story.

 21:44

And when they couldn't, when they couldn't, when we ran

 Diane Williams 21:49

out of time, three minutes

 21:50

or two minutes or whatever wasn't enough, we're running out of time. And before we leave, I just wanted to relate one little story because we've talked about some very serious issues here, which are really important. But our event during the Publican convention, like I said was hugely successful and at night we had our projectionists go by and do drive bys where you would put your visuals on buildings and we were all at Van like exhausted the last day the projections and

our projection is comes by and and shoots this you know, image on the side of a building and we run outside and line up by the image to have our picture taken. We were chanting feminism is fun and I think that's wack is that we're very serious group we have a lot of fun. And

 Diane Williams 22:31

who is your projectionist?

 22:32

They'll call your and we're gonna mail Yes, we had to mail projection. Actually, we do have involved in our actions. And we're not we're fun. We have a serious message and we're not afraid to be heard.

 Diane Williams 22:47

Yeah, and feminism isn't? Isn't an evil word. No, it's it's not an evil word. It's not a scary thought. It's,

 22:56

it means what you make of it. That's right.

 22:58

There was a woman I saw the other day she had on a t shirt said feminism is the radical notion that women are people.

 Diane Williams 23:05

And the two women two women own that company. Not so subtle T the name of the T Shirt Company. That would be melody and what's her name? Melody and her name? She entered on? Yeah, like is very powerful. Okay, well listen, I want to thank you guys from wack you ladies women females from wack. Everybody

 23:36

patriarchal. Unfortunately, I

 23:49

think outside Africa, people are under the impression that things are going the right here at

home. They absolutely don't know what is happening. They are not here to see. We haven't had a lot of difference for campaigning here in Australia because basically, unlike in the States, we haven't had people getting set. We haven't experienced that same sort of witch hunting.



24:10

There is a designated protest site which is located not too far from the Astrodome, but people that are wanting direct access to the President and people that are going to be directly involved aren't going to have a whole lot of luck.



D Diane Williams 24:20

It's on the corner of the parking lot of the Astrodome. So yes, you can see the astronauts but it's very far



24:25

away. Welcome to this way out the international lesbian and gay radio magazine. I'm Greg Gordon and I'm Lucia Chapelle. Gay witness reports on South African violence. Australian military then begins to buckle and Republican round up corrals, its critics, all that and more because you've discovered this way out



25:08

I'm Brian Nunez and I'm Cindy Friedman



B Brian Nunes 25:10

with news wrap a summary of some of the news inward facing the lesbian and gay community for the week ending August 15 1992. Despite early reports to the contrary, the anti gay and lesbian bill and Nicaragua that activists have called the most repressive in Latin America, apparently was signed by President Violeta Chamorro. On July 8, without publicity, local lesbian and gay rights activists only found out about the signing a month later, due to conditions in the country they describe as chaos and anarchy. The very vague bill that was passed by the National Assembly in June criminalizes not only SAME GENDER sex, but also promotion of homosexuality and perhaps even cohabitation. The law cannot take effect until it has been published, and then opponents have 60 days to challenge it before the Supreme Court. The Nicaraguan Center for Constitutional Rights plans to argue that the measure violates privacy rights under the Nicaraguan constitution and human rights established by international treaty. Center. Attorneys believe the Supreme Court can be persuaded to overturn the law, especially if international pressure is applied. The Ontario



C Cindy Friedman 26:17

Court of Appeal has ruled the Canadian Human Rights Act unconstitutional because it does not protect lesbians and gays from discrimination. The court said the Act should be read and applied as if and included sexual orientation. Winning attorney Philip macadam believes this ruling can be used to obtain benefits for the domestic partners of Canadian government employees.

B Brian Nunes 26:41

The United Nations Human Rights Committee asked the Australian government to support repeal of the sodomy law in Tasmania the only Australian state where consensual gay sex is criminal. The action followed the filing of a complaint by the Tasmanian gay and lesbian rights group, which says Australia will now either have to show how it will change the law or answer for it in an international forum.

