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SPEAKERS

Harvey Milk, Buddy Johnston, Jimmy Carper



00:03

Imagine a world in which millions of people are at the mercy of a small band of extremists in which works of art are subjected to government censorship, and freedom of expression is a crime. Now stop imagining Welcome to America 1990. This is calling you Hearst. As an actress, I'm terrified by what is happening in our country today. extremists like Jerry Falwell, Pat Robertson and Senator Jesse Helms are trying to destroy freedom of expression for their own political and personal needs. And since this freedom is so powerful demonstrated in the arts, they especially want to silence the artist. That's why they're determined to restrict the National Endowment for the Arts, that an organization that supports artists all across America, we must fight back. Please call or write to your member of Congress today. Because silence for the arts is silence for America,



Buddy Johnston 00:59

sponsored by the People for the American Way Action Fund. The following program contains language or images of a frank or sensitive nature that may be considered objectionable by some listener discretion is advised. And it's three minutes after midnight, and of course, you're turning 90.1 FM KPFT. Houston, after hours, certainly. Writing life, how are you? Great.



Jimmy Carper 01:24

This is what this is what this is September the first. Yes,



Buddy Johnston 01:29

I know that you believe it's September already. Yeah. Well,



J Jimmy Carper 01:33

the kids are back in school. Yeah, kind of good stuff.

B Buddy Johnston 01:36

But today is we're going to do something special. And if you're a regular listener of the show, you've heard us talk about our anniversary. So today's our birthday. And we're three years old.

J Jimmy Carper 01:48

We're gonna have a birthday all month today. Wow. Yeah,

B Buddy Johnston 01:51

we'll be talking about it for a long time. But it's exciting for me anyway, to be here. And to know that we've made it here sort of on our own.

J Jimmy Carper 02:02

Quite. You have paved the way.

B Buddy Johnston 02:05

So we want to talk about that. I've only been here two and a half years. And that's a long time to the child seems that way. But I want to talk about where we've been, and where we're going. And sort of how we got here. We got a lot of old stuff for you tonight. Yeah, some old stuff that you probably didn't hear some stuff that you might have heard. And, you know, we're just going to talk about the last four years, the last three years in the next four hours. When we started, it was I got to tell you the story anyway, because our program grew out of controversy. And we came along because we felt like there wasn't a voice for the gay lesbian community in the middle of the night. There's Wildenstein, which is heard now on Mondays at 9pm. And then there's breakthrough, which is heard on Friday mornings from 8am to 11. Right, because a lot of lesbian and feminist issue things. And they play a lot of gay stuff, too. They do. And I felt like that there wasn't a voice for gay people at this late hour of the night, which back then was two in the morning. But I found KPFT kind of by accident, because I was going home in April, I believe it was of 1987 to see my mother and father. And I hate those trips home because at the time we well, we still don't get along very well, even though my father died in April. But back then we really didn't get along and going home was a chore as it is for many gay and lesbian people when they start back home. You know, going home to mom and dad. So I figured if I could make some cassettes of Houston radio, because I'm a real homebody person, I really enjoy being at home around my stuff. As George Carlin calls it, and I really do enjoy being at home. We're not a party boy. No. And I felt like if I could make some tapes and listen to Houston every once in a while, I wouldn't feel so bad about this horrible trip home. So anyway, I was up in the middle of the night or in the afternoon. I can't remember all this week recording. This particular week recording these tapes. And I was tuning from station to station getting a

little mix of everything that Houston had to offer. And I accidentally come across 90.1 FM on the dial not really knowing what I had found. And I heard a voice on the radio talking about how offensive it was to have the police the Houston Police raiding the gay clubs. It is and I knew at the time it was happening. Although I don't frequent a lot of the bars. I've never had been a big bar person. Well, in my early days I was But lately, you know, you get older and you just don't care for that kind of thing. Some of us anyway, yeah. But I was one of those that would rather be at home. And I was listening to this man complaining about how the police had raided I believe it was at then the drum maybe yes. And I can't remember what the other club was. But there were two particular bars in 1987 that were raided by the police. And I thought, wow, this is wild, because here are these gay people on the radio talking about the police. And I had worked for the police department since 1984 as a dispatcher, not as a gay dispatcher, openly gay person. And I had gone to the gay and lesbian Pride Week parades like everybody else and stood in crowds and watch the parade go by and didn't think much of it, you know, but hear on the radio. I heard this man talking about how we're just not going to take this anymore. And I need to find that tape. I've got it and I'll bring that hopefully next week and he talks about how the police should take their minds and if they're going to act like that they should go back to the gutters where they belong. And this city is no place for that type of attitude.

