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military, gay, homosexuality, army, gay men, song, lesbians, sylvester, tonight, men, soldier, lover, people, homosexual, fred schneider, listening, years, vietnam, recruited, called

SPEAKERS

[Music], [Introduction], Jewel Gray, Scott Lewis, Jimmy Carper, Speaker 17



00:03

I am what I am. I have my own special creation so come to give me the



[Introduction] 00:17

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[Music] 00:50

open gates up did you miss me? Jimmy? I see that you found a new friend. Warden come down here. Kiss me. Hello, girls. I'm back home in Huntsville. Again.



Speaker 17 01:17

KPFT is prison program is devoted to cops courts, jails, prison and probation and parole and the other minutiae of the criminal justice system. Tune in every Sunday afternoon from three to five kickback listen up and hear what you've been missing.



[Music] 01:33

Tailor Made shirts with them at all it's gonna cost is 10 years of my life

[I] [Introduction] 01:46

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J Jewel Gray 02:10

We're on we're, we're we're having a moment. Difficult to hear waiting for a tape to to rewind, say Jimmy go home. Jimmy. Don't come back. We're okay. We just chased Jimmy out of production room. He's not feeling well tonight. So scooter and I are going to handle the board tonight which means there might be some unique and innovative programming down here this evening. Are we ready? We're ready. Do it this

J Jimmy Carper 02:43

way. Whoa. It must be Saturday night at midnight because you're listening to after hours. A continuing tradition on KPFT Houston 90.1 FM. The crew of after hours is ready to bring you news interviews and music hear for gay and lesbian people. Just as Gloria Gaynor says in this song, it's time to open up your closets. We at after hours urge everyone to come out of their closets. By our definition that means standing up for yourself and taking responsibility for your own life. But if you feel that you can't come out right now because of your age, your job or whatever reason. That's okay, we're here for you too. So sit back relax and enjoy this week's edition of after hours

♂ 03:47

I am what I am and I do my own deck sometimes. No return no deposit

J Jewel Gray 04:06

I was trying to get in now. Got a great show lined up for you got a special guest. I'm hoping he'll be here shortly Chris Dorman from the game lesbian switchboard. And we'll talk a little bit about switchboard and that'd be a good segue into talking about volunteering around. I've been noticing that the places that need volunteers lately have been sorely doing without places like stone soup, the AIDS Foundation bearing Care Center are there as Amiga some of the groups out there that do services as part of their group orientation? need volunteers, they need your help. So we'll talk a little bit about that later. I got some interesting little tidbits, a little dirt tonight, I got some information about Missouri Street Station, if anybody out there is a Merced, Missouri street girl, then you might want to hang on and listen to some of the local gossip. And listen, see who's going to be at Missouri street sometime this week. There's some interesting stuff. I'm going to read some events and some local community events and news. We'll talk a little about what's happening around there politically. I'll see if I can't get Randy fields on the phone or getting down here. And let him Let him gripe a little bit about what he sees around here. Everybody fits on the spectrum. And Randy is a very vocal, very aggressive advocate and activist in this community. And he's been really blown out of the water lately. He's been trying to get a hold of me so I'm hoping that maybe he might be listening in come on down. Scott

Lewis is here with me tonight. This is Jewel Gray, you are listening to after hours a continuing tradition on World Radio Kpf ti 90.1 Houston, and I'm gonna let Scott take it over and he's going to do some QMZ for you.

