

# gcam\_ah\_0273\_02\_edit

Wed, Aug 23, 2023 10:40AM 47:19

## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

people, gay, today, march, children, pacifica, lesbian, stage, broadcast, holly, crowd, washington, loving, strangers, stations, supremacist, country, gay rights movement, colorado, joined

## SPEAKERS

Larry Bensky

---



Larry Bensky 00:28

We're live here in Washington at the March on Washington for lesbian, gay and bi equal rights and liberation, Larry Bensky with Jack Valinski and Kate Clinton, and joined at this moment by an exhausted looking Martina Navratilova just finished five sets up there on stage. Put the headphones on Ms. Navratilova, and welcome to our nationwide broadcast. Why do you look as if you played five sets and he just spoke for 10 minutes? That's



00:55

how I feel. The most bloody nerve wracking thing I've done in my life.



Larry Bensky 01:00

Hold on a minute. You didn't have to.



01:02

But Collins after?



Larry Bensky 01:06

Why do you think you're not used to addressing large crowds? Is that why I'm so tense for you?



01:09

No, I'm used to addressing large crowds. But who the hell has ever talked to a million people all at one time before live on TV or the radio but not in person. And also I'm not giving acceptance

at one time before live on TV or the radio but not in person. And also, I'm not giving acceptance speech after winning a tournament or something I'm talking preaching sort of, to these people.



01:27

You spoke about your



01:28

own life, you wrote your speech yourself. I sure did. Every word of it. Loved it just slaved over it work, work



01:33

work now? Well, it sort of came in stages. I just did an outline. And then it was sort of as it came in. I polished it off couple days ago when I was still getting it printed this morning.



Larry Bensky 01:45

about something here? How much are the issues that are under discussion today? Issues that are confined to the United States? You of course, originally your system of Eastern Europe? Would you be able to get a million people out in any European country or collection of European countries these days?



02:03

You wouldn't. It would be all of Europe, in a city I mean, in Paris or London, or I think that would sound I think it's possible. And now in the east, former East European countries, people can be out. I mean, when I lived there, you know, if you were homosexual, they put you in a sanatorium.



Larry Bensky 02:19

And what has happened since the breakup of the old regimes in Europe. As far as that's concerned,



02:24

everything has opened up including the sexuality issue. And of course, they have a ways to go there as well as we do here. But they're catching up pretty fast.



Larry Bensky 02:32

Is that all good? Everything opening up? Are there some negative aspects to it? Well,

 02:37

I think the fragmentation is negative. I think people want to be so independent, and I'll see it in the gay movement as well. Everybody's on their little piece of the sand. You know, everybody's worried about their little agenda. And we all need to work together. And the same in Europe. They're all worried about their little nationalists, their little religion, their little this language and whatever. And it ends up being defeating.

 02:58

So you've been working hard in Colorado?

 03:00

Well, I've been helping with my name, really, I haven't had a chance to do much on my own, because I'm still playing and I can get involved in the lawsuit personally, but I'm one of the plaintiffs in trying to get it overturned, and I've done some fundraisers to raise money for for the cause as well.

 Larry Bensky 03:13

I heard Pat Schroeder, Congresswoman Pat Schroeder, who spoke here to the crowd earlier, say, come to Colorado and help us fight the situation, of course as the controversy about whether or not people should come to Colorado and help fight the situation or stay away from Colorado until the situation gets better. Where do you stand?

 03:29

Very much a catch 22 situation but I think the boycott is wrong. Because if you're really throwing out the baby with the bathwater, you're hurting the people that supported gay rights. And you're not getting to the people that voted for the amendment who are in the rural areas who are not involved in the ski industry. And maybe 10 years from now that would be heard by the boycott, but Meantime, it's going to get overturned, I hope and not too far away.

 03:54

So I think we should call for March like this in Colorado Springs. I think that would be the next campaign should be come out to Colorado.

 Larrv Benskiv 04:02

Do you think there are enough porta potties in Colorado Springs to support a million person March? porta Potti. Meanwhile, do you think this opposition has been galvanized by the boycott? opposition have they have gotten them stronger?

