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00:00

Okay, you're listening to after hours of continuing tradition on KPFT Houston 90.1 FM. And I have some earth shattering news here. Not earth shattering so very important news. Hearts on which is the local women's core course acquire course, community course will be accepting new members during the month of March rehearsals are Mondays at seven at the First Unitarian Church, five to one oh Fannin. And for more information you can call Debbie. Now this is important because they only accept new members,



00:37

like twice a year. It's not even twice a year. I think it's only once a year.



00:41

So this is really important. If you're interested in any of you women out there, want to get involved in a really wonderful organization and talented to Hearthstone will be a real nice place to meet and meet new people and be involved in community and help raise some fun money. They raise money, they



01:02

do a lot of fundraising. They also don't require that you be this Virtuoso Musician when you walk in. I mean, I know people in the group who don't even read music, but they are an outstanding women's choir. So you mean I could go down there? I'm sure you could go down there jewel but I don't think you could fit it into your schedule.



01:24

Listen, I have a passion I have every time I see heart song I have this thump thump on my in my heart for a couple of the women who sing there. Oh yeah, there she would love to be the girl. Actually. The water girl.



01:38

There is there is a way to do that. You can be what they call one of their heartbeats.



01:42

Oh really? Heartbeat I like that. Yeah. If you



01:45

don't have money if you if you have money, money, you can be what they call a zinger mama.



01:49

Xavier mama singer, Mama.



01:51

I'm one of those. Yeah, you're



01:54

Oh, you're cute. You're singing mama uniform.



01:57

I used to be I don't know whether.



02:01

But but they they love to have people come down and you know, pass out programs and do all that kind of stuff at things. And that's what I do. Because I can't afford to give them lots of money. But I can give them time.



02:11

Yeah, tell you there's some really lovely, lovely women in



02:16

Yes. What was that took you were

02:20

in this month's edition of the advocate. There's a picture joking in a drawing of a new species. It's a gay dog. It's half Pitbull and half poodle. It won't hurt you but it what is it? It has? It is a sorry, I'm not good at this this morning. What we're going to do next is we're going to listen to an interview by Morris Kate, Kate, Kate, we're going to do listen to this interview by Morris. Morris is a is a political and I want to say radical study. He's a gay rights activist in California who's been doing this for a long, long time. And we think this is important and we're going to share it with you.

03:19

Everyone in Southern California knows Marist. Everyone in the United States knows Maurice kite. He is the elder statesman of our community. Over the years, this man has become one of the most notable leaders of the gay and lesbian movement. He is a true pioneer. Maurice has always been there for us, in Washington, in Sacramento, in Los Angeles, his tireless efforts for human and civil rights have helped millions. During 1988 Maurice reflected on how gay life had changed as he made a presentation to the new youthful leaders of Christopher Street West lifestyle update was there.

04:10

Thank you very much. I just I'm delighted that that this is happening, because it is precisely the right time now to make some record, because time is moving on. And we all move on. And to have a spoken record and that translate to a written record is important. So I really thank Christopher Street West for this, who did this, if you recall, at 85 and I was your speaker at that occasion. I enjoyed that. And now it's quite time to do it again. To even vaguely understand the history of Christopher Street West. One must go back there. In 1969 it was not gay to be Okay, in the United States or anywhere else on the planet Earth, we were in those far away days, queers, fags dikes, homosexuals, rarely where we call gay. And when we were it was among cells among clusters as among small groups of gay people. When we went in public, you were judged by your abilities to straighten up. To Butch it up, you were judged by how clever you were at covering who you were. One of the really bad things to say about somebody before 1970 Was that you were obvious, obviously homosexual. And that was a bad thing, because people could detect and they would know. And thus, our lives were secret. In 1969, conditions for us were no different than 1869 are 1769. Let's see you who was against us, the church in all of its manifestations, the book of the Bible, Leviticus, Leviticus, Romans, Corinthians are all etched in my head forever. Our love is an abomination and Leviticus it urges us to be put to death. Why don't know when that got into the Bible, there's some discussion that was written in later. Do I know, I haven't the wisdom to know that. But I know that the words are there. And that the church was a model of its opposition to our love our lives and our liberties. And the the church considered us have such poor spiritual material, that it didn't even send missionaries to save us, though. They said that everybody else, Native Americans, and Asians and blacks and everyone else, but not us. So the church did not welcome us at its door, unless we were very clever to be in the closet. But the closet was a place could drive you crazy. Because there you

