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SPEAKERS

Brian Nunes, Deborah Bell, Jack Valinski, Ray Hill, Mary Helen Merzbacher



00:28

[No Closet by Jamie Anderson plays]



Jack Valinski 01:18

From Pacifica, KPFT in Houston, this is lesbian gay voices, a show for about the gay lesbian community. This is Jack Valinski.



Deborah Bell 01:25

And I'm Deborah Bell. And of course, we're doing the traditional closing out the year on this December 30 of the last Lesbian and Gay Voices for 1994. We're going to look back over the year we'll hear a flashback from this way out when they celebrated their 300. And first program last January,



Jack Valinski 01:43

yes, we're celebrating a little bit over 50, close to close to 100 show. Also, this way, I also will be reading the names of people we've lost in 94. If there's someone special that you've lost to AIDS or some other reason, we would like you to call us so that we may be able to mention it on the air, you can call us at 526 KPFT or 5265738,



Deborah Bell 02:07

Laura will be taking your call. And once again, if you would like to have someone's name mentioned in memory, the number is 526 KPFT 5265738. Nancy Ford will join us later to give us her unique perspective on this past year. And we're going to be welcoming Mary Helen back.

She's recovered somewhat from her illness, and she's going to help commemorate some of the events that took place in 1994 with music. And also we'll be playing some of the music that came out in 1994.

J Jack Valinski 02:40

And we'll have our regular stuff including the calendar of events. And this week's edition of this way out, which includes news rap.

D Deborah Bell 02:49

Suzanne Anderson is out of town for the New Year holiday. She's in Tulsa of all places. And of course, she will be speaking out on lesbian and gay voices next week. But kind of subbing for Suzanne, tonight is another person who's famous in this community for speaking out, kind of talking about the top story of the week concerning our community. And let me just give some background on this. Recently, this past week, there was an incident that took place in the Montrose area that involves a group of young people, teenagers to early 20s. Many of them had been involved in what are what is called the street kids. Many of them are throwaway kids, meaning that they had been kicked out of their homes. Apparently, there was a ringleader very much into making living off of crimes such as prostitution and drugs. Their victim who was tortured and brutally assaulted, had maybe known his assailant had been involved with them somehow in the drug story. The mainstream media has meant very much played this up as possible a gay bashing or somehow gay related. There's been several reports that this had to do with several different things race has set in on the press conference and he has a little bit of insight of what's going on here. Almost all of these kids had at one time or another been clients of the Houston Institute for Protection of Youth, HIPY, which provides a drop in center. And Tracy Brown, the executive director of HIPY says it's a crazy life. What I that's what I keep trying to tell people to tell parents if you throw your kid away, throw them out on the streets. This is how he'll end up hippie does maintain a separate shelter from the drop in center but that's not disclose the location of that information. The facility is specifically for those who decide to leave the street life behind. And Tracy says it happens a lot this case has brought the media out I guess because of the horrific nature of what happened. But it happens all the time. And in a recent episode of one of the Star TV shows of this last year, My So Called Life, one of the storylines includes a gay teenager named Ricky Vasquez. He's forced from his own home because of his sexual orientation. Wilson Cruz the 20 year old actor who plays Ricky says that the storyline is based on his real life experiences: his father asked him to leave home just before Christmas last year. Cruz who is gay recently told a TV Guide interviewer why he decided to come out in order for my character to have any effect on people. I can't live a hypocritical life. So it doesn't happen just on TV it happens in real life. We're going to talk to Ray about his insight on this story and and Ray you commented earlier to me, it's not a gay story. It is a community story and more than that, it's a --

R Ray Hill 06:06

The first knowledge I had of the story of someone in homicide called me anonymously and told me that the police chief was fixing to hold a news conference and he and Jack Kato were going to expose the Jeffrey Dahmer comes to Houston story. So that's how bad it was. And I went to

the news conference and the chief did come in. And the only problem he had with painting this story as Jeffrey Dahmer was that there was a fat Ray Hills sitting in the second pew and obviously, I've been known to seize that mic and straighten up the misapprehensions before. So he decided not to tell it that way. But he kept saying that this is the opposite of a gay bashing. This is the opposite of a gay bashing. The media listened to what the chief had to say. And basically it was a gay Joe Friday raw facts thing. And media responded, this is a dope story, isn't it? And the chief said no, dope is only peripherally involved. His thesis was that Rudy Meineke was, didn't refuse to become a prostitute and therefore, the other

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Deborah Bell 07:27

That's the victim.

R

Ray Hill 07:28

the other gay prostitutes ganged up against him. However, that's because he was only talking to his detectives had he gonna talk to uniform police officers who live and work in Montrose, he would have found out that the victim in this case had been a prostitute for some time and, and what this was about, was the chief drug dealer among the street kids in Laurel Westheimer. had given this young man a good bit of drugs, but he expected payment for it. And then this young man given opportunity stole some money from the chief drug dealer. And so that gets us into how this whole thing is. And finally, this young man decides that to get the heat from the drug dealing off of him, he will just go down to the storefront and tell the police who the drug dealer is not knowing that the police already knew the drug dealer and have known that for some time. They just choose not to do anything about it. Because number one, that's not the uniformed police officers job in number two, they don't want to completely get rid of drug dealing with over Westheimer police officers make money off of that. So the situation is what started out to be the Jeffrey Dahmer story. Never really sold to the media. I think channel 11 carried the story to that effect. But both newspapers, the reporters in both newspapers know from street kids, so they got the story right from the very beginning. And it turned out that this is wholly a drug story. I mean, this young man, it's horrible things that happened to him. I mean, don't don't don't think I'm joking. Barney was

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Deborah Bell 09:17

a young man attacked by other young men, and they were really overallotment

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Ray Hill 09:24

women involved in trans persons as well.

