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00:28

We're back here live in Washington DC, Larry Minsky and Kate Clinton and joined at this time by Michael Palin and Holly mere. There are a lot of people who will have a problem with the name of this march for various reasons with with the idea that lesbian, gay and BI is the same thing, the same struggle. Michael Callen. What about that the whole idea of a community existing among people whose issues may be quite different?



00:56

Well, I think that they've really solved the problem that through language, actually, first of all, there has been a real, real, amazing movement to organize bisexuals, and they, in their writings in their public speakings have addressed the criticisms that to two straight people they can hide. That's that's the accusation that they can pretend to be straight and partake of heterosexual privilege. And then they slumming in the lesbian gay community. So now, the language is that people will say I'm a gay identified bisexual, or I'm a lesbian, identified by sexual and take that on, take on the oppression and the risk. And I'm about inclusiveness. I just can't imagine a movement that says you but not you,



01:47

Michael, I'm gonna ask you something after you've performed before, and everybody was extremely moved by your performance. I've got to say in this crowd today. We were discussing among ourselves here your situation. And I know there are a lot of people listening out there who are HIV positive, or people with AIDS. You have lived with this a very long time. And



02:07

it shows no, it wasn't radio.



02:11

I've never seen you before, so it doesn't show to me. I was gonna ask, what what do you have

to say to people who have been diagnosed as HIV positive, or who are people with AIDS as far as dealing with it?

 02:24

Well, I've encouraged skepticism and heresy. Because I have never followed any of the rules, AIDS or otherwise. And I really think that, that I'm about to celebrate the 11th year of my diagnosis with full blown AIDS this June. And you have to love yourself enough to fight for the kind of medical care that will keep you alive beyond the projection.

 02:53

Michael is one of these people that when they say you have two weeks to live lives for two years, you know, and just a spider,

 03:00

confounded me. I heard him talk. And he said that he's not going to give Republicans the satisfaction of dying during the administration

 03:06

of the Democrats inspection either.

 03:09

Oh, no. And I didn't vote for I thought I would have to vote for it, but he talked me out of it.

 03:19

Spirit that is very mature and lies. And it is mingled with this extraordinary use contingent that's here. It's bringing all this teenage energy and all of these young people who are here, and I'm enjoying that mix so much, I'm enjoying being old. It's bringing me great pleasure. And I'm also really loving having this mix of age and race and, and class and identification and belief system. I mean, this is an extraordinary group of people here.

 03:52

No question, and it's massive. We just were handed a note saying a DC March organizer estimates that there are a million people here. But as we said before, only the CIA knows for sure. The US Park Service we now see is estimating 300,000. So I think that's



04:07

the Gawker Institute is saying here are three. Okay, only one gay man here and we supportive.



04:16

One of the things I love about the energy of this March is I see a lot of lesbians and gay men, and presumably bisexual people, in groups, and I'm old enough to remember sort of segregation where nobody liked anybody. And we had a lot of internecine warfare, but you sit in the hotel lobby and you see like lesbians and gay men sharing rooms and gay men wearing lesbian T shirts and lesbians wearing a T shirts. And it's, I think that unity is so important to a movement and I think we've come a long



04:47

way. We have with us on the phone right now and she's been waiting patiently stay with us for a moment to hear her report. Carla Walker, who was a while ago at at the end or towards the end of the march which had not yet left the state itching for it even though it's been marching for five hours Carlota Where are you now? What's happening?



05:05

St. I bought Pennsylvania Avenue across from the rig National Bank that just passed. It's just been a few Georgia. Huge it went on for blocks and blocks. They were watching the various command paths, they deal in front of a protesting demonstration and turn their back. Also, I've been with a religious



05:34

coalition that is not everything from Quakers to sit very impressive that that was one of the largest sites. I could hardly hear the Iowa is going to this moment. And there are people on top of the Washington buildings with feeling and hearing gearing up to them and they're waving flags and cheering back. And there's no I think we're still at about 40. In terms of the numbers, some are out of order, but I think there's quite a bit, at least a third of the



06:12

40 out of 98 Yeah. So half the march really hasn't left the starting point yet five hours into the march.



06:18

Yeah, people are still have some people are still



06:22

amazing. We can hardly hear you here either. Because as people can hear in the background, the Marine Corps him is being played and on the stage of color guard of people who are in uniform. I don't know if they're an active duty or not, but they are.



06:36

Margaret Campbell Meyer said she was a lesbian and kicked out of



06:41

the color guard that was up there were a member of the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines all in full uniform. And if they are in on active duty, they may have in a very interesting role called tomorrow morning. But there they are right up before the nation. Saluting. One of them is carrying the gay rainbow flag and the other is carrying



07:00

a stars and stripes and he has a very large ring in his nose.



