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## SPEAKERS

Glenn Holt, Jack Valinski, Cindy Friedman, Greg Gordon

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00:00

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Jack Valinski 00:18

Welcome to another edition of lesbian and gay voices. This is Jack Valinski.



00:21

And I'm John Devlin.



Glenn Holt 00:23

And I'm calling hold.



Jack Valinski 00:24

We have a pretty exciting show tonight. I think I think we do. Yeah. Well, of course, in the second hour, we'll start backwards. JD Doyle is doing his hours worth of music. And it sounds really exciting. In fact, Glen has the CD there. Of course, he's not listening to us right now. And so it's all it's an hour's worth of programming about music and the history of queer music. And right before that, we're going to be playing a segment from this way out, which JD contributed to so it's going to be like an almost all JD show. That's great. But live with us in the studio will be Lou Banach, who is going to be talking about the Ryan, white Planning Council and a number of other things as he's involved in? So we'll have a pretty interesting discussion with him. A couple of things I want to catch up on that happened this week, it's actually been a

pretty busy week, God, I'll start out with probably the most, it's big thing or exciting thing is that the mayor had breakfast with a number of people around the community. And it was were you invited to Yes. Well, a lot of people were invited if they got on to what was called the Community Leadership list. And all they had to do was send an email that they were interested, there was about 150 people. And if you want some more information on that, you can subscribe to him net, which is a part of the groups. I'm sorry, it changed Yahoo. Yahoo. groups.com, go to Yahoo. groups.com. And look up Houston activist network. But anyway, so I mean, it was a campaign breakfast. I mean, the mayor was talking about running for his final term that he can run for mayor of city of the city of Houston. But it was really interesting. There was about 150 people there. People from all walks of the community. It was great. A nice Parker was there. Deborah Lambert was there grant Martin who was running in East his campaign was there. And I mean, he basically talked about some of the things are going on in the city. Some of the things that you know, he wants to finish accomplishing and stuff like that. And, you know, a nice he's very fond of the mayor. She a nice Parker. She's worked with him over the past four years. It was at the Olive Parkway in and it was a really nice breakfast.



02:29

Well, that's great. And there was an award ceremony to last week if I'm not mistaken, and well,



J Jack Valinski 02:33

actually, there was two award ceremonies. One was thr F had one on Thursday night, and she won an award I was very pleased to win a community activist award. I'm keeping that one not getting it back and then the Unity banquet. Well wait, now you're getting the there's other people besides me winning awards. Oh, we don't care. Because my fellow troublemaker Phyllis Frey won an award also as community activists and the road women who was like a Democratic Club in the River Oaks area won an award. Christy Littleton one she was the person in San Antonio who, well, how do I collapse the story.



03:12

She her husband died. And because it didn't say on her birth certificate that she had been born a woman she was denied all rights. That one that a spouse of a you know, would typically get when their partner was deceased.



J Jack Valinski 03:26

And besides that, Grant Martin won award for some of the stuff he's done over the years. Now, the Unity Ward, I don't know all the winners, but I know that Rachel cry



03:37

railed on the Lifetime Achievement Award of Vanessa foster

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Jack Valinski 03:40

won World War Two. But Ray was very pleased about that, because I think he was one of the few non transgender people whoever won that award. And that's great. And the fact that he made it to it, I mean, he's, and I was I got re on a computer again, which I'm really happy for him to have a computer. And so he's raised to great his apartment looks really wonderful.

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04:01

Oh, yeah. He seems to be doing very well. Getting around causing trouble being re

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Jack Valinski 04:07

so Okay, that was going on. And I was moving offices on for on over the weekend. The pride committee has got a nice new office, right.

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04:14

Yeah, just across the hall. You're still in the community center though.

J

Jack Valinski 04:16

So that's all keeping us Ward and a busy Khadem II Awards last night. Pretty interesting shows watching a joke. Well, I thought Steve Martin was really good on there. And of course my favorite is Bjork being on there wearing her she will wear like this goose dress. I mean, it was pretty

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04:32

Yeah, the swan outfit. I heard about that on the radio this morning.

J

Jack Valinski 04:34

Oh, I'm sure you did. I'm sure you did. Not everything one that I would hope it would win, but it wasn't all that bad. Yeah, of course. You know, gay men watch that like crazy.