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Deborah Bell 09:27

Then there is a perception that it was somehow gay related him have probably some of these kids are in fact gay.

R

Ray Hill 09:35

Say, I don't know, people that are conditionally gay. I mean, you kicked in your mom and dad kick you out. You're starving to death. And you come down to low Westheimer because that's where your convenient to your drug connection. And somebody says, hey said your body to this person over here. I don't know whether that person is gay is whether they're just merchandising their wares. And I don't care. There's nothing in gay culture that relates to the store. already, there's a great deal in drug culture that relates to the story. And there's a great deal about the culture of throw away children in this society had better learn before we get what's gone here is any sense of control.

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Deborah Bell 10:18

So, as we as members of the community, we don't need to be looking at that there is a Jeffrey Dahmer or there is a gang of street kids that's going out and assaulting this, this was probably an isolated incident, we

R

Ray Hill 10:32

involved assistant police chief, and Jack Kato who's now public information, it blows the hearts, they don't know what they were talking about. In the first place. They thought they could call this news conference and make this big national scandal and get people down from rescue 911. And all of the cop shows to come down here and do a reenactment of an is simply because they're ignorant. I don't even think they mean that I think that they look through their ignorance and through the lens of their prejudice, and decided they were going to make this a gay community related story. It's none of that. It is a drug culture story. Pure and simple. No variations. Now, if you want to look at why kids go to drugs, and why kids get run away from from, from reasonably safe homes,

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Deborah Bell 11:27

why they might be thrown, or why they

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Ray Hill 11:29

might be thrown away. There's a whole that's another whole thing to look into. But what happened is here we have kids, they didn't have enough resources. I mean, I mean, they were he was almost dead. They cut his tongue out because he told on the drug dealer. All right. Attempt. Yeah, cut it out. They don't have to do we need it. And then he's almost dead. And they want to carry him and dispose of his body. So they figure well, we'll drop him in front of a truck off of the Dunlavy bridge onto the Southwest Freeway, or and that's what, where they were going. But they had to get around him and carry him down there as a gang. Because there wasn't a car, he didn't have enough resources to get a car didn't have enough resources to call a guy, they really got this guy off the freeway bridge. They didn't have enough resources

to do that. One person that I want to compliment is Deputy constable John Carr, sharp young man did by the book police work which brought all of this to light and probably saved. My Nikki's life. And he's he's not real tied up in being devoid of prejudices and misinformation, all that, but he knows how to do it by the book. He found the group of kids going down Dunlavy street with this person and, and he said where you're going to, we're taking our drunk friend somewhere. And so we had to look at the drunk friend and they wasn't drunk kid was in bad shape. And so he called for medical help. And he just wrote everybody's name down and said, and got their address and said, y'all go away. And then he turned all of that over to another agency, which did the investigation. He's the blue night here. And he saved that young man's life. And probably because he broke up this unreal kind of world that drug culture can get into, probably save all those

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Deborah Bell 13:30

kids, there's probably a lot more kids out there like them, and to the degree of what they're involved with.

R

Ray Hill 13:35

He believes there may be as many as 17 in this case alone,

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Deborah Bell 13:39

that the neighbors complained at about the loud music at 2am. That they didn't complain about the screams. They heard. This disturbs me. It is a community story in the sense of this is our community it is Montrose and that's often perceived as being gay. I do want to let people know that there is help available in the community. There are social services, there are ways to get off the street such as Covenant House or through hippie.

R

Ray Hill 14:09

First of all gay people have ever been covenant houses as well. Yeah, there are some issues there. I mean, real prejudice about that. But hippie in spite of seeing them on the news and hearing some news media get the story wrong. Give us a very fine, well organized, well operated organization. It is there to help kids to get off the street, but it can't force kids to get off the street.

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Deborah Bell 14:33

Right, right. One of the things that you can do first of all is to establish a relationship with your family that might be more supportive of your gay or lesbian identity. And PFLAG Parents and Friends of Lesbians and gays can help you do that there. They can be contacted by calling 713-867-9020 And you can find out the numbers for hippie and other social services through the gay and lesbian switchboard at five have 293211 Anything in closing read poker



Ray Hill 15:03

and I will continue to watch the police department there was improved over the years, but they still fall into these traps and and it just gave me an opportunity to read trade and Jack Kato



Deborah Bell 15:15

a nice talker has been working with the police department and been on the citizens review board excetera and Ray Hill always out there on the community keeping an eye out for things



Ray Hill 15:26

you we love you and congratulations on completion of this year in May you have many happy wins and lesbian and gay voices. You too, right? He'll



Jack Valinski 15:33

are listening to KPFT. And we want to remind you that our phone number here is 526 KPFT.



Deborah Bell 15:40

Yes, if you'd like to remember someone who passed away in 1994, with a special mentioned on tonight's program, please call us at 526 KPFT 5265738. Laura is standing by to take your call and we'll be glad to announce that and we will be continuing with the program I saw Mary Helen come in. So I'm excited about whatever music that she'll be playing.



Jack Valinski 16:06

And we got some music up now.



Ray Hill 16:11

With so many men and so little time, it never has been men of mine to try and pursue heterosexual men.