07:03

Thank you. We'll get back to you in a while I hope. Okay, my biker, Karla Walker out there somewhere towards the end of the march. We're here with Michael Callen and Holly near at the very beginning of the march very Penske, and Kate Clinton. Any final words for our nationwide audience Michael or Holly



07:28

gave this as a gift, celebrate celebrate diversity, thank you can be cosmically gay, even if you can't like figure out how to be really good.



07:37

And there's also this wonderful thing to look forward to. And that is that when there's finally a consciousness raised in this country, where people are not so afraid to be a part, and be close to and next to a gay and lesbian community, I think this can join up with the other movements in this country. And we can start to have some unified marches here, again, I really look forward to coming to DC, not for one group or another, but to see all of the communities who are demanding that we reach a higher potential together and well,

 08:07

just like every journalist, I have one more question. The last question, how does it what do you think about this? I mean, here we are, basically, celebrating a form of militarism, up on the stage right now you as a veteran peace demonstrator and spoken at so many anti war rallies. And here people are saluting, playing militaristic hymns marching across the stage, is this something that really gets you excited? Because the military,

 08:32

you don't do coalition work and have it be easy? Anytime you work in coalition? You know, it's gonna be hard. But Kate said something last night that I would echo and that is that, first of all, we want to make sure there's equality in the military. And then after that, we want to get rid of the military. And I think, equally, but I think that oh, you know, when I first started doing anti war work, it actually was with people in the military. Because I was working with soldiers, I was in part of the GI movement. And what became very clear to me, and what I think gave me the foundation for the rest of my work for the next 20 years was to know that it is our working class poor people who go into the military to try to get jobs, and it is an economic issue. And that for the Pismo, but to separate ourselves from the military has always been a real mistake. And I think it'd be a mistake for the gay community to separate ourselves from the military, rather than we want to clean up the military. And then eventually have it be a very small force in this country and start putting all that money towards education and culture.

 09:26

All right now they're being very well received the several dozen members send people their military fuse idli clapping, there are a lot of people out there cheering and applauding and waving,

 09:36

cheering for their bravery. And you know, the other thing I think people are doing is that when I was at the first the first time I went to the San Francisco Gay Pride March and I saw the gay and lesbian marching band, I wept because I had never been able to enjoy a marching band before because it was always so militaristically identified, but there is this desire to have a certain kind of, I don't know what the other word I should use but a kind of patriotism. We all would like to love the

 10:02

work for a country

 10:03

or on paper. We have a great country and cracked look around you



10:07

today. Yeah. What's not to love about this? Yeah, it's



10:10

gorgeous. And there was something there's something that people want I think there's tearing is about wanting to be able to cheer for the the group of people who have volunteered to defend us. Because there are some times one feels the need to be defended, you know, and I think there's an enthusiasm to be defended just about every day in one form or another, but I don't know. Do it? Well, I've been living in LA so I can tell you that there were some really bad defense down there.



10:37

Thank you, Holly near and Michael Cowan. Today, you're



10:42

doing this show after show after show. You're our our their hero? Yes,



10:47

we are now going back to the podium. Congressman Gary studs of Massachusetts, one of the two openly gay members of Congress. The other being of course, another Massachusetts Congressman Barney Frank Gehry, is about to speak to this crowd.



11:03

30 years ago, Martin Luther King led one quarter of a million people to this very place to ask this country to keep a promise, a promise implicit in the Constitution, but not get explicit in our laws. He helped us write a magnificent chapter in the history of civil rights. Today, a million Americans have come to this place to ask our country to help us write the last remaining unfinished chapter in that history. Look, look around you. This is a history that is worth fighting for. This is a history that is worth defending. And that is why we have armed forces. But some people seem to have forgotten what it is they're supposed to defend. It is not just a piece of geography. Every army does that. They're supposed to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States.



12:32

The land of the free and the home of the brave. Well, look out here on the mall, Senator Nunn.

General Powell. There are a million people here, Senator. And they're very, very brave.



12:55

Especially general, the ones in uniform.



13:07

But they are not yet free. The question is not whether gay men's and lesbians will serve in the armed forces. They always have. They do now at every rank and level. And they always will. The question is whether they will be allowed to do so openly with dignity and with pride or whether they will be compelled to live alive. The Department of Defense rationale for the ban falls of its own weight after roughly two seconds of reflection. Don't tell us about security. You cannot blackmail someone who has nothing to hide.



14:14

And don't give us that tired old mantra about discipline, good order and morale. We've heard that before in 1948 the same words verbatim the same words when President Truman issued an executive order ending racial segregation in the armed forces.



14:43

We acknowledge the need for discipline and good order. And we have read the Navy's report on tail hook and And we have concluded nonetheless, that it would be wrong, fundamentally wrong to ban heterosexuals from serving in the armed forces.



15:21

The standard for all should be conduct, not status. My friends, if at 12 o'clock tomorrow, every gay and lesbian person in America stood up for two minutes in the army, in the Navy, in the Air Force in the Marine Corps in the House and in the Senate



15:56

every doctor, every lawyer, every Carpenter, every teacher, every clergyman, this debate would be over.