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04:44

Oh, my uncle my my gay uncle used to be part of a Academy Award pool. It was like a football pool. Yeah. And he and his friends would do. I mean, he gave me all his stuff after he died and I just found the stuff and I mean, they had people's odds tabulated and and and this and that

and I had the day. I mean, seriously, it was just like a football pool. It was hilarious. Well, they did

J

Jack Valinski 05:05

have a public viewing of that at River Oaks Theatre, which is a fundraiser for the film festival. I have I don't usually go to it because I just can't be up that way. But I understand it's been very successful. Nancy Ford was the emcee of that again, yes, along with Ernie from channel eight. So I hope that was very successful. I hope they packed it. So that's, and remember, folks, the real river oak theater is still open. That's right, the other one closed. So I think that's a bunch of stuff that went on the past week, at least I'm sure other stuff went on. But that's a little bit of what I know of. Let's listen to news wrap from this way out.

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05:45

I'm che Sheltie and I'm Cindy Friedman with news wrap a summary of some of the news in or affecting the lesbian and gay community for the week ending March 24 2001. Open gate or Tron Delano was elected mayor of Paris this week, Paris becomes the biggest city in the world ever to elect an openly gay or lesbian mayor, far surpassing the previous leader, Winnipeg. 1000s of gays and lesbians danced under a rainbow flag outside City Hall in celebration. Most of France's less impressed with Delano sexual orientation than by his leftist politics. He's the first socialists to win Paris in about 130 years. In the first round of voting a week earlier, Delano took almost 1/3 of the vote, and then formed a coalition with the Green Party to ensure his victory in the final vote over more conservative candidates. 50 year old Delano has held offices since 1977. As a Paris city councilor, Member of Parliament and senator, he only publicly identified himself as a gay man in 1998. While the national parliament was heatedly debating the registered partnerships known as packs, packs of civil solidarity, he was only the second French politician to come out. France is first openly gay elected official Andre Lebar air was easily re elected mayor of power in the first round of voting. He's been posed Mayor since 1971, but only publicly identified himself as a gay man in 1997. Openly gay independent Felipe Menard was the leading vote getter for mayor of Barsac. But without a majority, his success depends on party negotiations. Paris also elected France's first transgender office holder making Camille called bra the city council member for the 17th district.

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Cindy Friedman 07:37

election results were less happy for gays and lesbians in Uganda, where anti gay President Yoweri Museveni was reelected this month. Two years ago, Ms. venni called on police to search out arrest and prosecute gays and lesbians. Some gays were arrested while others went into hiding or fled the country. The maximum sentence for homosexual acts in Uganda is life imprisonment.

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08:02

Namibia's President Sam nujoma This week renewed his calls for a police crackdown on gays and lesbians, warning students at the University of Namibia against what he called a foreign influences nujoma said the Republic of Namibia does not allow homosexuality or lesbianism

here, police are ordered to arrest you and deport you and imprison you too. In fact, well sex acts between men are illegal. The status of sex acts between women is not clear. Namibia's gay and lesbian group rainbow project responded that Namibia's constitutional protections from discrimination do not exclude sexual minorities, although they do not explicitly include them. Namibia's National Society for Human Rights also spoke out in defense of gays and lesbians, charging nujoma with using homophobia as a diversionary tactic to take the public spotlight off pressing social problems.



C Cindy Friedman 09:00

Former British Speaker of the House of Commons George Thomas Lord Tony Pandy, was posthumously outed this week. His friend Leo ABS had written in a new book The man behind the smile that he himself had repeatedly saved Thomas from extortion threats, when homosexual acts were still criminal in Britain, once paying a blackmailer 800 pounds for his silence. politicians from both sides of the aisle roundly criticized apps for making allegations when the popular Thomas could no longer rebut them.



09:31

Lawmakers in the Mexican state of Aguascalientes this month voted unanimously to enact civil rights protections for gays and lesbians. Only Mexico's Federal District where Mexico city is located has a similar law. The Aguascalientes legislature acted in part in response to international interest last year in a sign at a park in the city of Aguascalientes saying no dogs or gays.



C Cindy Friedman 09:58

Israeli parliamentarian In spoke out both for and against gays and lesbians this week, new CMC eve of the far right shots party called homosexuality, a disease that requires the parents to sit Shiva, a Jewish ritual for mourning the dead. But 10 members of the Knesset joined the parliamentary committee for the advancement of the status of women in its 10th annual celebration of gay and lesbian pride, which this year also observed the 25th anniversary of the National Association of gays and lesbians. MK Yale Diane of the Meretz party was the only member of the ruling coalition in attendance and MK Eliezer Sandberg of the shin Nui party was the only member of a right of center party there at the gathering receives where marks were denounced as ignorant and unenlightened.



