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SPEAKERS

Suzanne Anderson, Deborah Bell, Greg Gordon, Lori Clark, Jack Valinski, Juan Palomo

S

Suzanne Anderson 00:01

This works. I've tried to pass out condoms to the HISD students before and it's not easy, but maybe that's a step forward. And we're glad to have it. This was in the news this week, and I thought it was kind of interesting and very sad. At the same time. There was a roast this last week in Fairfax, Virginia honoring the former representative Stan Paris. And there were lots and lots of gay jokes that were not particularly funny. For instance, senator Warren Berry called Clinton's plan to end the ban on homosexuals in the military a fags in the foxhole proposal. He said he didn't really consider it gay bashing. And then there's Ollie North, who said that he tried to call Clinton but the White House switchboard wouldn't let him through until he disguised his voice with the lisp. For whatever it's worth, we weren't alone in this because they also made fun of black. So not only do they have the gay and lesbian communities on but they also have the NAACP. It's real strange with these people find humorous. Okay, is Angela Davis, a dyke. Last month at the black and at the black gay and lesbian Leadership Conference, she kind of came out, we're not exactly sure. But her first name, when her first name was surfaced at the conference, people were wondering if in fact, she was a lesbian. And at the press conference afterwards, a reporter asked her what she meant when she used the term we over and over in her speech, and she said simply, I've been involved in a number of years in the movement around gay and lesbian rights. And I've participated in organizations of black lesbians, and my political position is informed not only by my own personal life, but by decades of political activism, they probably forgot the question by that time. Anyway, in essence, I think she did probably come out. And when they asked her why it took so long, she said, she's just not particularly comfortable with it. She's a very private person. Violence against homosexuals was up 129%. Last year in Colorado, if you recall, Colorado had amendment to that came up in November of this last year, and that campaign was very dirty, there were a lot of distortions and lies created and it really it, it put in a real environment of hatred and contempt and a very anti gay mood around the state. And basically, what it did is it legitimized violence against gays and lesbians. The interesting thing I think about this 129% increase is the fact that better than half of it came after that November election. If you get a chance, get out and get a copy of the new voice. There's a real good article in here by Professor Eugene Harrington. And he, of course, is with the law school over at, at Thurgood Marshall. And he gives what I think is a superb explanation about why we should allow HIV infected people into the United States,

these immigrants and if you get a chance, it's very informative. It's very well written and I know I learned a lot about it, and hope you get a chance to see it. This is Suzanne Anderson for lesbian and gay voices.

J Jack Valinski 03:26

Well, Suzanne, thank you and maybe we do need a revolution.

J Juan Palomo 03:45

Tonight, Eric Marcus, who is the author of a fascinating book called making history, the struggle for gay and lesbian equal rights. It came out last year it is doing quite well. And Eric Marcus is in New York. We're talking to him in New York right now. He is a former producer for both CBS Morning News and the other one. Good Morning America. Morning America. Yes. Tell us describe the book for us. Well,

♀ 04:19

I should also point out, it's just it's due out this June in paperback.

J Juan Palomo 04:22

I was looking at one of my next questions.

♀ 04:26

Just ahead of you there. It's it's a collection of 49 the stories of 49 different people and through these stories. I tried to give readers a sense of the struggle for gay and lesbian equal rights from 1945 to 1990. On I traveled from Juneau, Alaska to Key West Florida to talk to these people. And they range from Secretary Los Angeles who published a little newsletter for lesbians in 1947. Two, Dear Abby, the famous purveyor of common sense advice, all kinds of very interesting people and they I read it, they tell their personal stories as well as their involvement in, in the struggle for gay and lesbian equal rights.

J Juan Palomo 05:07

Those would you mentioned to the people that I was going to ask you specifically about what's the one we're going to start with? The first one is a secretary, I guess he went by this, he still goes by the pseudonym. Is that right? At least? Well,

♀ 05:18

I call her by her real name whenever I talk to her. She's now in her 70s. And Lisa Bendis is her

pseudonym. And if you play around with the letters, you see that the word it's an anagram for lesbian. She's afraid that if if her elderly relatives somewhere in the Midwest, find out that she's a lesbian, that we're very upset by it. So honoring her request, I still refer to her by the name Lisa Ben.

J Juan Palomo 05:43

Yeah. Tell us a little bit about the kinds of things that she did. I'm fascinated. I was fascinated by the newsletter that she put out, I guess you call it a magazine. She

05:52

call it a magazine. Yeah. When she was a secretary for Hollywood, the Hollywood producer would use for the mid 1940s. And it was a 47. She was working with one producer who said he had didn't have enough work to keep her busy full time, but he wants her to look busy. And she said, Well, I had a typewriter. I had time. And I wasn't supposed to read. She said so what else do you do you write write a magazine for lesbians. And so she would write essays and reviews. She said there weren't many books to write about. So she chose some that had been around for a while and wrote reviews of those. And she would type this newsletter through twice using five carbon fiber sheets of carbon paper each time for Xerox isn't long before Xerox Oh, and she said she couldn't take it to a printer in those days. So even if she had wanted to make multiple copies, no one would have printed the material because it was considered obscene. And later, she learned how dangerous it was for her to even put this in the US Mail. Because just talking about homosexuality in a positive way, was viewed by many as I've seen, and in later years, when they were in the gay lesbian magazines. The US postal Postal Service did impound various issues of of some of the first gambling magazines for speaking about homosexuality in a positive

J Juan Palomo 07:10

way. Well, how many people were able to read these magazines and she only printed 10 at a time,

07:14

not a lot. What she did is she passed them on to her friends. And she asked them to pass it on to their friends. So I suspect that at most, only a few 100 people ever saw. And that's probably been generous. A few other people maybe saw her newsletter. Are there any of those left around? Yes, she has a full set of them. And they're also there's a full set with the, again, the archives in Los Angeles. And there's a full set of there. She wrote one essay that I quote in the book, which is so remarkable to me, because she talks about her hopes for the future, about day perhaps when, when there may be real gay and lesbian magazines on the newsstands, when the characters of some of the lesbian novels would stem from the pages of a book that she'd read and maybe on the silver screen. And the things she talks about are many things that have come to pass. But she said she never imagined that she would live to see that day. And

now she lives by herself in in relative obscurity in a small bungalow that she owns that she's very proud of that she paid for with the money, Sharon's the secretary with her 15 cats. And it's largely forgotten.