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Scott Lewis 07:03

I have to do QMZ tonight because my mommy's not feeling too well. She had to go home with the flu just a couple of minutes ago. So I'm going to do the Q MC tonight. We're going to start off with kind of a fun little group that I really enjoy. I really enjoy listening to called Venus NV and they're going to do a song that I love called under the boardwalk. Venus in the doing under the boardwalk, kind of a peppy little song that Bette Midler does in a kind of interesting way. I like Venus envy. They're kind of interesting. And not just because of their name. This is the QMZ the queer music zone that is dedicated this week and every week to the men and women of the Q-Patrol out there keeping our streets safe. The next thing we're going to do is off a CD called The Best of Meg Christian, and it's a song called Ode to a gym teacher. I haven't heard this before but I can I can imagine. Her net was med Christian owed to a gym teacher. Much like what I expected it would be you are listening to the queer music zone. This is a segment of after hours where we play music by and for gay and lesbians. That's all we do hear other parts of the show. We do gay friendly artists but right through here, all you're going to hear is gay and lesbian artists. The next artists we're going to do is one that you should all be familiar with. And if you're not familiar with Sylvester, then you need to be I don't even know how to describe Sylvester you just have to. You'd kind of have to see this one for yourself. So we're going to do take me to heaven from Sylvester. That was Sylvester. I, Joe How would you describe Sylvester to someone that had that didn't know who Sylvester was that had no clue knew nothing. Think about him.

J

Jewel Gray 10:00

My personal Sylvester my impressions my impressions of so

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Scott Lewis 10:05

what are your impressions of Sylvester

J

Jewel Gray 10:08

are when I see Paris burning? I think of the kind of places that Sylvester used to do his best work at it great or places where disco and voguing was the thing he was, I think he was a vulgar before Vogue before Madonna was,

S

Scott Lewis 10:28

it was a lot of people focused. Sciatic

J

Jewel Gray 10:35

she's me. Very energetic performer. I did see Sylvester on television one time. That was some years ago, though. So that song is one of one of his better ones. I think one of the better put together songs because obviously that is that is a mix between him doing a song with basic instruments and then adding the, the disco kind of beat behind it. Well, I

S

Scott Lewis 11:02

wanted to dedicate that song to all the queens who are at home tonight, wishing they were at heaven, but for one reason or another or not. So take me to Heaven by Sylvester that was for you. Q MZ. We're going to run a little bit long tonight because we have one more song that we'd love, love, love to do here on the QMZ. And that is a song by Fred Schneider, the lead singer of the B 50. Twos back in I guess it was 84 or 85 when he did his solo album. And he did that wonderful song monster. Of course talking about the monster in his pants destroyed

J

Jewel Gray 11:39

Kroger's.

S

Scott Lewis 11:41

Yes. Snyder that Fred Schneider is just one crazy cookie. I remember watching him in concert not too long ago. And he's just I mean, if I had half the energy he does, we, because of all the controversy and crazy things that are going on right now in the military, we want to play a tape for you called unfriendly fire. This is about a 27 minute tape that basically is just going to talk a little bit about gays and lesbians in the military, their participation in it. So on and so forth. So we're gonna go to that now. And jewel gray will be back with you in about 27 minutes.

o

12:46

I'd come up to my mother, just before going in and her first response was go in the military, they'll make a man out of you.

o

12:55

Basically, the Supreme Court says that the Constitution was not intended for homosexuals. So you can imagine how combat infantry veterans especially that government is telling them, You are not even a citizen of this country that you are giving your life for.

o

13:13

But as far as the gays are concerned, homosexuals are concerned, what are they gonna do stop in them in the middle of a battle and say, I



13:20

can't shoot him. He's too cute.



13:23

Basically, what the military saying is, if you have gay people in, and other people don't like gay people, it will undermine morale and discipline. And there's a legitimate governmental interest in ensuring that there's morale and discipline the army or the military generally. So if you have gay people, and that will undermine that legitimate state interest. And of course, it basically bought that not because it makes any sense, or that it's it's fair in any way or constitutional, but they lacked that, that they're cowards, that they lacked the the backbone to go up against the military and to challenge them on.



13:53

Homosexuality is incompatible with military service. That's the official Pentagon line. But lesbians and gay men have always served their country during wartime and peacetime. In every branch of the United States military 1000s are searched out in witch hunts each year, costing taxpayers over \$40 million annually.