10:46

Israel Supreme Court this week overruled a rabbinical court to allow a lesbian family to unite. The chief rabbinical court had ruled in favor of a lesbians ex husband, who sought to block their children from seeing his ex wife's lesbian partner, denouncing the women as immoral and their behavior detrimental to the children. But the national Supreme Court found the rabbinical court had exceeded its authority because the divorce had already been settled.

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Cindy Friedman 11:14

The German state of Bavaria will be going to the Constitutional Court seeking to block new federal legislation creating registered partnerships for gay and lesbian couples. The Very injustice Minister Manfred vise this week called the new law and attack on the special status of marriage in the German constitution. The State of Oregon had previously announced a legal challenge to the partnerships and a lower court. The partnerships law will go into effect in August, extending legal recognition in areas including inheritance insurance and tenancy surveys have found that most Germans support the new law. A US

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11:51

District Court in Kentucky this week completely rejected a religious right challenge to civil rights laws protecting gays and lesbians in Jefferson County and the city of Louisville. Both laws were enacted in 1999. With Louisville is the first such law in the state. But the American Center for Law and Justice filed a lawsuit on behalf of a local gynecologist who claimed that the laws would infringe on his constitutional rights to freedom of religion, speech and association by forcing him to hire a gay or lesbian. Despite its resounding defeat, the center is likely to appeal the ruling.

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Cindy Friedman 12:28

A challenge to Arkansas gay only sodomy laws succeeded This Week In Pulaski County Circuit Court. The current law prescribes up to one year in jail and a fine of \$1,000 for homosexual acts between consenting adults even when performed in private Judge David Bogart found the law to be an unconstitutional infringement on both privacy rights and the right to equal treatment before the law. The state has not yet decided whether to appeal. The lawsuit was brought by the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund on behalf of seven Arkansas gays and lesbians. Only Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas currently have gay only sodomy laws in force, while more than a dozen other states prohibit oral and anal sex regardless of the gender of the parties involved.

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13:15

St. Patrick's Day parades in the US were not without controversy this year, but protests were muted. New York City's big annual event was once again protested by the Irish lesbian and gay organization whose members have been barred from marching as a unit. But there were only three arrests compared to a peak of over 200 arrests in their past civil disobedience actions. The previous week in New York, a number of Catholic groups boycotted parades in Queens and Staten Island because they included gays and lesbians

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Cindy Friedman 13:46

in Tucson, Arizona, a gay and lesbian contingent were miffed at their placement at the tail end of the St. Patrick's Day parade. In Savannah, Georgia, gay and lesbian groups didn't even try to register for the St. Patrick's Day parade they've been excluded from in the past, preferring to

direct their energies towards a bill against discrimination in city employment.



14:06

in Macon, Georgia. The gay and lesbian group Macon pride marched happily in the city's annual Cherry Blossom Festival parade. But in Tacoma Washington afloat that didn't even say gay or lesbian, but only pride has been rejected from the April Daffodil Festival parade. Parade. Organizers say they base their rejection on standards against entries reflecting political or social issues. But the Pierce County pride Foundation believes it's a matter of homophobia.



C Cindy Friedman 14:36

US gay and lesbian newspaper group window media has added the New York blade and the long established Washington blade to its stable, making it reportedly the world's largest gay and lesbian newspaper group. The United States two biggest gay and lesbian internet portals, plan it out and gay.com are also now in the process of completing a corporate merger. And



14:58

finally, a key to the The success of NBCs gay lead hit sitcom Will and Grace has been the irrepressible character of wills friend Jack, played by Sean B. Hayes. But it seems there's a real life model for the energetic self involved sex driven gay with no visible means of support. Jack Deemer, who has served as a creative consultant for the series will embrace creators David Cohan and open gay Max much Nick have said publicly that Diemer was the basis for the jack character. Diemer says he was chagrined embarrassed and devastated when he realized the flamboyant character was a caricature of himself. He asked that Jack's name be changed but was told it was too late. Now de Mer is suing the show and the network claiming that much Nick had promised him a house and a car if the show was successful, but that he's received nothing to date. de Mer is seeking \$500,000 And that is a lot of Jack.