16:14

Look, look around you Gen. Paulo. Look, Senator Nunn. Here on the mall. There are soldiers and sailors and airmen and marines officers enlisted men. There are doctors and lawyers and teachers and carpenters and clergy and members of Congress. gay men and lesbians. Senator

general. And do you know how you spell that? H U M A N Look Look at this enormous family. Do you hear that Senator Helms family

 17:06

look, very carefully. Look at the quilt. Look at the faces. There is on this mall, something more contagious by far than any virus, something called self respect.

 17:32

And it is with

 17:33

this most powerful and benign of all contagions. And with immense pride that we now call upon our country, in all its magnificent diversity, black and white, male and female, straight and gay to join us in concluding this final chapter in the history of the civil rights of us all.

 18:07

It is now my great pleasure to introduce you to three people. That was Congressman Gary studs of Massachusetts addressing this crowd here today Congressman studs, if I'm not mistaken as the only speaker so far to be a tired in a suit and tie. It's not that kind of event. And not that kind of presentation up on the stage. Nor have we had women who have been a tired in Washington formal where we haven't had that either. As he spoke the color guard to mentioned earlier I presume active duty Army Navy Air Force marine a woman from the Navy and three men in the Army, Navy and Air Force are still up there with the flags and the rainbow flag of the day march which is now being waved in abundance in the audience. We're gonna go back to the podium momentarily to hear from Dorothy Hades, who is the mother of Alan Schindler, that gay sailor who was stationed in Japan, who was killed while ashore. And other sailors of course accused of that she may be joined on stage by someone else as well. But let's go to his Hadees now.

 19:24

During September of 1988, my son left for the United States Navy. And I thought I was the most proudest mother on the nation. That my son was going to follow my husband and my father's footsteps and joined the Navy. On October 27 1990, to two sailors came to my door and told me my son had been beaten to death in a bathroom in Japan They gave me no explanation of why. When asked questions, they told me they didn't know any answers. It took six weeks for them to tell me that my son had declared that he was homosexual Tuesday afternoon, on September 24, one month and three days later, he was dead. I feel for every homosexual right now that's in the military, I fear that they may become another Alan Schindler. And the reason I'm speaking now is because I don't want any more Ellen shimmers. I don't want any mother to ever have to go through what I'm going through



21:03

I been told that many mothers would have kept their mouths shut. They wouldn't know what to do embarrassment of everybody in the nation knowing that their son was good. But you know, you can mess with a lot of people and a lot of different things. And maybe I would have kept my mouth shut. But you don't mess with my kids.



21:48

My desire is that every mother of every person that's here will accept you for what you are and who you are, that they will love you. And they'll tell you that they love you. You know, 12 hours before Alan was killed, I talked to him on the phone. And I told him four times during that conversation, that I loved him. And I know that Alan is up in heaven. And he's up there right now saying Go for it. Don't let anyone else died way I've died. No, I'm only asking for a simple matter of justice. I want to cover I want how the put away for the rest of his life. I want him to see the white of jam gang.



22:54

That was Dorothy Hodges mother, Allen Schindler that case sailor who was beaten to death in Japan. She mentioned the name of his accused, the trial is yet to be held on that question. This specific radio is continuing live coverage of the March on Washington in 1993. March on Washington for lesbian, gay and bi equal rights immigration. I'm Larry Minsky here right now with Barbara Bernstein and rejoined by Hillary. She's got a shirt on saying hilarity Clinton but of course, it's Kay Clinton and Congressman Gary studs who just addressed his crowd here today. Welcome. Congressman studs. And I'm one of your constituents is here to help interview your



23:35

fabulous speech here.



23:37

Congressman studs, since this gays in the military matter has become a matter of public policy controversy. Have you seen any shift in Congress on Capitol Hill three blocks away from us here? At all, in opinion, as far as what may come out of Congress on this issue?



23:58

I think one of the things that's been going on in the last year or two in the Congress is a massive education program. I quite frankly, don't think that most members of Congress really knew much about the policy or thought much about it or really ever focused on it. And I wanted to describe to them and when it's illustrated in individual cases and faces of the human beings

we've all come to know, and the cases of individuals who have been so brutally treated and mistreated and have brought their attention. It's a shock. I think for a lot of members of Congress, we've really never thought about it much. They're thinking about it now.

 24:31

But what are they thinking about it? Well, if you

 24:34

take those of us who are committed to the proposition that the question of civil rights is fundamental and undebatable, put them on one side and then discard them for the moment and take the what I would classify as the hopeless homophobes and letter of society and put on the other sides. Not fairly small minority. You've got the significant majority in the center of the Congress who I think are very decent, very hardworking men and women who fundamentally know what is right and want to do what is right and And our job is to give them the courage of their own convictions. Basically,

 25:04

how afraid Do you think people are in their districts that the radical right with its 1200 radio and television stations and its mail and phone banks and all of the things that they can and have mobilized on this issue will cause them trouble in their districts when they run for re election? Well,

 25:20

there is no question that the radical right and all of its manifestations expert as they are in intimidation have launched a campaign nationally against members of Congress, I've had colleagues telling me that they've rarely encountered such vehemence and nastiness in their constituency is expressed on this question. I think those folks are a distinct minority, probably everywhere. But they are the most energized, and the loudest, and the nastiest. And the thing that needs to be done here is that the overwhelming majority of people of goodwill, need to do something that they don't usually do in their busy lives, and that's let themselves be heard.

