

April 6th, 1999

Guests on this program were:

Alexandra Paul  
Michael Moore  
Christine O'Donnell  
Donald Byrd

Bill's Opening

Bill: Thank you very much, ladies and gentlemen. Thank you.

I know why you're happy, the weather has cleared over Yugoslavia, and we're bombing the crap out of them.

Laughter

And that always brings a crowd up. Yes, sir.

Now that we're doing that, now that the bombs are really falling, the Serbs now have asked for a cease-fire for their orthodox Easter.

And I don't buy this.

They've also asked for some time off for a little spring cleansing. And I—

Laughter

I—I tell ya, call me old-fashioned, but the closest I remember ethnic cleansing being, that phrase "ethnic cleansing," was using a product called Spic And Span.

Laughter

My girlfriend.

**Christine: Happy Easter.**

Bill: Thank you.

Of course, Easter.

A fine actress and "Baywatch" alumni, she'll be on the brand-new episodes of "Melrose Place" starting April 11th, Alexandra Paul.

Applause

Alexandra: How are you?

Bill: Thank you.

And he's taken on corporate America with award-winning shows on NBC and FOX.

His new one, "The Awful Truth," is on Bravo starting April 11th, Michael Moore.

Applause

Mr. Michael Moore, how are you, sir?

Michael: Thank you.

Bill: Okay, well, as I just mentioned ending the monologue, today, there was that verdict in the hate crime trial, and President Clinton's proposal, and also the trial, the civic trial, of "Jenny Jones" is going on now.

I'm sure you all know the story of the "Jenny Jones" case. She had on her show as kind of a joke—ha, ha, ha, ha—

Remember Spic And Span?

Applause

Yes, new details coming out about the war.

Milosevic, Slobodan Milosevic, that bastard without a vowel—

Laughter

Came out today that he has been using—listen—he's been using his personal police detail for ethnic atrocities, which is vindication for President Clinton.

President Clinton said today, "To think, I felt guilty using mine to line up chicks."

And—

Laughter, Applause

And also today, NATO revealed a photo, a surveillance photo of these bastards over there hurting residents.

Well, you know what they're doing, their hurting residents there for their horrible atrocities.

And their lame excuse, they had this big photo of all these people lined up, they said these ethnic Albanians were just waiting in line at Ticketmaster.

I mean, come on.

Laughter, Applause

And finally, now, as you all know, that horrible hate crime over in Wyoming, the verdict

Laughter

Didn't turn out that way—a guy, and the gag was, hey, he's got a secret admirer.

And it turned out to be somebody who was gay.

And the guy says he didn't know.

Now the family is suing.

Now, Hollywood completely plays homosexuality for laughs.

Alexandra: Well, you forgot to say that the guy ended up killing.

Laughter

Bill: Yeah.

Thank you.

Alexandra: That's—

**Christine: A minor detail.**

Alexandra: That's what the crime was.

Bill: Right.

You're right, I did forget that.

Laughter

Michael: Let's start the show over.

Bill: But that's why there's a trial.

Yeah, I think people are aware of that.

Donald: Not that he was gay, but that he was killed and he was gay.

That's why.

came in today.

And President Clinton said new federal hate crime laws—he is proposing that there will be new hate crime laws for anyone who commits a crime against someone for their sexual orientation.

Here's how it would work.

If someone just said, "This is a stickup."

That's just a robbery.

Laughter

But if they said, "This is a stickup, you fairy," okay, now, that's—that's a hate crime.

Unless it's in a bathroom, and then it's just George Michael having a little fun.

Panel Discussion

Bill: Let's meet our panel.

He is one of America's most esteemed choreographers.

And his latest work is "Jazz Train," Donald Byrd. Donald?

Applause

How are you, sir?

Pleasure to meet you.

Donald: Thank you.

Bill: She is the founder and still president of the *Savior's Alliance for Lifting the Truth*, Christine O'Donnell.

Bill: Right.

She brought a guy on her show.

It's one of those, you know, sleazy shows.

Sorry, but it is.

Laughter

And, you know, "Let's bring out the person who has a big crush on you."

Well, he thought it was gonna be a girl.

It was a gay man, okay?

Wound up killing him because—and here's my question, in a lot of America it's not so funny as it is here in Hollywood.

We have sitcoms about homosexuality.

We think it's very funny.

In America, apparently, it's fighting words when somebody says they have a crush on you, because this happened over and over again. And my question is, who's—who's more in tune?

Is it the Hollywood executives here who put on these kind of shows?

Are they in tune with America?

Or is America really a place where if a guy says, "You know what, I like you," he might get killed?

Donald: I think—

**Christine: I think—go ahead.**

Donald: Okay.

Bill, I think the Hollywood producers are more in tune.

And I tell you why, because they kind of—how Americans really would like to think of gay people as in fact being kind of flaming queens that kind of run around.