 04:22

Well, again, mixed mixed results from that as well. Some people are saying well, we're even more before the amendment because we're upset that people are boycotting the state. But you know what the most of the boycotting has come from heterosexual groups. It hasn't really come from the gay community as much as the gay ski week in Aspen was still held. So 4000 people or 3000 people, but it will still help.

 04:41

I think a performer should do us tours right in to everybody who is absolutely

 04:49

run away then they're not exposed and they can keep pretending. Martina Navratilova, thank

 Larry Bensky 04:52

you very much for joining us on this Pacific of broadcast today including back home in Colorado and kg and you as well as several other stations. Thank you very much. Thank you. We're gonna go back to the stage now where Sir Ian McKellen, the first openly gay person to be knighted will be speaking and is speaking, and we'll hear from him.

 05:17

400 years ago, William Shakespeare wrote a play about the lawyer, Thomas Moore. In one scene, there is a mob out in the streets of London, demonstrating against the presence of strangers in their midst. And Thomas Moore is sent out by the king to appeal to the crowds humanity and as you hear his speech now, today, you will hear Shakespeare support for all strangers, all immigrants, all minorities like us, whose rights to equality is being denied. So, somebody in the crowd socks that the strangers should be removed and Thomas small replies grabbed them removed. Imagine that you see the wretched strangers their babies have their backs, with their poor luggage flooding to the ports and coasts for transportation and did you sit as kings in your desires, what had you got? Are tell you, you were taught how insolence and strong hands should prevail. How order should be quelled. And by this pattern, not one of you should live an aged man for other Ruffins with self same hand self reason and self right God shock um, you and men like ravenous fishes, feed on one another you put down strangers, kill them, cut their throats. Oh, desperate as you are, wash your foul minds with tears Cena the king as he is Clement, if the offender mourn, should so much come to short of your great trespass as but to banish you with Would you go? What country by the nature of your ERA

should give you harbor go here to France, or Flanders, to any German province to Spain or Portugal? Anywhere that not adheres to your country? Why? You must needs be strangers. Would you be pleased to find a nation of such barbarous temper, that breaking out in hideous violence would not afford you an abode on Earth? Wet their detested knives against your throats spurn you like dogs? And like as if that God owns not nor made not you know that the elements were not all appropriate to your comforts. What would you think Jesse Helms, Pat Buchanan, Pat Robertson, and Senator Nunn? Good you think to be thus used

 08:27

this this is the stranger's case. And this your man tarnish, inhumanity brothers and sisters William Shakespeare is on this mops today.

 Larry Bensky 08:49

Ian McKellen, the British actor first openly gay person to be knighted in the royal Kingdom recently seen in the United States in his performance of Richard the Third. Our field reporters is still out there in the field, many of them including Juan Mendez, who has been out there all day since the march began one where are you now what's happening?

 09:13

Pennsylvania Avenue where the marches turning south to go to the mall? Very, very slowly, and we're still not halfway through with the marchers. Right now the Pennsylvania delegation is marching. West of the White House we're a group of religious rights groups are counted demonstrating is a very small group. Respond from all the delegations, drowning whatever they are saying with a megaphone. And yourself.

 Larry Bensky 09:46

It's interesting. In the past, when you had marches like this, if there were 10 counter demonstrators and a million demonstrators, the 10 would get equal time. On the evening news. It will be interesting to see if they're playing it that way this time. No one how close is the end of the march to leaving? Will they ever get to leave? It is after all after four o'clock here back east and March has been going for four hours is it look like people at the very end are ever gonna get to get here?

 10:13

I think it's gonna be a long time. I mean, we're not halfway. It's been four hours. Delegation. I think it might be like seven or even eight o'clock.

 10:25

.....

We're not doing anything. We're waiting for you. We'll be here to you get here. having any fun.

 Larry Bensky 10:33

Thanks a lot. One Mendez of WBI Pacifica station in New York, helping us here as our people from Pacifica stations all over the country. And we will now go to the podium where a tribute to Audrey Lord who recently passed away is in progress.