14:26

World War Two, that's when the US military began weeding homosexuals out, and when found lesbians and gay men were subjected to punishments ranging from dishonorable discharge to imprisonment at hard labor. But while the military searched its ranks to rid itself of gays, it also recruited stereotypically gay men, because some of their skills were essential to the war effort. Alan Barra Bay is the author of coming out under fire gays and lesbians in World War Two



14:54

male secretaries male nurses in the theater world fashion designers All those men had roles to play in the military that was extraordinary to find. In other words, the Pentagon had interior decorators. They needed men to do makeup and to do wigs and to do the set and costume design. In the camouflage department, they hired a lot they recruited a lot of men from window design on the display of hidden when the display and department stores have done custom and set design who are fashion designers who could design this camouflage, so it was a surprise to find. Those, even those stereotypically quote effeminate, gay jobs to be integrated and critical to the war effort inside the military.



15:39

There they found that officially sanctioned drag shows were considered important to boosting troop morale. American GI is put on all male shows for each other that almost always featured

group morale. American GIs put on all male shows for each other that almost always featured female impersonators. The Army published soldier handbooks, which contains scripts, music, lyrics, and designs for sets and costumes, including dress patterns for drag routines. One handbook even gave instructions for making the bodice of a ballet tutu out of a GI t shirt dyed pink



16:09

the drag performer in the war was portrayed in the newspapers and magazines as someone who was a good soldier combat ready and you know, been just basically a quote normal type of soldier so that allowed gay men to be really outrageous and to proceed be perceived as masculine combat ready and just like everybody else.



16:32

This is the army mystery. Habitat This is the army Mr. Green Berets if you had your



16:59

budget, you bought out the route and



17:03

the cast of a drag show called this is the army written by Irving Berlin put on a special performance for President Franklin Roosevelt at the National Theatre. Roosevelt called it the best show ever presented in the National Theatre and invited the cast to a reception at the White House. On the one hand, Pentagon policy labeled gays weak, unfit for combat, and mentally ill. On the other hand, gay men and lesbians were undoubtedly war heroes, like army first sergeant Bruce mo Rainey, who earned a Purple Heart in Vietnam,



17:37

July of 69. It's my second tour in Vietnam. Armored Cavalry Squadron riding on top of what they call an armored personnel carrier, which is 11 to 12 contract vehicle day we were crossing a river southwest of a city called Pam key in Clinton province in southern Ichor. The northern part of Vietnam. Next thing I know, I woke up in the hospital and plaster from my chest on down the I was told that first I was told I was that we were hit with that my vehicle was RPG a rocket propelled grenade. And I was told it was landmine. fact I had no shrapnel wounds, a landmine sounded more logical. I was very lucky, though as far as i The ones would attack that could have been devastating. But there was no less than damage.



18:27

And how does it make you feel knowing that you you gave nearly the ultimate for your country on the field of battle? And knowing that if they had known that you were gay, they would have

marked you as unfit for the military service that you actually did give your country?



18:43

Yeah, that does annoy me, kind of pisses me off



18:47

mulranny retired last year after 22 years of army service. He looks back on what led him to join the military in the first place



18:55

I had when I was 14 is one I you know, I figured out at a mental level, the intellectual level what homosexuality was not that I was and all this other stuff. And I started trying to find out more about it. And it took me quite a while. And one of the things I discovered though, is that they were homosexual through history and was a great Julius Caesar. Richard the Lionhearted Frederick great and allowed more soldiers and I think subconsciously, that that's something else that attracts me to their military is the fact that the only gay role models that I knew of other than the conventional hairdresser, interior decorator,



19:40

or military, according to research on human sexuality, around 10% of the population is homosexual and bisexual. That means that about 50,000 of the half million troops in the Persian Gulf War would be up for discharge after having risked their lives for their country. Donna Jackson was destroyed marched from the Army Reserve just days before her unit shipped out for the Gulf. After seven years of service, she felt compelled to come out. That is to disclose your homosexuality,



20:11

the reasons I came out was, first off, because we were going to be hidden to the Middle East. And, and I wanted to be who I was at sea, in the reserves, is you have your whole other life and my life with Christie and myself, but we're just real open. You know, we're who we are, and going to do the reserves one weekend a month, that's not, you know, interfere anything. It's it's not a problem. But when the military became full time for me, where that was my life, you know, I could be who I was, you know, in my regular life, I was always open. And now that it was active duty and full time, I was like having to go into closet, you know, and hide who I was. And that wasn't acceptable to me, I want to be able to talk about my lover, I wanted to be able to say, you know, I'm in love with a woman and not have to play a game of Oh, my boyfriend is



21:10

Do you think that that would have adversely affected morale if you had been?