And I think that as long as Americans see them that way, as kind of nonthreatening sissy-boys.

Alexandra: Then it's funny.

Donald: It's okay.

Alexandra: Like on a sitcom.

Donald: So the idea of thinking that a real person—it's kind of like sexual harassment, that a real person would come up to you and say, you know, "I think you're really cute."

Another guy saying to another guy, "I think you're really cute, why don't we jump in bed?"

You know, even though people do say things like that and jump in bed, but another guy saying it to a guy is—

Bill: But in the trial, Geoff Fieger, who used to be Kevorkian's lawyer, he's defending, he said—

Donald: Jeff Fiker?

Bill: Fiegler.

Donald: Oh, Fiegler.

Bill: Not "feigel."

Fiegler.

*Laughter*

Michael: Fieger.

**Christine: Fieger.**

Bill: He said that he thought this guy believed his life was over, and a girl would never go out with him again.

Simply because that—

Alexandra: Well, "Jenny Jones," they knew that was—they knew there was a lot of shock value.

That's why they brought the guy.

**Christine: Right.**

Alexandra: A guy admirer on.

So are they in tune?

Yes, the producers are in tune.

It was a shock to—

Bill: But they didn't think it was gonna happen the way it happened.

Alexandra: I don't think anyone would.

Bill: I don't think you're right.

Because I think they underestimated how a lot of America views homosexuality.

It's not a joke.

**Christine: I don't think it's that.**

Bill: Christine O'Donnell, perfect person to answer.

*Laughter*

**Christine: I don't think it's because of how America views homosexuality.**

**I think that there is an extreme gay agenda that would like to exploit violence to make it seem like America—**

Alexandra: What?

Wait, say that again.

**Christine: With this situation with "Jenny Jones," the media does have a lot of influence.**

**And the media, whether it be "Jenny Jones" or whether it be a major motion picture that has all kinds of violence, they need to be responsible with the influence that they have over America.**

And they're not.

Alexandra: Well, let me just say, what's wrong with—I think America needs to get used to the fact that if somebody comes up to someone and says, "I'm attracted to you," and it might happen to be a homosexual thing, that it's not a sexual harassment.

It's not wrong.

It's not any worse than if they had brought—if "Jenny Jones" had brought a girl out.

**Christine: I agree with you.**

Michael: I think the majority of the country—I think that middle America actually is ahead of Hollywood on this.

And while there are these cases, and they happen a lot, there's a lot of violence against gays in this country, but the majority of peo-

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ple, I mean, what happened to Matthew Shepard in Wyoming, the next week, the University of Wyoming football team, the football players all wanted to wear green ribbons on their arms for the rest—for all the games for the rest of the season.

Now, these are people you wouldn't normally think would care about the death of a gay person.

Bill: Right.

Michael: I think people do care about this, in part because, you know, every family in America by now has, you know, at least one person, somewhere within the extended family, that has come out of the closet.

You know, not my family, of course.

*Laughter*

**Christine: I think people care in that situation.**

Michael: That's why they're more tolerant.

*Applause*

**Christine: In that situation, I think what people care about is the fact that it was such a violent, such a brutal assault.**

**And I don't think anybody would agree with that.**

**But Matthew Shepard's death was not isolated to the fact that he was a homosexual.**

**The same people who killed Matthew Shepard reportedly also beat up and left for dead two Hispanics.**

Michael: Yeah, because cretins tend to spread their bigotry around on an equal basis.

Donald: And also the idea—the thing is, in that case, what we're talking about is tolerance.

If you're gonna say that what we need to do and how we need to be educated is about having a tolerance for people regardless of what their whatever is, rather than talking about extreme gay agendas or—

**Christine: Well, that's missing the issue.**

**The issue is that things that—what happened to Matthew Shepard and in Jasper, Texas, they are violent, and they are appalling, and they should not be tolerated.**

Bill: Yeah, but part of the reason they happen is because other folks who are a little more responsible, a little more respectable, a little more mainstream, spread a kind of hate that's more respectable.

And that sort of encourages those borderline personalities to say—

Alexandra: You know what, I think that in America today—

**Christine: I don't think that's true at all.**

Alexandra:—It's still okay to make gay jokes and say the word "fag" and things like that.

And it's still okay.

It's the one group in America that we can still make fun of.

Bill: And smokers.

Michael: There's 20 states where it's illegal.

It's illegal to be gay in 20 states.

And it's the only group of people where we still legislate our bigotry and discrimination.

**Christine: But you know what, you're comparing—**

Bill: Okay, I have to take a commercial.

I'll be right back.

Announcer: Join us tomorrow when our guests will be—Jon Stewart, Elisa Donovan, Jello Biafra and Bryan Kemper.

*Applause*

Bill: All right, we were talking about people being different and the prices they may pay for that.

