

gcam_ah_0276_02

Wed, Aug 23, 2023 10:41AM 36:42

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

gay, people, lesbians, live, washington, march, country, movement, gay rights, freedom, talking, illegal acts, straight, children, train, dignity, support, discriminated, utah, women

SPEAKERS

Charles Law



00:22

I'm Greg from Los Angeles.



00:24

I'm love and Tyler, and I'm from West Hollywood.



00:27

Hi, I'm Steve from San Francisco. My name is Rick.



00:31

I'm from Denver,



00:32

and Phoenix. I'm from Sonoma County.



00:34

My name is Betty and I'm from Oakland.



00:37

My name is Dan. I live in Barstow, California.

my name is Dan, I live in Barstow, California.



00:42

And I'm from San Francisco.



00:44

My name is Ivan and I'm from San Francisco to and I live there in the Bay Area my whole life.



00:48

I'm Jen from Australia.



00:50

My name is Frank, and I'm from Anderson, which



00:53

is in Chester County.



00:56

This is Blue from Sacramento. But my name is Tom.



00:59

I'm living in LA now.



01:02

This is Reverend Troy Perry. And I'm from West Hollywood, California.



01:07

My name is Torie Osborne and I currently live in San Francisco.



01:12

This is Rick, I live in Minneapolis.

 01:18

When I approached Troy Perry, I thought that while a train was going across Mid America, it would be a good chance to reach out to the grassroots people that could not participate in Washington, so that we could kind of do the Roosevelt tour and stop and speak to people across the country who could not participate in that way do outreach into all kinds of cities. And so I think that's what the train is about. It's definitely a Freedom Train, where if gay people and lesbians can't get to us, we're getting to them

 01:54

everybody

 02:25

I think it's been wonderful the sense of something moving through moving through the country. And the the responses in every city and people throwing flowers when we stopped off in Fort Wayne and, and people getting up at six o'clock, five o'clock, four o'clock, they had to get up in Salt Lake, the lake to get the OG that at six, Utah. And partly it's just a sense of momentum of sharing with other people like yourself, but having to combat real life.

 02:56

I think people would this first, this urge,

 03:05

we've all been involved in those incidents where people straight people wouldn't sit next to us and they got in the car. And what's been wonderful to me is that, by and large, the conductor's and the mayor D and so forth had been on our side. I mean, last night, we saw the maitre d or the conductor put on a Washington gay march on Washington button.

 03:21

My name is Jessica and I work for the railroad 29 years 29 Too long. But this last trip I had,

 03:27

and the maitre d was willing to get in a fistfight for our right to not be discriminated against. And to watch those little battles being fought within this space. This enclosed space is wonderful. And I just feel like I mean, as an as a media event as a happening, I think it's terrific.



03:51

I think the major difference like between gay people, and straight people is that they have a different history. Their history is a lot different. And that that is and my feeling the only difference there is between gays and straights. Is there a difference in history? Gay people don't have a culture as like that black people have they don't have the that support that other other cultures, the Jewish people, the black people have a certain background they have a culture that gives them a certain amount of support gay people don't have that that's what we're in the process of building now. That's why like March in Washington is like a part of that is a part of our culture.



04:45

Well, you haven't seen a man. Have you seen Ogden, Utah 6am. Or they're



04:54

supposed to be somebody other tracks are here.



04:56

My name is Reverend Robert L. Harris Harris and My right my right my right, you have already laid on the tracks. Yes, the this is a religious thing. They appreciate me doing something like this, you have no rights. You have no rights. The owner on the rights you have is a turn to the Lord



05:25

your hair's



05:27

often on the power of God, you are



05:36

writing the good name of Jesus Christ,



05:39

the Lord. talking to you through me. repent of your sin.

the Lord, talking to you through me, repent of your sin.

 05:46
The power

 05:47
of God is a guest.

