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## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

gay, church, lesbian, feel, call, inmates, people, years, talk, vacaville, women, aids, hiv, catholic, families, objected, meeting, growing, man, religion

## SPEAKERS

Brian Nunes, Greg Gordon, Paul Monette, Jewel Gray, Cindy Friedman

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00:01

Yeah, judging or attacking people, or degrading people or trying to exclude them?



Jewel Gray 00:07

How do you feel that them using the Bible, which I'm sure that being a father, you've professed a love for? in some manner? How do you feel about people using what you, you you cherish in such a negative way? I mean, yourself? How do you feel about that?



00:25

Well, it's a lot of pain. But I think people have been hurting each other with religion for 1000s of years. Yeah, it's one of the dangerous topics, because if I feel a god's on my side, people can do some pretty extreme things with that they have through history, like a drug, you know, it's a build power trip. I think we have to constantly be converted ourselves, and always converted in a sense of saying, I don't have all the answers. I'm always looking for what God wants me to do in the next step. And I can't be pushing other people or attacking other people. Because I mean, I can't because I I'm not perfect. People can be judging me, or how can I judge people when I'm not perfect when I have to depend on God's love and mercy.



01:10

When I look at the difference between someone who has out waving signs and screaming about other people's sins, and someone who can go to a hospital bed and talk with someone who's in various shapes, as anyone who's been to hospital beds to visit people, it says an awful lot that it's easy to forget about. A lot of organized religion, it's a painful subject for a lot of gay people. Because, unfortunately, I don't know of any or many religions that include gay people from the

time they're able to have some questions about religion. I do feel a lot of resentment towards the Catholic Church for not having addressed while I was growing up, it was a big question for me that seemed to have no answer.



02:01

Me too, if I had heard something about what it means to be gay, when I was growing up, it might have made all the difference. But I didn't hear that from anyone, anywhere, anyplace on TV in any of the newspapers or magazines in school in church. I thought I never actually heard anybody preach against homosexuality as I was growing up. Nor did I, I've talked to people who grew up in some churches, where that was going on the weekly example of evil is, you know, like those homosexuals was the evil example. I feel lucky. I didn't grow up with that. But still, whatever I picked up, and usually most of those on the playground, it had its impact on me. It sure did. There used to



J Jewel Gray 02:37

be a Catholic program on Sundays, that was a drama. And it had some pretty well known stars, when Martin Sheen would do it. Martin Balsam. I remember, I remember watching the shows and feeling very comfortable. Because they I don't, I can't remember what it was called Insight, insight. And this was when I was young. And it played out a drama in somebody's life where they were reaching a place where all else had failed. And they realized that there was something else. And it was this, you know, the moral was there very clear, even as a child, I could see the moral of the story was, you know, but you know, I was thinking when you were talking about that, that, and earlier, we were talking about the Catholic philosophy, the policy and what they've always done kind of under the, under the table, that I was never uncomfortable as a child watching those programs, because it was very clear that it was each individual's decision, whether they took this or they didn't, there was always a priest there who, who kind of had it there to lay out on the table and left and generally said, I, I care about you, I hope you make you know, the decisions that's best for you. Here's, you know, an option and and would you know, be supportive but not directive not this you must do this will save you this is this is your salvation. It wasn't like that. And I was always very comfortable with the Catholic faith. And I think Insight was what what did did that to me. I've never been afraid in a Catholic setting or going to a Catholic Church and by birth. My mother is Jewish. So by birth, I'm, I'm Jewish. I've never been a religious person. My mother was very angry at her religion because there was so little actual spiritual involvement for the women in the Jewish faith. Now it's much different. But as she was growing up, and she was teaching me there was so little involvement. She had a lot of resentment, that all women did were cook and clean in Jewish faith, and have other little Jewish children and that was it. And so I didn't grow up with that background. But I grew up concerned about my safety knowing I was a gay person in any religious situation except the Catholic situation. I remember going to mass with a cousin of mine, who was cousin by marriage and went to a Catholic mass and sat in, in a, in a very dark mahogany church with these real heavy benches and sat there and felt comfortable. And I've always been a big supporter of Catholic outreach. As I've always, I think this pope was my. And when he first took the office, I was really impressed with with his first steps, the world tour where he wanted to connect with people, and I think had been like centuries since the pope had done things like he's done. And I was I was a real fan of his, but it seems like since since that's gone on, since the beginning of his, his I don't want to say term, but his involvement is his poke ship, that he's