 10:51

The war is the same if we lose someday women's blood will congeal on a dead planet. That if we win if we win there is no telling we seek beyond history for a new and more possible meeting I look to meet you on whatever barricades fewer rent or choose Aman Aman la ma la

 Larry Bensky 12:04

attribute the voice of Audrey Lord she lives on in our work for liberation was the slide put up the words put up to the crowd those who could see the video screens there's actually one massive video screen on the podium here on the mall and one other video screen about halfway down the mall. But other than that people really are not seeing the videos, which is a shame since they're showing a fair amount of videos today. Out there you're listening to Pacific is live broadcast. And now we've been joined by Alan Ross we being Larry Pinsky and Jack valinski. And Kate Clinton. Alan Ross, you've been Alan Ross, by the way comes to us from Los Angeles part of a huge group of people here from Los Angeles marching under the Los Angeles banner today. Allen's a contributor to this way out and gay radio Nightline, founder of gay fathers of Greater Philadelphia International gay fathers Coalition. We were at the first lesbian gay march in Washington in 1979, and part of our anchor team in the last March in 1987. So welcome, Alan who needs no welcome, certainly, California. Were you just on the march or so?

 13:05

Actually, I was I've been watching the march I've been kind of going through the march and through the crowd. And I understand that the march is still coming in, right?

 Larry Bensky 13:14

Well, no, we just heard a report from one of our reporters for one minute in the field, he says that it's only halfway started. I mean, only half of the people who are trying to march have actually left the departure point, which is some we should tell our listeners some two miles to the west of us here. On the other side of you know, Washington of the Washington Monument, they go up around the White House and then down Pennsylvania Avenue to us here on the mall. And we are three blocks west of the capital where the huge stage is set up. So it appears as if our prediction at the beginning that the people who are at the very end of the March probably will get to have a good time standing still all day. I also



13:47

understand that there's that there are usually buses from Philadelphia. And it's my understanding that some of those buses may still be outside the beltway.



Larry Bensky 13:56

Yeah, the traffic situation or transportation situation has been at gridlock since early this morning. So we'll never know really how many people want it to come to this March and perhaps didn't get here. Alan, let's talk a minute about the question of gay parenting. Founder gay fathers. If there's one among many things that rubs quote them, unquote, the wrong way, people who don't get it and choose not to understand about gays and lesbians and bisexuals and Americans, this question of parenting, and even polls that have recently come out such as today in The Washington Post, show broad support perhaps for civil rights and equality, but not for parenting. Why is that? Well, I



14:36

think that the idea of gay adults and children is alien to people because of the religious right, and their insistence on tying gays to pederasty to child molestation, which is so false and to say things like should gays be allowed to have custody of children neglects the fact that so many gays have children and so many gays are already parents as some sort of conventional means, which would be conventional marriages and some through unconventional means. And whatever the case, taking those children, taking those children away would be just unconscionable.



Larry Bensky 15:15

We have to we'll get back to talk to you and among ourselves in a moment, but right now we want to go to the podium to Urvashi Vaid, who is attorney, community organizer, Executive Director of National Gay and Lesbian Task Force up until recently Urvashi Vaid



15:34

with hearts full of love, and whether the abiding faith in justice, we have come to Washington to speak to America, we have come to speak the truth of our lives and silenced the liars. We have come to challenge the cowardly Congress to end paralysis and exercise moral leadership, we have come to defend our honor, and when our equality but most of all, we have come in peace and with courage to say, America, this day marks the return from exile of the gay and lesbian people. We are banished no more. We wander the wilderness of despair, no more, we are afraid no more. For on this day, with loving our hearts, we have come out. And we have commanded to reach out across America to build a bridge of understanding, a bridge of progress, a bridge as solid as still a bridge to a land where no one suffers prejudice, because of their sexual orientation, their race, their gender, their religion, or their human difference. I've been asked by the march organizers to speak in five minutes about the far right, the far right