J Jimmy Carper 06:15
What were you listening to?

B Buddy Johnston 06:17
I was listening to Ray Hill. Talk about the police on Wildenstein. Haha. Although I didn't know it was Wildenstein. The next week, I listened to the end of the show and found out what time it came on. And I had my little cassette recorder ready to go the next week. And I remember the opening when I heard Jack Lewinsky say, we are gay and lesbian people and we want to be a part of and not apart from and so on and so forth. And I cried and I thought wow, how incredible because when I was a kid in high school I wrote for the high school paper. And one of the assignments I got which really changed my life was I was sent the hometown I grew up in in Arkansas only had one radio station, a gospel station. And the station or the paper rather, the high school paper sent me across the river into the center of Fort Smith, Arkansas, which was the big city next door who had lots of radio stations, probably three or four. But one in particular KTC s it was a progressive station, I guess that's the word for the for the late 60s. They their format was Town and Country that way they played a lot of country music. And then the town music was pop and rock and other things they just mixed in. And it was a nice mix. And a lot of young people my age listened to that. And one DJ, in particular by the name of Stan Steele was the hot DJ in the afternoon that all kids we all listened to him. So my high school paper sent me to the radio station to interview this guy. And I went over to KTC s. And when I walked into the studio, I waited out front and I was nervous as a cat because I'd listened to this guy on the radio and I thought wow, this is great. I waited in the lobby. And when they took me in the back, he was playing records, which we don't do anymore. We have carts and CDs and things but he was playing 40 fives and 45 playing 40 fives and he was eating some fried chicken. And as he was eating chicken and slinging records and carts were flying, everything was happening. I thought wow, this is great. That's what I want to do. But nobody told me at the time that radio doesn't pay a lot of money. And unless you're Casey case them or rick dees or some of those other people, you know, you're not gonna get a lot of money. Yeah, that's

true. So I've found my livelihood and other things. And one of those was the police department. But anyway, I at that time, I realized the power of radio and I wanted to be on the radio. So I went back to high school and in my senior year, I convinced the gentleman that owned the gospel radio station in our hometown, to let me do a program on Mondays Monday afternoons at three o'clock, called the school hour. The school, our school hour, and it was an hour on a gospel radio station, you got to understand this gospel radio station, where we talked from Monday afternoon from three into four about what was going on in the high school there in Van Buren and what was coming up with the sports teams and we played music, pop music, which wasn't heard on that radio, they say so my early days of radio were just as controversial as my later days in radio. What what did you

J Jimmy Carper 09:34

ever find to talk about for an hour,

B Buddy Johnston 09:36

I saw where you're at, we interviewed everybody. We played tapes from the band and it was it was fun. But I produced the show with two juniors, Bruce Reed and K. Oh god, I can't remember K's

J Jimmy Carper 09:52

name. I can't imagine why not. It's only been years 19 and 70.

B Buddy Johnston 09:58

So how long has that been? and about 20

J Jimmy Carper 10:01

Just right at ease.

B Buddy Johnston 10:02

But anyway, one thing led to another and I worked in and out of radio for the past so many years and back to Houston recording these tapes and having all these years of experience with radio and understanding how powerful radio is because when you hear when you hear us on the radio, your your mind paints that picture of Jimmy and I that you want us to be and then when you see us in person, you go, Oh, yeah, good. Tired queen, because we can take your mind and form anything we want to be. We can talk in that voice. Yes, that's sexy voice that bedroom voice. Radio has a way of doing that. And it's a very powerful thing. And 40 years ago, some folks in California decided that radio wasn't getting the fair shake that it should get because it was covered. It was controlled by government and big business and they thought,