Down in Dallas, there's a big—no, I guess it's Washington—Dulles Airport, there's a big suit going on.

Five Muslim women who wear the Muslim head scarves are suing the equal

opportunity—Equal Employment Opportunity Commission because they were fired because the people at the airport who run these things said, “Look, there’s a dress code.

There is a uniform and it does not include your head scarves.”

And they said, “That’s our religion.”

And the argument, I guess, is what’s more important, the job or the religion?

Now, I hate wearing a suit.

I wear it every day.

To me, that’s a uniform and I don’t sue anybody.

Alexandra: But they’re wearing a uniform.

They’re just adding a scarf.

I mean, they’re still wearing their uniform, right?

Just a matter of scarves.

Bill: Yeah, but that’s not part of the uniform.

Alexandra: I personally think they shouldn’t have lost their jobs.

I think a scarf isn’t gonna hinder them in their job.

**Christine: But did they know—did they know before they took the job that they would would not be able to wear the scarf?**

**I mean, you need to talk about these things before you take the position.**

Donald: I think the thing about the law, the Constitution guarantees people religious freedom.

It doesn’t say that you have the freedom to wear a scarf.

Alexandra: But that’s their religion.

*Talking at once*

Donald: No, but, you practice your religion.

You don’t need to practice your religion when you’re on your job in a kind of, you know—

Alexandra: I disagree.

I think religion is a belief and it’s a way of life.

For example, I think that on the sabbath Jewish men wear yarmulkes.

And I don’t think anyone says they can’t.

Donald: Yes, they do.

Alexandra: Where?

Donald: In corporate America, you can’t wear your yarmulke to work.

Alexandra: You can’t?

Donald: No.

Bill: Why can’t you do your religion when you’re off?

When you’re working, you’re working.

**Christine: It’s two different issues.**

**It’s like, the thing that you’re talking about is like a lot of times employers ask Christians to take the crucifix off.**

Bill: Yeah, because it gets caught in machinery.

Right.

That’s why.

*Laughter*

No, they can.

No, that’s not a joke.

**Christine: That’s a legitimate thing, so would any kind of pendant you have around your neck.**

Alexandra: Exactly, but that’s a health hazard and a work hazard.

**Christine: Right.**

**But where it’s simply because it’s a cross, there have been many situations where people have been told to take scripture off of their desks or their private work areas.**

**That is an infringement of religious expression.**

Michael: I was in an airport where—

Alexandra: What’s that have to do with wearing a scarf?

**Christine: It’s different from the scarf because the scarf would impede, like a pendant would, get caught in machinery.**

Bill: Okay, wait.

Michael?

Michael: I think that—I don’t think they should have been fired.

You know, I think it would make flying more interesting if at the security place, you know, you had people dressed up in Muslim gear.

You know—

*Laughter*

No, you’re going through security and there’s somebody there, like, with fake dynamite strapped to themselves.

*Laughter*

A little toy machine gun.

Now, that would be an interesting trip.

*Applause*

Here’s the other way to look at it, too, okay?

Like, you know, I mean, I don’t feel secure seeing a guy wearing a uniform that said Acme Security Guard who’s getting \$6/hr.

Do you feel more safe in the skies with that?

Or would you rather have somebody there from Hezbollah, you know?

*Laughter*

I mean, no one’s gonna mess with Hezbollah if they’re doing the security.

I say bring all the Shiites over, do the X-ray machines, do the whole thing.

No planes going down.

Donald: I think one of the things also that it does is that I think when one of the issues that comes up quite a bit in our country is about people being given special favors.

You know?

And the whole idea that somebody’s gonna say that these women can wear these scarves and that’s—

*Talking at once*

Bill: Does anybody remember when we fought for the Muslims over there in Saudi Arabia and the women over there had to cover up?

We had to change our ways.

When we go to their country somehow we have to melt completely into what their culture is.

But when they come here, they’re here for two days and suddenly, it’s like, “Hey.”

Michael: Of course, they don’t have “Jenny Jones” and our good TV.

You know, if they had more of that they would be more culturally literate.

*Talking at once*

Donald: The guy that you had on the show, you know, the kind of preacher that was the white supremacist dude?

Bill: Yeah.

Donald: That guy, if you say that part of his religion, if he were to say, “Well, part of my religion is that I’m gonna make fun of black folks and that’s an active part of what we do.”

Bill: Right.

Donald: “So I’m going to put on blackface, and I’m gonna go to work.”

So then does that become acceptable?

Alexandra: That’s not—but I don’t know exactly the division between religion, but we can’t argue that Islam is a religion.

And it’s a very important part wearing the scarf.

Now, you have a point.

What if they said not just the scarf but they had to be completely covered up like a lot of the women do in the Muslim countries, maybe I would draw the line there.

Because you have the women—

Bill: What if you work at McDonald’s and you have to wear the scarf and the paper hat above the scarf?