21:14

Oh, no, not at all. As a matter of fact, a lot of people from my unit have met Christie. And they were very supportive. It's like no big deal, you know, so you're gay. So what you know,



21:27

although no troops returning from the Gulf have yet to be discharged for homosexuality. Many gay men and lesbians are known to have served Kate Dyer as legislative assistant to gay Congressman Gary Studds of Massachusetts, she knows of at least one gay man who served his country in the Persian Gulf War. Unfriendly fire was just one stress factor for this gay soldier,



21:49

I received a phone call from a civilian, a man here, whose lover of four and a half years was in the Gulf and was in the army. And the civilian called me to say that he had just received a letter from his lover in the army. And he was very, very upset. Because in that letter, which he read me, his lover said, your letters sustained me out here. And I'm terribly sorry to have to ask you to do this. But I need you to stop writing me as often. Because on our mail drops, I'm getting 15 letters from you with a mail return address. And I'm worried that people are going to start noticing and people are going to start an investigation against me. He said, By the way, his lover has been burning the letters, his lover, when he reads them, he burns them, and only reads them once, because he doesn't want to have a whole packet of letters from the mail, that I found very moving and very upsetting. And I think when the President talks about this war is not like Vietnam, these men are not being asked to fight with one arm tied behind their back, as we asked those in Vietnam to fight. These people have the complete support of our government. I'd say any of the gay men and lesbians serving are fighting with one arm tied behind their back completely, they can't have pictures of their loved ones, they can't have letters from their loved ones, they can't talk about them. If they do talk about them, they have to change their gender. I think it's just horrible. And for the spouses left behind, who are trying to support the troops who are trying to do what the President wants them to do, they can't do it. And this guy that called also said that he was really concerned because he really thought his lover was right along the Kuwaiti border. He knew that a ground offensive was going to start and he said, you know, if something happens to him, I don't exist, as far as far as military is concerned. And they'll call his parents. And thank god, I'm on pretty good terms with his parents, because otherwise, I would never know. I would not know until he didn't come back.



24:01

Why then would homosexual or bisexual people want to join the service when they can be so fiercely treated? The military recruits young Americans by saying be all that you can be, but don't be gay. Miriam. Ben Shalom was one of the first female drill sergeants and the 84th Division of the Army Reserve. Well, it



24:21

has to do with freedom of choice, okay. You may not choose to want to be a soldier. The fact is, is that job choice should be available to all American citizens regardless of sexual orientation, or race or national origin. The fact is, we are citizens of the United States and one of the ways of serving your country is in the military.



24:45

One way the military strengthens its ranks is through the Reserve Officer Training Corps, which offers college scholarships in exchange for military service. Jim Harbaugh was a model ROTC student at Washington University in St. Louis. See, the army used his photograph on recruiting posters. That is until he was discharged for homosexuality.



25:07

I saw it as a great opportunity in several areas, it gives me the opportunity to gain leadership experience as an officer and to have a career in the military. If I so chose. It would help finance my education. And I just thought is a great opportunity. And I was offered an Army ROTC four year scholarship, my senior year in high school and for those reasons, I accepted it.



25:31

What made them single you out while you were in high school. They



25:35

choose the scholarship recipients on based on your ACT scores and physical endurance test and leadership activities in high school. They're pretty competitive scholarships. Actually,



25:46

the army sued Hollowbody return the more than \$25,000 in scholarship money awarded him. They claimed he accepted it fraudulently. As a homosexual they said he never could have served anyway. The Army quickly dropped the case when bad publicity became too hot to handle. The Pentagon's own studies on sexuality revealed that the average age for discovery of and coming to terms with one's homosexuality is 20 years old. Yet ROTC continues to penalize those students dismissed for homosexuality by ordering them to return all scholarship money.