Jack Valinski 16:33

Romanovski and Philips and that was one of the groups that came to Houston not too long ago at Rice University this year. Those guys are fabulous. Yes. And the unfortunate thing was was the audience wasn't too big. And as much as we play them as much as we talk about them. We hope that you go out and see these events when you're able to do it because they don't come

to town too often. The Entertainment has sort of really taken off this year. Coming of course coming up in 95 is the Harvey Milk opera, and a number of other things. Film has been filmed this year, it seemed a drag was in. And I don't know if I saw a lot of those movies.

D

Deborah Bell 17:13

We'll be touching on some of the movies, TV shows and other events that took place in 1994. But first of all, yeah, we have to tell you that you're listening to lesbian and gay voices a weekly program on KPFT in Houston. That is while we attempt to bring the gay and lesbian community as close as your radio I'm Deborah Bell, and I'm Jack Valinski. News wrap from this way out is a regular feature of lesbian and gay voices along with other selected segments last January this way out celebrated reaching its 300th in first program. We'll flashback to program number one with an excerpt from a 1988 report on a US national lesbian gay gathering called The War conference. It's followed by speed of sound a montage recalling some of the 299 other programs since then, the following segment was originally broadcast on lesbian gay voices on January 7 1994,

i

18:13

five and a half years ago who would have thought we'd be producing the 300 and first edition of this way out, but you're listening to it. Hello again. I'm Greg Gordon. For the next few minutes we're going to be blatantly self indulgent by congratulating ourselves on managing to produce and distribute a uniquely queer half hour of radio each week since April 1 1988. And to share with you if you relics we've collected along the way, I've got inaugural edition of Inside Out before we changed our name to protect our innocence. Los Angeles African American gay activist Charles Stewart reported on a history making event.

i

18:49

In the last few days of February I was present at a rather unique gathering of lesbians and gay men. It lasted an entire weekend was held on what was once a plantation in the hills of Virginia, and was billed as a war conference. Although it was run with a drill sergeants attention to detail and scheduling. The conference had no substantive agenda, and was expected to produce no specific result. Yet 175 People came the chief enticement for attendance was the guestlist a veritable who's who of the lesbian and gay movement in America, elected officials, executive directors, co chairs, and even a sprinkling of gay millionaires converged on the 200 acre retreat known as Airlie house. They came, we came to begin to put our gay house in order. We came to strategize to figure out how best to organize our defense against growing homophobia and against AIDS. There were five areas of concentration, getting the government and the law off our back sent our side silence equals death, what to do about closeted gays and lesbians, the need for national emergency response system using the media, and last but never least, money as the ammunition in our war of liberation via agreed upon recommendations were for. First, a national media campaign must be waged to change people's concepts about homosexuality and their attitudes toward gay people. Secondly, a proposal by the street action aids group act up in New York was endorsed to erect a national network to mobilize lesbians and gays for political action on short notice. That would be letter writing campaigns, phone call ins and marches to respond to anti gay political action throughout the nation. Thirdly, an

annual conference of lesbian and gay activists was seen as a necessity. And finally, October 11, has been tentatively identified as a National Coming Out Day. The real success of the conference was before brief period, nearly 200 Lesbian and Gay Activists came and work together to define and resolve the issues which impact our lives.



21:23

That was Charles Stewart reporting on the war conference, a national gathering of us lesbian and gay activists held in February 1988. And part of the very first edition of this way out. If you were marking our movements report card in how many subjects would you note still needs work. To bring us quickly back to the present, we'll have to move at the speed of sound.



21:48

Walking into the hall of the Rights Museum in Amsterdam for the end of the demonstration against gay men and lesbians, to the status of criminals, because that's who we love.



22:00

George Cuco revealed to me that Nancy Reagan's godmother was both Russian and a lesbian.



22:06

I grew up black, I've been discriminated against all my life, because I'm gonna discriminate against me because I'm gay as a joke,



22:10

the things that were important to these people, that's what these panels are made.



22:14

I'm ready to serve my country and going into the Persian Gulf. When I get back, I don't want to be discharged. Because lesbian



22:21

homophobia is the Berlin wall of the African American community.



22:25

It's possible to



22:26

be a practicing Roman Catholic, gay Latino combinations guaranteed to offend somebody simply from



22:32

time and only gay people can get it and here I am saying that it can happen to anybody. People



22:37

are smiling all the time and even proud to be lesbian or gay or making



22:42

public was for us to clear together something illegal, they continued the assault counting the defenseless man with a claw hammer was having some



22:50

difficulty convincing other people that these things were taking place



22:53

when people like me get this angry. There's something going on here.



22:58

The Big Gay rights march in Washington isn't until tomorrow, but demonstration started earlier today. 1000s of homosexuals and their supporters surrounded the Capitol Building to protest what they say is Congress's failure to fight a gay Veterans Day on their uniforms today to protest the military ban on homosexuals. Hundreds of couples kissed and a mock wedding in front of the IRS Bill demonstrators call themselves an invisible minority tomorrow's event scheduled to change that



23:26

I think it's absolutely going to be fabulous.



23:30

And of course, the 1993 National march on Washington for lesbian, gay and bi equal rights and liberation was fabulous.



Jack Valinski 23:58

You had a number. We had a number of political events, of course.



Deborah Bell 24:02

You know what I was told? We should we should hold on hopper. Just looking around going, where the heck did she come from? Sometimes it gets hectic around here. We're going to hold off for a moment before we talk about the political events because I forgot what it was that we were going to do. But we do want to remind people that if you want to remember someone that we lost in 1994, for whatever reason that they lost, whether it was from AIDS or some other misfortune, please just give us a call at 526 KPFT 5265738. Laura will take that information now. And we'll be announcing those names in having a moment of silence during Mary Helens portion of the program.