 05:50
This is a report. This is a report. This is a recording

 06:06
everybody from Utah has come out to welcome us. We know this is a rough state for gay people. Way to Washington as you know, and even though some of you who are here now can't go, we really appreciate you coming out. It's important that all over the country this weekend, the gay men and women stand up. And we let our society wherever we're at, realize that we're not taking the back seat of the bus or the train anymore

 06:47
for one thing,

 06:47
gay people have had to endure all kinds of intimidation, growing up. And we think that gay people have seen seen bigotry, hatred, discrimination from all levels of life, from beginning as an early child, and through all this experience, we've come out of it with an awareness and an appreciation of freedom for everyone, and for the right of every person to do and live their life exactly as they wish to do. And I think that, because of his experience, give people a special. I think if

 07:31
people are wonderful in general, I find their real, more aware of the problems of other minorities, but compassionate, I'm seeing right now, a pretty new thing, where the men and women of the gay community are getting together better learning. Learning, we can't afford to be divided.



07:59

Washington is just one thing that we're doing. This is an ongoing movement. And we're gonna make sure that the 10% or 12% of little boys and little girls that are gonna go up to be gays and lesbians are not going to be called Sissy and queer and faggot and die



08:24

because we are going to save our children, we have been, we have been discriminated against and pale institutions and mental institutions. And science has taught you You sick that religion has taught you you sent both, and today is never gonna happen again. Because we are no longer victims. We are the largest minority of people in the United States. And we are survivors now and we are going to tell them that we are not victims anymore.



09:04

I think I think it's better because we are freer. I think we're stronger because we have to be I think we're more tolerant of divergent opinions and lifestyles. I think. I think we're willing to give people a lot more room to grow and be who they need to be than other people are.



09:30

I'm originally from Canada, and I was up there visiting in the summer and the trees were beautiful. I've never seen in the north, the Canadian north or the United States north. The trees that survived the winter come up and they're so much more beautiful than the trees that just stay in the sun all the time to me because they they're more rugged. They're more hardy. And I was lecturing at a college once and somebody said But Robin we just want to be to show them weaving I just want to show them because it was good as they only said, You're not as good as they are. You are better than your oppressors. I'm not saying our straight of oppressed us, but I'm specifically talking about the ones that have,



10:09

I grew up in a small community. And it's so overwhelming.



10:14

Well, you know, I have lived long enough to know



10:19

that there's never enough,



10:22

you're better because when you when you come through enormous struggle, and survive that struggle, you have a kind of strength and a kind of courage, and a humor that surpasses anything that doesn't come out of people who don't struggle.



10:41

As I move around our community, I find over and over again, that our people are creative, just you're on the train. These last few days, we've traveled along, just listening to some of the comments that have been made. Even when the little things have gone wrong. People have always had something to say.



10:58

We'll work hard there, Tim. That's our code. Yeah, MacArthur team. There was somebody back in Denver, it was on the platform up there, and they would adopt this and they can't forget I was separate the car. They were just joking, of course.



11:18

People have always had something to say. And it's always been very creative. And I'm just thankful that our people are as creative as they are.



11:27

So we're very lucky as gays and lesbians to have to struggle right now, because this is a very isolated period of time, where the nuclear family lives in the suburbs feel isolated, feels cut off, doesn't feel connected. And all of a sudden, we've survived the oppression, we're connected. And so we are different, we're actually more fortunate. And I'm really, really happy that I was born a lesbian.



11:51

The people in Chicago have tried to put together a rally, understand that they got permission for us to use Daley Plaza Chicago.



12:31

We thank you all for coming. And we want to welcome especially the 100 or so folks who have come to Chicago on the freedom train on the way to the national market.



12:45

It's just great to be in the Windy City. We're delighted to be with you and to be sharing with you and talking about gay rights. Sunday 100,000 gay males and lesbians and our supporters will be marching in Washington DC, not asking but demanding that the federal government once and for all changes the laws pertaining to the rights of 22 million of its citizens, we say to you, we are going to have our rights. We are your children, we're not going away, we're going to keep moving until we're treated like every other citizen in this country. That's where we're like,

 13:29

gays and lesbians from all over this country from the most repressed and repressed it, even states in this country have dared to come out of the closet, and dare to meet this chain and finally step out of the open and say to everybody, the closet, stand for prison and not for privacy, that we are no longer going to be victims, that we are survivors, that we are no longer asking for straight tolerance. I don't like to use the word straight because of heterosexuals are straight with crooked but if we're gay them or both, but anyway. We're no longer asking for straight tolerance or understanding. We are the largest minority of people in the United States, and we are demanding our civil rights.