which threatens the construction of this bridge, the extremist right, which has targeted every one of you and me for extinction. The supremacist right, which seeks to redefine the very meaning of democracy. Language itself fails in this task, my friends, for to call our opponents the right states of profound untruth. They are wrong. They are wrong. They are wrong morally. They are wrong spiritually and they are wrong politically. The Christian supremacist are wrong spiritually when they demonize us. They are wrong when they reduce the complexity and beauty of our spirit into a freak show. They are wrong spiritually. Because if we are the untouchables of America, if we are the untouchables then we are as Mahatma Gandhi said, Children of God and as God's children. We know that the gods of our understanding the gods of goodness and love and righteousness march right here with us today. The supremacists read the Antifa who lead the anti gay crusade are wrong morally, they are wrong because justice is moral and prejudice is evil. Because truth is moral. And the lie of the closet is the real sin because their claim of morality is a simple set of subterfuge, a strategy that hides their real aim, which is much more secular. Christian supremacist leaders like Phil Bennett and Pat Robertson, Lou Sheldon and Pat Buchanan. supremacists like Phyllis Schlafly and Ralph Reed, Bill Kristol and RJ Rushdoony these supremacist leaders don't care about morality. They care about power. They care about social control. And their goal, my friends, is the reconstruction of American democracy into American theocracy. We have We who are gathered here today must prove the religious right or wrong politically and we can do it. That's our challenge. You know, they've made us into the communists of the 90s. And they say they've declared a cultural war on us. It's a war of all right, it's a war about values on one side, or the values that everyone has R stands for, you know what those values are traditional American values of democracy and pluralism. On the on the other side. On the other side are those who want to turn the Christian church into the government, those whose value is monotheistic. We believe in democracy in many voices coexisting in peace and people of all faiths living together in harmony under a common civil framework known as the United States Constitution. Our opponents believe in monotheism. One way there's one God, there's one law, the Old Testament, One Nation supreme, that Christian White's one. Let's name it. Democracy battles fearsome in Oregon, in Colorado, and Florida, in Maine, in Arizona, in Michigan, in Ohio, in Idaho and Washington, in Montana, in every state, where you my brothers and sisters are leading the fight, to oppose the rights and to defend the United States Constitution. We won the anti gay measure in Oregon, but today 33 counties 33 counties and municipalities face local versions of that ordinance in Oregon today. The fight is just begun. We lost the big fight in Colorado, but thanks to the hard work of all the people of Colorado, the boycott, Colorado movement is working, and it's strong, and we're gonna win our freedom there eventually. To defeat the right politically, my friends is our challenge when we leave this March. How can we do it? We've got a march from Washington into action at home. I challenge every one of you, straight or gay who can hear my voice to join the National Gay and lesbian movement. I challenge you to join and GLTF to fight the right we've got to match the power of the Christian supremacist member for member, vote for vote. dollar for dollar. I challenge each of you not just buy a t shirt, but get involved in your movement. Get involved volunteer, volunteer, every local organization in this country needs you. Every clinic, every hotline, every youth program needs you needs your time and your love. And I also challenge our straight liberal allies, liberals and libertarians, independents and conservative, Republican or radical I challenge and invite you to open your eyes and embrace us without fair. The Gay Rights Movement is not a party. It is not a lifestyle. It is not a hairstyle. It is not a fad, or a friend or a sickness. It is not about sin or salvation. The Gay Rights Movement is an integral part of the American promise of freedom. We, we you and I each of us, we are the descendants of a proud tradition of people asserting our dignity, dignity. It is fitting that the Holocaust Museum was dedicated the same weekend as this March, for not only were gay people persecuted by the Nazi state, but gay people are indebted to the struggle of the Jewish people against bigotry and intolerance.



24:21

That the NAACP marches with us that feminists meet leaders march with us because we are indebted to those movements. When all of us who believe in freedom and diversity see this gathering, we see beauty and power. When our enemies see this gathering, they see the millennium. Well perhaps the religious right is about something we call today for the end of the world as we know it. We call for the end of racism and sexism and bigotry as we know it for the end of violence. Discrimination and homophobia as we know it. For the end of sexism as we know it, we stand for freedom as we have yet to know it. And we will not be denied.



