



Fabled Asp at the 2010 San Francisco Dyke March – Video Transcript

Peni Hall: I am so grateful that lesbians, and especially disabled lesbians, are finally being acknowledged as the strong, powerful, wonderful people that we are, and that we get together, and that we get the recognition and support that we need.

Mira Ingram: It's very important that we're honored this year, finally. Because behind the scenes, in every activist movement, you'll always find a disabled dyke.

Kate Bernd: I was just going to like, sit back in the elders' area and enjoy the view and your (Laura's) speech was so inspiring. It almost made me cry, and so I had to come down and march ...

LAURA RIFKIN (SPEAKING FROM STAGE): I'm Laura Rifkin and I'm the dyke founder of Fabled Asp: Fabulous/Activist Bay Area Lesbians with Disabilities. We come out every year. We come out and say, "We're here, we're queer, we're dykes, we're disabled and we're proud."

Morningstar Vancil: I've been disabled for a long, long time and I've been fighting for a long, long time. Not as a dyke, as a butch, as a person of color and now with disabilities. I'm so grateful that they finally recognize all of me.

LAURA RIFKIN (SPEAKING FROM STAGE): We're proud to be dykes on scooters, using wheelchairs, crutches, service dogs and canes. We're proud to be all of who we are.

Fabled Asp declares 2010 as the Year of Honoring Disabled Dykes. Disabled dykes have shaped community and created innovation in culture, politics and all of our lives. Disabled dykes started Wry Crips, Disabled Women's Reader's Theater. A disabled dyke co-founded Fat Lip. A disabled dyke directs AXIS Dance Company. Disabled dykes started the only lesbian wheelchair basketball team anywhere in the world. And we now have our favorite, favorite, local, Bay Area disabled dyke in the White House. (crowd cheering)

What I'm talking about here is all of your herstory and your rightful heritage. We will not be invisible people. Darling disabled sisters and allies. We love you. We are fighting for YOUR rights – to live, to love, to have



support, to be included, to be recognized, to be valued.

We are actively working to let people know that it was DYKES who made sure that every event was sign-language-interpreted. It was DYKES who made sure every event was wheelchair-accessible.

And dykes can do it again. Dykes and queer people must do it again. We need to fight for the culture of community and inclusion that we started. We need to understand that we're all connected and important, and that if we all can't ride on the bus, then none of us should ride on the bus!

We are calling out to you – our dear disabled sisters, deaf sisters, blind sisters, sisters with hidden disabilities, with mobility issues, with service dogs, immune problems, chronic illness, sisters with mental disabilities and everyone else. This is the year we are honoring you and we are so happy to see you here.

When you come out to the Dyke March, you are making the statement that disabled dykes are here, we count, we love, we dance, we make love. This year I don't want to be the only one holding up the banner.

Laura Rifkin (speaking from stage) (Off-camera): How are you feeling?

Mo Kalman, Co-Organizer of the Dyke March: I am beat, but I am exhilarated.

Laura Rifkin (speaking from stage) (Off-camera): Are you marching with us?

Mo Kalman: I'm with you.

LAURA RIFKIN (SPEAKING FROM STAGE): This year I want to see all of you come out in full force and march. If you are a dyke on a scooter, a wheelchair, disabled, deaf, blind, use a service dog, or whatever – come on-- join us for what is going to be to one of the most memorable years of our lifetime!

If you are friends with or have ever loved a disabled dyke, or have known a disabled dyke, or have cared for a disabled dyke, or cared about disabled dykes, or care about disabled dykes – come on out and march with us. We are at the front of the march tonight. Come join us up front. Honor the year of the disabled dyke. Wear a



sticker, grab a placard, and be proud of your heritage,

Thank you Dyke March for honoring the year of the disabled dyke. We love you!

At on the count of three, I want to hear everyone scream: “We love you, disabled dykes.” 1, 2, 3

CROWD: We love you, disabled dykes.

Person in the crowd: ... and I work in human rights and every time I see someone who inspires me like you and Marga did in the park. It’s always about what you really believe, in the end. We cannot be like partying- (inaudible) it’s pride ... It’s like, yeah, we can all drink- but it’s so much more than that.

OFF CAMERA: 2010 the year of honoring disabled dykes.

Lauren Steinberg: I think it’s cool that they’re recognizing us. I think it’s good that we’re getting more integrated into, you know, the rest of the queer community.

Marion Abdullah: I really want to thank the Dyke March for doing this, and making this accessible to disabled lesbians. It was an excellent speech, and she rehearsed it with me, and so I knew exactly what she was going to say. But I was pretty nervous and I forgot some of the things that I was going to say. And that’s okay, because nobody else knew except us that I left a few things out

Person in the crowd: You were amazing, amazing.

Monique Davis: Hi. Have a great time. Have a great march!

Peni Hall: ... get the recognition and support that we need, and there’s a lot more of us than anybody thinks. And we’re coming to get you.

Morningstar Vancil: And no matter what happens, just keep smiling. Things will change.