C Cindy Friedman 27:05

Many lesbians felt slighted by events at the fifth international feminist book fair in Amsterdam. The trouble began at the opening ceremony, where a Dutch Minister of Culture headed to an Conas welcoming speech denounced radical lesbian separatists and even suggested that the feminist bookfair changed its name to the women's Book Fair. 300 women from 30 countries signed a petition demanding an apology for the anti lesbian and anti feminist speech. Most sessions on topics not specifically defined as lesbian did not include lesbian presenters leading 40 women to walk out on the aesthetics of lust meeting, and others to successfully demand lesbian representation on the future of feminism panel. Lesbians hoping to hold unscheduled meetings were frustrated, repeatedly told there was no room 50 Lesbians cram themselves onto the floor space of a small lounge, winning 150 Lesbians the chance to use a larger room during a lunch hour the next day. It ought to be different for the 1994 International feminist book fair in South Australia. All nine members of the Organising Committee are lesbians.

B Brian Nunes 28:22

The International lesbian and gay Association elega elected the person of color to one of its leadership positions for the first time, Rebecca severe of Peru became the new female secretary general at il NGOs 14th World Conference held in Paris last month, John Clark of homosexual initiative Vienna was reelected the male Secretary General by acclamation. 250 activists from 38 countries attended the meeting. Next year's World Conference will be held in Barcelona.

C Cindy Friedman 28:52

In Honolulu Federal Court Judge Alan Kay dismissed a constitutional challenge to Hawaii's year old lesbian and gay rights law. The lawsuit filed on behalf of some fundamentalist church groups by the Rutherford Institute was nearly identical to the one they filed in New Jersey. Kay called the lawsuit questionable and premature, questionable because the complainant churches are specifically exempted by the law and premature because state courts should determine the law's constitutionality before any appeal to a federal court.

B

Brian Nunes 29:27

The first lawsuit testing New Jersey's new anti discrimination law has been filed against the Boy Scouts of America by the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund on behalf of Eagle Scout Jim Dale, Dale had been invited to become an assistant Scoutmaster in Matawan, New Jersey, before he was pictured in a local newspaper appearing at a seminar on the health needs of lesbian and gay teens. After 12 years in scouting, his membership was revoked in the letter from the Boy Scouts of America. Although the letter gave no reason, BSA later admitted under pressure that Dale was Bult for being gay,

C

Cindy Friedman 30:01

a Roman Catholic priest literally came out in support of a lesbian and gay rights ordinance in Louisville, Kentucky. After Archbishop Thomas Kelly announced his opposition to the measure, Reverend Joseph vest decided to take the risk of coming out to encourage the Louisville Board of Aldermen to take the risk of supporting the bill. He told the aldermen I stand before you as a Roman Catholic priest saddened that the gospel of Jesus has been used to divide our community over this issue. And I stand before you as a gay man who was plain tired of having my rights denied.

B

Brian Nunes 30:41

Among this month, victims of AIDS was Randy close co chair of the US human rights campaign fund. Close devoted his last five years of life to activism for lesbian and gay rights and improved response to AIDS. He was interviewed on this way out in early 1991.

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30:56

In the political process, there are three ways in which you influence an elected official one as money. Two is lobbying and three is constituent mobilization, getting the pressure from back home, saying to your congressman, I'm here and I'm gay, and I'm lesbian. And these are the issues that I'm concerned about. And that's how you affect change. The decisions that the government make, have a direct effect on our

B

Brian Nunes 31:18

lives. Randy close co chair of the US human rights campaign fund another casualty of AIDS. He just celebrated his 37th birthday.

C

Cindy Friedman 31:28

To us radio news broadcasters are in hot water after refusing to apologize for airing a report on AIDS. The story about AIDS prevention in Thailand describe the use of cucumbers in condom demonstrations and mentioned dancers wearing jock straps and a Bangkok gay bar. This

offended a number of listeners who heard the report in the US via monitor radio, a Boston based broadcast service of the Christian Science church. Monitor executives pulled the item before it went to international distribution. They also produced a 72 second apology for broadcast but early edition producer Ken Bader and hosts Dale Wellman refused to edit and deliver it and left work in protest. Monitor radio charged Bader and Wellman with insubordination placing them on paid leave.

 Brian Nunes 32:23

And finally, when Rupert Moon's score to take rugby's Welsh Cup for the Llanelli his team captain Phil Davis gave him a big kiss on the cheek. A shock to vicar lodged an official protest, calling the kiss an unChristian act, and fearing that it would encourage homosexuality among the children watching on TV. Dave has asserted that neither he nor Moon is gay, and told the press the vicar has obviously never played a team sport. Otherwise, he'd know that feeling of victory. But if he's worried about it next time, I'll just shake Rupert's hand.