 25:55

Okay, what do we do on Monday, after this March? What would you recommend people

 26:00

if I had one more minute, I should have said it anyway. So I wasn't allowed another minute up there. We're sitting here, most of the people in the mall are facing this magnificent building with a big dome on the capital of the United States. No human being on this mall today should

leave the city without visiting at least two senators and one representative. We're not used to having a million visitors up there. Nevermind a million that are very serious and very committed to something and very powerful. The only way we're going to win this fight the only way we're going to be able to sustain the President when he does issue the executive order. And the only way we're ever going to get a majority for the equal rights. Civil Rights Bill is to have enough members of Congress stiffen their spine and have the courage of their own convictions. And that can only be done by their own constituents. So we have work to do.



26:46

Can you talk for a second about that civil rights bill? Because we've been on the air for over five hours today? It's first time it's even been mentioned. There has been some mention, of course, about the military ban, but not about the civil rights bill for the civil rights of gays, lesbians, bisexual people, what are its major provisions and what's causing it a problem getting passed?



27:06

Well, you might have asked the same question in 1963. When Martin Luther King led the people here, what are the major problems getting it passed? The problem is we don't have a majority of the Congress prepared to vote for what is new is we have a president of United States is prepared to sign it. That is a watershed that is a sea change and the White House. And now I think last year we get up to about 130 co sponsors in the house, you need 219 to pass a bill. It used to be we'd had to had 290 to override a veto. We don't worry about it. This bill being veto. Now. We've got to get a majority in both houses of Congress. And that's again, a question of spine stiffening.



27:37

What's it going to take to get that majority in Congress?



27:41

Well, it's going to take a lot of work, but everybody is here and by the families and friends and colleagues, everybody that's here. That's what it's going to take.



27:48

Thank you very much for being with us.



27:50

Appreciate your caring.



27:51

All right, Congressman Gary Studds, whose district is hearing this as well. And we thank you for coming by our Pacifica broadcast. We're going to go back up to the stage now where Patti Austin is entertaining this enormous throng. Harry Austin, here at Pacifica is continuing live coverage of the 1993 march on Washington for lesbian, gay and bi equal rights and liberation. Very Pinsky, K Clinton, Barbara Bernstein, we'll be right back talking to a member of Los Angeles act up in 30 seconds



28:30

this is KPFT Houston.



29:00

We're back here live in Washington. And as we join us Senator Paul Wellstone of Minnesota has ascended the podium and has just begun to speak. Let's hear what he has to say.



29:10

And our children, that leadership is not appealing to the hatred or the fear, or the frustrations of people. Leadership is inspiring people to be their own best selves. And as the United States Senator, I want you to know that I support this rally for human rights and civil rights for all people regardless of sexual orientation.



29:45

I am an American Jew. And even though we faced centuries of discrimination, it could never put out or quench the fire of human dignity. And so it was with people of color in our civil rights movement, regardless of the hatred, regardless of the discrimination, could never quench that fire for human dignity. So it is, it will be human dignity that will sustain this movement. And we will make sure that in the United States of America, we will put an end to discrimination, by sexual orientation. And we will have human rights and dignity for each and every citizen throughout our country.



30:40

I want to tell I want to tell each and every one of you because I have no time left, that I want to be accountable. And I want you to know that as the United States Senator, and I'm proud to be a Senator, you have support from other senators and representatives. I believe you'll have support from the President, keep on marching, keep on fighting, keep on marching, keep on fighting, lobby, write letters, be a voice so we can make the United States of America all that she can be I thank you very much.



31:24

And I now Democratic Senator Paul Wellstone of Massachusetts speaking to the crowd here on the mall, which has not gotten any smaller over the course of this rally. And indeed, it keeps getting bigger, but it can't get any bigger because it reached critical mass. A while back, people still waiting at the beginning of the march in case you just tuned in to begin to march, but they can't because there's no room in the streets of Washington. Terry Ford from Los Angeles act up somehow managed to march the whole way. Where you were that enormous Los Angeles delegation we saw arrive a while back.



31:55

We kind of went into the first part of the march, I kept kind of blended in there. AKto kind



32:01

of blended in there took the streets. How many active people would you estimate? We're here?



32:06

Oh, we're here from all over the country. All right, to network action. And I don't know 500,000 People throughout the country.



32:14

What did you do on Friday, you had your own action on Friday, isn't that right?