had to constantly conceal who you were, you couldn't talk about that. And you always stood a chance of being exposed. You were 45 years old, we were not married. And the question always was wanting to marry? And the answer was, Well, I haven't met the right person yet, never revealing that who we're actually searching for a man or a woman depending upon our own gender. The state in all of its manifestations was totally against us before. Before 1970. The state had fierce laws restricting our behavior in some states, it was a death penalty. To practice homosexuality, and many others long prison terms went with anal and oral copulation. Indeed, we were negative forces in the state, and that the state not only had a vast body of law to restrict our behavior, and to control it, but also had a vast body of law to restrict us civil liberties, civil rights and human rights. Part of that manifestation was the police. The police treated us as unconvicted, and an apprehended criminals in all of its work. We were indeed in the minds of the police status offenders. The status that they felt was the rational normal status was to be vigorously heterosexual and to be vigorously practicing heterosexuality. Because we weren't that the police considered our status offenders handed us we were eternally being brutalized by an owner, the cleverest people knew how to handle that. We pled with him Don't beat us. I am ashamed of our behavior. nonetheless. We were interested in survive. Educational institutions were totally against us. Totally. Universities, colleges, high schools taught us that we were abnormal, deviant variant aberrant. When I enrolled in university in 1937, I being bookish right away got on the side of the Libertarians right away, got a stack pass right away was able to go to stacks and I rushed to the books of psychology and sociology to read about who I was because I knew who I was able to expand that knowledge. And what I found was not cheerful that homosexuality had chapter after chapter after chapter of abnormality indeed. explaining where that etiology was, where that had come from. And then the manifestations of that and then how to treat them. Economic systems were against us before 1970. Capitalism treat us as credit risks are unemployable are employable at minimum employment. Socialists treated us as a result of capitalist bourgeois educators. Their nuclear family for which we came treated us as a birth defect. So well, you know, he's like that, you know, he's strange, different and, but we love them just the same, or they had us treated. lobotomies. aversion therapy, aversive conditioning, psychotherapy. person after person whom I know who's old, is physically challenged, because they were victims of electroconvulsive shock therapy, in which they tried to burn out our love. We were sitting on a gurney and rolled into an electric chamber and a vote of electricity was run through your bloodstream, which courier for homosexuality, it didn't do that. But it did burn out part of your brain and made you a stutter or stammer or an alcoholic or drug addict or a somewhat physically challenged person. health industry was against us. It was bad enough to have the church and the state I agree with us. But in 1900 90 and 10, the science pseudoscience at best of psychoanalysis, psychotherapy was invented by Dr. Freud, Dr. Moniz mayor, Dr. Chicago and others. And they said, Oh, please, these folk are not sinful. That's a judge but of the church, on scientific institution, they're just sick. And so right away, they wrote vast bodies of pseudo knowledge made up, concocted, kastigar says, cycle neurotic and convulsive behavior, and on and on, and on and on. And thus they were able to testify in court, that we were not full persons. And they constituted a powerful enemy. Now, where did all that come from? I'm not sure. The fear of the unknown. Everyone fears the unknown. I think among the reasons that black Americans are treated so often, in inferior ways, or certainly internationally is because there are a few in population in some areas and, and that we don't know much about them. Fear of fun, we gave folk have always had fun, even in the old days before liberation. When we had to practice secretly, we had wonderful times among ourselves. The moment however, a family member arrived or police officer arrived or property owner arrived, somebody, then everyone's quieted down, or as they said.



13:24

And that was an interview with Morris kite. And one of the things we want to talk about now there was an article in today's voice, which was rather interesting. Oh, yeah, they took a classified from a group called the Christian Coalition for reconciliation, that was basically misrepresented the ad set unhappy with a gay life and had a phone number. And it was a, it appeared to be a group that was very much for gay and lesbian people and a support organization for them. When in reality, it's a group that believes that through prayer, and, and God, you can, except by faith, that you're not gay, and not be gay anymore. And we've wanted to talk about that just a little bit.