J

Juan Palomo 08:25

Yeah. We'll talk about some of the other characters are not characters people in a little while. But first of all, I want to talk a little bit about the dates. A lot of people assume that this whole gay lesbian civil rights movement started in 69. With was Stonewall. Yet you go back to 45? Why 45? And tell us how you feel about Stonewall?

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08:48

Well, I chose I chose 45. Because that's that's the end of the war. And from all the research I had done, it seemed that that the first organizing the early discussions about even forming these kinds of organizations took place immediately after the war, there have been tremendous dislocations of people. During the war, millions of Americans moved to the port cities and were shipped out from the port cities, they went to the cities for work in the war industries. And they went off to the military. It was the first time many, many gamers and people had chance to discover that there were others like themselves. They discovered this in a lot of the bars and restaurants and these major cities. It was out of these dislocations that were the first organizations in the early 50s. So I begin then, and what was startling to me was to discover that there was a history before 1969 Before I did this book, I had no idea that there was anything before 69 Because everything I had read in the in the mainstream press and in the gay press talked about. They would say things like when the gay rights movement began in 1969. And that's been repeated so often that's almost considered fact and I still read it to this day and it makes me crazy given that I know that it wasn't the beginning. By 1968, for example, there was a national convention of 40 Gay and Lesbian organizations. It was held in Chicago. And that was the year that the slogan gay is good was adopted as the official slogan of the gay rights movement. So there was plenty of history before Stonewall, in what came after Stonewall, all of the organizing could never have occurred without what came before. The initial meeting that was held in New York after the Stonewall riots, which was for those people who don't know was it was a riot that followed a police raid at a gay bar in Greenwich Village in New York. That meeting that was held immediately following was sponsored by the managing society, which is a local gay organization. And the people who formed one of the early Gay Liberation groups out of that meeting. Were from the daughters of boletus. And from and from the managing society.

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Juan Palomo 10:52

We're speaking with Eric Marcus, the author of a book called making history, the struggle for gay and lesbian equal rights. Could you tell Eric, how difficult it was to find these people and to find the information on these people? Surely the straight press was not writing about it back then was No, I

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11:09

wasn't easy. Fortunately, I have had the work of people like John Amelio, who wrote a book about the gay rights struggle from 1940 to 1970. So dependent on his research a lot and then developed a timeline from some of the early gay publications, gay community news in the advocate beginning in the late late 60s, early 70s. But there were there were specific people I knew I wanted to find the one of the challenges was that a lot of them went by pseudonyms. So Lisa, Ben, for example, who I read about in January of this book, I knew I wanted to find her. But it took about 30 phone calls to find her. And several months. If I had known who to call first, I would have found her on one phone call. But even once I found people who knew her they were reluctant

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Juan Palomo 11:50

to give me her phone number to play detective, in addition to mean research,

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11:53

Oh, I did, I really felt like a detective. And to give an example of how I found one man in Chicago, sorry, one man in the Midwest, who asked me not to identify him by name or location. I was in Denver. Before I went to Denver, I called some friends of mine who owned the Gay Lesbian bookstore in Denver. And I said, Have you heard of I think the name is Carl Harding was a pseudonym of a guy who was involved in Matt in the managing society in Denver in the late 50s. And they said, Carl Harding, we know him, but that's not his real name. And they told me what his real name was. And they said, Here's his phone number. And I called him and he said, Oh, well, if you come talk to me, you should talk to these six people. And one of those six people turned out to be a guy named Paul Phillips. That's not his real name, who had a remarkable story to tell. And his story begins in 1919. So a little bit before that, in 1919, his parents took him to the Mayo Clinic to be diagnosed as a homosexual. They were hoping he wasn't, but that's when he would diagnosis. So that's how I found him. So often, when I call people it would lead from one to the next to the next to the next. But there were also certain named people who I wanted to, wanted to talk to. One of

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Juan Palomo 12:59

them was Ellen hooker, Dr. Evelyn hook. Okay. That to me, that was one of the most interesting chapters in her story. Can you tell us a little bit about her? There's a lot of people who are not familiar with

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13:09

it. Yes. I had never heard of Dr. Hooker before. There's now a documentary that's been done about her and it'll be on PBS. I

J

Juan Palomo 13:15

hope this fall wasn't nominated for an Academy Award.



13:18

Yes, it was. I just read about that. And I've seen it. It's a wonderful documentary. Dr. Hooker, did the first comparative study between gay men and heterosexual men to discern whether or not homosexuals were indeed mentally ill? Up until that time, it was simply assumed that gay people were mentally ill no one had ever done a scientific study before. What's so remarkable about what she did is that the climate was not exactly ideal for this. This was the McCarthy era for one thing, and she was government funded. For her research. Her research was government funded, I should say. And it was dangerous for her career. Surprising that she that she had no trouble finding gay men. One of her gay friends was the one who encouraged her to do this work. She had no trouble getting gay men for the study, but she had a hard time finding straight men who would be willing to participate in this sort of thing. And her conclusion was, and this was, her results were studied by a number of impartial judges. Her conclusion was that there were no psychological differences between gay men and straight men period. And that was considered very, very radical in that at that time, and her study, led eventually to the change the decision by the American Psychiatric Association to change the listing of homosexuality as a mental illness. Her work was pioneering and very, very, very critical. She's now in her mid 80s. She lives in Los Angeles. And some people refer to her as the Rosa Parks of the gay rights struggle. All right, even though she's a heterosexual person.



J Juan Palomo 14:51

That was gonna be my question there. One other person before we talk about Dear Abby, Carolyn Mobley right here out of Houston. Yeah,



15:00

Carolyn, I was originally not looking for Carolyn, I was looking for somebody else. And in my search for someone else. The man I spoke with said, Well, if you haven't talked to Carolyn mobile, you've got to talk to her. Carolyn Mobley comes from a very religious family, black Baptist Church, and she always knew she wanted to be a church educator. And her story is so gripping because it's about how one person kind of has come to grips with both the love of her religion and love of self. She's She learned to accept herself and reconcile that with her religious beliefs. had to leave the church she was involved with because she was actually she had a church job and was fired because she was lesbian, and is now a Metropolitan Community Church minister in Houston.



J Juan Palomo 15:51

Tell us about Dear Abby, why in the world would she be in this book?