well, we can do better. So Louis Hill and a group of his friends got together and found something wonderful and they named it Pacifica. And I heard this on the radio and I heard Jack Wolinsky say we are gay and lesbian people and we want to be a part of and a part not apart from an on. Tears just flowed from my eyes, because I thought, wow, this is great, a powerful medium like radio, and people who are homosexual, and are not afraid to say I'm here, and I'm queer. And we came down, in fact to volunteer and work with Jack on Wildenstein. But I felt like there was not a voice for our community in the middle of the night. So I wrote the program director, who was then Duane Bradley, a letter asking, I'll actually proposing a program called after hours that would be heard on the middle of the night. And Dwayne came to me and said, If you could do a show, for the game, lesbian community, what what would you want to do? And you got to understand, too, that at the time, I was working for the police department. So I talked to Roger and my brother and a lot of close friends and said, you know, is this really the thing to do, and I decided that it was and I said, if I could do a radio program for the gay and lesbian community, I would want to do it at two o'clock on Sunday morning after the bars close. Because I remember going home from the bars, and feeling so alone, or going home from the baths or the bookstores at Sunday morning after being out on Saturday night and feeling so alone, like nobody really cared. And I wanted to say to those people who were in that boat with me that Hey, it's okay. And we can make a difference and it is going to be better and together we can make it and I got this letter on August the 17th 1987 from Dwayne Bradley, who was in our program director. And it says after reviewing your program proposal and listening to the sample tape you made, which I threw together in my living room floor. I feel that after hours is a viable concept and potentially a very valuable program for the community. Notice it doesn't say gay community for the community. After discussing this with Jean Palmquist, who was then our station manager, I am pleased to let you know that we will start airing the program from two to 4am on Saturday nights on a trial basis for two months. At that time, we will meet to review the progress of the show and determine the future status of after hours. If there are any questions regarding station policies and practices, please clear them up with me preferably before the program airs. I wish you the best with this program and add congratulations. It's signed Dwayne Bradley. So this morning, we want to dedicate this program to our old program director, Dwayne Bradley for having the courage to give someone he really didn't know the chance to put his fingers on this board for the first time. And we want to dedicate tonight's show to Mike Mish, who worked very very hard on Wildenstein and had died. Somewhere around the time I was making that tape to take to Arkansas. And although I never met Mike, I've listened to a lot of his work on cassette. And he had a very, very vivid vision of where we should go as a community and he believed that we should work together and and really struggled together. And he said on a tape one time when he was dying because Mike died of AIDS related things. He said I just Hope that you don't forget me that I hope that you don't forget all the work and how hard we've worked. I just want you to remember that I was here and I tried and I did really, I did did the best I could. And I just don't want people to forget how much work we did. That's amazing

J Jimmy Carper 15:19

that you should say that because, of course, I never met Mike either. But he is so alive in the minds of so many programmers here. Yeah.

B Buddy Johnston 15:29

And Tashi dill



Jimmy Carper 15:30

talks. They still talk about Mike.



Buddy Johnston 15:33

So we want to we want to dedicate this program to Mike mish. And we want to dedicate this program to all the people. All the Larry Rodriguez says, and the Alan Blackmun's and all the Tiffany's and the David's, and the Rick's and the Carol's. And the the folks who have taken the time to make that extra effort to sit down and write us a letter and say, Hey, you have really touched my life. And I want to say thank you. Because we're not paid people. Most people that you see in this building, other than a small staff of very dedicated folks are all volunteers. And whether you know it or not boys and girls, it takes an awful lot to get up and spend any of your time doing something like this for nothing. And so I just want to dedicate this to the Larry Rodrigues is on the Allen's and all of those who have taken the time to write us and say, Hey, thank you, you touch my life, I remember getting a postcard, or I'm sorry, a Christmas card from Patti in 1988. And she said after hours makes me feel normal for at least two hours a day. I remember that. And I remember getting a letter from Laura Betty, after we did the Harvey Milk rally, saying that her friend 19 years old, listened to us and just loved what we did. And died two weeks short of his high school graduation, to cystic fibrosis, and how much he had wanted to come down and volunteer as a phone answer during the marathons. So I want to dedicate the show to him. And we want to dedicate the show this morning to all of those fathers and mothers. In April, I buried my father, our relationship died probably, oh, I don't know, 15 years ago, when he found out he had a faggot for a son. And he couldn't handle that. So we let society ruin our relationship and we never had one. So I want to dedicate this to you, mothers and you fathers who are listening who have gay and lesbian children, with a hope that you won't wait until it's too late to when your children can't come to you and say Mama, I know you don't understand. I know you may not approve that, thank you for loving me. Thank you for being there for me. I want to dedicate this program this morning to all of those who have fought so bitterly over the last years, openly and aggressively to drag us down and try to destroy everything that we've ever tried to do. Because because of your pulling us away, it's only made us want to run faster and farther. And we've accomplished so very much on our own. And I'm very proud of where we are this morning. And I want to dedicate this to Jesus, all of those who aren't here anymore. And if you go down to the George R brown Convention Center during Columbus Day, I believe it is in October and look at the names project will, you'll understand what I'm talking about. Because all the lies they told you about your life not counting all the hate that the church has thrown your way doesn't really matter. And we found that out. We figured that out and they can't stop us and they can't shut us up. So we want to dedicate this program this morning to all of those who aren't around anymore. Maybe not physically but they're with us in spirit. And I want to dedicate this show this morning to all of those gay and lesbian people who are So far away, but they will never be able to tune in 90.1 on the radio, the gay and lesbian people who have grown up in places like Fort Smith, Arkansas, and Fort Wayne, Indiana, and little towns in North Carolina, I'm a little town in South Dakota, and little towns outside of New York City. little towns all around this world, who very early in their lives know that something's different. I don't feel the way that society is telling me I should feel about other men, or about other women. We're very lucky because we've heard Harvey Milk. We've listened to Roman askin Phillips, we've gotten angry when they're religious