14:26

Here. It's a real interesting thing as malefactor Sherry, who's a friend of mine is, is giving us half a page of the paper and basically an apology for accepting this ad and putting it into the paper. And I appreciate them acknowledging and dealing with this upfront and but it's interesting that these people are out there again, because this interview that we just listened to, they were talking about some of this kind of thing. This is several years old, and here it is. was in the 90s people trying to coerce and lie to us basically to, to join these organizations that to denounce who we are. And based on religion and prayer and you know, certain certain rights and what is it I'm looking for rights in prayer and stuff that you can you can lose your homosexuality overnight, literally, they suggest that you can lose it overnight. One guy in this group says on the first night, you get a prayer partner on the second night you pray together, and the third night your prayers are answered, you're no longer gay, you're no longer gay. We would like to let you know that these people are trying to suck in and, and it's a fundamentalist, group, Christian and Christian group that is based, they kind of, okay, let me give this to you. This group claims to be connected to an 18 year old flagship of the ex gay movement Exodus, a national umbrella organization for these fundamental groups that attempted to convince gay men and lesbians that they can become heterosexual to fit faith and self denial. In examining the background of this group, and the people who put this ad in there, the voice tried to ascertain the degrees or educational background of these quote unquote, counselors, that would be dealing with people who called this number and became involved in this this group that was advertised in the, in the voice and found that the only training these people had were religious seminars and



16:47

a Master of Arts.



16:50

Yes, it says, So and so on. So on. So Ma, but that's a master's degree in, in Renaissance literature. Let's see, this interesting thing I found about this, there's a lot of garbage, you know, they're talking about, you know, what they are and how they found it. And that's really not important as much as the interesting thing is that some of the biggest leaders that were the I think they were president and one of the Council on the High Council, this group back in 79, on an airplane trip decided that they were in love with each other, and left the group, after joining

the group to denounce their homosexuality found that they could not do that any longer, and became lovers and have gone around talking about these groups and denouncing this kind of stuff. And we just want to make sure that you know, the facts and that, that you not get pulled in by these groups that suggest that they can help you not be homosexual. If you're having some problems with this, seek help people. It's not it's not something that we want to tell you. Well, you are you're not, but if you're having difficulty, there are support groups, there are therapists or counselors. They are friends, there are even clergy therapists, there are 30 around town that you can find that will not direct you in any direction. Just simply listen and help you focus.



18:24

Okay, and a member of any religious organization in this country, there's probably a support group specifically for your religion and the city of Houston denomination get that you can get that information from the gay and lesbian switchboard by calling 5293211 between the hours of 430 ish to midnight, seven days a week. There's dignity for gay and lesbian Catholics. There's integrity for gay and lesbian Episcopal. There's a Jewish group. There's all kinds of Latter Day



18:59

Saints. There's Presbyterians, Methodists, Mormons, you name it, there's a group and if you



19:07

happen to be one of these eclectic groups, I'm one of these little esoteric, usually esoteric groups that that we've not announced. Well, one of these groups will be glad to talk to you anyway, somebody in one of these groups will still be glad to talk to you and help you



19:22

or call someone at the Metropolitan Community Church of the resurrection or one of the other metropolitan community churches in the Houston area. Someone will be more than happy to talk to talk with you about how your religion or your denomination or your faith and the Bible and God and all of the gods and whatnot, how all that ties together. There's many different ways to interpret Scripture. Most of the denominations of course, choose to interpret Scripture differently than most gay and lesbian people who have found peace So between themselves and their gods, and it is possible to reconcile those differences, and find inner peace with yourself. And we strongly urge you to, to get help somewhere, get some therapy,



20:16

we will be talking with someone in the near future here on this program after hours, who will discuss religion and the bible and homosexuality, and a frank and honest way, it for those of you who think that we're biased, this will be a straight man, a Methodist minister, who will be

discussing this from his perspective and his point of view. And it will be non judgmental and non direct directive, and he will just discuss it from an honest and open point of view. So it will not be biased by gay people telling you you should be gay. That is not what we're that is not the intention we want here.