Jack Valinski 24:47

And silence is not a stranger on this radio station sometimes. Yeah. Of course, you know, the march in Washington was probably the biggest event for our community and And New York was not to me is quite the same event in New



Deborah Bell 25:05

York meaning the 19 for March celebration over 25 years since the riots that kind of broke out or the rebellion, as some people like to call it. And it, it really has been an explosion. And we've been political for a long time. But sometimes you wonder if we've been political enough, especially when you look at the elections and



Jack Valinski 25:35

the loss, the loss of all the people, our people, and other people in this. Well,



Deborah Bell 25:43

I would like for us to be able to close out the year without talking about the loss on TV nation the other night, they did the people who did not die in 1990.



Jack Valinski 25:53

I heard about that. I did hear about that. A very wonderful last show.

D

Deborah Bell 25:58

But unfortunately, there are far too many that we've lost and

J

Jack Valinski 26:04

Michael Cowan, who was part of the flotations and also did some stuff on his own. Apparently did an unbeliever did a couple of albums that will be coming out in the next year or so. And we really did miss or lose an incredible performer.

D

Deborah Bell 26:22

Even though his death was in December of 1993. Lesbian Gay voices aired the following tribute to Michael Callen on our January 14 program Verna Avery Brown detail some of Callen's accomplishments followed by more personal recollection by this way out day fuel and what what a gift Michael Collins life was to us and someone we really really have missed in 1994.

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27:21

Filing

⦿

27:34

As we briefly reported last week, gay and AIDS activist, musician and performer Michael Callen lost his record setting 12 year battle with AIDS in late December. Verna Avery Brown details some of Kevin's accomplishments followed by a more personal recollection from this way outs Dave Buell,

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27:53

Michael Callen was a warrior in the fight against AIDS. He was a plaintiff in the nation's first AIDS discrimination lawsuit. He also founded the people with AIDS coalition, and wrote a book called Surviving aids, which told the stories of 14 long term survivors. Besides being an outspoken gay and AIDS activist, Michael Callen will also be remembered for his music. Callum wrote lyrics that spoke to the heart of the gay experience to song Love don't need a reason has become an anthem for the gay and lesbian community during the age of eight.

⦿

28:54

I'm Verna Avery Brown in Washington.



28:58

Right? Just another way.



29:17

It was no surprise really, after nearly 12 years of living with full blown AIDS. Anyone who had witnessed Michaels declining health in the last few years could hardly have been surprised, but it was still a shock. In the early days of AIDS, it was a 20 Something Michael Cowan who went public with his diagnosis, determined to make America face its indifference, even disdain for those fighting that disease.



29:58

Musical career really began after his 1982 AIDS diagnosis, his solo album



Deborah Bell 30:09

co host on this program, one of the things that we've done in this past year is really work to make this program open up to the community and have more involvement by more people. And we've really been blessed by I don't know what the term is for a group of volunteers, you know, they have names like for a gaggle of geese, and like that, but a blessing of volunteers, I think, is the term that we would have to use to cool people. Yeah, they're really, they're really wonderful. And we're very grateful for them. And we will have more for you in 1995. One of the people that's been a real blessing in our lives on lesbian and gay voices, is the voice the charm in the musical knowledge of Mary Helen Merce Bakker, she's going to be up next to tell us about some of the music that came out in 1994. And if I know her, anyone, she probably has a few surprises up her sleeve. And we're also going to be having that tribute to our loved ones that we've lost in this past year. If you would like to have a name mentioned of someone that you've loved and lost in 1994, please call us at 526 KPFT 5265738. It's okay, if it makes you sad and you cry a little bit, because we share those tears with you, it's part of the memories and that's part of the way of of remembering those that would that we love. The ones that you've left behind, just like the song says. So Mary, Helen, you're, you're up next on lesbian and gay voices, I just



Mary Helen Merzbacher 31:46

wanted to say that, of course, anyone that knows me knows that I'll be lucky to get through the list of people without you know, just really breaking them on the air and Salomon, you know, like a complete fool. But if you call it a name of your loved one, they don't necessarily have to be a lesbian or gay person. And any names that we mentioned on the air, it's not necessarily indicative of their sexual orientation, or sexual preference. So feel free to call if, if you're of whatever persuasion, race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, et cetera, you know, it's for everybody, folks. So, because we all share that one thing in life, we all going to go sometime,