Larry Bensky 25:17

Urvashi bad, former executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force who left that job last year, in 1992, the crowd here is still coming in, still very appreciative. And it's still very hot. In fact, the cloud cover that came over before is now vanished. Sun moving over in the West, and anybody who isn't protected against the sun and is susceptible to any kind of Sun problems, is going to have problems that's not UK to the province. It's Always Sunny. All right,



25:50

except for this winter, we're offering sunblock 58. For a lot of the people I was I was just upset that when I was up there, I didn't remind people to turn turn over because they were getting burned. This is fine layer of dust in here, everybody. These paths everybody is kicking up just but as people seem to be happy, there's a little dust in the teeth a little bit. But



Larry Bensky 26:13

well, they're even going to be happier in a moment. Because coming up next, we have three extremely well known musicians Margie, Adam, Chris Williamson, and having near her know if they're gonna perform all together or separately, but we're bringing all of their music to you whichever way it is that they perform. And that'll be coming up on stage still to come up this afternoon after them David mixer, who we've interviewed earlier, the senior adviser to Bill Clinton. Let's see Reverend Troy Perry, who performed hundreds if not 1000s, of single sex union ceremonies yesterday in front of the Internal Revenue Service. I saw some of that, then Castleberry and Dupree will be performing and Margaret Gomez a little later on. No, that's not what's happening. It's Castleberry. Let's go to them right to the stage.



27:05

I could think in the mean.



27:13

Let's hear it Castleberry Toshi Regan Thank you Thank you very much Thank you I was just

Let's hear it. Cauterberry Josh Regan thank you. Thank you very much. Thank you, I was just backstage on the phone with two wonderful artists who are members of our Hollywood community in my community. And they are watching this on television. And they wanted me to say to you how proud they are of today and how proud they are to be members of this community. Love Lily Tomlin and Jane Wagner.

 27:58

You have met her before but I'm going to reintroduce her because I want to say a few other nice things about this brilliantly gifted comic. She will be up in People magazine in the next few weeks. She has been in the New York magazine she was the first openly gay are

 Larry Bensky 28:15

gonna come back to stage momentarily but right now as promised, we are going to let our stations have 30 seconds to identify themselves. This is specific radios coverage of the 1993 march on Washington for lesbian, gay and bi equal rights and liberation we'll be back in 30 seconds

 28:42

this is KPFT Houston.

 Larry Bensky 29:08

Welcome back to Washington. 1993 March on Washington, which is more a slow crawl on Washington at this point for lesbian and gay equal rights and liberation. The crowd of enormous and unmeasurable size, having filled every available nook and cranny and space near any of the speakers between the stage which is three blocks west of the Capitol, and the Washington Monument, which is some one mile west of that. Most of the crowd we understand start, at least half the crowd has not yet left the staging point and perhaps we will get Julie driven our reporter over with us who was on the march, Julie Dresden who reported back from the crowd for a while is now going to join us in over toward the table only being forced to speak on the radio again Alan Ross is with us as well. Hey Clinton. I'm Larry Minsky and we will be here for another hour and a half With all of the thrills, chills and surprises from the stage that they throw us, we thought we were getting Margie out and Chris Williamson and Holly near a moment ago, but we didn't Julie finally made it

 30:08

finally found my way back here.

 30:10

How is it out there?



30:11

Well, there are a lot of people lying down on the ground and on the grass, taking a nap at this point.



30:17

Back at the staging area, yeah, back way, way



30:20

back. Just so many people, you couldn't even begin to count. A lot of people have dogs with them. A lot of people have their children with them all ages. I know not enough water is incredible out there the feeling it's sort of a cross between a civil rights march and a parade, but it's not quite as festive as a parade. People are definitely here for political purpose, and they're expressing it at every opportunity.