21:02

Yeah, I wanted to let you know that I've actually talked to people from CCR whatever it is Christian Coalition for reconciliation. I am a member of integrity or have been a member of integrity in the past. And we had them come talk to our group one day. And that was really a very interesting experience. They were I mean, they they accepted the invitation, because they figured they had a whole captive audience of people who were going to listen to their rhetoric. And and it really was, it was very rabid, it was very, you know, well, this is the way it is. And there is no other interpretation, kinds of stuff. And that, you know, that's just not the way that most, even just most mainline denominations believe. There's also another group in there mentioned, who are, forget the name of them now. Evangelicals concerned, and they were actually the reason that we invited the CCR people in because evangelicals concerned is a group that that has an anti gay bias, but they they are not as as rabid. They don't try and push their stuff down your throat. And they were in integrity and and Evangelical, united, we're both wanting to be part of the Episcopalian diocese convention, and the bishop here wouldn't let integrity be a part of it. And when he when this group asked, they said that, no, he could they couldn't be a part of it either. As soon as the bishop found out that they were an anti gay group, they said, Hey, fine, you can come in, we don't care. And the group, the leaders of that group said, Hey, wait a second, you know, that's not fair. You said we couldn't come in because of this. And because we have a bias that you like, you're gonna let us in. And they stayed outside with integrity. It's interesting. Yeah. I mean, I was very impressed with them. You know, I don't agree with their their thing. Their their ways of, of doing things. No, I don't, I don't agree with their position, but I don't mind the their ways of doing things. I mean, they're not major proselytizing, which is my pet peeve.



23:37

Good word. I



23:38

like the process. I can you tell I had a missionary grandfather, who sort of proselytized a little too much.



23:48

Well, we we just wanted to share this information with those who are listening, and to share the information about places where you can find counseling and support in town. And



23:59

be sure if you're looking for an organization where you can feel comfortable or, or possibly get some assistance in dealing with whatever feelings you might have about your sexuality, call the gay and lesbian switchboard and they can give you some assistance in picking an organization their numbers five to 930 to 11. Or you can pick up a copy of this week in Texas, there's 27 organizations listed under the category of Houston churches and religious organizations. Goodness, there's a lot of help out there to be had.

24:34

Once again, thank you, Sherry and and the voice for coming out and sharing this information with us. And I'd like to take a personal thank you to Sherry in the voice for putting a crossword puzzle in the voice. Yay, more and more.

24:50

Hey, how about a little humble Fabio?

24:52

We're back

25:01

Yes, we're back. But I'm not sure you're back

25:04

at will. You're listening to after hours and continue tradition on KPFT 90.1 FM. I don't have my earphones. I can hear myself.

25:14

Oh, well then we have a tape coming. Oh, that was Nat King Cole. I have to announce this one. Nat King Cole was one of my absolute faves. And this was natureboy off the legendary Nat King Cole CD. And K Why are we listening to that control? Tonight, we are listening to Nat King Cole, because he's a wonderful musician was a wonderful musician. The rest reason we're listening to him besides that is because he is a black musician. And this is Black History Month. And so we are playing black music, or music by black artists. It's not black music. It's music by black artists, which

25:51

...many different differences

is very distinct difference.



25:53

Yes. Very, very different. So what are we going to do now?



26:01

Well, not really sure. We're gonna go to tape. We've got the tape interview in a few moments. And there are a couple of things I think we want to talk about that we saw on The Voice. Not not the not the math, the crossword puzzles, not the crossover.



26:22

I think the crossword puzzles a wonderful idea, too. I



26:25

really do. And I really appreciate them doing that. We were talking about a while ago, the Karen Thompson and Sharon Kowalski thing that Karen Thompson got total custody of text Karen Sharon, Sharon glossy. For some reason I just



26:44

you like that hard see together?



26:47

Yeah, it's really. And the other thing I wanted to let people know is that California recently allowed condoms to be given out in the high schools now it's going to be given out in a nurse's office, it's going to, there will be no one sitting there watching you get them. And no discussion about them. They're just going to be handed out. So that's one and we have what for 4949 other



27:11

states to go



27:13

49 to go. Another tidbit of information that I find fascinating. i One of my hobbies is meteorology. And this yesterday, I found out there's a hurricane in the Pacific in January. It's

the first one in history. How am I and it's gonna miss Hawaii, but they say it's going to really slam into the Mexican, south, central South American peninsulas down there and that they can't even pronounce the name, the name of it, but I always find that fascinating when we have some new meteorological events happening in our globe, and they say



27:58

we're typhoons, typha, whatever, if they're in the Pacific,



28:02

no tar sands or in seas, ah, the China Sea and the Red Sea. Those are, those are those are typhoons, okay. But I find it interesting. And I was reading I think it was Neil Frank talking about and we all don't who Neil Frank isn't the father of hurricanes. He was talking about that this is a direct correlation to the global warming, that we're having this hurricane in in January and February, since it's totally out of season. Yeah, that's all the way out of season. And it's first time in history. And so this is a direct effects of what's happening on our planet. And just a little reminder that we're going to see a lot more of this if we don't start taking care of what we have around us.