gotten further and further from that. And it's, it's more into the old policy, reading the old policy again and away from the new kind of Bill Clinton-ish, kind of, you know, we need to have some change and shake up. I was even anticipated this man being the man who would in some way reconcile birth control in South America. I mean, the Catholics definitely. I mean, I know, I'm not pinning you down to this particular thing. But it's an interesting thing that, that, that occasionally there's this burst of progressiveness in the Catholic in Rome. And then there's this wave that follows out of conservatism and, you know, no, we must. Do you find that as I mean, as yourself, I guess you would call you the grunt soldier on the frontlines compared to what we're talking about the general sitting back in the big palaces. But do you find, have you found in your, in your time is being a father, this kind of, you know, back and forth kind of thing, as far as you know, what you want to do? Is this, I guess what I'm looking for is, being a father, about being who you are inside, or being a representative of the, of the Catholic nation, so to speak, I guess that's what I'm looking for. Because the way I see it, and the what I've seen with you in the Colby house people, and probably any other priest I've met has been that it's been about what's inside and



07:39

reconciling between that and the teachings of the Church.



07:42

Yeah. And that's, that's never easy to reconcile sometimes the institution with dealing with people and not losing the person and their choice of conscience. Sometimes we think that the 2000 year history of Christianity was smooth up until this present, yeah. And there have been people who have fought in good conscience back and forth with the church times the church has split. There has been the whole reformation split, with people making their point and feeling justified on both sides. Many saints often were at odds and sometime in prison, and then only later, much later, where they recognize we're studying theologians now. And people who were condemned when they were writing some of them just 50 years ago. I know in the Catholic tradition, just how we read the Bible has changed drastically. And people are teaching in the seminaries, things that if they had taught them just 40 years ago, they would have been thrown out of church for teaching. So we change and there is change and change is always very painful. It never comes easy with a big institution, whether it's a government or the church, I believe still, in the end, in our church, with the church has always held to the choice of conscience. And I guess if you look at that, you know, in the end, each one of us is going to stand before God someday. And God's gonna say, you know, with all that I gave you, how did you do? I think you'll probably say, or he or she, whoever it is, or maybe we'll all be surprised, we'll say, and how did you love?



09:08

So you feel that it can be both true to the church and your own conscience?



09:12

Yes, yes. Not everybody can make it but I can. I think sometimes God is going to ask to as a

Yes, yes. Not everybody can make it but I can. I think sometimes God is going to ask us a gay person, with that gift I gave you of being gay, that special gift that maybe you didn't appreciate, maybe the world didn't appreciate, but that different way of looking at the world a different relay of way of relating that different way of loving. What did you do with that gift? Did you hide it away for your whole life? So did you let it be exploited? exploited? Did you exploit it? Did you let it get twisted? Or did you let it come and shine forth in the world?

J

Jewel Gray 09:45

Well, I need to break here for a minute and then are you going to run a couple of cards here? Okay, we're gonna run a couple of cards. That's lingo for commercials. We're not selling anything. We're not selling anything. I send you messages piece PSAs and then we'll come back and talk with them. Chris a few more minutes and then we'll go to do this way out. I did it this time Okay.

♂

10:05

Welcome back to the indoor trash and field championships where we're underway on the always exciting one meter garbage tall Joey seven from Silent Spring college is up next he's going to attempt a one handed recycle of an empty soda can and the newspaper she was right an interesting choice down the garbage toss of the recycle move have just about the same degree of difficulty. But Julie must hit two bins to recycle while in the garbage toss. She only has to get one bin exactly but she's a veteran recycler. She placed second last year's Tour debris and I think she's got a bright future and trash she appears ready. Here she goes. She's done. The Sona can and the newspaper both prop perfectly to my respective birds.