Larry Bensky 30:41

How do they express it when they walk past the White House? There



30:44

is some cheering and some jeering past the White House. I think people are a little upset that they weren't allowed to get any closer to the White House, there were a mounted police preventing them from getting too close. But there were some demonstrations, anti Clinton demonstrations along the way those people were quickly shuffled out of sight. And, and generally I think people are really glad to have the opportunity to be in Washington. And in a time when it feels a little bit like it's a more supportive administration.



31:08

Absolutely. It seems like when that helicopter took off the George Bush, everybody, their hearts were lifted. And you could feel that out there. I I'm very impressed with the number of people who, who if you put a little microphone in front of their face, they can say exactly what this March is about exactly why they are marching. And they're I mean, I think we're very well educated populace.



31:31

At least the very well educated people in our community are represented very strongly

 Larry Bensky 31:35

here. Alan Ross, before we were so rudely interrupted by I can't even remember what anymore. We're talking about. We were trying to talk about the question of gay parents. And I want to get back to that because I know it's a concern to a lot of our audience. I do want

 31:48

to mention, I do want to I do want to mention while Julie's here that this is kind of a reunion because back in Philadelphia from 1985 to 1990, when I hosted gay dreams, Julie was my news director and my, my primo boss. And so

 Larry Bensky 32:06

now that we've gotten that out of the way, can we get to something serious?

 32:09

No, I'm in the land of Disneyland and its life is a little different.

 Larry Bensky 32:13

Lala Land. Yeah, we have a lot of listeners in Southern California. And I know they're pleased to know that there's a massive turnout people from Los Angeles, I

 32:20

understand that there are 70 to 100,000 people from California. That's the estimate from organizers in California. The only ones

 Larry Bensky 32:27

we know for sure are the airlines and the CIA at this point. Neither one is telling us, Alan, on the question of gay parenting, we may be able to say something, but the show is over. You started talking about before why was the religious right so called which calls the religious wrong? That is put the question in people's minds that lesbians gays, bisexuals can't be

 32:48

parents? Well, I think that the Christian right has has viewed gay parenting as the Achilles heel of the gay rights movement. In other words, if you can get the children, if you see children involved with gays, you see that that's a vulnerability because you're you're accusing gays of

involved with guys, you see that that's a vulnerability because you're you're accusing guys of being harassed, you're accusing gays of being predatory toward children. And so anytime you have any group that wants to put children with gay people, such as gay parents, which is natural, because there are children, you would that would be the biggest bugaboo to them. So they would, they would fight as hard as they can to, to remove those children from our myths. And in divorce cases, very often, they would prevail upon the judge, to say no, this, the children should go with the heterosexual partner in any case of a divorce, rather than whichever is the parent that is the most appropriate for the child

 Larry Bensky 33:49

that is changing somewhat in certain parts of the country is nowadays it's starting to change. But

 33:53

the I, you know, what I see in cities that I've been in Philadelphia and Los Angeles and various other cities. It is changing, but I don't know if it says good, and I've heard stories from people who've moved in to these cities from smaller towns. I had a friend from Peoria tell me no, it's still just as bad the judges and they and a judicial system. The court system still has that same attitude.

 Larry Bensky 34:16

Alan Ross, thank you very much. You'll be staying with us. We hope Julia Dresden will be Rancic Clinton and I will certainly be here but right now to the stage and Margie Adam,

 34:24

to celebrate the power of women's music in the struggle for gay and lesbian rights in this country. I want to offer this song

 34:35

for all of us, who have been made to feel as if we don't belong.

 Larry Bensky 34:45

Margie, Margie Adam, not Adams Adam, who is that MC? We're going to be following Margie Adam with Chris Williamson and Holly near we think we've been thrown a few curveballs by the stager Ready to date and maybe won't turn out that way but we expect next to be hearing from Chris Williams and then Holly nears and Holly and Holly were at the Romanovsky and Phillips concert last night. Here we go yes. Remember when this was a big empty space? God You look good. Thank you. Excuse me. Thank you so much. Okay, who was that?