28:51

Yeah, what's that ozone layer, right?



28:53

What's the ozone and, and recycle and do those kinds of things? You know, let's take responsibility. We talked about responsibility here a lot about our lives and our culture and our friends but we I'd like to sometimes take a moment and say let's take let's take a little responsibility for the world. I was driving down the road this afternoon saw some guy throw it looked like he threw a garbage bag right out of his car window and I was so upset I just I swear if I had a gun I was



29:24

like God nobody would have been a larger piece of trash in the middle of the road very



29:29

large. Thank God nobody give me God because I would I would just be I just would just devastate the highways with people throwing things out. I would just litter the highways with people. Which let's see. I was just given a new a typhoon was very strong hurricane the winds are stronger. Okay. Yeah.



29:51

So you learn all sorts of interesting things you never would expect to learn. Yeah,



29:56

no, this doesn't have our our we have our people Hear who was standing here with their shoulders they're saying now what is important about this on our program? Well everything is important about our on our program and we want to share information information that each one of us has Kay has some information about her the group what was the group the enter your your interview, Momo.



30:21

Yeah, they the Christian coalition is Chris reconciliation and because whatever,



30:28

and I'll tell you about her. Okay. So let's see, are we going to do we're going to do this interview and interview is with oh, God, You did this to me. You said que Urvashi. Right. Yes. I begged her to call us last week or the week before last to tell us how to pronounce this because I was doing a bad job of it. But we have a few minutes with Urvashi. That who's gonna give us what is paramount to the national?



31:02

Gay, gay to the union? Yeah. State of the Union. So and she is the president of the National Gay Lesbian Taskforce? Yes. Okay. I knew she had like an important title, but I could remember exactly what it was.



31:15

And this was taped at Inklings just recently when she was here visiting Houston. So we have few moments.



31:26

Here doesn't mean I don't know I'm an East Parker. I'm half of Inklings. Pokey Anderson is the other half of equally really, really happy to be gone and just heard the other half. Jennifer, please stand up to so we can see who you are.



31:51

31.31

Their shine, thought they were shot. We love hosting events here at Inklings. But this is a particular pleasure. Tonight. Our guest is the Executive Director of the National galas Lesbian Task Force, which is the oldest national lobbying organization and pokey was on the board of that organization, many factors, electricity. The task force is our voice in Washington, it's our voice in Congress. And the person who stands up and speaks for us there is a bunch of aid. We need to give her the same kind of support that she gives us. We need to give her our money, we need to give her attention. We need to give her energy. And we need to welcome her to us.

33:10

Thanks, Denise, I'm kind of leaning on a stool, so I'll be fidgeting the whole time.

33:17

And I mispronounced your name. And I'm sorry.

33:21

I saw that awkward moment when you knew you'd mispronounce that. It's all right. It happens every day. My name is Urvashi. That, and it's okay. It's so it's the way it's a hazard of having a being Indian, I guess. And having your name. I'm really happy to be in Houston. I really want to thank each of you for being here. It's it's really I'm impressed that so many of you came out to hear me. Especially given the panoply of events who could have chosen from this weekend. I'm happy that you're here at Inklings. And I really want to thank Pokey and NEA, so for having me here. I want to thank and acknowledge Bill Scott, who is the reason I'm in Houston. Thank you, Bill, months and months ago, and we were at the Lesbian Gay Health Foundation conference. I don't know if it was the one last year or the one year before even he said, You've got to come to Houston. And I said, Well, I'd love to and when I have some space in my schedule, I'll call you. And I did several months ago, and he put together this weekend, which I mean, I I wish you were an organizer on our national staff because this is impressive. Do a meeting all sorts of activists here and I'm really happy because I'm going to be back in August for the convention, the Republican Convention along with now, before we get into that, let's not I mean, I think I certainly have my political differences with the Republican Party. I absolutely do. And I'm sure many of you do. But I think the only way that the Republican Party is going to change is by organizing, that is going to be done by openly gay and lesbian Republicans, that's the only way they're going to change in our issues. And to that extent, I'm committed to supporting our sisters and brothers who are there, who are there, and who are trying, that's the only way the Democratic Party changed. Now, some would argue that the Democratic Party hasn't changed that it is the Republican Party and drag but