32:18

The network action was against the HHS what our demand is to acknowledge lesbian today to start counting lesbian today to keep putting lesbians in clinical trials because there are no facts and no numbers on lesbian today. We have women in LA that have contracted HIV from their lesbian lovers. We have one woman that has come back to us with that HIV promote her lover and to have that woman's other lovers became HIV positive support women, and it's through lesbian sex and they're not talking about it. So our demand today to just start acknowledging lesbian today to and to adopted McClintock project, which is like a Manhattan Project to sexualize all the aid workers around the world and researchers to find a cure because it's 12 years since the AIDS epidemic began and we don't even have one drug that will help.



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What you think the response has been at HHS, you seem to have a woman hitting hhs daanish Lala never would seem to be very sympathetic to your concern. She's had great humanist concerns throughout her life and to

 33:23

15 women from ACT UP and half of them were HIV positive women and women with aids that are dying from AIDS had a meeting with Don Shula. And it went well and they came out and a lot of them were crying when they came out and some of data shows assistants in the meeting were crying. Our women brought those what those government women to tears and Mary Lucia back to belay and who was the straw at one of the strongest one with age fighting this country was crying because she after that meeting, she felt that Okay, listen, we had a meeting, but she's still gonna die. And she was very, very hurt very upset by the whole thing. Well, we're glad Joshua, listen. But as we put we want them to act. We need an aid czar. And Clinton has been in office 100 days, and he hasn't mentioned it. So we're not happy about that either.

 34:08

It seems that one of the problems about understanding lesbians with HIV and who are HIV positive is that there's been no visibility about lesbians period, let alone in the whole movement to fight AIDS. How is act of trying to change that so that lesbians have visibility and that there will be studies done to to determine what affects or how aid to the transmitted to the lesbian six?

 34:31

Well, there are no more outlets means in the community than the woman that lesbians backed up, we are out as we can possibly be. And we encourage all lesbians to come out and gay men I mean, we definitely believe everybody has to come out. We've tried to fight lesbian and invisibility all the time within you know, your own structure was backed up was a start. It's a male, you know, organization and lesbians who have had to fight for every single thing we have had in that group. And you know, we have it we have of course, a women's caucus backed up around the country of radical activists. As dikes and we fight for lesbian visibility all the time, and we're the ones out handing out safe sex information to lesbians and bars in Los Angeles and other cities who were very reluctant, they don't want to hear it, and they don't want to take it. So we've had to, you know, it's been a hard nosed community to convince lesbians that they're at risk and just be safe.

 35:18

I wonder if the three of you will talk amongst yourselves for a moment about this question of coming out, because our broadcast is going to close in about a half hour. And anything you read about or talk to people about activist always stress the importance of coming out coming out so that gays and lesbians can be more visible in the community. But it can be, as we said earlier in this program, dangerous to one's health, dangerous to one survival, dangerous to one's profession, this broadcast is being listened to, and a lot of very small communities around the United States, which may not have a supportive community like Los Angeles, or Portland, or San Francisco, etc. What do you say? Well, I

 35:57

think we learned a lot in Oregon, through the fight against ballot measure nine, because throughout the state and very small communities like you're describing, there were gay men and lesbians who felt in the imperative to come out was the only way that they felt that they would be able to fight the ballot mission, which was to let their neighbors and their family and friends know that this person that they'd known all their lives was in fact gay. And we have evidence that we compile throughout the state that this happened over and over and over again. And that's why ballot measure nine was defeated. So I think it goes to show that if you could take that step, that it will help to really turning away this tide was trying to run over us

 36:31

and we were talking about lesbian health, it's the healthiest thing to come out. And I think that a lot of times, we were forced back into the closet by fear tactics that, you know, we're going to be hurt, we're going to be bashed, but I'll tell you, if enough people come out and we link arms, this is the healthiest thing that we can do.

 36:48

It's very stressful to live your life in the closet living a lie, that is the worst health problem you could possibly have. And just like Martina said, in her great speech to me, everybody has to come out. That what you're afraid of is not it's not as bad as what you're living with. Everybody has to come out or that is what's gonna help push for a civil rights bill in this country. Everybody has to come out and fight for that.

 37:14

Remember 1978 When Harvey Milk in California was leading the fight against the homophobic Briggs initiative at that point, that was his major hook in every speech. Everyone in this room must come out. Over and over again. There's

 37:27

power in numbers.

 37:29

I need everybody. And I heard a great story when I was traveling this fall in Oregon, and so many people were coming out and taking out taking this courageous, courageous step. And apparently the some guy was flying out of Portland, Oregon, the flight attendant said, Well, we you know, we we think we're overbooked. So give us your last name. And we'll take it. So he's she said, What's your last name? And he said, gay and she said, we'll get on the plane. I don't know if we'll need you. So he gets on the plane. There's somebody in his seat. He goes to take another plane, the flight attendant goes over and says they are overbooked. She goes to him

and she says, Are you gay? Well, he looked at her for a second and everybody been coming out Morgan. He looked at her and he said, Well, yes, I am gay. And the flight attendant said, Well, you gotta get off the plane. And then Mr. Gay realized what happened? And he went over and he said, No, I'm gay. And she was so frustrated. She said, Well, you've got to get off the plane, was going to Queens in the middle of the plane stood up and said, Well, we are gay and you cannot force us off this plane.