35:40

My total hero Chris Williamson. Up and spilling over and tret fury. Fabulous. phablet been around. Their voices are so wonderful. We saw them last night. At the flirtations concert. A flirtations concert with Michael Callen and Chris Williamson sang acapella with Michael Callen. And there was not a dry eye in the house was an extraordinary, extraordinary moment.



Larry Bensky 36:03

We brought our listeners Michael Callen earlier today from the stage, the event you're talking about was one of how many 390 different events that have taken place. And that will continue to take place tomorrow when there's a massive lobbying and protest up on Capitol Hill, just three blocks to our feast here. The MC who is emceeing right now, by the way, Marius, thank you, Leah delirious is getting delirious about Holly near who's about to say.



36:33

Hello, I want these wonderful singers who have been working in this country and around the world. For many, many years, some of the first political artists to come out in this country long before it was safe. And I thank them for all the work that they're doing, please come sing, please come sing. As you all go back home, to all the wonderful places that you've traveled so far from take this experience back with you. I hope that you will remember as hard as it sometimes is. That to be part of this kind of a loving world community is not something that comes easy. We have to work at reaching our full human potential, day after day, generation after generation. And if we are truly going to be a loving family, we have to learn how to combat racism. We have to learn how to stop sexism and violence against women. We have to learn how to make educating our children a major priority. We have to understand how to connect with peoples all over the world for a global peace movement. And we have to be in the forefront to help people understand how extraordinary it is to be loving, gay loving, lesbian, loving, transgender loving, celibate, loving, women loving men loving a family of lovers. We are a peaceful loving people.



38:10

We are peaceful loving people. And we are singing, singing for



38:31

be evil, and we are singing sing.



Larry Bensky 38:47

Near Holly near singing to the enormous crowd who were not sunbathing for that song, they were all up on their feet, many waving rainbow flags. Many others waving their hands at

various signs in the crowd that does not quit as far as the eye can see way back beyond the Washington Monument from the stage near Third Street, here on the Mall in the Capitol, where for the past four and a half hours, this rally has been going on a little more than that now, actually. And we've got more than another hour of it to bring to you. So don't go anywhere, stay right with your radios. But for a moment at least we would like to ask you if you've appreciated this broadcast, and you will have a great concern, as I know many of you do about the issues that have been brought up here to know that Pacific as national coverage of the March on Washington for lesbian, gay and bi equal rights and liberation urgently needs your support. And that means bluntly that it's cost us more than \$10,000 to put this program on, and that we'd like you in small increments. We're not expecting anyone to write a \$10,000 check although that would certainly be welcome to call us our 800 number right now and make a pledge to Pacifica and be sure when you call 1-800-497-3223 That you do mention Pacifica, we know you appreciate this broadcast. We know all around the country people are listening to it who wish they could have been here. Some 50 or 60 stations nationwide have joined Pacifica today to bring this program in its entirety to our audience. We're asking you to pledge 2550 75, perhaps \$150. To this broadcast, you can put it on Visa or MasterCard. But please be sure that you are saying when you call up that you're making the pledge to Pacifica, for \$150 We have a very special premium today. An early copy of a book just released conduct unbecoming gays and lesbians in the US military by Randy Schultz, who has done so much over the years in San Francisco as a journalist and beyond. For the gay and lesbian liberation movement. That book \$450 pledge you can get in a bookstore for much less it's a premium a show of our appreciation to you. Please call us and support this broadcast 1-800-497-3223 Pacific his contribution to this commitment to these issues does not end with today's broadcast this Thursday, we begin again on many of these same stations to do our live broadcast of the non committee hearings from here in Washington. We will have other broadcasts on this subject as time warrants Of course, regular programming on every Pacifica station, we're proud to say the first in the nation to bring you gay and lesbian programming. All of this is done because of the generosity and goodwill of you the listeners, please express it right now with his generous pledges, you could afford at least 25 bucks, but perhaps as many as 150. And you can get that book by Randy shelf 1-800-497-3223 1-800-497-3223. We're gonna be joined shortly I believe by Holly near. You're gonna talk to her about the significance of this gathering here today. Such a generous, good hearted person, she has been to our Pacifica station in Northern California KPFA over the years. We need your help right now in the next few minutes. To raise the money to pay for the broadcast for a pledge of \$75. You can get a copy of timeline produced by Greg Gordon of KPFK. And perhaps later on today. We'll hear an excerpt of that 90 minutes long, produced by Greg Gordon. And he is a producer of this way out. It's a history has been in gay history from 1969 to the early 1980s. During the Stonewall events in 69, and either Brian's anti gay campaign, a good education tape, perhaps for someone who doesn't get it, who doesn't know what it's about. They may not be listening to this broadcast today you are and you get a copy of that tape to give to them by calling 1-800-497-3223 and pledging at least \$75 for the tape \$150 for the book, or 25 or \$50 to keep the broadcast paid for now earlier today I mentioned that we've gotten a matching donation of \$2,700 from 73 donors who pledged before this broadcast we need to match that money actually we need to triple it to pay the more than \$10,000 cost of this broadcast. Please call us now. 1-800-497-3223 1-800-497-3223 is the number to call and we appreciate very much your donation your contribution and your attention today. We will not have much time to spend here because we have Michael Callen and Holly near who are joining us at this time we still have Holly nears name in my hand although I don't have her physical presence. Oh you do too. Supposed to be over there.