C Cindy Friedman 15:55

That's news wrap for the week ending March 24 2001. Follow the news in your area and informed community is a strong community



16:04

news wrap is written by Cindy Friedman and recorded at the studios of KPFK Los Angeles for this way out. I'm Chase Schultz



C Cindy Friedman 16:11

and I'm Cindy Friedman.

G

Glenn Holt 16:13

And you are listening to lesbian and gay forces. It's crazy and a song appropriately enough called come out everybody. That's from JD Doyle's queer music collection. And this evening, in our second hour, JD Doyle will have his queer music heritage, with the spotlight feature being Francis Fey. He also has interviews with Clark Carlton Dennis Hensley. Jeff Dobbins Alfredo Alvarez, the writers of bed boys and beyond. You're listening to lesbian and gay voices. And I would like to welcome Barry Browder who is listening to us. He used to be DJ at Jr's here in Houston about 10 years ago. He is now the DJ at George's alibi in Fort Lauderdale listening to us via the internet. Well, I

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Jack Valinski 17:13

hope the internet is working tonight. Well, I hope so. You're listening to lesbian and gay voices and live in the studio with this is evatik, who I remember from the old caucus days as we used to refer to it. And we used to do this wonderful Easter basket on top of Mary's called a tasket. A tasket. In fact, Ed Barnes, my friend was talking about it, that used to collect food on Easter for people with AIDS. And it was really a wonderful, colorful, neat thing

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17:43

that we did, probably in 1986 87, I think we did two or three years. And one of the first sort of community wide food drives for stone soup. And now it's like a big stone soup and AIDS Foundation are a really big thing. But back then they were just little tiny organizations.

J

Jack Valinski 18:03

Right. And now you're involved with Ryan White Planning Council.

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18:07

I'm the chair. Okay.

J

Jack Valinski 18:08

And what is that?

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18:10

Well, it's a federally funded, sort of community grassroots organization, we're responsible for dispensing care dollars in the Houston area. And it's a sort of a partnership between the community and the federal government.

J

Jack Valinski 18:31

Interesting so that there's so much money allotted to us, Harris County, which is third, third largest county in the country, big County, and that, that money then goes to instead of faith based as people are calling goes to community based organizations. And you all sort of make the decision of if these organizations are actually distributing the money correctly and doing what they're supposed to do in their mission statement.

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18:56

Well, there's kind of there's a two layer system, the way it actually works is that the money is funneled through funneled through Harris County, through the county judge. And so everybody on the council is appointed by John Lennon. I'm not talking Lindsey by jackals,

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Jack Valinski 19:15

and just so used to saying that for so many years.

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19:19

Well, he was the originally in charge of the funds back in 1990, when the the Care Act was first

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Jack Valinski 19:28

implemented, and it was rather controversial back then, yes, it was.

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And we went through a reorganization in 96 and 97. And a

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Jack Valinski 19:36

lot of that was somewhat was a result of act up, or people, you know, challenging the system.

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I think it was a combination of a lot of things was probably people in the community being dissatisfied and also kind of questions about how the money was being used. And so I think we went a different route or people decided that a different route needs to be taken and We were reorganized and put under the head. At that point, it was called the Greater Houston AIDS Alliance. And it was sort of a nonprofit corporation. And now it actually operates directly out of the county judge's office, and we have our own staff. But we really don't spend the money,

what we really do is find out what the priorities in the community are okay, and prioritize the needs. And then we allocate the funds to different service categories. And we design the programs, what the program should look like, and what the minimum standard should be. And then all of the contracting is done through HIV services, which is operates under the Harris County Health Department, and they do the actual contracting, according to the laws of the Harris County purchasing department.

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Jack Valinski 20:58

But the real criticism in the earlier days was that the community effect it was not the community involved in helping making these decisions. And I'm gathering that's changed.

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21:09

Oh, that's changed enormously as a matter of fact, the driving force in the council, our consumers, it's we're mandated to be I can't remember the exact ratios, but we're probably over 50% consumers, and with a variety of other people who are stakeholders who run programs that substance abuse places and counseling places, and we have people from that represent the incarcerated. And we're also balanced with by gender and racial mix. And so we have a really good mix of people and we seem to try it, we tried to be an open process and get as many voices involved, as we can,

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Jack Valinski 22:00

well, practically, I understand tries to train people to, to eventually, maybe do things like what you're doing right now.