♂

10:42

If you know how to toss out garbage, you know how to recycle. To find out how you can start recycling today dial one 800 Call EDF that's one 800 Call EDF

♂

10:53

606 Not surprising Dan. The Russian judge is 10 years old and he's obviously concerned about his future to

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11:02

recycle. It's the everyday way to save the world. A message from the Ad Council and the Environmental Defense Fund

♂

11:17

this is the master with a message from eating an edge and Ally KPFT is most shredding show is sweet nightmares. Tuesday night at midnight. till Wednesday morning, five hours of razor sharp

metal may ham slice some time off your busy work or sleep schedule for the most ripping entertainment. This side of a chainsaw factory, the concert calendar loving lacerations and the newest cuts by local bands and groups from around the globe. Support your music scene and listen to West bait Jesus trash can. And yours truly the master only on KPFT. Sweet nightmares. It's not the end of the world, but it's the next best thing.

 Jewel Gray 12:15

Okay, let's see that was quick and painless, wasn't it? Jimmy makes some really nice for us here. So let's give him to do it. Yeah. We were talking while we were away. Of course, we almost have to. And Dennis was asking, what was it

 12:34

for the question I had was that with a scarcity of priests, and fewer and fewer priests coming into the ministry? If there was any problem within the church and getting priests allocated to working with gay people or people with AIDS, because we seem like kind of a limited, you know, a commodity that's not going to pay back very well. For our fair if you were, perhaps in a parish somewhere, you'd have lots of families and children and, you know, building up affecting more people within the church is surrounding any problem was defending your work within the church?

 13:13

No, not really. Luckily, that's one of the reasons being a Franciscan has helped our headquarters is in Cincinnati. And we're not necessarily tied to a diocese. And the Franciscans have always been called to go in on the house of the leper. Yeah. And to be the pioneers to be out where the church isn't or to be with it on the marginalized, the unchurched people who are hurting where other people won't want to go. And they are our province pretty much lets us do what ministry we feel called to

 Jewel Gray 13:44

do that's positive and, you know, sitting here talking about this and it and sharing this with the folks out there can point out that you can't find a religion or a spot in in a religion and and I don't want to I don't want to you know, forget that there are other religious organizations out there from from the Methodist to Lutherans to the Baptist even that are part of care teams and are working with people with AIDS and we have talked with

 14:13

a lot of churches and the Montrose are and there's very good churches that are very gay friendly and gay welcoming and their denomination allows them to welcome completely MCC are bearing Methodist, Grace Lutheran are are ones that we've we've had contact with

J Jewel Gray 14:28

South Main Baptists, which is you know, good church.

14:32

Unfortunately, care teams are not on the six o'clock news or front pages. Yeah.

14:38

I want to tell you just a bit. We have an HIV retreat coming up in December. It's December 4, fifth and sixth. It's a retreat. It's a spiritual retreat, and it's open to people of all faith is just deals with spirituality. The theme is the hopes and fears of all the years. It's going to be at the Krishna renewal center in Dickinson about halfway Down towards Galveston very beautiful setting. It's a weekend starts Friday evening and goes till Sunday afternoon we're gonna have a nurse on duty in case people need that. There's going to be time to share, they're going to hear input from us, but there's also time to share. And again, it's not pushing a religion, it's just giving people a chance to talk about their spirituality. And that the kind of theme of the hopes and fears as people approach Christmas, if people are interested on that, or for information if they calls it to Colby house 5228182. Preferably they call us during the day. Yeah, not right now tonight, but they call it sometime during the day, we can mail out more information to them. Sometimes, P HIV people PW A's have a hard time with financing a retreat. So we can always try to find some scholarships for people with that, too.

J Jewel Gray 15:47

So you're willing to look into scholarships if someone can't afford it? Sure.

15:51

Or there's someone out there that wants to donate for scholarships for somebody we're always willing to accept. But we've, we've already had some donations for that.