 14:28

What makes us a little bit different than straight people is that we chose to be this way and we really had a fight to make it for us to be this way we didn't. It wasn't thrown at us and said you have to do this. We did it because we wanted to we knew that we wanted

 14:42

the openness of gay people to straight people to third world people. There's a lot more caring and sharing a lot more showing of feelings and emotions. And it's one thing I think one of the highest qualities of gay people is their willingness to speak out to be out there in the world. And to make a difference.

 15:02

This is a vacation that I'm always remember, it's been the best vacation I've ever had. And I thought it would just be a history making thing to be able to go march on Washington and show the world that who we are that we are people and we're tired of being abused and put down and hidden.

 15:18

And I'm sure without any doubt without any question, that we're going to have the biggest gathering of gay people in America in American history. And I'm gonna be representative of the entire spectrum of the gay population racially and sexually and that it's going to be a really

great happening here but it's really the foundation of some of the beginning of the new national movement



15:50

this time I would like to announce the winner from this am trash



15:55

lendable blue



16:04

let's get a few words from Linda



16:07

The hardest thing on this trip has been not to be as pretty as the girls



16:17

ladies and gentlemen you have selected for your Mr. Am trash the one and only Eugene



16:36

I said it took me night got the bids and lots of trashing around and one drink and one woman space and I got it finally



16:45

thank you thank you and we love you love each other good night everybody. We'll see you in the dome car



17:14

cash they ran out of anything but orange juice. Nobody ordered orange juice, good beers. And the guys behind me would happen they met us in every town but in order to make the crowds look bigger these guys would get off the train and come and meet us and look like they were the town coming to meet us





17:51

but everywhere we went these guys stepped out and yelled at us never heard.



18:42

Give a rousing



18:44

Happy days are here?



19:50

Is may New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York, Pennsylvania New Jersey is invited by a state out there on the other side.



20:47

estimate if the police estimated approximately 250,000 Then there's gotta be at least three



21:08

I'm from Topeka, Kansas. And I hope that this will bring to the attention of the entire nation and particularly our legislators that we're here and we're here to stay.



21:21

I'm from the Gay Liberation Front at Kent State University in Canton, Ohio. And we're here because we want to see a movement for gay rights take root



21:30

I'm from Florida, where we're pushing for the legislation on the era we need federal legislation to protect case



21:52

the national march on Washington for lesbian and gay rights is a milestone in our fight for freedom for today for the first time we have all come together

 22:13
Randy?

 22:37
Everywhere

 22:44
they said the famous people won't come in to Washington today. Then open that god damn door she said. Imagine, imagine a march on Washington without Jane and Tom. Imagine yourselves men, loving men, loving women, loving women. Revolutionary is

 23:18
from Cincinnati, I've been living there for three years. My heart's still in Philadelphia, but I'm marching with the Cincinnati crowd. And I totally and fully and wholeheartedly endorse the five demands that have been published that you know, this marches for, you know, the repeal of homophobic laws, the passage of gay and lesbian anti discrimination laws and protection of gay children and child custody cases, all those things. I wholeheartedly support it and I think that we're showing our power and our numbers, and I think this will affect our nation. Nations view of gay and lesbian people will see that were a force that has to be contended with.

 24:06
Something we are not talking about.

 24:09
This is not a movement from the waist down

 24:18
I don't care about street. I don't care about Washington.

 24:40
Congress and American people, how can you help yourself? We have come out here to help you to ease your grief stricken hearts. Fear of gazes claustrophobia closed mind void islands accusation, hypocrisy, tough heart hiding penet this days Gay Liberation can mean liberation of heterosexual dignity, social delight, city playfulness, country tolerance, national non aggression, international charm and spiritedness, and lightened masculine gentleness,

feminine mutual affection, Granny wisdoms, old fashioned open mindedness, diversity of the physical body politic, yay self acceptance of body, humor of speech, spaciousness, friendliness, sensitivity, the dignity and wisdom of the whole blue sky of the mind we stand under



26:11

we are one,



26:12

we are whole people, three people, 103 people, one whole three people, one whole three people.