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22:08

Well, Project leap is one of the programs that we fund, it's a Ryan White Planning Council title one.

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Jack Valinski 22:16

It's basically a program the program to teach people about all this stuff that's going on, right. It's

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it's designed to empower people to be able to navigate through the system and to be able to give them the resources to get the services that they need. And every year, I think this year was the largest graduating class that they ever had. It's a very rigorous curriculum, it's almost a six month period and think they need to three to three times a week. Yeah,

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Jack Valinski 22:49

it sounds really

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intensive. And it's a lot of work to do a lot of learning stuff, a lot of learning. And they've I don't think they have hardly anybody ever drops out, everybody sticks with it and puts in the time. And when they come out the other end, they're empowered to be able to get services for themselves. And a lot of the people go on to be volunteers and organizations and planning groups around the city and in the county. Great.

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23:17

And that was kind of my question. Because, you know, it sounds so simple on paper while we have the funds and the funds are for the organizations. But it's really not just a question of somebody going up to you and saying, Okay, I have this organization, and we do this, this and this write me a check, is it? I mean, there's a lot more to it than that, oh, no,

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23:36

there's really a lot more to it than that. It's, I mean, when you're dealing with federal money, you've got to obey a lot of different rules. And you have

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to cover yourselves as well, right? Because you obviously don't want to give funding to someone who maybe is misrepresenting themselves and what they're doing, right, and you

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can't really lead to it's not driven by individuals, it's driven by the community. So just because I have an idea and say that, well, I think that people need this, well, that's really not good enough, it really has to be justified, you have to go out and do the research and find out where there are gaps in services and needs and services. And then you have to document all of that and then bring it to the Council, and the council will evaluate the work that you've done. And to make sure that it's not just one person saying, Oh, well, I think this is a great idea.

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And I'm sure the documentation has to be professional. You know, it has to cover I mean, it's not just like, you know, high school, I'll just write an essay about why I want this money. I mean, I'm sure there's a lot in writing grants

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Jack Valinski 24:38

ation. real difficult thing, especially when you're talking about a lot of money. And you have to be real thorough about it. And you know, a lot of these little organizations that form say, oh, we'll just get some grants. Well, it's not quite that easy.

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Well, we tried to make it as easy as possible and as friendly as possible because we really do want to involve the community but there are standards we have workshops that Do we have for people that want to write grants, and that way they can come and get help technical assistance on what it is that they need to do. And sometimes people will take several takes several attempts to be able to put together a proposal. But like I said, It's public money. And so with public money, there are certain rules and guidelines, right.

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And the key though, is what you said, though, is you want the organization's to have it. So you're doing everything you can to help them meet the guidelines, which I think is important, too, because a lot of the frustration people often have when dealing with the government, is they'll say, you know, I would like to do this, what are the steps for me to do this, and they get handed this, you know, Tombstone text of about 7000 pages, and they say, I'll just do everything in here. And then we can probably help you. But

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Jack Valinski 25:49

you know, we've all who've been around a while, I've seen so many of our friends pass away. And now there are drugs that make life better for people, not necessarily certainly not a cure, but makes it somewhat better for some people. But you probably know people now who are going through this system, that it has improved, and it's gotten better for them of dealing with how do you survive? How do you find the services? How do you, you know, and in a county and city this large, there are tons of different organizations?

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26:21

Well, now we deal with, he used to be that most of our statistics were gathered on, and funding was based on a numbers of AIDS cases. And now we use numbers of HIV infections, because the number of people who progressed to AIDS has declined, and the number of people living with AIDS continues to grow. And the number of people who are infected unfortunately, continues to rise, so and they need to have, um, services, that things like they need to have access to drugs, and access to regular medical care. So in order to be able to provide those things, um, the definitions for who's eligible have been broadened. So lots of people can get services. Now, the eligibility requirements are, um, they're minimal. Most of the services that we provide are available to people who are within 250 to 300% of poverty, which works out to

about \$24,000 a year or less for a single person. And, from within comes of that level, you can secure medical services, drug assistance, you can have emergency help with your housing, you can get emergency help with your light bill, if your lights are gonna get turned off, you can get counseling, drug counseling, peer counseling, on lots of different kinds of programs that are available to a lot of people. And then there are certain programs that are available to people with substantially higher incomes. Like things like drug assistance, goes all the way up to 35 or \$40,000. In income, we'll be able to assist people to acquire to get access to drugs, and anybody that's over those incomes, usually has their own insurance or can bear the burden themselves. But the cost of the drugs are so high that we have to include more than just \$24,000 a year we bring it up to maybe 35 or 40. I'm not exactly sure.