J Jewel Gray 15:57

Well, that'd be nice. That'd be a nice way to to make a Christmas gift in someone's name to Kobe house so that you can help someone go to one of these retreats. I know you do several a year, don't

16:07

you? We tried to for a year or two gay retreats into HIV retreats.

J Jewel Gray 16:12

And where's this petite tree going to beat you know,

16:14

the Christian we know center in Dickinson in Dickinson very pretty. So

J Jewel Gray 16:18

you get out of town, you get a breath of real air, make sure you check your passports because once you leave 60 and loop, they may want them. Let's see, there was something else we were talking about a while ago that I thought was really fascinating. I want to talk to you about your you know, I spoke about the volunteers at the at the care center. And you just spoke about the other churches that are involved and stuff, I was wondering if there isn't maybe kind of a networking of the churches that are involved in this kind of stuff, maybe to form one large, I mean, not an organization but uh you help us we'll help you kind of bartering system, you know, where, where one church may have something that you need or can help you with something and, and another church may be able to help you with something and you can help them is or you guys, somebody was talking about that recently that's trying to set something like that up?

17:16

Well, one of the things we do at Colby project is try and network with other churches. So we're not just isolated and other organizations and other aids organizations. We belong to the Montrose clergy Association, which is all the churches in the Montrose area. We also go to the AIDS Interfaith Council meetings, that's by firm. And that brings all the churches together who are focused on working with people with AIDS, with so we try to keep plugged in and that we are networking. So we're not competing against each other. We're not duplicating services. That's one of the reasons why we just do spiritual ministry, we're not a hospice, we don't give out food. Because that's being done, what we found the gap in terms of reaching out for people who didn't have anybody to come or go to to talk about the spiritual issues.

J Jewel Gray 18:05

Well, as far as, as far as I'm concerned, I can ask for no fire volunteers and I get from COVID house to help us and, and role models and, you know, setting examples of you know, spirituality and, and the love and the consideration that I see from the people that do volunteer there is just amazing to me and I, I look forward to the days that Kobe house is at the care center, not only because they make my job easier, but they make my job a lot more pleasant. And I've really enjoyed meeting the volunteers there. And I know the people at the care center. Dennis for one is is you know, been really thrilled to have him there and have struck up many conversation with many of the volunteers. There are some favorites, of course, you know, and



18:57

that's one of the reasons why we're there too, and is to meet people and talk but I with all the work I do sometimes I do a lot of the fundraising in the office administrative parts. And there are times when it's just nice to roll up my sleeves and get them dirty chop and meat and everything else and just work with my hands to clear my head and then have that kind of participation.



J Jewel Gray 19:17

And that's that's that gets right back to the Franciscan order to the service and not the glamour and glory but the service. I was gonna say oh, I want to get I don't want to get Chris I mean not Chris a father Dennis up here. Is it father to son brother knows brother by Father Dennis. Dennis up here and his letters, letters and his colors one time and talk to him one night.



19:43

You can talk about fun the spirituality of leather. Yeah, that would be fun.



J Jewel Gray 19:47

I know he's he's a real fun guy. Very, very charming, charming, man. I want to thank you for coming down and you're always welcome. Anytime you got something going on. All you have to do is let me know and we'll get it on the air and we'll We'll preface everything and next time we have something. What Chris was talking about earlier was that we announced a retreat, the last retreat they had one morning and they got called that morning and we're little surprised a little surprised you guys live there. How many how many guys live there?



20:20

Well, we just this past year were able to separate our house from our offices, but the phone line is connects over so it rings in our earrings in my bedroom if they call this time of night.



J Jewel Gray 20:29

Well, there you go. If you are really desperate need someone you can find someone at Colby house.



20:35

Or if they know somebody that they're really like this type of friend in the hospital and they would like somebody to come visit them. We're always willing to do that. They just give us a call.