 38:25

I have another airplane story. Actually, speaking of almost coming out when our flight took off from Portland last Thursday, the pilot announced as you're getting up in the air, he will come to us to fly blahdy blah and American Airlines and he said, I would especially like to welcome the contingent from Oregon who's on their way to Washington to visit the Washington Monument. As we were getting off as we're landing in Chicago, he said, I want to especially thank the contingents from Oregon, who was on their way to Washington to live with us today. Have a good event at the Washington Monument and I'll see you there.

 38:57

Barbara Bernstein que Clinton and thank you very much, Terry for from acts of Los Angeles for joining us on this specific broadcast. We go back to the stage now to hear Betty

 39:11

Betty here briefly entertained this enormous throng Accio Bay house is here she ever changed an enormous throne weekly in the Chicago Tribune with a column a million readers. Maybe they're all here today. Maybe that's everybody. Well, you probably have more than a million people listening to your press the country on this broadcast right now. Want to talk to you for a second about the phenomenon of gay and lesbian journalists? Being able to write for straight papers criminal McCormack would revolve permanently it is great. The Chicago Tribune had a columnist who was openly identified as a lesbian. When did you start writing and what's the reaction? For the Tribune?

 39:56

I started writing for the tribune direct column in September of last year. Right. And it's not a gay and lesbian scene column per se, but I write a lot about gay and lesbian subjects. And certainly, I'm openly lesbian in the newsroom and in the column. And the reaction has been, you know, surprisingly positive. I never would have guessed. I always thought the tribune was a bastion of apples. Can we say that on the air? No.

 40:21

And you could write



40:24

Sorry, just beat me. But yeah, it's been it's been quite fine. I get I can



40:31

have the money here. We can



40:33

you know, what can I say? I'm a friend person. Anyway, they just Asterix me. Anyway, um, it's been very positive. And internally, it's been very positive, which is also very peculiar because the editor of the Tribune, the current editor, Jack fuller is a very conservative man who, in fact, in 88, editorialized against the local human rights ordinance in Chicago, but he seems to have this idea about the marketplace of ideas. Well, he's Jeffersonian,



40:59

how are your ideas selling in the marketplace these days? What I did you float about this March when you were writing about it last week? I presume you told your readers you were coming here.



41:08

I didn't tell my readers. I was coming here in the tribune I it. I told them in other places. But I'm actually I, I'm not here reporting for the tribune the tribute and has a bureau chief walking around here and they flew in a reporter actually just wanted to have fun. And so I made a point of telling him I didn't want to write, I was here,



41:27

as you know, there's a big controversy as he's an article about it. And I think the New York Times yesterday, so we know it's a big controversy about whether a journalist can come to an event like this, if he or she identifies with the cause, and not have their professional life somehow contaminated. We now have an organization called the National Gay and Lesbian journalistic taskforce has seven or seven or 800 members. So clearly, people are not buying that, nor is the New York Times their most openly gay male to cover this.



42:00

Actually organization, the journalists organization didn't send a contingent, as you probably know, because of the whole issue of conflict of interest. But I think as individuals, I mean, we all you know, we lead full human lives, supposedly. And, you know, of course, we have opinions

and stands on this and many other things. So I would imagine that you know, what we do in our private lives, it's up to us

 42:21

what's forming in your head to write about for your colonies coming?

 42:25

Oh, I'm keeping notes. I'm just sort of reveling in the in the delightful diversity of everything that's here, the

 42:32

reporter doesn't want people to steal, right?

 42:34

It's amazing. When I first started performing comedy and 12 years ago, there would be like, one gay story every six years. Yeah, I could do a show about it. Never change a thing. I feel like I'm a workhorse bended. Now. Every time I look at the paper, you know, there's three or four or five or wonderful articles about gays. I'm not tired. I'm not tired about it. Oh, no,

 42:52

no, no. I mean, yeah. The other thing is, you know, the New York Times is like, become the gay news. You know, in New York, I mean, no wonder there's no gay and lesbian newspaper in New York City. The New York Times has like, two to three queer stories like what every day now it's kind

 43:06

of a Village Voice is certainly not Yeah.