15:56

Well, we years ago, I read a little clip about something dear out he once wrote one of her

somebody had written her and said, where we have these awful people who moved in next door they have men with long hair, the women have short hair, and Abby said that from the description. It was obvious that these were gay and lesbian people. And this woman who wrote her said, What can we do to improve the neighborhood? Because she was upset by having these people next door. And Abby wrote back simply, you can move. And I was so impressed by that. I thought I'd call Abby and find out what she'd written on a Sunday before. And it turns out she had been writing for years since the late 60s on this issue.

J Juan Palomo 16:34

And actually, one of the first letters that she responded to was from Houston, wasn't it?

16:37

I believe so. I believe so. And she was adamant in her belief that there was nothing wrong with gay and lesbian people that the parents should love them, the parents shouldn't feel guilty. And she was I would say, she's probably one of the first heterosexual people with that kind of stature to come out in support of the rights of gay and lesbian people. And she's gotten 1000s and 1000s of hate letters over the years for her support. And I thought she, she has an important place in. In the struggle, I think she's made as much of a difference as I think she and Phil Donahue. And perhaps the show *Dynasty* have done more to educate Americans on the subject of homosexuality than any other people.

J Juan Palomo 17:15

Okay, we run out of time here, but I want to give you an opportunity to tell us about your other books. Just briefly, or just tell us what your first book was.

17:22

My first book was the *Male Couples Guide*, which is a practical guide for gay couples for male couples. Just out in a new edition recently, I wrote a humor book in between called *Expect the Worst, You Won't Be Disappointed*, which I think has been the case with some of the gay rights struggling with the kinds of prejudice we encounter. And I have a new book coming out shortly. It's called it'll be out in June. It's called *Is It a Choice* answers to 300 of the most frequently asked questions about the enlisting faithful?

J Juan Palomo 17:50

Well, we hope to talk to you about that. When the book comes out, then I understand you might be in Houston. As part of the promotion. I hope we can have you here on the studio in the studio. I would be delighted once we have just a few more seconds. Is there going to be a follow up to this making history or is it for you here? No, I



18:09

think well, not not in print. But I'm hoping that I'll be working with a friend soon on a radio piece for National Public Radio, using some of the clips of the actual tapes.



J Juan Palomo 18:19

That's sort of unusual for National Public Radio. They haven't done that much on gays and lesbians.



18:24

They do federal reports. But this kind of documentary piece No. But we they haven't decided yet whether or not they're going to do it. So we'll see. I'm hoping actually I've been talking with a number of people about doing a documentary based on making history. And that would be very exciting to do.



J Juan Palomo 18:38

Yeah, that's your would be with your lip. See it? Well, listen, Eric, thanks a lot for speaking with us. And we hope to see you soon. Thank you one. This is Juan Palomo with lesbian and gay voices on KPFT.



J Jack Valinski 18:49

Call this reader startlingly illiterate, but quite simply fashion magazines for either men or women leave me defunct. Fortunately, the premier issue of Esquire gentleman has more than enough wit and wonderful writings to make the fashion sections on the black suits bearable. This special issue is fairly shameless attempt to scoop up the advertising dollars. Why shouldn't men and women be able to pursue a magazine that celebrates gorgeous young men in a variety of get up smokes, which you'll never see on the streets? Well, this magazine isn't quaintly completely devoid of stuff. There is going to be an article on gay fashions of yesterday that have become the uniforms of today's mall meatballs. That was in USA Today. It's a new magazine by Esquire, gentlemen.



L Lori Clark 19:35

Okay, that's interesting. And what else is about and did you read one poem? Did you read his column? We



J Jack Valinski 19:42

will discuss that a little bit later when we have a little bit more time. Yes, it's a wonderful thing talking about Joe Barton's Adi CI. You'd want to talk running for Senate. But we're closing up this half hour of Lesbian Gav voices here on KPFT and In the next half hour. we have the

women's

L

Lori Clark 20:02

music block done by Mary Helen and Holly Barra, the playwright of Fein rays coming in.

J

Jack Valinski 20:07

Great. And this is a new program here on KPFT. It's lesbian and gay voices. It's a show for and about the lesbian and gay community and their friends and supporters and maybe even not supporters, but maybe you can learn something. You're listening to lesbian and gay voices here on Pacifica KPFT in Houston.

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20:31

Rebecca and I went camping, we made camp, we spent some time eating, we were laying down by stream, and all of a sudden they were shocked. My arm exploded. Rebecca was hit twice, he started to bleed to death. tempted to carry her, I was unsuccessful. The entire walk out of the woods, I believed myself to be hunted. My name is Claudia Brenner. We were identified as lesbians by a stranger with whom we had no connection. He will spend the rest of his life in prison. But Rebecca, who was 28 years old, is gone.

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21:08

Homophobia can kill. Education is the only lasting weapon against bigotry, which is why the lesbian and gay public awareness project wanted you to hear and think about this message.

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21:21

For more information write us at Post Office Box 65603 Los Angeles, California 90065.

Ω

21:30

You're listening to lesbian and gay voices on World Radio 90.1 FM KPFT in Houston.

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21:53

Don't bother telling the neighbors because the thing is they already know that n read by request is the name of the album. And you're listening to KPFT in Houston 90.1 FM. Since we have a big March coming up in Washington DC on April the 25th. A march for lesbian gay civil

rights. And tonight I thought we'd play some music to get people thinking about maybe making that trip to Washington DC to join in with some archers. So it's not exactly I wouldn't exactly call it March music. But it's music to stand up for your rights I'd say but they.



22:48

So did Libby Rodrick help you get in the mood for some political action? Well, that's a whole idea. Libby Roderick out of Anchorage, Alaska. If you see a dream, the name of her album before that Holly near saying the great peace march. And right before that. We heard last voices from Kathy winters album breath on my fire. And you're listening to gay and lesbian voices speaking of voices, and we're not lost voices here at 90.1 FM KPFT. World Radio for Houston. And we'll be going with Jack and Lori in an interview in just a little while persona play Ferren for you and a song called it won't take long. And with radio stations like KPFT, and programs like gay and lesbian voices, well, we hope it won't take long, but Oh, well. We're hanging in there. Thanks for being with us. This is Mary Helen and I'll catch y'all later.



J Jack Valinski 24:16

Well, that ain't no music. Well, that ain't no music. Mary Helen doing the women's music block.