right. But until then, we're partying down here are lesbian and gay voices, the last show of 1994 for this program, it's been my pleasure to work with folks around here for another year, I really appreciate being able to be involved in this kind of community radio station, it's a pretty neat place to be. I'm gonna start off on a really little more upbeat note because otherwise, I won't make it through the show. One of the the newest things that that is a new thing that came out recently and I got a copy of it for Christmas is is a remake of something old and I just had to play it because the influence that these people had on my life was great. And you know who they are the minute you hear them, but I just it ever said you know it's time for a little bit of a surprise so you're wondering what what that has to do anything with lesbians or gay people and I'll tell you what it has to do with with me anyway. And that is when I heard the Beatles you know, I was about fifth grade I guess when I first came out. And when I heard the Beatles I thought you know what, I love girls too. Because they were always talking about you know, how you know all my love and and love me do and all you need is love and they didn't say all you need is a specific kind of love. So, yeah, there we have it kids. So that's that's the deal. Anyway, here's something that came out this year at the end of the year from a good friend of the station. name of Sir Hickman hope you enjoy this one. Sarah Hickman talking about pursuit of happiness from her 1994 release necessary angels and it's a really good album if you want to buy yourself up Like Christmas present or something like that. The next song I'm going to play is from Romanovsky Romanovsky and Philips latest album called brave boys. And brave boys is used to denote men with AIDS. And also, I believe, the homosexual community that has lived while so many of our cohorts, friends, loved ones have passed away from the dread disease aids which is becoming less of a dread disease and more of a chronic illness. Thank God that there was still a lot there are still good many people going in, which is sad. But this is a message not only to persons living with AIDS, but to anyone that you know, has has a disease or a condition that's considered, you know, serious illness. The song is a remake of one that they put out several years ago. It's on their new album, brave boys. It's called living with AIDS. Some of our friends and loved ones who have passed on in the year 1994 include Dave katni. He's a jazz pianist from here in Houston. He died of AIDS his last album was Reality Road. The woman's David Derek Jarman died at the age of 52. He's a filmmaker and a painter. He died in February of AIDS is best known for his low budget surrealistic films with homosexual themes, and he made his lifestyle and eventually, his illness of AIDS his major artistic focus. Raul Giulia died of a stroke at the age of 54. One reason we mentioned him is because he was one of his famous roles was as a political prisoner in Kiss of the Spider Woman, which included a relationship with a gay roommate or cellmate rather, played by William Hurt. Raul Julia was also a human rights activist. And one of could who could actually make Gomez Addams, a believable person. Michael Peters died of AIDS at the age of 46. On August 30, he is a choreographer and he helped create Michael Jackson's video thriller. He choreographed to directed many other music videos and won a Tony Award for his choreography of Dream Girls. Dick Sargent, okay, we know we need to Sergeant as is Darren on bewitched. He died at the age of 64. He was He replaced Duke York As Darren husband Samantha came out publicly as a gay man in 1991 and spent his last years as a visible activist within the gay community. One person that will certainly be missed by many of us, Randy Schultz. He died at the age of 42 February 17 of AIDS. I remember coming in on an Olivia cruise to Key West and wondering why the flags were at half mast I thought there may be been a political assassination I hadn't read a newspaper and several days and the flags in Key West were at half mast in memory of Randy Schultz. He skis me stuck at nevermind bronchitis. He is author of a best selling book called in the band played on which was made into a movie by HBO. He also wrote conduct unbecoming get about gays and lesbians in the US military and the mayor of Castro Street about the life and times of Harvey Milk. He also covered the AIDS crisis as a newspaper reporter, and a lot of us really feel like we know Randy Schultz pretty personally from his writing. Pedro Zamora died at the age of 22. November 11. Just recently, have a tea was a young actor that learned at the

age of 17 that he had AIDS and spent the last five years of his life campaigning to educate people about the disease. There's plenty of that work to be done. He was on MTV the real world And a lot of young people followed his life and the course of his illness. Some other people that may not be as well known, but to us, they're very well known. They may not be as well known around the country, you know, we'd like to have a moment of silence in remembrance for Elizabeth Glaser for John Ortega. For Kathy Lenahan for George Monken he's a friend of ours a feminist member of the Houston area now a real strong feminist leader. died of a heart attack. Jonny Boswell died at the age of 47 of AIDS. He's the former chair of of rocket read that one. Anyway, Michael Burzynski, who we remember as a victim of gay bashing, but we also see his life in the light of being a hero and and we want to remember him that way. The Knights swimmer, we would like to remember the Knights. We would also like to remember Frankie. Frankie is right Hill's mother, Wilson Baker, Gary leuco. David Van lien, Eddie hauschild. Jeff Kimball, Sol Lipkin, Meyer Johnston. Of course, Steven Bradley, who many of us know in the community, strong activist, one of the T one of the founders of the volunteer program at Thomas Street Clinic, he served on one of the founders of project leap, which helps bring lesbians and I'm excuse me helps bring people with AIDS into the activist community. Steven Bradley was a dancer and an actor and just a wonderful man. Virgil sharp, Lawrence white, many of us remember Lawrence White is a man who was victimized by his caregiver. He had a big lawsuit and he lived to see the conclusion of the lawsuit, although not the monetary payback. That was do him Reuben Luna, Michael Woolbright and John guild mocker. And Ken Pickens, we would like to remember these people with a moment of silence



43:32

If your heart always did, what a normal heart should do. If you always play apart instead



Deborah Bell 43:52

I thought, you know, it's, it's gonna be the last time and he hung on and, and finished off that year of of by being part of the flirtations in the movie Philadelphia, which, of course, he never lived to see.



Mary Helen Merzbacher 44:07

I'll tell you, the holidays are rough, for people that are sick, and I mean, they're a little bit stressful for everyone. But so hang in there, you know, if you feel like a little lonely or are sick or tired, give somebody a call. Hell give us a call at 5265738. You know, they're stressful times. So take it easy on yourself in and know that we appreciate each and every one of you. We will also want to thank the people that have supported this program in a monetary way over the course of the year. Usually like three times a year we raise money, we've got another one coming up as as per usual. Wow. And so we just want to thank each and every one of you that has pledged and paid a pledge to KPFT in the name of lesbian and gay voices but Because without that kind of support, there's no way we could be here. Doing our little bit every Friday night. So you're the one that makes it happen. Thanks a million, or at least a couple 1000. Few 1000. Hey, Deborah, take it away.