J

Jewel Gray 20:43

And I know I don't do this regularly. But if if I were going to recommend someone to listen, or if you're having difficulties handling the crisis in your life, there are a lot of places to go. And I would recommend and suggest that Coby house be on your list of places that can help and support you. I appreciate you coming. You're always welcome. We'll do what we can. Okay, thanks. Good night. Good night. We're gonna take about two minutes and talk about something that I saw kind of relating to the religious aspects of gay and lesbians in Rochester, New York, which is Dennis's hometown and some time, some place that I spent some memory, very memorable time has a large lesbian population. I know they have a large gay population, but their lesbian population really stands out. I mean, that's not just my noticing the women. But there's a very good tradition

Ω

21:42

of strong women in that part of the country.

J

Jewel Gray 21:47

They recently tried to ordain a lesbian in a church and a Presbyterian church up there. Are they did or did they? I thought they had made perhaps that was the one in North Carolina that they really had deigned, okay. Does it say here that they are danger in this article?

Ω

22:05

I believe that does and that she was going to take over one of the ministries

J

Jewel Gray 22:09

day and she said she sees a certain part of growing social now that's okay.

Ω

22:15

We call pastor. So yeah, I assume she's been ordained today. So

J

Jewel Gray 22:19

she's eligible says she's competent, says that she has the qualified qualifications. But because she's a lesbian, that they can allow her to be a pastor in this Presbyterian Church. And I know that the lesbians have, they're going to be very upset. And there are ways to get around it, they can start their own church, which a lot of gay people do



22:40

within this structure of

J

Jewel Gray 22:43

particular phone. No, we have a church that started here, across from what was that? spuds or us? Do you remember spuds or there was a church across from there called the dawn of faith, tiny little church, in a little storefront,



23:01

for the guardian angels used to be know that it may

J

Jewel Gray 23:05

have been I don't know, Jeanne leggett was the minister, the pastor there. And it was about 90% lesbian, because these women had been going to church as Jeanne and and several of the people who were close to her have been going to church. And if, and had been disappointed in what you know, and just decided to break away and make their own church and their own philosophies and policies. And I went there for a short time. When I first moved to Texas, I went there. I was tired of the bar scene. And I didn't want to know, I just did not feel comfortable with people who were heavy drinkers. And generally, that's all I found at the bars. Not that that's all. All it goes. But so I had a friend who said will come to church with me there are a lot of women here. They're not drinkers, they're more settled. And I did and I went for several months. The Church, the religious part of the church was not as interesting to me as the type of people.



24:05

Oh, that's right. It's a variety of sources of meeting gay people. The reason I got here tonight to begin with, but it's because I was talking with you about how much I enjoyed the show, and that my first real exposure to gay people was through the radio. And it was very reassuring to me to hear voices, because they had no concept as to what a gay person was supposed to be. I was living in a very small town and would stay up till midnight when I was 17. And listen to this gay radio show. And it was reassuring to me to have some contact and

J

Jewel Gray 24:43

voice in the door. Yes, somebody some other gay person. Yeah, we have some similar connections here. And when we get back from this way out, Dennis and I'll talk a little about that. It's one of the reasons I'm involved in a radio station here. So let's go to this way out.



Paul Monette 25:05

I would love to be able to say to parents don't be full of guilt and self recrimination that your kid turned out gay or lesbian. You didn't have anything to do with that. But I do think parents and families have a great deal to do with what the character of the closet is. I've had a life of great joy. And I feel this nuclear rage against my government for the way they have allowed a kind of genocide by indifference to happen to my people. We really have a challenge to help our community, we must stop those gay and lesbian kids from committing suicide at 13 and 15. That is simply unspeakable. And we're the only ones who can help them.

 Greg Gordon 25:54

Welcome to this way out the international lesbian and gay radio magazine. Lucia chapels taken some time off for good behavior. And I'm Greg Gordon, Europeans are asked to judge thy neighbor PWA prisoners defiantly demand decency, and award winning author discusses his manhood, all that and more because you've discovered this way out.