L Lori Clark 24:23

Okay, and we have Holly Berra with us today. She's the playwright of fame. Ray. Hello, Holly. Hi. How are you today? Real good. Good. So you are the author of Bagan, Ray. Yes. So tell us a little bit what is Fang Ray about?



24:43

What isn't it about seems to be the the question of the hour. It's about four friends who are for various reasons, estranged from their family in their adulthood and have rebuilt what they consider family to be in what it should be, and a conflict comes along and we see what happens when their structure is cracked.



L Lori Clark 25:10

Okay? In vain Ray's playing at the Khumba house Repertory Theater, right? That's right. And so you say it's about four friends, it is titled fading ray. So just why would it be of interest to to our community? I guess is the reason why we have you on



25:28

Well, Fay and Rebecca are lovers and Ray and Shawn are lovers but saying Ray live together and have built a home that safe and stable and they won't give that up for anything, not even their lovers.

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Lori Clark 25:43

Okay. So I understand this is not your first play. No, it's

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25:48

my second.

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Lori Clark 25:49

This is your second. So tell us a little bit about your your first play you were telling that you not only did you ride it, you also acted in it. You were starring in it?

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25:59

Yes, yes, I performed in the first one. I suppose it started out as a vehicle for myself as well. I wanted to write something that I would enjoy performing. And this time, I had to let that go ahead, let the baby toddle off. How did?

 J

Jack Valinski 26:16

How do you become a writer? How does it start? How do you especially a play?

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26:21

Well, the play came from experience as an actor. I've been doing that since I was 12 years and the writing came from healing, I just would would write my thoughts and my feelings down. And somebody told me that someone else might like to read that and share it. And then I started looking at the work as work and art, not just my feelings down on paper to make me feel better. And play writing just seemed to be the natural venue, being the doer and being that I've lived in the theater for years.

 L

Lori Clark 27:02

So you were going to tell us a little bit about your first play, you said that you had you had won awards for the first play? Yes,

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27:11

it was performed at the American College Theatre Festival in 91. And it won several awards, and it was a one act. So this was more of a challenge this time to write a full length play.

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Lori Clark 27:24

I'm sure it was

J

Jack Valinski 27:27

doing a play for the game lesbian community, does that present special challenges? And you talked about being estranged from the family? Yeah, a lot of us sort of go through that. And we make our own families, right. guess

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27:45

somebody made a comment to me. And this is the only thing that really seemed to get to me about the whole experience was, they said, unknowingly that they would like to see me do something not quite so safe. They wanted to see me push forward and try something that wasn't a gay theme. And I was amazed that to me, it's got to be the most difficult thing to do the most discriminating audience the most difficult audience to write for and to present something for. I felt very unsafe doing it, especially the men's the men's. Seems I needed to know right away from with feedback. Did I do it? Right? Did I capture what it feels like?

J

Jack Valinski 28:29

That's really interesting, because we were talking a little bit earlier about doing the safe thing. And so so many of our theaters in the city are struggling, which is really sad, very sad. To do a safe thing means that there will be an audience, but to do something that's not so safe, will really tell a story sometimes that isn't told. And that's neat that you chose that to do.

o

28:52

I don't think people leave safe lives. And I wanted people to see themselves on the stage, even when it's not pretty. There's an okayness about that, about seeing someone have an intense memory and be ugly and to have, you know, be crying in their face be read and to look like a child and and for someone to see that and know they do that too. And it was okay enough to put on a stage then. That's the most important message.

L

Lori Clark 29:23

Wow, that must must really have to pull some depth when you're writing that. Yes.

o

29:30

Sometimes though, it's like dictation. I see it and I just write it down.

L

Lori Clark 29:35

Do you kind of which comes first the chicken or the egg? Do you have the storage as the story develop as you write?

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29:41

The story develops as I write because I don't have any idea where it's going. Although when I'm finished, I see. Oh, that's what that meant. meant to me. I see there's a pattern there. Or something I needed to get out onto the paper. But I see I See the stage right away and the characters that are going to be in the play fully clothed everything.

J

Jack Valinski 30:05

How did you connect with Joe watch?

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30:08

Last year during gay pride I did. One of the three one acts that the group Theater Workshop put on first stages and then diverse works

J

Jack Valinski 30:16

great. So you're at combo house till through April 10, April 10. And for more information, it's 5222204. And Khumba. House is just down the street just in the the bends area

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30:31

at the corner of law branch and Holman. Great. Well, we

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Jack Valinski 30:34

look forward to seeing your play and hope you're gonna continue on writing. Thank you. Great. You're listening to lesbian gay voices.

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Lori Clark 30:42

This is Lori Clark, speaking with Holly Berra,



Jack Valinski 30:44

and Jack Valinski. And in the next half hour, we've got some exciting things including this way outs news wrap. Suzanne is going to be interviewing Deborah Bell, the National organizer on the March on Washington. And upcoming we also have some other discussions we're going to be talking about things going on in this community, including the Westheimer festival is moving location outside of the Westheimer area.



Lori Clark 31:07

Also, I'd like to just make a mention that on Sunday, reflections Black on Black is going to have an honors zoning debate. And they're having Matt Kim Kimbo do from the city of Houston. And from the Houston Property Rights Association, Barry Klein. And so they're asking everyone to listen in and call in for questions and stuff like that. You're



Jack Valinski 31:30

listening to lesbian and gay voices here on KPFT? Houston.



31:35

Hi, I'm not home right now. But if you want to leave a message, just start talking the sound.



31:44

It's 10 o'clock Friday night, when I'm at the station doing my radio show. Esoteric adventures were my co host and I bring you the oddities and highlights from the recorded universe. So hang up, tune in to 90.1 And don't call back and you'll wake up my fish. Don't forget that's esoteric adventures with your flight attendants Jim squared en que PFT Houston



32:16

Well, you know, no the



32:22

but I know.



32:28

Did you know that most cosmetic and household product manufacturers still conduct painful and useless tests on live animals, even though no law requires them to do so. In the Draize I irritancy test rabbits are immobilized and substances like perfume and oven cleaner are forced

into the animal's eyes. In the LD 50 test dogs and rats are force fed substances like bleach and floor wax until 50% of the test group dies. No anesthesia or pain relievers are used. cheaper, more accurate and humane alternatives to these outdated tests do exist. Over 300 companies now market products without any animal testing. Call the Houston animal rights team for your complimentary cruelty free shopping guide. The Houston animal rights team is a nonprofit educational and activist organization opposed to all forms of animal abuse. For more information on this or any other campaign, call us at 5225131.