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Jack Valinski 28:39

Well, I heard the statistic on NPR, which, you know, makes sense to me that the drugs is somewhere around probably \$21,000 for the cocktails now I guess that's very round numbers. But the reality is that cost \$21,000 actually saves money, because it keeps people productive. A lot of people are back to where are never left work are going back to work. Of course we're generalizing here. But instead of being in the hospital or being sick or being unproductive, they're now leading productive lives. Oh, sure.

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29:12

Like, oh, a five to 10 day stay in the hospital can run \$25,000 Easy. So if you can keep one person out of the hospital for a week or week and a half, then you've already exceeded the amount of money that you've had to put out. And, you know, these drugs are available to everybody statewide through a program called a DAP. It's a AIDS drug assistance program. And it's administered by the state and all the AIDS drugs are available to just about everybody through that program.

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Jack Valinski 29:48

That's pretty incredible for the state of Texas.

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Well, it's a nationwide program and Texas actually has a little bit of a shortcoming in getting the numbers of people that I'm sure be getting into the program. And so they're making a new effort in the last year or so to find people and get them into the program to try and get the numbers up because the money is available and the drugs are there.

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Jack Valinski 30:14

Well, this sounds like a lot of responsibility. You got a good feeling about doing being able to contribute like this. Oh, yeah,



30:22

it's everybody, the every member of the council is a volunteer. We do have a staff, which is nice. We have six wonderful people that work for the council and provide us with handouts and do gather information and do administrative duties. But basically, the actual work in the design of programs is done by the 38 people on the council, in conjunction with all of our meetings are open. So anyone that wants to attend a meeting is encouraged to come and participate in let their ideas be known. Because we can't think of everything so I'm I get a great feeling. It's a it's I think it's a great opportunity for the community to be able to have direct input, and how their tax dollars are spent. And it's just a great example of democracy in America at work. I just really am very proud of the work that we do.



J Jack Valinski 31:22

We're talking to Lou Vanek, who is chair of the Ryan White kennels Planning Council. Now we're seeing the face of AIDS change, where it's not just gay, gay people. But it's changing to people of color, and unfortunately, to women and to women. And so has the council trying to reflect that?



31:43

Oh, yeah, we've, we've taken actually a lead role in in that. And that along those avenues in the last, I guess it was a year and a half or two years ago, the Council declared a state of emergency in the African American community, and in communities of color. And our focus is on African American. Males have men who have sex with men, and also women and children. So we're mandated by the federal government to make sure that a specific portion of our funds are spent on these subgroups. And also, when we've gone into trying to provide services for youth, which are kids from 13 to 24, I believe, targeting new programs at them, because we're seeing a rise now and younger people are getting infected. But the overwhelming majority of new infections are occurring in the African American community. And there's a tremendous crisis there. We've designed some programs that are specifically targeted for peer counseling, where people of color can get sort of a buddy to walk them through the process of how to get drugs and how to get services and they will stick with them. So every, every couple of days, they can go and have a conversation with their counselor, if they have any problems and have someone actually take them through the steps and keep them keep encouraging them to stick with stay in and care. We also have a new program that should be starting up in the next couple of weeks, which gets back to what you were saying about minority agencies being able to participate in providing services, we have developed a program where we're going to take 12 minority agencies who are not who have not been involved in providing HIV services at all, and recruit people to from these agencies to go through a program to the end result of trying to get them to be able to write grants so that we can get actual minority communities to provide services in the minority communities because the trust factor is something that we found as hard to overcome. And so we're trying to deal with that.



J Jack Valinski 34:29

Yeah, office is probably a perfect example of Hispanic community.



34:33

Well obvious is one of the is a community based organizations organization, and it's one of the three sort of primary medical care, actually, we fund for primary medical care sites. One is avez and that deals primarily with Hispanic population and women. We also fund the Montrose clinic, which deals primarily with gay A man of both white and gay men of color. And also we deal we fund. Now it's called the hacks. Who has a contract to provide services primarily to? Well, it just turns out that they provide services primarily to the African American community, and have case management teams that are targeted at African Americans targeted at youth targeted at women. And the whole idea is to get these people into care and prolong their lives and give them healthy, productive, better lives.