 Cindy Friedman 26:25

I'm Cindy Friedman. And I'm Brian, with news wrap a summary of some of the news in or affecting the lesbian and gay community for the week ending October 24 1992. A survey of 200,000 Europeans in 14 countries by the European value system study group provided some interesting perspectives on attitudes towards gays and lesbians internationally. When asked who they would object to having as next door neighbors 28% objected to homosexuals, and 26% objected to people with AIDS that put both groups about midway on the scale, more acceptable than both right and left wing extremists and far ahead of drug addicts and heavy drinkers, but far less acceptable than people of different racial and religious groups. The least objected to group was large families. When the results were broken down by nationalities, there was considerable variation from country to country. Half of Portuguese respondents and almost as many Northern Irish objected to gay neighbors, while only 12% in Denmark and the Netherlands objected. 1/5 objected in Iceland and Norway, about 1/4 in France and Belgium and about 1/3 in Britain, Spain, Ireland and Germany.

 Brian Nunes 27:46

A major research project in New Zealand conducted by a GB McNair and commissioned by the New Zealand AIDS Foundation found strong support for lesbian and gay rights there. 85% of respondents believed the law should not allow discrimination based on sexual orientation. Almost four fifths actually believed that gays and lesbians already have legal protections in employment, although this is not the case, but about 85% believe there should be such protections from firing, and would themselves have no objection to a gay or lesbian co worker. More than three fourths supported gay and lesbian service in the armed forces and police. Almost half that many were unaware of the existing ban on police service.

 Cindy Friedman 28:28

Open gay Frank PITINO is discrimination lawsuit against the US Federal Bureau of Investigation has been approved as a class action, enabling other FBI veterans to join his case. Bettina has

served 20 years with the FBI and held a top secret security clearance until being fired in 1991. Because he is gay. After years of pretrial maneuvering, the case itself will finally be heard in mid December.

B

Brian Nunes 28:56

The Kentucky State Supreme Court recently struck down the sodomy law there, but one Kentucky legislator has drafted a constitutional amendment to reinstate it. Republican Representative John Harper's proposal might sidestep equal protection arguments by making oral and anal intercourse illegal for both homosexual and heterosexual unmarried pairs. Harper claimed he is interested only in AIDS prevention and not immorality. But in promising to oppose the measure. American Civil Liberties Union of Kentucky Executive Director Everett Hoffman pointed out the exemption for married couples makes no public health sense. Should the amendment pass both state houses the earliest it would appear on the ballot would be November 1994. The Sacramento

C

Cindy Friedman 29:39

California City Council passed a strong law providing for registration of heterosexual and same gender domestic partnerships. The ordinance provides for hospital visitation and family lease rental and real estate agreements. It also requires local businesses to extend any unpaid family leave benefits they are offer married couples and provides anti discrimination protections with civil court remedies for people denied these benefits. The right wing Rutherford Institute has promised to appeal the law.

B

Brian Nunes 30:11

The East Lansing Michigan City Council approved an ordinance granting health benefits to both heterosexual and same gender domestic partners of non union city employees. Unions have the option of negotiating for similar benefits. The vote followed along and heated debate before an overflow crowd packed with noisy members of the anti gay group concerned citizens.

C

Cindy Friedman 30:33

A campaign of terror against the lesbian owned woman's land commune in rural Oregon has driven the seven residents into hiding. The first death threat note arrived July 17, decorated with swastikas and reading lezzy queer nigger Jews die young. It was followed by daily harrassment including further death notes, phone calls and vandalism. When the women reported the harrassment to police, one officer suggested the perpetrator might be a rejected lesbian. On the night of August 3, the harrassment escalated to gunfire which one woman answered with a shotgun chasing three men off the grounds. The women fled to Roseburg, and only hours later received a note that they had been traced. A further move to Eugene ended with another death threat note. The women have now taken refuge outside the state while friends keep a 24 hour guard on women's land.

**B** Brian Nunes 31:31

Oregon's controversial measure nine has served to boost membership in Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays over the last five months. Five new PFLAG branches have joined the state's previous nine with two more branches pending.

**C** Cindy Friedman 31:45

A group of students at Occidental College in Los Angeles have raised money to establish the lamda emergency Scholarship Fund, believed to be the first of its kind. The fund is available to replace financial support lost from parents who cut off lesbian and gay students who had come out.