J

Jack Valinski 33:28

For Pacifica's KPFT in Houston, this is lesbian and gay voices, a show featuring news interviews, reviews features, music, cultural events and commentary. This show is designed for the gay and lesbian community and their friends. Next, we listened to this way out news rap.

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33:49

I'm Cindy Friedman. And I'm Brian Nunez with news rap a summary of some of the news in or affecting the lesbian and gay community for the week ending March 13 1993.

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34:17

There's a new and it's just around the world coming. This one's coming to

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34:39

you can drive and it's stronger with the day.

♂

34:59

Rising We're and sweet and free there is that belongs to you yes though one way to shoes come in in peace

J

Jack Valinski 36:03

we really stretch the imagination women's music here yesterday and up next that was Molly Cass with a new world coming. Next up is Suzanne Anderson talking with Deborah Bell and no Deborah Bell is not in town. This interview was taped when Deborah was last in town and she's gonna be talking on the March on Washington.

S

Suzanne Anderson 36:22

In 1987, over 650,000 Lesbians and Gays converged on Washington DC. It was the largest civil rights demonstration in the history of our country. And on April 25 1993, another march on

Washington will occur. And today I have in my studio Houston's well known activist Deborah bell. And many of you know Deborah from her long running show on KPFT Wildenstein. And Deborah is currently the national organizer for the March on Washington. Welcome, Deborah. I Suzanne, glad to have you in Houston, Texas.

 Deborah Bell 37:00

It's wonderful. Being in Houston, Texas, I miss it a lot.

 Suzanne Anderson 37:04

You just want to get warm again. That's it all out. I know that that we did have the 650,000 people that went to the March and 87. From what I have heard, Deborah, we're anticipating what well over a million based on

 Deborah Bell 37:19

the fact that in 87, there were documented well over 600,000 people, we do expect this year to be at least a million, if not more, there is every indication that we're going to meet that goal and probably exceed it.

 Suzanne Anderson 37:37

Now on the march, there's going to be I know several contingencies that are going to be in the March and how do you take a million people and divide them up into I don't know what 50 100 different groups and get them all place.

 Deborah Bell 37:51

We're making it up as we go along. There was a march in October of 1979, about 100,000 people took part in that. And then in AD seven on October 11. We had the next March. And this is a different group of people that are putting together get another march for gay lesbian bi rights and liberation. And there are many types of groups and people have identified maybe their religious group, maybe their human rights group, maybe they would be classified as a political group or women's organization. So we have several categories. And the different organizations will fall somewhere within those categories.

 Suzanne Anderson 38:35

Is it literally going to be a march? Are people going to move from one spot to another? Or is it basically a gathering and how do you move a million people?



Deborah Bell 38:42

That's a good question. And I think we'll find out on April 25, we will have people start gathering on the ellipse area over in front of the White House, which is a big oval area. And it's not possible for a million people to sit there. So we will probably be over towards the Washington Monument grounds. But we will go back around behind the White House and up to Pennsylvania Avenue down Pennsylvania. And then over in front of the Capitol building to the mall. And the mall area will be where everyone will assemble. There will be two stages one that starts at nine o'clock in the morning. The step off for the March will be at noon and then the afternoon stage and rally will be started at 1pm. We have invited President Clinton to speak to the assembly and we're very optimistic that that invitation is going to be accepted. We have the names project people want to actually carry the quilt in the March, which just the thought of that since shivers up and down my spine the visual aspect of that it won't be the entire quilt it would be the same numbers of panels that were in the original quilt as in 87. But it was mammoth. In 87, right, it'll take over 800 people just to do that. And so there's a lot of things being planned that people want to do. We do have a family values theme, because everyone knows we are family. We are recognizing our elders, the old thing your lesbian, gay men who have been struggling for many years, who many of them are in their 60s and 70s. Now, we are recognizing the gay and lesbian parents who many of them were parents in, you know, the conventional type of marriage and had children. But many of them are chosen families where they have adopted children are having artificial insemination and that sort of thing. So we're recognizing that, you know, we are building families, and sometimes a family can be just two people a partnership. So we certainly are recognizing the rights of domestic partnerships and equal rights to marriage that the rest of the population has.



Suzanne Anderson 40:59

Now I understand that you're going to at the March make several demands. Are they going to be presented at that time? Or can you tell us something about those demands,



Deborah Bell 41:09

there are seven basic demands that concern are the primary issues of the gay and lesbian movement. And they include concerns of bisexual people and transgendered people as well, because they all come from the same route, the same force of oppression. And certainly among them are the repeal of sodomy laws, such as we faced in the state of Texas, increase in funding for AIDS and education, research, patient care, health care access for everyone, everyone needs to have access to health care, to alternative therapies, and for an end to sexism in the medical system. Because as we know, women have been treated very differently in the system than men have. And there are issues that concern lesbian health care that have received very little recognition. So we're trying to address that issue. We are certainly in support of the repeal of the ban on the military, which we are hoping the President will have already signed by the time the march takes place. They call the first 100 days of an administration the honeymoon it's 100 days in the March will occur on the 95th day of Clinton's honeymoon.



Suzanne Anderson 42:24

I know that several the demands pertain to the struggles against racism and sexism, class bias, economic injustice, religious and intolerance. What do these agendas have to do with lesbians,

gays and bisexuals?

D Deborah Bell 42:40

Because being lesbian or gay, or bisexual or transgendered doesn't restrict you to being only that many of us are people of color, and we are oppressed by racism. Many of us have religious differences. Some of us are Jewish, some of us are atheists, some of us are Muslim. So we recognize that if you're queer, and you're something else as well, then these are all human rights concerns for everyone. And they're not just limited to our movement by any means. But we think that this is the way that we are forming alliances, that this is what it's about, though, because we talk about our diversity, the diversity for our movement, and that's very true. That there, everyone everywhere, that can be queer, you know, there's just so many issues that can come up and certainly as women, we have faced an oppression of the oppression of sexism. And as lesbians that doubled, you know, so So it's how the all those issues affect us and how we all come together in addressing them.