Alexandra: Exactly.

*Laughter*

Bill: I have to take a commercial.

We’ll be right back.

Bill: All right.

The big question out of the war story this day was whether we should stop the bombing for Serbian Easter.

The Eastern orthodox holiday is coming up. We didn't stop it for Western Easter.

*Laughter*

Alexandra: Did we stop it for Ramadan? In the Gulf War?

No.

Wasn't there an issue there?

Bill: No.

We started the war, I think, after.

Alexandra: After.

Donald: We waited until after.

Bill: Check your local listings.

*Laughter*

Right.

But, I mean, this is a different situation.

They are Eastern Orthodox.

Their Easter is coming up.

They want us to stop the bombing.

I say, no, you don't stop bombing ethnic cleansers.

**Christine: I think it's hypocritical.**

**I think if they're gonna go, "Oh, just this one time we're gonna stop killing people," why don't they respect those same people any other day of the week?**

Alexandra: I say any opportunity to stop bombing and try and figure out another way to deal with this.

Bill: There is no other way to deal with him!

Alexandra: Oh, Bill, come on.

Bill: "Oh, Bill, come on"?

Who's naive, okay?

*Laughter*

**Christine: They're not stopping to figure out another way.**

*Applause*

**They're simply saying, "I'll kill you tomorrow."**

Donald: It's like a day off from work.

It's not like we're gonna talk about it.

**Christine: They'll be killing people the next day.**

Alexandra: We can bomb them to hell in a week if we can just wait and we can figure out other strategies to either get—

Bill: Other strategies?

Alexandra: Give them that time to figure it out.

Bill: Have you been following this for ten years?

There are no other strategies.

Alexandra: What about all the Albanians who are still in Kosovo?

Maybe we need to figure out how to move them out of Macedonia, have some time to get them out of Macedonia, out of Albania.

*Talking at once*

Michael: Even the opposition over there is opposed to the bombing.

They believe that it's strengthened Milosevic.

This has not helped at all.

Bombs do not work.

Killing people to stop killing people doesn't work.

Alexandra: I agree.

*Light applause*

Bill: How wrong that is.

How totally, totally wrong.

Just let me say—

Michael: Name a time it's worked.

Name a time it's worked.

Bill: Hitler, Stalin.

Michael: Oh, that stopped the killing, didn't it?

6 million Jews.

20 million Russians.

Bill: Well, it would have been—

Michael: It didn't stop them.

Bill: Let me tell you something, if we hadn't stopped Hitler it would have been all 9 million Jews.

There would have been no Jews left in the world.

*Talking at once*

Alexandra: Bomb them after the week.

**Christine: I think the difference between World War II and this is that we knew that the soldiers going in there would gladly lay down their lives because if one soldier would die, it might mean that 10,000 Jews might be saved.**

**And I think the issue in Kosovo is that it's not clearly defined.**

**That there's not a need—**

Donald: But it is clear.

Bill: It is clear.

*Talking at once*

Alexandra: What is bombing, bombing, bombing?

Why not take the opportunity to figure out a strategy?

Bill: So you would not bomb Hitler?

Because this is a—

Alexandra: Listen, I'm not saying that we shouldn't ever bomb.

I'm saying that if we have an opportunity to have a reprieve here and they keep with

the reprieve, let's do some things that don't involve bombing.

Bill: Don't you understand?

Michael: Why do we always go to Hitler, too? You know, it's like he's the new Hitler this year. Saddam was last year's Hitler. Khadafy was the year before that. He was Hitler that year.

Hitler, Hitler, Hitler, Hitler!

Bill: Because they're all Hitler—

Michael: It justifies killing people.

It's just absolutely insane.

*Applause*

Alexandra: No, we got other work to do. We've got to think of the people that we're trying to help.

The people—the Kosovars in Albania.

Bill: Right, the ones who are being ethnically cleansed and killed.

Alexandra: Yes, but in the next week, if Milosevic is saying they're gonna take a reprieve—

Bill: He said that 100 times, just like Hussein. To stop the bombing!

To stop—

Alexandra: So, we could start again in two seconds.

Michael: And we bomb Saddam and he's still there.

It doesn't work.

It doesn't work!

Bill: All right.

I have to take a commercial.

We'll be right back.

Bill: Okay.

I only have enough time to ask how can we get a sex scandal involved in this Kosovo situation to get people interested to follow it?

Is there any way—

Alexandra: You have to get all those Muslim women to tear off all their scarves!

Bill: Did you see the cover of "Time" magazine this week?

There's [bleep] on the cover.

Donald: Yeah!

*Laughter*

Michael: That's what we're fighting for!

Our way of life! More bombs!

Bill: Tomorrow, we're gonna have Bryan Kemper, Jello Biafra, Elisa Donovan and Jon Stewart.

Thank you folks.