**B** Brian Nunes 32:04

US gay and lesbian authors are getting mainstream attention. The National Book Awards will be announced November 18, with palmo net one of five nominees in the nonfiction category for his autobiography, becoming a man and Dorothy Allison one of five nominees in the fiction category for her novel bastard out of Carolina. Allison has also been nominated for a Pulitzer Prize.

**C** Cindy Friedman 32:27

And finally, life is imitating art in Juliet, Georgia where downtown consists of a dozen buildings. That's where the less than explicitly lesbian movie fried green tomatoes was filmed at the mythical Whistle Stop cafe. But after filming was completed, the Whistle Stop became a cafe for real, offering a fried green tomato with every dish. Folks are making the detour from interstate 75 to see it to over 7000 sign the guest book in the first two months of business.

**B** Brian Nunes 33:05

That's news wrap for the week ending October 24 1992. compiled and written by Cindy Friedman followed the

**C** Cindy Friedman 33:10

news in your area and informed community is a strong community. For this way out. I'm Cindy Friedman.

**B** Brian Nunes 33:17

And I'm Brian Nunez. inmates at the troubled Vacaville prison medical facility in California are preparing what could be a dramatic protest following the death of another inmate with AIDS. Some charge that the cries for help of 37 year old Ricardo Rodriguez went unheeded by prison

authorities. Brian Carmichael, who is incarcerated at Vacaville has been leading protests of what prisoners say is inept and inadequate care for inmates who have AIDS or are HIV positive



33:49

in May Rodriguez Rico was hurt by over 20 inmates banging on his cell door and calling man down. That's the recognized prison call for help. He called man down several times and banged on his door for several minutes. other inmates saw an officer come out and look up in the direction where the calls were coming from, and then leave the cellblock because the shift was over. No one went to check on Rico until the following morning when he was found dead and is still sitting on his toilet and waiting for help and never came.



B Brian Nunes 34:26

Attendant Patricia Mandeville is a spokesperson for the Vacaville medical facility. She says the circumstances of Rodriguez his death are being investigated.



34:35

We have allegations from inmates that there was banging on his door and we also have allegations from other inmates that indicate that they hurt no Bang. The investigation is to determine if there was indeed an attempt to call for medical have by inmate Rodriguez.



B Brian Nunes 34:52

Carmichael and another inmate Charles Perry said that they will go on a hunger strike to protest the latest aids death and those before it Last month up to 100 inmates participated in a medication strike to protest what they call the degeneration of medical care at Vacaville. Carmichael and Perry say they will stage their hunger strike until changes in the delivery of medical care at Vacaville are implemented.



35:15

And I both been resolved by the priest and we fully intend to carry it as long as it needs, even if it means this giant Charles is HIV positive. He has full blown AIDS, myself. I've been in prison 10 years and I've never tested because the things I see my friends being subjected to, I've spent 12 and 14 and 16 hour shifts in the hospital holding somebody's hand as they die here. And I've done basically every high risk, you know, behavior that you can do. And every time I get a cold or a flu, I wonder is that HIV? I'm afraid to test. You have inmates over here that are afraid to go see the doctors or just have nothing but contempt for the medical staff that they don't want to see him. They didn't want to deal with it. I mean, if they can't get to an outside hospital, there's inmates that are probably more knowledgeable than some of the staff they have working here now.

B Brian Nunes 36:11

Brian Carmichael is an inmate at the Vacaville facility in Northern California. Carmichael says he will call off his hunger strike only if the head of the State Department of Correction meets with the inmates. For this way out. I'm Brian newness.

♂ 36:27

I have a little booklet.

♂ 36:28

It's called tips on meeting your lover's parents. Tip number one. Think before you speak. Where did I meet Marsha? Well at that support group for survivors of dysfunctional and abusive families.

♂ 36:45

Hi, this is Monica grant up and coming singer songwriter comic and I'm listening to this way out the international gay lesbian radio magazine.

♂ 37:06

This is Josie custodia and I have Femi for Lion.

♂ 37:09

And our guest is Paul Monette, who is the author of becoming a man half a life story. Also a whole bunch of wonderful novels, including halfway home and after. And is perhaps best known for borrowed time and aids memoir.