S Suzanne Anderson 43:45

I know that the main focus of the week will be on the march, which of course, is Sunday, April, the 25th. But I'm sure that there are lots of other activities that are going on throughout the week. Can you tell us a little bit about some of those?

D Deborah Bell 43:58

Well, one of the events that gets I get a lot of calls at the office about is the mass wedding ceremony that's planned for Saturday at 11 o'clock of the 24th. And this is going to be conducted by Reverend Troy Perry of the universal fellowship of Metropolitan Community churches is going to be a non sectarian ceremony and protest as well. It will take place at the IRS building because we don't get the same tax benefits as the heterosexual people that can get married do and people will register to formalize their committed relationships. This isn't for someone who you met Friday night to go and get married on Saturday. It's for people who already have established relationships and want to have an official recognition of that. Many of the people that have called or people that took part in the service that took place in 87, and they want to renew their vows. And in fact, there was one lesbian couple that is now bringing their two children with them.

S Suzanne Anderson 45:05

That's neat. You're listening to Deborah Bell and Deborah is the national organizer for the March on Washington, which we taking place on April the 25th 1993. What kind of contact numbers can you give the listeners if they're interested in participating?

D Deborah Bell 45:23

Well, they should call our one 800 Number, which is 1-800-832-2889. We do have a line for

people who are deaf, that can call 202-628-0471. And there are many other events, there is a special event for Texans that's going to take place that's going to be a fundraiser for the Lesbian Gay rights lobby of Texas and the Texas human rights foundation that's going to be Saturday night at tracks. And anyone that goes to DC can find tracks. It's a very well known establishment. And there's a number of conferences and other events taking place. And if people call 1-800-832-2889 and get added to our mailing list, they'll get all the updated information. We are also encouraging people to actually register for the event, which means they give a donation, and that helps us get out information to them.

 Suzanne Anderson 46:21

This is Suzanne Anderson for KPFT. You've been listening to Deborah rebel, who is again the national organizer for the March on Washington for gays, lesbians, bisexual and transgender people. And Deborah, thank you for talking to us today. And we'll see you in Washington in April, April 25. Thank you.

 Jack Valinski 46:40

I hope you all have your reservations for Washington, because I understand the planes are filling up.

 Lori Clark 46:45

Okay, and I want to repeat that phone number for the March on Washington. It's 1-800-832-2889.

 Jack Valinski 46:54

But before we go to Washington, there's always been something special about living in Montrose, I guess you would know that, but that's

 Lori Clark 47:00

not true. I used to live in Montana. But you spent a lot of time spent a lot of time here, slander me went on.

 Jack Valinski 47:08

Well, I don't want everybody to think that all of us live in Montrose that we do. Talk about other areas of the city.

 Lori Clark 47:14

I live. I live out even live outside of the 610 loop. Who.

J Jack Valinski 47:19

Well, I'll tradition here twice a year is the Westheimer festival. I go to that every year. It is a wonderful thing. And yes, it causes terrible traffic jams. And yes, there's a lot of the freaks and the crazy people are there, including me. And it's an absolutely wonderful thing, because it's just like free expression. wonderful feeling. And yes, there's traffic and you can't deal with it. And all that time, it's

L Lori Clark 47:42

only through Wi Fi fun. That's part of this community. Are you a freak are crazy. Probably both. Okay.

J Jack Valinski 47:49

Unfortunately, in the papers today, they're announcing that they're moving out of the Westheimer area, to the 1800 block of Maine at Calhoun. And part of the reason is, as they said, the building that they were using the parking lot that's being torn down, the parking lot isn't available. And yes, there's a space problem here. But we know that that's why we live here.

L Lori Clark 48:10

That's why it's on the weekends. And that's why the closest streets and everyone knows that in advance.

J Jack Valinski 48:14

And unfortunately, there seems to be a lot of people in the lower Westheimer area residents who don't like having the festival there because it disrupts their beautiful lawns and etc, etc, etc.

L Lori Clark 48:27

I would think that the business owners would like it, because it must do a lot of business for them. Well, some

J Jack Valinski 48:31

of them say that their regular customers can't get into their businesses, that these people here aren't here to buy anything. They're just here to have a good time and get drunk and be out in

the streets and stuff like that. It also raises a lot of money for community organizations, because the people are out there and they can buy the T shirts and they can buy the souvenirs and they can buy all that stuff.

L

Lori Clark 48:49

Or you can get informed. I know that whenever I go to the west time Arts Festival, I come away with handfuls of publications, and rag mags, because this is how you learn. This is how I learned about the piece. We hit there's a piece newspaper here there's gay atheist, there's a I mean, this is how you find out about so much information is because everyone sets up their little community booth and you get to find out what there is in our community. And you get to have fun while you're doing that.

J

Jack Valinski 49:15

David in the Stasi, the manager of infinite record says I think somebody should get an injunction from them using the Westheimer.

L

Lori Clark 49:22

Name. They're gonna continue to use it. Oh,

J

Jack Valinski 49:25

yes. I mean, they've been for 20 years they have been in the Westheimer area that may

L

Lori Clark 49:30

if it moves to Maine, they're still going to try to use named West time. Sure, because everybody

J

Jack Valinski 49:33

knows that. I mean, and they shorten the name. It used to be the West time or colony Association. Now it's just a Westheimer Association.

L

Lori Clark 49:39

And that's just the West time or festival.

J

Jack Valinski 49:42

So I'm it's unfortunate. I hope this is just a temporary thing, but it probably won't be

L

Lori Clark 49:48

do you think if someone wanted to comment to the mayor, it'd be helpful.

J

Jack Valinski 49:52

Well, it's not when the council person it's up to the Westheimer Association. And I don't have their number right offhand, but they are listed in the white paper. Just a phone book,

L

Lori Clark 50:00

I would think so and call and make a complaint.

J

Jack Valinski 50:04

You're listening to get lesbian and gay voices. And this is Jack Valinski, and Lori Clark. And we have some exciting things coming up in the next half hour.

L

Lori Clark 50:12

What exciting things do we have Jack, please tell us well, we're

J

Jack Valinski 50:14

going to be playing some music. We're going to be talking some about some events here in our community.

L

Lori Clark 50:20

What are the things that we're going to be doing?

J

Jack Valinski 50:22

And that'll pretty well we're gonna do some comments and stuff about what's happening,

L

Lori Clark 50:25

what's happening around town.