35:35

you know, it wasn't by just some wave of a magic wand that they decided to wake up and put in a gay rights plank, it was because tons of lesbian and gay activists organized to be delegates at the state at the local level, and paid their dues and got involved and fought the platform

fights. And a lot of you, I think, have been doing that for many years. The caucus certainly has here in Houston, and Ray Hill, who was here earlier, certainly has been one of the the four, you know forbearers of our fight in within the Democratic Party. So I'm really happy to be in Houston. And I also want to thank a few people before I begin, pokey Anderson, obviously, Deborah Bell, who's I understand at the March on Washington organizing meeting in Los Angeles this weekend. And so, but she was one of the hosts for this evening, Sue Lovell, who's a longtime Task Force member, and a good friend, and thank you, Sue. Linda Morales, I don't know if you're here, but thank you for hosting for inviting me and for being a sponsor of this. This events nice. And Kathy Hubbard. You know, I'm really happy to be here. Now, what I want to do is talk for about, you know, 25 minutes or so, but I tend to go on and on. I have a watch. And then I'd love to answer some questions. And then we can eat some more food and then go on and on and so on. If that's okay. I have I kind of had two speeches. And I'm going to deliver one, an ad libbed version of both. So here there goes something. I didn't know if it was going to be a mostly lesbian crowd or a mixed crowd. And I'm happy that it's mixed. And so I'll save the lesbian fire brand rhetoric for tomorrow morning when I meet with some more lesbians. I mean, I always like to begin my talks by saying greetings from the vortex of evil. Because in some ways, that's what Washington DC is we affectionately in the office call it the vortex of evil. Because for so on so many fronts, Washington has originated some of the worst ideas of our times. You know, in Washington, the political process is a cynical, dehumanizing federal game, played by people who are more intent and preserving themselves than on serving us, the people. Now this is obviously going to be very subjective talk, so take issue with anything you don't like. At the federal level mediocrity passes is fluency. Timidity is valued over courageous leadership. Official lies are bartered or sold to the public every day. The goal of the legislative process often seems to not to assemble the best resources to solve our pressing social problems, but to pass legislation that will offend the least number of people. Yep, that's Washington where sexual harass where the sexual harassment of a woman far more qualified to serve on the US Supreme Court is dismissed as a fraud. While the blatant lies of a man who disavows every position he has taken over the past 10 years is accepted as gospel truth and gets him elected to the Supreme Court. Welcome to Washington. Welcome from Washington, where the National Institutes of Health only last year created a women's health office where 12 years of White House policies have left working women and men poor, bless served our children neglected and more vulnerable, our elderly threatened and insecure and our economy in a shambles. It is in this larger context. And that's just a brief glimpse of that context, as I see it, that the larger that the gay and lesbian civil rights movement exists. You know, it's, we we live in a time when our movement has made tremendous advances, but I'd like to just lay out for you the price Problem Sets still persist. Most of you know this, but it bears repeating. Because I think that in cities in major cities, I often feel that activists in particular, forget what we are fighting all over the country. And even in our own communities. I mean, even today, when when, two, we have a cultural space more than we ever did to be openly gay, and to be openly lesbian, only less than 80 cities and counties have laws that ban discrimination based on sexual orientation. Only five states have passed gay rights bills, and the fifth state just happened this week. And that was New Jersey, the governor is going to sign the bill. Tomorrow. I guess we should say six states have passed six state legislatures have passed the law because you know, California passed it, but the Governor vetoed it. So and, and the interesting thing about all these laws is that four out of the six have happened in the past two years. So the 90s are indeed the the game was beat 90. But still, that's five out of 50. You know, studies of employment discrimination done in cities and states around the country reveal very high incidences of a variety of types of discrimination. They reveal that we're losing our jobs because of our sexual orientation. That 30% to 30% people report not being hired because of their sexual orientation, high numbers report being denied promotion, and receiving poor evaluations because of our sexual orientation.