P Paul Monette 37:25

Somebody introduced me last week at a reading and the line I gave her was he has more books than T cells. Sometimes the books feel more real to you than your actual life. Well, they will survive you're actually I'm that may be the reason that they feel so comforting. Becoming a Man is

♂ 37:40

very different from your other work because it's about growing up in the closet. What made you want to write this?

P

Paul Monette 37:48

Well, after I wrote *Borrowed Time*, and when friends of mine were reading it, they would wax eloquent about my relationship with Roger, and what a perfect relationship it was and how balanced and giving and all that. And it was quite true. I mean, if they romanticized it a bit, and I romanticized it a bit, it was still based on a real truth. And people would say if only I could have half that amount of time with someone like that, you know, but I would realize that, well, they don't know what I went through before it. I don't want to do romanticize that and forget that for 25 years, I was so confused and so clotted up and so full of self hatred, that if you had asked me at 23, or 24, do you expect to have a great love in your life, I would have stared right through you, it was so impossible. So there was a way in which I wanted to tell my story as nakedly and as wincingly as I could, in the end, to show how not to do it, if possible, that if you can come out at 16 or 15, or 18. Instead, you could there's a lot of this junk that you don't have to go through. I think what has surprised me about the book, and the nerve it has struck that is larger than itself is that it apparently has the effect on people where they run the novel or their movie in their head of their own life as they read about my life. And that is one of the great gifts of autobiography, I guess, we have not had a lot of autobiography outside of fiction. In gay and lesbian writing, I think we're on the edge of a great deal of it. Autobiography is one of the things that we have been kept from restrained from because we have so many of our own painful feelings and still so much self hatred in us.

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39:29

In my own experience, I came out at a very young age. I was very visible as an African American in a fairly homogeneous white culture. And I felt totally invisible. I felt like people were like walking through me when they have those things in the movies where somebody is invisible, and people were just walking through them. And I think what was really important for me in your book was how vulnerable you were willing to be how much you were willing to let yourself be out there. How hard was it to put this book down on pages

P

Paul Monette 40:02

much harder than I thought it was going to be. Because when I wrote the first 50 or 75 pages, I just buried Stephen, I had just met Winston, I thought, Okay, I'm just going to do the best I can. I don't know how much time I have. And in the first 50, or 75 pages talking about my childhood sexuality, I thought, well, this is great. Everyone should do this. And it's a way of finally healing up things. Realizing I wasn't a bad kid, I was kind of a sexy kid. Then as soon as I got into adolescence, and the shades of the prison house began to descend on me about being in the closet, it was torturous. And when I would be 18, in the book, I wouldn't be 18 in life again. And I was very glad to finish the book, it was a relief to get it over with it was very painful. I hope it's also weighty enough that there's edges of it that people can like, they understand that when the coming out moment happens, it causes families a great deal of upheaval. And what we say to them is, it's worth it. It's difficult for anybody, but you'll see that the world of truth you can live in, even if it throws you out of the house is worth it. But I would love to be able to say to parents don't be full of guilt and self recrimination that your kid turned out gay or lesbian. You didn't have anything to do with that. The more we know, the more we know our orientation is with us deep in the jeans. But I do think parents and families have a great deal to do with the

closet and what the character of the closet is. So the whole family has to come out of the closet. You know, it can be an exhausting and painful process. But I don't know anybody who has been through it, who didn't think it was worth it. I think it is certainly more open now than it's ever been. You just cannot open the papers or turn on the television without the sick hatred being spewed at you that you know people like Lou Sheldon and all these people are given as much airwaves as they want. And we're our spokesman, you know, we thank God we have your show and some few others, but it is shocking how little voice we have against them. And I don't consider those people religious. I certainly don't consider them Christian. I think that they should be taxed. They have used the freedom of religion that is part of our Constitution as a way of going after us and hating us and and white people in the south did that for generations. We have to believe there's a middle ground our families, our loved ones, our children, our co workers who simply feel that that's grotesque and ugly. What those homophobes think we're not the only ones who went from it, but I have to tell you I feel incredibly abused and battered by it.