26:25

Look at us. You know us, America. We are some of your best friends. Were some of your past relatives, your sisters, your brothers, your mother's, your father's your daughters and your son's



26:50

way parents want to persuade society that our gay children are not acting out of defiance or self indulgence. They're being true to their own nature. Our children are fine men and women. And we say the society that the parents and friends of lesbians and gay men will support their children



27:19

250,000 in the daylight in Washington DC no famines, no pestilence no earthquakes floods



27:47

nothing God be sweeter than divine



27:57

nothing Gods be fine



28:08

she tried it out for only one day. Find out what fun it is to be gay. But instead she flowered civil rights and data

 28:29
everywhere we.

 Charles Law 28:57
I believe in Harvey note went to the mountain top of America. I believe that Harvey Milk had gone to the top of the mountain of discrimination. He had gone to the top of the mountain of oppression. He had gone to the top of the mountain of psychological and societal debasement. And I believe that Harvey Milk to the top of that mountain look down on Wichita. Look down on Kansas City. Look down on Dade County. Look down on Oklahoma. Look down on Seattle. Look down on Texas look down on the Supreme Court in the Congress. And I believe that Harvey Milk saw gay people will one day before free and equal citizens in this country. And it is our responsibility to come out of the wilderness, not to wander and meander and linger in the wilderness, the wilderness of despair but to come out and realize the dream, realize the promised land and gather our strength, our fortitude, our creativity, our initiative and our hope and go into that promised land of dignity, pride and respect

 30:17
Thank you.

 30:18
Thank you that was really tailors. I wish I knew how it feels to be free.

 30:24
I never thought that I would ever see anything like this. And I'm I would cry if I were if I were the type

 30:38
talk to you about love that's why we're here isn't that may I remind you that love is against the law. That love as we know it is a criminal activity. That lovemaking involves illegal acts. We are here because we have committed them and we enjoy them enormously.

 31:23
We are an army of lovers. That is a fearful thing. We are the only minority group also that you can join overnight



31:43

in the twinkling of an eye in fact



31:54

we who have committed the crime of loving we are freedom with more risks than servitude ever offered. We dared to no pleasure. May I say pleasure again. I don't think it's been mentioned much today. We had guts enough to love. They tried to cover this with guilt, shame, dishonor. They made it as awful for us as they could. But it was wonderful. It is getting more wonderful. Fellow criminals. Never forget your knights in the days of you're fighting for their freedom. Remember this experience. It is the tenderest finest moment of our lives. And in the clamor for our civil rights. Always remember that they never granted them nor withdrew them, they only stole them. And remember most of all, that we have so much more to give them than they have ever taken from us. We have been places we have known things, scenes suffered, feared, felt experience, ecstasy, hell wonder. All through our illegal acts. They have brought us the full richness of the human experience. Our freedom finally, when they understand that at last is theirs. So keep loving, keep making love. And soon there will be enough. Thank you



34:12

I'm from Boston, Massachusetts. And I think this March has brought a lot of people together and this place at this time and I think that



34:24

they should go home and spread the news and spread the energy that they've shared here at home and start bringing it into this state.



34:38

I'm from Putney Vermont. I think after this March what we got to do is keep organizing in our towns keep the local networking together.



34:49

We just need more of the same.



34:52

We've got to keep out here and let people know we're here.



35:00

When I say



35:03

Youngstown, Ohio, and we're just looking for basic human rights, there's no other questions to be answered.



35:09

There's people here from Anchorage, Fairbanks, Barrow, Valdez, Juneau, Kodiak, all over Alaska



35:26

I'm from South Nyack, New York and I, I really hope that this will bring people together and it has to get some kind of grassroots gay and lesbian movement throughout the nation



35:44

I'm from Bismarck, North Dakota and I'm out here marching with these people because we show them that we're everywhere.