J

Jack Valinski 50:27

So you're listening to KPFT Houston

♂

50:30

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

♂

50:56

KPFT is prison program is devoted to cops courts, jails, prison 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.

♂

51:13

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

D

Deborah Bell 51:27

To walk without here, in 1987, over 650,000 lesbians, gays, their families and friends converged on Washington DC for four days of lobbying, celebration protests and remembrance. It was the largest civil rights demonstration in the history of this country. On April 25 1993, we will march again, this is Deborah Bell, the National organizer of the 1993 march on Washington for lesbian, gay and bi equal rights and liberation. Join us in the nation's capitol as we take a stand against discrimination and make a call for justice. To find out more call 1-800-832-2889.

J

Jack Valinski 52:17

Our final half hour of Lesbian Gay voices for this week, we have some music. We have some information from this way out talking about violence in our community, a study that was recently done by the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, and we have some calendar items of stuff going on in our community. But comments and comments. Yes, yes. We'll have some comments. Hopefully not a fight just comments between Lori and myself. My brother lived in San Francisco, he said. What a beautiful song. This album is from voices of life. An album put together actually a double CD release for the AIDS Foundation Houston. My brother lived in San Francisco, Deborah boilie. I believe she's a local artist. I know Cindy Friedman's played the song a number of times and I never realized it was from voices of life. The arts have really sort of mushrooms around. Things that happened because of the tragedy of AIDS. A lot of musics come out a lot of places come out and stations and entities that you never thought would get involved before half. This next piece is from acoustic aids, which was done for a station out in San Jose San Francisco area called Kayo me What's really neat is that in San Francisco they're

now using the phrase and sometimes phrases can be overused the San Francisco AIDS Foundation is using be there be here for the cure. Be here for the cure. This is is this world we create it from Queen

L

Lori Clark 54:26

Okay, that was Queens acoustic A is this the world we created. And now we're going to this way out.

G

Greg Gordon 54:39

Last year is campaigns in Oregon and Colorado to deny basic civil rights to gays and lesbians and President Clinton's announced intention to lift the ban on military service have created a climate fostering increased violence against lesbians and gays in the US. According to an annual report issued this week by the National Gay and Lesbian Task force

J

Jack Valinski 54:57

its way out in Lansing, Michigan. This It's Doug Johnson. And if you'd like to listen to the full this way out, you need to listen to after hours, which is on Saturday night Sunday morning in about the 1am. Not midnight still starts at midnight, but this way out in the morning. Yes. We have some calendar events that are coming up. Ah, this is the third weekend of the month.

L

Lori Clark 55:19

So there's some groups that only meet once a month. And including in

J

Jack Valinski 55:23

that list is loathe lesbians over the age 50 meet at 2pm at the Metropolitan multi service center,

L

Lori Clark 55:29

prime timers, Houston, add me to two to 3pm at the mattress branch library 981844. Have you have any questions

J

Jack Valinski 55:38

and the mothers web meets also and they have a potluck lunch, picnic barbecue, none mothers can network with feminist mothers and their kids. And that's at 1pm at the Ross Pittman Park Bellaire off the west loop. And the chain gang bicycle gang is going to be out this weekend if it doesn't rained that hard. And if you'd like to get more information on them, it's 5224481.

Anything else? Well, of course the women's group meets every Sunday. And they always I understand have a lively topic going on. I guess you can't go no, I can't go there. And they they really seem to have some great, great meetings going on. And of course a lot of things happened during the month. There's a lot of things coming up in April a diverse works which we're gonna be talking about as it gets closer. Movies.

L Lori Clark 56:30

Play plays, live reading.

J Jack Valinski 56:32

Absolutely. It sounds really exciting. It's it's a great space. I really liked it was first name the person from from Los Angeles who does? Our conceptual art? Yes, yeah. And that's great. That's that's really been good stuff. A lot of other things going on. It's actually been another busy week of things happening in the press. I mean, besides the Westheimer Arts Festival, going on, we also had operation lift the band is set to mobilize gays and lesbian community. And the Human Rights Campaign is organized activities in more than 27 and 20 cities during the weekend beginning Thursday, March 25. And this is all because the hearings are coming up on the last day of the month. And I'm sure C span will be covering it as they always do.

L Lori Clark 57:31

Right. Well, along with that lift the ban, there is a hotline number that John Google most has decided to set up and you call 1-800-258-2222 and ask for hotline number 9355. What this does, is sends out four telegrams to to your senators to the representative and the president. And it says that you support the ban being lifted. And since the Senate hearings are coming up, and there doesn't seem to be that they're going to be very fairly heard. We mean we need to get our power in now.

J Jack Valinski 58:08

Yes, and especially since Senator Graham really needs to be told that there is a lesbian and gay community in

L Lori Clark 58:17

the states and Kriger needs to be tested.

J Jack Valinski 58:19

Yes, absolutely. I am. I haven't been a reader of the Chronicle until lately. Because I think I like the Post editorial stance a little bit better. It's a little more tolerable to me. However, the Chronicle does have a better news section. I mean, they cover more items. And the business

section is one section I do look at because I'm my job in computers. But I read this from Jim Barro, Barlow. And in this a survey this month on mostly large corporate employees by the Society for Human Resource Management, and industry trade group, find 63% of companies have policies for bidding Discrimination and Employment on the basis of sexual orientation. Wow, I don't believe it, you know, 63%, it says here. Now 38% have written policies that formally Nix such discrimination. However, similar to what probably happens in the ending of official discrimination in the military, it appears that gays and lesbians in corporate America still face far better when they are less open at work about their sexual orientation. I believe that well, that's really pretty sad. I mean, if you can't be who you are, and have to hide yourself. There was a there's a group out in San Francisco call themselves digital queers. And one of their T shirts says, work out that means out at work, which was pretty neat, pretty neat.

L Lori Clark 59:45

But why don't I happen to know what digital Claire's comp I want to tell everyone else?

J Jack Valinski 59:49

Yeah, it's an organization that formed because when they met some one of the persons who is part of that founding group, met one of the people from National Gay Lesbian taskforce and found out that there Using computers that are antiquated, and generally computers get antiquated in about three or four years. Well, these computers were like around the turn of the decade, which is very antiquated. And I know that seems well, why can't you use an old computer? Well, when we're fighting the other side that has mailing lists and machines that turn out these mailers, time after time after time, you have to keep accurate

L Lori Clark 1:00:22

keep up with the absolutely Keeping Up with the Joneses.