 43:40  
And Michael Cohen

 43:41  
kissing on the radio you guys

 Larry Bensky 43:44  
yes no we have not met but I saw you perform in the audience was tremendously by your performance and your presence here today. Probably near you were up on stage as a Clinton has been as Michael Palin has been and as I haven't been

 43:56  
no, you don't get to see I don't get to have fun. What's it like? For people who are listening to you on the radio who aren't able to see it? We just do the singing for our lives, which is a song I wrote. They heard that Yes. Michael Cowen and Deidre McCullough and the Washington sisters and Toshi Reagan and Chris Williamson, Tourettes theory and the rhythm Express and who am I leaving? There was just always wonderful to have for so long been out there doing political music and making those connections between the work that they're doing as gay and lesbian people but also with world peace and with understanding issues of race and class and I invited them to come out and sing because they are my

 Larry Bensky 44:39  
heroes and heroines you know well, calling here you know, you've been at it for so long and listeners in Northern California knows your great generosity and help tell Pacifica stations here. What came to be that was able to unite such an enormous turnout today, which I think you would have to agree several years ago you wouldn't have fantasized in your wildest dreams. This many people come to me.

 45:01  
No, I wouldn't. I've actually been at all three March. And it's been great to watch it grow. I mean, the first time I remembered standing on the side of the road with Meg, Christian and watching two people coming along with a little sign that said, New Zealand and we just burst into tears, you know, because there was such such bravery on the part of people. And today, everyone is able to come here. Have you noticed that there's much less campy energy and defensive energy, and I don't put those in the same category. But I mean, different kinds of ways. People seem to really be themselves and their most beautiful way today, whereas I think in the past, we've had to be much more defensive. I

 45:22

11

45:50

think the context of this March is so different. Yeah, the context people are don't feel as embattled. And I think they're much more open. And I think that the more extreme that has ranged against us, we are forced into those extreme behaviors. And and I think it's a very mixed, everybody's here, very mixed, but it's not as extreme. I agree.



46:02

Well, it's also the first demonstration I've been to in a long time and in a Democratic administration, and that just doesn't feel to be quite the but doesn't mean I mean, I'm not a believer that one man, one Congress, one anything that creates miracles. I've always been outside of party politics in that respect. But the work that we are all doing now can be done so much better and with so much less angst than it had to be during the Reagan administration.



Larry Bensky 46:28

Holly near Michael Kalin bush out just like Michael near Holly near Michael Palin. Been a while we've been here on the air and we're gonna be here for another hour. YouTube, I hope will stay around for 60 seconds. We need to continue this conversation but right now we need to take a break to allow our stations do identify themselves all across the country. You're listening to Pacific radios continuing coverage of the 1993 march on Washington for lesbian, gay and bi equal rights and liberation. We'll be back in 60 seconds. This is KPFT Houston.