bigots, and hateful people have called and yelled at us on our radio. But those people young and old, have never, and may never, ever hear us. So we want to dedicate this show to them. Most of all, I want to dedicate this program this morning to Harvey Milk. And if you've ever listened to us, you can't help. But it had been touched by what Harvey said. I'm very lucky. Because growing up in Arkansas, and coming into the big city, and being able to do something for the first time in my life that I really felt like was helping someone. I have it all. All that goes to Harvey Milk. And Harvey Milk is really an all of us, and will continue to keep us strong. But listening to his words, just really give me the fire to go. I remember going home in 1987. After getting that letter that I just read to you from Dwayne Bradley. And taking a shower, no one was there and I didn't know what to do. And I took a shower and rubber crying and getting down in the floor just as close to the drain as I could thanking God for allowing this to happen to me. Actually, I was thinking not only God that Harvey Milk and the Ray Charles, and the Larry Rodriguez's and the Alan Blackmun's, and the Jim Carpers and the Roger Cleansers and new because we couldn't have done any of it without you. So this program this morning is dedicated to you, Harvey. And I really, really wish well, someday I will sit down and talk to you. But until then we'll just stay tuned to 90.1 FM and Pacifica radio. The first night we came in here. It was September the sixth. And I was so scared. Because here I was working for the police department getting ready to do something called to gay radio. I just knew that the police were going to come in and bust the place down and drag me out. And that would be the end of that it really didn't happen. What did happen was nothing short of a miracle. And I just thank you for listening right now and for your support over the past few months and couple of years and three years to be exact. But anyway, to make a long story short, it was two o'clock in the morning. And we came in and we pushed a button and it sounded something like



23:45

this. I'm hosting his alternate next week. We got a new show coming up next and it's called after hours and it's gonna be a show that you'll really dig a lot so stay tuned for that



24:16

this is only St John's and you are tuned to 19.1 FM.



Buddy Johnston 24:44

Sunday September the sixth at 2am It's coming your way. The show is called after hours. It's radio celebrating life from the heart of the Montrose there'll be music and news colons and dedications and much much more. Sunday mornings from two to 4am beginning September the sixth and it's right here on listener supported Pacifica radio KPFT 90.1 FM Where else but in Houston or else but the Montrose and where else but I'm listener supported Pacifica radio join us Sunday morning September the sixth at 2am. For radios thermal braiding live from the heart of the Montrose after hours My name is Marie the show's called after hours. It's radio celebrating live from the heart of the Montrose. And we're glad that you're with us. Good morning, Mary. Good morning. Mary is with the March on Washington. And we're going to be telling you all about that later on. So what do we do now? Mary push a button. Push a button. We're in control now.



26:20

Hi, this is Kevin. This is Ron. And we're from the gay and lesbian switchboard Houston. And you're listening to after hours on KPFT. Houston. 90.1.



Buddy Johnston 26:38

Mile marry, that's it. This is Whitney Houston. 207. And we want to dance. So pull up your car windows, turn the music. Let's see what happens for the next two hours because this is after hours on KPFT. Yes, Thelma Houston was the second



Jimmy Carper 27:05

was really good. He sounds good. That was the first show Whitney Houston Whitney, Whitney Houston, I was scared. And over the years, so many people have won, gifts, books and records because they happen to know the first song that was ever played on after hours, which was what, of course Bonnie Tyler Holding Out for a Hero?



Buddy Johnston 27:25

Yes, it certainly was. And over the years, thank God, our opening has changed at times depending on what's going on in the news. And we just kind of go with the flow. But we always like to begin with Harvey Milk to tell you just what the gay and lesbian movement is all about. Harvey says the gay movement. That's all he said back in the 70s. Right. So it sort of goes like this now.