 Cindy Friedman 33:02

Next news wrap for the week ending August 15 1990. To follow the news in your area and informed community is a strong community

 Brian Nunes 33:11

news rep is compiled and written by Cindy Friedman. For this way out. I'm Brian Nunez and

 33:16

I'm Cindy Friedman.

 33:23

Might be served his country well. When he went to fight the war and deeds letter from his lover in lifesafety. In a drawer and witch hunters McCarthy demanded to be put on trial. They said his love is sent to teeth Besson nice tea knocks you down, but pick yourself up off the ground then challenge them to second seconds round. Get a lawyer follow the court drag their masses back into court. That's one way you can buy when heterosexism strikes.

 Greg Gordon 34:12

Three members of the US military who came out on national television hoping to end the ban on gays and lesbians are paying with their careers. Navy boards of inquiry recommended honorable discharges for both Petty Officer Keith mine hold and Lieutenant Tracey Thorn. The discharge recommendations are currently making their way through the Navy bureaucracy

towards final action. While acting US Navy Secretary Sean O'Keefe said he supports the decision on thorns discharge. Thorin has said he's determined to remain in the service and will appeal to the federal courts if necessary. Air Force Staff Sergeant Tom Phoenicia has also been recommended for discharge, and he's indicated he'll appeal that decision before a review board. Meanwhile, former US Air Force Lieutenant Christine Traxler has now gone public with her story. After declaring her bisexuality to her commanding officer Troxler resigned in April so that her discharge would be honorable. However, she's been ordered to repay the cost of her education at the Air Force Academy to the tune of \$18,000. Colorado representative Pat Schroeder has already introduced legislation to end the ban on military service by gays and lesbians in the US House of Representatives. And now US Senator Howard Metzenbaum has introduced the same measure in that body. We also had a brief report last week that the Australian Army has reinstated a lesbian officer who had been expelled after more than 18 years in the service. That country's ban on gays and lesbians in the military is similar to the US policy, although the issue is not as high on the activist community's agenda as it is in the US. In Melbourne. Cheryl Berkovich has more on this story.



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woman who was sacked from the army in June was a person who was invited to become a full time member early in 1990. She had been a member of the reserve since 1972, and was to be promoted in March 1992. Sergeant and was sacked after a routine security clearance, where she admitted in a personal interview that she'd had one homosexual relationship and where they also bedded her for several more names which she refused to give. The name of the woman has been kept secret. She has been called Sue in the newspapers, but they're making it clear that's just a name they use. One two, the name is 38 and she comes from she's only come out since becoming a full time member. And following her sacking made a complaint to the Australian Human Rights Commission. This stems from Australia's staying party to the International Labour Organization policy which says that sexual orientation should not be a method by which you can then somebody from the workplace and the defense forces as a whole are taken to be a workplace in the broad sense of the word. In fact, it's government policy also to eradicate discrimination in the workplace on the basis of sexual orientation. And this has already been included in the public service or the civil service whereby you cannot discriminate against lesbians and gay men in that workplace context. The Attorney General the Justice Minister, the health minister, and the majority of the Federal Labor Party caucus, that's the government caucus are in favor of lifting the ban. Robert Ray, the Defense Force Minister has really buckled under the pressure from the generals and other high ranking Defence Force officials to maintain the ban. Legislation in Australia requires the Human Rights Commission to report any breach of Australia's obligations or international obligation not to discriminate against homosexuals in the workforce to the Attorney General, and he must table it within 15 days in parliament is considered quite a serious offense. The reason why the woman has been reinstated is so that the defense minister, Senator Ray and reinstate the individual, and therefore prevent this matter being brought up in Parliament, but retain the overall ban in the past several months, not only because of this case, but just in a more general sense. Larger campaign has started on a national basis to have that been removed. We haven't had a lot of defense for campaigning here in Australia, because basically, unlike in the States, we haven't had people, at least that we know of getting set. We haven't experienced that same sort of witch hunting. There's been a lot of sort of rhetorical debate and argument about whether or not there actually are homosexuals and lesbians in the defense for very, very conservative

generals and return service people will come out and say that just doesn't exist. You know, it's a non issue. And that is in many ways what has happened here. Reporting for this way out in Melbourne, Australia. I'm Cheryl burkas.