D Deborah Bell 45:17
Well, hey, thank you, Mary Helen, and especially,

M Mary Helen Merzbacher 45:20
I'm really glad to be back. We're glad to have you back and had a few irises. And so, but as long as

D Deborah Bell 45:28
you didn't have any ostomies,

M Mary Helen Merzbacher 45:30
or no, or Yeah, I didn't have any ostomies or act dummies or anything. But

D Deborah Bell 45:37
that's good. That's a star. Yeah. Well, you

M Mary Helen Merzbacher 45:40
did have some irises.

D Deborah Bell 45:41
I think several of the members of our volunteer staff have had little car wrecks during the year Suzanne and Jack and you and, you know, life light law of averages. Chalk chocolates, isn't it

M Mary Helen Merzbacher 45:56
your surprise?

D Deborah Bell 45:58
I know, I know. Well, you know, if they say Gump happens. Well, you are listening to lesbian and gay voices, the program that brings the lesbian and gay community as close as your radio and it's the time in the program where we're going to tell you a little bit. Now we're going to we're not going to go to news rep quite yet. We are the producer says we are okay, we're going to go to news wrap which is the news portion of the excellent syndicated program this way out from our sister station in Los Angeles.



46:36

I'm Cindy Friedman.



Brian Nunes 46:37

I'm John Volker and Andrea Nunez with news work, a travel back in time to revisit some of the more bent news items we recorded in 1994, otherwise known as this way of manual cavalcade



46:50

of kickers.



Brian Nunes 46:54

When the US Christian coalition held its recent conference in Washington, DC, the gay and lesbian press was there and at least one of the coalition volunteers knew it. He warned a woman wearing a dress and heels that three lesbians were there from the Village Voice, which he identified as a homosexual newspaper, although it's actually a more general Alternative Press offering. He said they'd been harrassing conferees and pointed out a woman photographer in jeans and a flannel shirt. He was confident there were no other gay or lesbian reporters because he said, I'd be able to tell the woman he was talking to was Sheila Walsh of the gay and lesbian newspaper, The Washington blade. Even as shockwaves continue to spread among the morbidly homophobic from the rumor that Muppets Bert and Ernie are gay. Charlotte, North Carolina TV preacher Joe chambers has discovered that another character in children's programming may pose a serious threat to us morels. Chambers has begun a one man campaign against a figure he describes as straight out of the new age and the world of demons and devils. Proof that America is under siege from the powers of darkness. of our chambers Target has other enemies. Most of them complain only that he's saccharin and boring. It's boring the dinosaur chambers complains. Barney is teaching kids that we must accept everyone as they are, whether they're homosexuals or lesbians. We're not aware of Barney having explicitly discussed sexual orientation on television. But he does have a distinctive color. As chambers noted when he entitled his pamphlet, the purple Messiah. The Netherlands tolerance of sexual minorities is legendary, but it recently reached a new height at the Rotterdam Zoo. Among the zoos residents are two male flamingos, who had a long term peer bonded relationship. Nobody had a problem with that. But then the domestic partners began to try to steal eggs from their female neighbors. Kindly zookeepers sought to resolve the problem by giving the couple of fertilized egg. The partners turned out to be good adoptive parents sharing brooding duties in an egg egalitarian fashion until hatching and faithfully tending the chick ever since. All three are doing well. While the flaming flamingos have not actually publicly identified themselves as gay dads, they have been seen wearing pink. You ma Oh cancers just a kid at the recent MTV Music Video Awards, it was a gay sensibility that could have taken the trophy for biggest laugh at the ceremony. Actress Sandra Bullock wrote one line too many off the cue card, asking her co presenter Adam Sandler of Saturday Night Live a question he was intended to ask her about her appearance in the movie Speed



50:35

galleries



50:41

he wasn't that good. He opened his mouth way too wide and I was like piano kiss me Don't swallow me. Okay, there were some positive things about Ghana. He had very nice hips. And he also very strong arm and when he helped me I felt very safe.



B

Brian Nunes 51:09

much belly lesbian kiss episode of roseanne was broadcast as scheduled on the US EBC network, despite reports that ABC feared loss of advertising income.



51:24

Wayne and again, if Sheridan slips of the tongue, we might actually get this place up to COVID



51:30

No wonder women don't find you attractive.



51:34

So often that the kids freak you out. You're just not as cool as you



51:37

thought you were.



B

Brian Nunes 51:40

The CBS network hasn't blinked its trademark i at the prospect of blood casting a gay male wedding. That's coming up on May 2 on the popular series Northern Exposure. Producer Andrew Schneider says that's because the stories are not about being gay. The people involved just happened to be gay. And in fact, the wedding of Hoteliers and longtime companions Ron and Eric will be much like other rituals in the medical community of Sicily, Alaska, named for one of its two lesbian founders, but it will have one distinct difference from the 1000s of heterosexual weddings that have been enacted on US TV. You guessed it, the groom's don't kiss.



52:21

Apparently even the youngest and most daring us TV network isn't ready to risk broadcasting a kiss between two men. The Fox networks evening drama series, Melrose Place has always included a gay character Matt Fielding, he'd become something of a joke for his almost complete lack of relationships, especially by contrast with his bed hopping and heterosexual counterparts. As producer Darren star said the letters we get from straight and gay viewers are overwhelmingly that we should let this guy have a real life. So for the season finale, the Melrose Place producers actually taped Matt kissing another man Rob, a friend of regular character Billy, when Matt and Billy are bidding Rob goodbye. It starts with a handshake. Well, isn't a good night. I'll see you tomorrow. Yeah.



53:18

While the music is playing, Matt is moving towards Rob in slow motion and Billy reacts. But Fox executives deleted the visual of the kiss itself. Even the intercession of GLAAD the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation didn't change their minds. So on the May 18, broadcast, Matt has left unknissed.