 43:09

Yeah. About a voice claims about a third of the readership is gay and lesbian. So they really hear that way. And they were lucky to have a lot of very good good journalists. I think I'm also on what do you make of

 43:21

the age spread or characteristics of this crowd here today? There seem to be a lot of young people. Yeah, there used

 43:27

to be a lot of young people, which actually, I in today's trivia on Sunday trivia that's released back home, I have a story about the guy generation gap. And I talk a lot about some of the differences between the generations, you know, really three as opposed to two, there's the post, you know, what the post post Stonewall people, the people who came out in the 50s, and established the real, you know, basic organizations, and in the people came out, like in the late 60s, early 70s, who established not too much organizations, but institutions. And then you have these very young people who grew up with all these institutions grew up with a lifetime of pride Sundays, and with women's music, and with all this stuff that kind of belonged to elders, and they have a, they have a sort of wonderful impatience about inequality. They expect equality, they're stunned when they don't get it. I mean, a lot of it is a product of youth period. But in particular, gay youth, there are also some interesting things about how they're affecting our community because they hang out much more and CO gender claps than we do.

 44:32

What's gender pact? Well,

 44:36

just the hang out boys and girls a lot more than than we used to, I think a lot of that had to do with with us, you know, the boys being much more sexually active and therefore there really wasn't a place for us to socialize together. I mean, you know, I know that when I was in college and my you know, gay male friends were trotting off to go have a wonderful time at the bath. So, you know, I really wasn't invited, and I really didn't want to go And, and, you know, women were lesbians were still very much dealing with, you know, basic women's issues and things like that. And it was, it was important. They're they're much more comfortable with one another, they're also much more integrated racially. And that probably has a lot to do with going to integrated schools, along whereas many of us did not.

 45:18

Do you think that? Do you think that the young generation of lesbians in particular, are as strong feminists as the generation that was just post Stonewall? You know,

 45:26

I really do think they are. But I think that unfortunately, the label got such a bad rap that they don't actually call themselves that, but their expectations of what they can and should be able to do their desires, their ability to articulate, really, is quite, I think they are feminists, I really do. You know, let me tell you something else about this group. And this is, statistically this, this

shows up, they're much more out than everybody else, people under 25 are, like more than half of them are out. And also, they're also much more harassed by virtue of being out. It's an interesting generation. I mean, it's curious to wonder what they will do, how they will affect us, they will lead us they will be the leaders in the new millennium.

 46:08

Well, on that optimistic note, thank you very much me. Syndication and riches. come your way soon for your post with the Chicago Tribune columnist for The Chicago Tribune, for joining us here on this broadcast, which is coming to a close soon, you're listening to Kate Clinton, Barbara Bernstein and myself, Larry Bansky. I want to remind our listeners all across the country one more time that we'd like you to call us and make a pledge to support this broadcast. And we have a collective exercise coming up here. So please stay with us. In fact, We'd like some more of our team to come over to these microphones. As soon as you can. Don't Oh, look like you did?

 46:46

I think I just Oh, no. Sorry. Sorry, coming

 46:49

out of that UFO. You've been jogging by the sun, a little

 46:54

guy with gray hair and he was jogging and his shorts were too short. And I thought it was Bill Clinton

 46:58

1-800-497-3223 is our telephone number to help pay for this broadcast. Please, folks, if you haven't made a pledge yet to do so right now. 1-800-497-3223. This extraordinary day has been brought to you for some five and a half hours on Pacifica. We're not finished with Pacifica as coverage of these issues yet. In fact, this Thursday on many of these same stations starting at about nine or 930 in the morning East Coast time. You'll hear the next session of Sam nones committee's hearings with Bert Weiland and Jeanette Pinkney. Bert was here with us. Part of today the producer of the gay men show in Philadelphia, that much, much more on Pacifica every day on our news produced by Julie drizzle, who's joined us here at the microphones. 1-800-497-3223 is the telephone number to call 1-800-497-3223. When you call that number, say you're making a pledge to Pacifica of 2550 75 or \$150. It's tax deductible. You can charge it to Visa or MasterCard. But you can't leave us hanging here with the bills because we work too hard to come home tomorrow and find out that that's what happened. And tomorrow



48:07

the March we'll still be going



48:10

maybe the Georgia continue will have arrived by that. I



48:12

don't think so. Now the one more thing I wanted everybody to do was to sing Happy Birthday to our producer whose birthday it is today Ginny Z Burson. And we read I learned some amazing things by reading the Washington blade this week, she began the women's movement. She began the women's movement single handedly in a small building here in Washington. He's a member of the Furies collective



48:36

imagine matriarch original Joker in the menstrual hug.



48:42

So it's happy birthday dear Ginny, can we get that part right?



48:46

Birthday to you. Happy birthday to you. Happy birthday dear Janie. Happy birthday.



48:58

Nice party. Very nice party there. It's only



49:01

20 years old. Imagine all she's accomplished in those years. It's really been quite extraordinary. Julie drizzle. We talk about journalists. I gonna cover this on Pacifica. Tomorrow. The stations that take Pacifica news, what do you think the highlights? Well,



49:12

Bert Weiland is here gathering sound talking to people out in the crowd. He's recorded a lot of the proceedings and will be boiling it down to



49:21

to one journalist, what do you think of it, I'll



49:25

be covering it for the rest of our lives. But I think that that will be the story. The story is that a million people were here today to show their support for lesbian gay rights and liberation and the President was not here. But the people who were here feel very strongly about this movement and they're diverse and they came from everywhere. To make sure that their voices get heard in Washington.