J Jack Valinski 35:38

Fabulous. Sounds great.



35:42

Well, we do what we do a lot of work. Um, we're always looking for people to have input. I mean, that's one of the things



J Jack Valinski 35:49

how can people do that your meetings are open, right. They have to be open. Right. We



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meet on the second Thursday of every month at 12 o'clock, down at the Harris County annex on 610 loop, I guess it's between San Felipe and Westheimer. And we that's where our offices, our phone number is 713-572-3724. What was that again? 713-572-3724. And if any of you have any questions or would like to find out what our schedule is, you can call that number. We also have a website. It's a RW pc.org, which stands for Ryan White Planning Council. And the calendar is on there as well as various links to other sites this



J Jack Valinski 36:46

website yours or the national one. Oh, no, this



36:48

is Houston. So we managed to be able to be one or the that that name so so anytime anybody across the country types up our WPC, they get Houston. So. But anyway, that's our website,

you can get information through there. And we're actually we're in the process right now of bringing together planning for the year 2002 2003. We've just started that process. So if anybody's interested, we have a series of meetings that are coming up, oh, it's called the how to best meet the need workgroups, and we're always looking for people to participate because this is where the programs are actually designed. And so we have five workgroups, and we have all of our service categories are divided amongst these five workgroups. And they needed various times during April in the beginning of May. And through these, we gather information and take input from the public and design the programs like what kind of things should be what kind of services should be available at the food pantries and things like that. And so this, this is the time of year when we do that, and that's on your website, and that's on our website as well,

J

Jack Valinski 38:07

which is RW pc.org. Right, exactly. Well, Lou, I really want to thank you for coming by. It's been a pleasure to see you again and talk to you about the really important work you're doing and it's great. Vanik is chair of the Ryan White Planning Council for Harris County and he wants more information the best way probably go to website are wpc.org Thank you.

♂

38:32

Sure. Thanks a lot for having me.

J

Jack Valinski 38:33

You're listening to lesbian and gay voices.

G

Greg Gordon 38:51

Day Topeka, Kansas preacher Fred Phelps and his mostly family Entourage is infamous for their God Hates Fags demonstrations at funerals of gay men with AIDS and perhaps most notably for the mats burning and help picket line outside the memorial for hate crime victim Matthew Shepard. That reputation preceded Phelps to Ann Arbor, Michigan in late February, but rather than raised their foes profile with a counter demonstration in the streets, clever activists decided to put the homophobes to work for them. Correspondent Cindy Salazar talks with Keith or have the out bar to find out how the Philips pick it became an every minute counts fundraiser for GLBT rights there and how that's becoming a popular tactic in other parts of the country.

♂

39:40

Keith on February 15, you got word that notoriously anti gay Reverend Fred Phelps would be picketing your establishment in two days. Why did you decide to do

♂

39:40



39.47

well, when I heard about it, I thought about you know, how should we react to this? He was in town to pick it several places the university was doing their annual queer visibility week so If I had known he was going to be in town just didn't know that he was going to be coming to our place. And I wanted to do something that wasn't the traditional counter protest, which gets him the attention he wants. So I thought, well, let's just turn this around and let him raise some money for the community. So my partner and I, Martin decided to pledge \$1, for every minute that he was picketing the bar to local community center and advocacy group. That's the Washington owl rainbow action project, I sent out an email to that effect and said, Does anyone want to join us? And as it happened, within about two minutes, I got my first flush over the course of the next 50 hours, it got up to be about \$120 per minute.



40:43

That was a great idea. What a brainstorm. Did you just stumble on that idea? Or have you seen it done before that



40:48

I had actually heard about a group trying to do it when the Klan came to town several years earlier, and they had apparently had heard of other communities doing that when the client had come to their community. So it wasn't an original idea. But it's an idea that certainly took off like it never has before,



41:06

certainly proved useful. Where did most of your pledges come from? Did you get to know anything about that?



41:11

Most of them were local, but certainly not all of them. I heard from people got a California pledge, a couple of California pledges, actually, one from Vancouver, couple from Florida, New Hampshire, New York.