53:49

courage that it could say that



Brian Nunes 53:55

even in conservative Ogden Utah love will find a way. In December, police officer NS Hall discovered two men making out in a car. He arrested them both and took them to the police station. Apparently due to a misunderstanding there. The couple was locked up in the same cell, where they promptly picked up right where they left off.



54:41

More than 100,000 Gays, lesbians and sympathizers gathered in New York estimates of today's crowd varied



54:47

10s of 1000s of homosexuals paraded peacefully more than 100,000 came out to march about 20,000 people took part in the two marches.



54:56

The official estimate is that there are 90,000 people here on the great On considerably less

than attended the parade are



55:02

Giuliani joined the march of hundreds of 1000s of people whose book the attendance at 90,000. Organizers saying more than a million people were in the parade and in Central Park City Hall says the crowd is more like 100 to 150,000 people.



55:16

I think we have to teach straight people how to



55:19

barber strikes, Streisand was giving a concert in New York City while lesbians and gays were convening there in June for the Gay Games and the International march on the United Nations. It is so great for



55:29

me to be here during the Gay Games



55:38

because for once I can walk around the city without being recognized, you know. There are enough guys in town who impersonate me that when I'm out on the street, nobody thinks it's really me. Today I was walking up Broadway and a woman said to her husband, Luke, it's Barbra Streisand and her husband said, Well, you



55:56

stop it already.



55:57

That's the 10th one today. This



55:58

one's not even close.



56:02

And finally



Brian Nunes 56:11

some folks don't much care for the word gay. But whoever writes the headlines for Illinois mainstream Northwest Herald newspaper took that distaste to a new extreme. A recent story described controversy surrounding an exhibit at the Smithsonian Institution of the airplane that dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima and World War Two, a plane the pilot named after his mother, Enola Gay. That story appeared under a banner and type half an inch high. Atomic bombers criticize ynoa Homosexual exhibit. And that's news work. A look back at some of the 1994 news that made us wonder or just gave us a chuckle. This way outs cavalcade of kickers has been compiled and written throughout the year by Cindy Friedman, who's always the one who gets to say, informed community is a strong community.



57:10

We're this way out. I'm John Beauprez. She's



Brian Nunes 57:12

Cindy Friedman.



57:13

He's Brian Nunez.



Brian Nunes 57:14

We're wishing you a very gay and lesbian New Year.



Jack Valinski 57:22

We have some calendar of events and your your Jack Phillips I am sometimes yes. And sometimes you are Deborah Bell




Deborah Bell 57:30

and you're listening to lesbian and gay voices on KPFT in Houston, and it's time for the calendar things that are happening.

 Jack Valinski 57:37


The liberal party, the lib party is going to be happening Year's Eve at the downtown which is really sort of Uptown for them. DoubleTree Hotel 400 Dallas

 Deborah Bell 57:47


and dig this, they are sold out of tickets at Inklings. So if you want to still get in on what is probably the queer bash of the new year, you still have time by picking up your tickets at Crossroads market at 610, West Alabama. And it's a fabulous New Year's Eve Ball and they have special weekend room rates. And somebody told me they thought that said roommates and they got really excited. And it's open to all members of the lesbian and gay community. singles are networking to attend the dance that you may get that roommate.

 Jack Valinski 58:23

Well, there's some really exciting things coming up in the New Years. Well,

 Deborah Bell 58:26


let's talk about well one of them and like I'm under threat of death by Mary Helen if I don't mention this black dresses, which was a group that appeared live here on lesbian gay voices in 1994 is going to be appearing at tree beards at 700. Travis on January 7, also with big man bristle is that excitement or what size and it's \$5 cover and that voice you heard is the lovely Nancy Ford who has joined us this evening. Hi, gar Yeah. Other Other things well,

 Jack Valinski 59:01

actually, Nancy being associated without smart and they are helping. They're actually the ones that put together a sponsoring of a couple of community events performances.

 59:14

We are just so busy

 Deborah Bell 59:16

outsmart out smart magazine, which premiered in 1994. One of the best things of the year. Thank you Nancy is produced written directed by Nancy Ford right

 59:33

... ..

would like you to believe yes,



59:35

no in DD it is definitely a family effort. And we want to thank everybody at outsmart wants to thank everyone within the gay lesbian and bi community for everything that you've done to help us in our first year. The response has been incredible from advertisers readers keep those cards and letters coming in.



Jack Valinski 59:51

I were so used to in the city having the the other press and talking about the news and stuff like that, but it's real nice to have something else that's a little bit more sort of analytic Call and doesn't necessarily do the top news stories but talks about what's going on.



1:00:05

Thank you. We try to be focused whenever possible, and then when not meet we come and guest here. That's a Welcome.



Deborah Bell 1:00:14

Greetings and Happy New Year to Greg Zhu and the other folks alone there. Well, I'm sure he's listening.



1:00:22

I'm sure he is. dinner ready.



Deborah Bell 1:00:27

So other calendar of events that we're going to talk about? Yeah, we're one of three vaguely



Jack Valinski 1:00:32

Yes. Wednesday the 25th January 25. And Thursday, January 31. At 7:30pm The Wortham center is presenting the Houston Grand Opera. Now I just the only thing that's a little bit difficult in this whole thing besides how wonderful this is how you get tickets to for the sponsoring organization.