Harvey Milk 27:57

And I'll tell you what the gay movement is about. After I got elected, I got the phone call. I knew I'd venture to get quite a few of them. One was from a 17 year old child in a small town in Minnesota. And the boy is handicapped. And the boy's parents found out he's gay. And they want to put him in an insane asylum. That boy needs help. In the gay mood is about the letter I got from Southwest Africa when he read about a gay person getting elected here. And that person has hope. And a 17 year old kid in Minnesota has hope. And we have gay leaders not understanding that and are more worried about their own personal power. They're not Elite is offensive.



28:49

That's right man. You had it easy. You lost your husband and a nice clean hospital. You know I lost mine. I lost mine on the street. That's right. They killed him on the street. 27 years old they had dead on the street killed by a bunch of kids with baseball bats. That's right mom killed by children killed the job by people like you because everybody knows that quiz don't matter quiz though. Love those that day?



29:46

Going for it. I think that's Robin hilar on the stage and leaving the chat for lover for life. We're not going back



30:27

Want you to savor this next moment? I have the proud task of telling you that the official count of the lsb and gay rights march the official count is



30:50

you may all come out



31:13

just spark.



31:27

Strong,



Buddy Johnston 31:28

we para wants 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 of the parents and friends of lesbians and gay men will support their children.



Harvey Milk 32:24

Already have a few words for KPFA? Come on out. Join us, bring your friends. What do you think about the turnouts? Well, it's never enough never enough never enough. We must destroy the Miss Swanson draw shatter them, we must continue to speak out. And most importantly, most importantly, every gay person must come out you must tell your immediate family you must tell your relatives you must tell your friends if indeed they are your friends, you must tell your neighbors you let go the people you work with you must tell the people in the store to do shopping you once they realize that we are indeed their children and we are indeed everywhere. Every myth every lie every innuendo will be destroyed once and for all. And once you do, you will feel so much better.





34:23

I ask people



Harvey Milk 34:26

to do one thing. Come out. Come out of America come out



Buddy Johnston 34:39

that's sort of what happened.



Jimmy Carper 34:40

That's the opening. That's the opening I've been looking for.



Buddy Johnston 34:44

It's just all thrown together on a lot of cards, which is radio talk man girls,



Jimmy Carper 34:50

and for that five to 10 minutes that that's going on you. I'm sitting here looking over at buddy and he's just all arms.



Buddy Johnston 34:59

It's fun.



Jimmy Carper 35:00

Arms flying everywhere.



Buddy Johnston 35:01

I live for that few moments when I also live for Harvey Milk. But I like to hear Alan say, We queer. Alan smart, who you'll hear in a little bit was here on our first program and continue to be with us for quite a while until he moved away to San Francisco where he now lives with his lover and I just missed him that hateful bitch. Well, I went to San Francisco and got a lover. It's kind of funny, because

J

Jimmy Carper 35:31

the way I got involved in after hours is that did you get? Well, my friends got there, Scott. And Bill and I we are the three musketeers we have. We're bound together in this life. Scott worked with a guy named Lloyd who happened to work on this show. And one one day Scott said, Lloyd works on the show, and you've got to hear it. It's gay radio, and he said, gay radio. I mean, what do you do on a? What's a gay radio program? What whether they do well that that weekend, listened to after hours for the first time. And it happened to be the week after Elon left. And I was hooked. That next week I came to the station. I was bound and determined I was going to be involved in the show no matter what it took. And so for six months, I answered phones and it was happy as a lark. Just to be involved in the show. And crowbars couldn't pry me out of here now. It's really really been wonderful. I never thought that I'd be the game Ed McMahon if Houston What's your call that but I am but I'm sure we're

B

Buddy Johnston 36:49

calling anything? Oh, yeah, there have been those who would come and go and those who would threaten us and we'll talk about that too. So it'll be fun. All I can say is you're listening to 90.1 FM KPFT used and after hours we're here and work we're we certainly are We're beginning our third year. God we're three years old. And doggy years that must be like three or 7181 We're Ilego baby in doggy years. So in gay activists years, we're probably like 121 Oh. Anyway, we're here and work we're certainly are. This is after hours. And I wonder why in the hell we come down here every Saturday night for free for three years and do this. It's like somebody tell me why. Five to six 4005 to six KPFT. If you've been listening to us, and you want to hear something special that we played over the last three years, give us a call and we'll dig that out for you right now. I will be back in a little bit. Hang on.