41:25

So the internet turned out to be a pretty useful tool for you very useful tool. Yeah,



41:29

it just spread like wildfire. One of the unusual things that's happened since is that when we send out a press release afterwards, which also has been flying around the internet, and other communities have been interested in doing something similar. And I've been talking with

people in about five different towns now that the first one has already been set in motion. Within the next couple of days. They're going to start their pledge drive in Madison, Wisconsin. Well, that's good,



41:55

you're able to bring that idea to a lot of different people. Can I ask you how much money you raised? Yeah, we



42:00

raised about \$7,200. Normally, you know, for community center like this, it's spent a year planning a fundraiser like this, and you still wouldn't know if it would be successful. And we did this in a couple of days, with no upfront costs.



42:16

That's great for results. The most touching story I thought that came out of this event was a pledge that involved a little boy and his dad, can you tell us a little bit about that?



42:24

Oh, yeah, it wasn't that amazing. My guy was driving down the street and had no idea what was going on. But I guess in our because of the publicity around felt, must have known he was in town. And the kid saw all of these signs, you know, the usual God hates bag sort of thing. And the kid asks Dad what this is all about. So dad pulls aside, helps the kid on what's going on, and to demonstrate that gays are okay people. He brings the kid into the out to show that is not something he has to be afraid of. As he comes in, he realizes that we've turned this into a fundraising event and he gives the kids 10 bucks to give to us for the fundraising.



43:05

It's the best kind of pledge from the heart. Hmm, yeah, yeah. Can we give people your contact information so they can use you as a resource? Absolutely.



43:13

didn't reach me at 734-994-0558. Or if you want to email me, you can do it at a UT dar@aol.com.



43:25

All right, Keith, thank you very much for talking to us.



43:28

Thank you very much.



Greg Gordon 43:29

That was out bar owner Keith or in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Talking with our Cindy Salazar. The idea seems to be catching on. Students at the University of Nevada Las Vegas raised almost \$800 in pledges around Phelps visit they're in early March. And Madison Wisconsin activists are accepting pledges for their every minute counts campaign in anticipation of Phelps arrival in their town on April 1. For more information check their website at [www.geocities.com/every\\_minute\\_counts](http://www.geocities.com/every_minute_counts) that's geo cities.com/every minute counts wi and when



44:13

don't run under the bed



Greg Gordon 44:31

acoustic folk soothing soul and lyrical storytelling composed the latest words and music from the audio file.



44:51

Do because it's been years as a man once again in span



45:13

Surf's up with Clark Carlton's debut album appropriately called saltwater. Hi, I'm Chris Wilson.



45:20

And I'm Pam Marshall, and you're listening to audio file. This track from Carlton's album is called boys on the sand.



45:27

There are this group of guys they think of as the boys I'm saying I see those guys most of the weekend. I love them all. When I went through this big breakout they welcomed me into their group with their brands, brawny arms I just love those guys know how to write a love song

trade back



45:51

down and when the discover has been



46:01

summer for the long run. We race to the bottom boy ran out be singing in band



46:21

The album's mostly acoustic folk style also covers serious topics like love and loss and Matthew Shepard



46:31

stupid they tried to desert gray the funeral you were the begin? Hey man some waiting right 10 Deep inside



47:09

that there's part of you that can't be denied



47:27

for more information about Clark Carlton saltwater CD, you can visit [www.cdbaby.com](http://www.cdbaby.com)



47:37

New York singer airy gold brings a blend of smooth r&b to the world of gay music with his new self titled CD



47:45

all these again



48:01

no damage and then we went on when the sun's coming down the Tasman Anna as drowning you know where he must be clean and

you know where he must be clear and



48:31

airy describes his style this way.



48:33

It's basically 10 love songs. And the style I would say is r&b. So a little dance house and pop influenced by Chateau de and Madonna and Mary J. Blige and Chaka Khan, Stevie Wonder and his love



48:51

ballads gold does not shy away from using male pronouns to describe the object of his affection



48:57

write me a love song is a song about someone who's very special in my life when been with for a while to one morning me too. realm than learning to one sample request, though he's asking me



49:22

to do anything for you. Do you miss birthdays? Is as Dan said, get ready



49:47

to handle day they



49:57

want to learn to read AIDS baby. You can find out more about every goal at WWW dot ery gol.com. That's a r i g o ld.com.



50:15

Matthew chlorians debut album finally free gives us a variety of songs that are both lyrically out and that touch our hearts every now and then. Film a girlfriend, what's a girl?



50:33

30.55

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G

Glenn Holt 51:28

at 90.1 FM This is KPFT in Houston, the sound of Texas and now more of lesbian and gay voices