J Jack Valinski 1:00:25

I did call Jim Barlow and asked to discuss this with him, but he has never returned my phone call.

L Lori Clark 1:00:30

Well, Jim, if you're listening, please give us please give Jack Valinski a call.

J Jack Valinski 1:00:35

Another really strange thing in the press is a TV ad by Barton attacks, Krueger on taxes and gay men. And what's really, really pretty sad about this. There's reality, a political reality out there to create a backlash against gays and lesbians that could result in violence, said Chris

bacon. But the commercials basically said, and one addressed this in his column this week, that what what Barton is saying is that they're going to have to be the homosexuals will have to cheer bunks with non gay people. You know, no one really points out how damaging that this can be to society. And that, you know, he knows better. Barton really knows better. But he still seems that this is this is the way he feels that he has to campaign to get his name out and to get some votes.

L Lori Clark 1:01:27

And he's very contradictory within two sentences. He'll tell you the first sentence is choice. And the second it's genetics. I mean, it's what these boil down to. He's very contradictory all throughout when it comes to government funding. He's against government funding, you know, we're spending too much we need to Cut cut cut. He goes to Capitol Hill. And then he supports supercollider, which is one of the biggest, least justifiable pork barrel projects of our modern times as Juan Palomo says. So, I mean, he's just so full of contradictions, Mr. Barton,

J Jack Valinski 1:01:59

well, it's going to be a lively Senate race. And that election is on May 1. And if nobody gets a majority of the votes, there'll be a runoff probably shortly after that.

L Lori Clark 1:02:08

Well, I would hope that he will not be in the runoff at least.

J Jack Valinski 1:02:13

Um, other things going on in the community. It's getting to be spring, it doesn't seem like that.

L Lori Clark 1:02:19

And a young man's fancy young man starts trying to fancy or something. Well, you

J Jack Valinski 1:02:24

know, there's a St. Patrick's Day parade in New York. And there was about 120 people marched in this parade goes to the 200 and 32nd. Parade.

L Lori Clark 1:02:33

There were and during the blizzard, Blizzard? Well, it was

J Jack Valinski 1:02:37

after the blizzards after the blizzard. The blizzard was a week ago, there was a number of people demonstrating against that number of people, gay and lesbian people that got arrested. And their stances they were not allowed in the parade. They were allowed in the parade if they were not open and not organized in their own group. And there's mixed feelings about

L Lori Clark 1:02:59

Yeah, I at first I was really outraged about the thought that you know that someone could discriminate against any group being an upgrade but then someone pointed out to me well, how would we feel if the kk k wanted to put a float in our gay pride here in Houston and if you can pick and choose you have a little bit of security so I've been thinking about that ever since then.

J Jack Valinski 1:03:21

I was incorrect. The Senate hearings is gonna happen that's not the congressional hearings the Senate hearings on President Clinton's plan to lift the ban on gays in the military will begin March 29. The problem with that C span C span one which is available on Warner Cable and I believe also in store cable is the congressional side okay, so we do not get C span to there's like five other religious channels but there's apparently isn't room for C span to on Warner and I'm not sure about store. So I guess we will not be able to see that unless they repeat them at night or something like that. Or maybe we'll be lucky and somebody else will carry them.

L Lori Clark 1:04:01

I hope so because we need to listen to what our senators are saying. Especially in Texas from the National Gay Lesbian Taskforce. They send out report cards of your senators and so far I think both of our senators are graded in F.

J Jack Valinski 1:04:15

The Houston Post has done a survey. It's the Houston Post channel 11 survey, and the poll says conservatives show a growing social tolerance. They seem to understand that aids can only be caught by intimate contact on gay rights while 70% Respond respondents found homosexual related relations basically wrong. 49% says that gays should be allowed to serve in the military 43% oppose service by open gay homosexuals. Similar Houston where 50 fit the split on whether abortion was morally wrong or morally acceptable. 58% still believe support legal abortions on demand and 66 percent were against passing laws restricting abortion. That was from the Houston Post poll of

L Lori Clark 1:05:07

people around those conservatives saying that, yes,

J

Jack Valinski 1:05:11

yes, Houston residents support the right for abortion on demand, think too little about as being done on the environment and understand that aids can only be caught by intimate contact. So

L

Lori Clark 1:05:24

they are, they are becoming educated. You know, that's maybe it's not such a dirty word anymore.

J

Jack Valinski 1:05:29

So a number of things going on. Justice White is stepping down Supreme Court. Byron White said Friday today that he will retire the summer, giving President Clinton a quick opportunity to begin reversing the high court's Reagan era conservative tilt appointed 31 years ago, the only one that's still on the Supreme Court that was appointed by a Democrat, the 75 year old white had sided with the courts conservatives on many issues, especially such diverse of matters as abortion and state church relations. He told quit in a letter that he had an interesting and exciting tenure. And it was time to give somebody else a chance, couldn't quite praised white and pledged to nominate an outstanding replacement, but offer a few clues on the qualifications he would seek. What White's departure almost certainly will begin to move the court back to its from its white right word swing for the past dozen years. But the replacement on a single justments is likely to bring changes more subtle than profound. Really interesting.

L

Lori Clark 1:06:30

Wow, that will be I wonder if it'll be so controversial that when Clinton tries to appoint a new Supreme Court justice as when the infamous Anita Hill hearings were and Clarence

J

Jack Valinski 1:06:42

Well, I don't think he's going to be appointing either you were I so it won't be that controversial. Oh, I don't

L

Lori Clark 1:06:47

think we have I don't know about you, but my life is not that controversial. I could probably pass easily next week show. Okay, on next week's show. We have some interesting things coming up. Suzanne Anderson will have excerpts from Jackson solos keynote address at the global conference,

J

Jack Valinski 1:07:01



JACK VALINSKI 1.07.04

Juan Palomo is going to be reviewing a new book called Martin and John, I understand that's been hard to get even a copy of that. And the first printing is sold out and the second printing is going to be out soon. Yeah. So he's going to be interviewing somebody that we can't even read the book on. Right so that's that's really interesting. And this is Jack Valinski. This is Lori Clark bringing to a close another edition of Lesbian Gay voices here on Pacifica's KPFT. We'll be back next Friday at 602