49:48

Speaking of one of my favorite recent headlines in the paper was that study of the One Only 1% were gay. The headline right next to it was Clinton seeks more money for spying. The I think he didn't even go to the National Enquirer Weekly World in New York time because the



50:07

New York Times is no better than the National Enquirer on questions like that. Truly the reason I asked about that journalistic coverage of it is, of course, we're all going to be interested in going home and seeing how television especially treats this because that's how many people get their impressions of what goes on far away from them. Television. And I was impressed last night and this morning with CNN and a local news channel I saw here which did very serious coverage of the question of single sex. Weddings, as they were called yesterday, didn't seek out flamboyant people without rageous appearances, treated the issue as the issues that are being raised here. And I wondered how much of that is because there are so many more I meant to ask the record and attribute gays and lesbians who are out in newsrooms now who just don't let that type of stuff go on anymore. I



50:52

think it makes all the difference in the world that there are gays and lesbians who are out in newsrooms all over the world. I think that that, that they do not allow their editors to be homophobic whenever they get the opportunity to, but there are some gay and lesbian journalists who are here covering it for their network, some of them are allowed to be out some of them are not and, and I think that that's one of the great things about Pacifica, which is why I would urge people to call in and support their broadcasts, because it's not every radio station or television station that would bring you this march in its entirety, as a matter of fact, yet to let you hear all of the voices and really get a feeling that you were here part of this historic event. And Pacifica is unique in that it was here in 1987. And it's here today and we really need your support to keep this kind of radio camera continue

 51:37

to be here. That number again is 1-800-497-3223. You're paying not only for this, but later this summer, we're going to hope to bring you the 30th anniversary march on Washington for civil rights. We will definitely be bringing you the Supreme Court confirmation hearings of President Clinton winds up nominating somebody some stuff, some decision problems in administration, but I think that's one that will probably go to the top of the pile will continue to bring you the hearings on many of these same stations starting this Thursday on gays and lesbians in the military with Bert while an engineer thinking all those reasons we hope you're calling and making a pledge of at least 2550 75 \$450. Once again, you get as a premium. Excuse me, a copy of conduct unbecoming Randy Schultz has recently released wonderful study is a couple of 100 pages I've read I've been wonderful with gays and lesbians in the military. That's \$150 donation and it's all tax deductible that phone number one final time, and we thank you so much. It's 1-800-497-3223 Barbara Bernstein. How's this gonna play in Portland? Do you think how's the Oregonian going to treat it? Are they respectful of events like this?

 52:42

Well, the Oregonian made a major shift in the past year, about a year ago, they were referring to what had not yet been called ballot measure nine as a initiative to stop special rights for homosexuals by July or actually by gay pride in June last year. They were calling it a virulent anti gay initiative. They have been well educated by the lesbian and gay community. I just ran into an Oregonian reporter while actually earlier today, he has a big T shirt with an Oregon license plate that says gay power that his partner made for him and he's out in his newsroom. A lot of lesbians and gays came out in the Oregonian in the newsroom last summer and made a big difference in the coverage. And those of us I think at least 3000 people came here from Oregon this weekend. And we'll be back to report plus we kept tabs and so if the Oregonian lies about the numbers, we'll give them our headcount.

 53:26

You know when you think about it, there's really a very skimpy media section here as I look around me for the first time today. I see only two satellite trucks I know C span has been broadcasting this live very little live action in the crowd as far as cameras go and transmission. They've got the technology to do this. They just haven't cared to do so but

 53:43

you know, Larry, I

 53:43

didn't notice that my hometown Philadelphia has a newsman here right for a local WC TV you know one of the stations is here broadcasting occasionally live.



53:54

Please give us that call. Make sure you say you're making a pledge to Pacific 1-800-497-3223. Call now. Call now. I want to thank you very much Kate Clinton and new Barbara Bernstein for your contributions today and also our coverage. The people who are responsible for Ginny Z version of course has tirelessly put this together for months. Our directors Akili Tyson who has done a wonderful job, trying to tell me when to shut up and when not to technical director Linda Mack Stacy Abbott, our engineer. We have production assistants from Ray Moore, Janice Tilton, Dana case, and Nora Shire, our executive producer as always as Bill wax. Thanks to Mario Maria Melanie Berzon. And Cheryl Thompson. Major funding for this program was provided by the listener sponsor the Pacific radio and that means you out there folks, with additional funding from the funding exchange Donor Advised grant making program and the funding exchange. Paul ropes and fund for independent media thanks to our field reporters as well. And all of you We hope you've appreciated this broadcast. Peace. I'm Larry Penske for Pacifica.



54:58

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