1:00:51

Yeah,



1:00:51

it's we're very excited. We're very excited about the whole situation at at outsmart and Ashley throughout the arts community. Houston, grand opera is doing Harvey Milk. The story of course, the slain gay rights activist first elected gay official in San Francisco. And we're going to be holding the benefit on Wednesday, January 25. Tuesday, January 31. At 730 at the word them center. These performances on Wednesday the 25th and Tuesday the 31st will benefit Who are we benefiting here? The AIDS Foundation Houston, pet patrol, the assistance fund and Houston gay and lesbian Pride Week 95 committee. Here's the twist. You can't call in to order your tickets. You must either mail them to Houston Grand Opera, or the mail your ticket request or show up in person actually at Wortham center downtown which is no big deal downtown is beautiful this time of year I you know take it take a van full of people but it's it's an excellent opportunity to go out and support the arts. Also to learn more about our gay and lesbian heritage from from the life of Harvey Milk. What else



Deborah Bell 1:02:07

edible infirm information and OUT magazine about the opera and it really I'm not an opera fan and I thought gosh you know this sounds really neat. I really want to see this getting national cover you can also find a order form in outsmart this issue use that to the current issue with Harvey Milk beautiful portrait of Harvey Milk on the cut. You did that? Yeah,



1:02:31

I did. I was up for hours does No, no, our graphics guy a little



Jack Valinski 1:02:37

bit more background and Harvey Milk. The museum a museum of fine arts on the 15th of January at 5pm is going to be showing the times of Harvey Milk. It is a wonderful movie that documentary that has been seen as one of the ward



Deborah Bell 1:02:54

lives in times of Harvey Milk. In fact, we play music from that close I tried that





1:03:00


and I just rented that it's incredible.





Jack Valinski 1:03:00


 Jack Valinski 1:03:02
What's nice about this is seeing it in a theater would really be great and best of all, admission is free.


 1:03:09
Are you implying that my home is not a good place to view um, I


 Jack Valinski 1:03:12
haven't seen your home so I would not likely to

 Deborah Bell 1:03:19
Yeah, they the Houston Grand Opera, world premiere of the opera of Harvey Milk is is a big thing that's coming up in next year. And the other big thing that's happened theatrically will be at the alley theatre when they have Angels in America. Boy, am I looking forward to that

 Jack Valinski 1:03:40
it just closed in New York. Coming up soon, actually this Wednesday is the galas being Political Caucus is having their endorsement meeting for the runoff elections, not the runoff election, the main election that's going to be happening January 21. For City Council a nice Parker has said that she is running who an openly lesbian candidate and she is seeking seeking the endorsement and it's up to the caucus to vote on that. The meeting will be held at Stoker's Greenway Plaza Hotel, not at 2700 Albany where the most meetings are because this is an endorsement meeting, because it's probably going to be a large one.

 Deborah Bell 1:04:16
And if you're not already a member of the caucus, you don't get a vote. But it's a good opportunity to kind of see what the gala has been pulled as caucus is all about, and maybe have some opportunity to find out what candidates campaigns you might like to be involved. And we don't really have very much time.

 Jack Valinski 1:04:35
No, it's very, very quick. That's sort of good because we can get our you know, get the vote out there. If you're interested in some more information you can call 521 1000.

 Deborah Bell 1:04:44
And there's a straight slider that's in the race. There's like 19 candidates, we we have a real

chance to come out and make a difference in and I'm not playing you know, a little pun there on the term come out. It's a really important thing to do. Nancy, this is something I know you're right sited about the females in search of trouble fifth, is pleased to announce that the temperature in Houston, Texas on the weekend of the January 13 14th, and 15th will be hot because it will be the Miss Gulf Coast letter weekend. She's throwing things people didn't know you were into that stuff.



1:05:20

We just keep reading just



Deborah Bell 1:05:23

read. If you would like to find out more about the Miss Gulf Coast leather weekend, you should call the folks over at fist at five to 24533 Of course, that's Area code 713-522-4533.



1:05:40

I do have the pair of leather pants you do. I do black leather pants closest I get to get to eating red meat



Deborah Bell 1:05:44

is leather pants.



1:05:47

You started oh gosh,



Deborah Bell 1:05:49

what have I you know, you have to be careful what you might open up when you open your mouth here on lesbian gay voices. The Women's Action Coalition which is an exciting group of women who meet every Wednesday at 7pm. Over at two Ps for a coffee company our favorite coffee shop in town. I'm drinking some right now it smells good. And the number to call for more information about the Women's Action Coalition is 8679581. Other things you want to touch on as far as coming out.



Jack Valinski 1:06:24

That's about it. I think it's sort of you know, it's a holiday still going on type of thing.



Deborah Bell 1:06:28

There are many events going on around town ways to celebrate the New Year Jody Watley is going to be at riches. And there's a New Year's Eve black and white gala featuring all kinds of goodies at the ranch when you're hanging out fancy and



1:06:43

daddy better there'll be blowing it out out there with champagne and the buffet and line dancing and everything you need to bring in the new year for crying out loud. One of



Deborah Bell 1:06:53

the many things that Nancy Ford does in this community our shows on third every other Thursday. That's right. We



1:06:59

just had a show there last night with Bart Bart Lozier from the AIDS Foundation.



Deborah Bell 1:07:05

And and now you teach you look pas you teach sex at these are what



1:07:11

well, you know, they



1:07:12

say those who can do and those who can't teach. So we do have safe sex for lesbian seminars, every other usually around the end of the month, last Thursday of the month, month out at the ranch. And it's been very successful. We distribute flyers and educational materials and supplies supply lesbians learn more about dams. Things of that nature. Exactly. Very, very



Deborah Bell 1:07:36

important, good work that you do, and you have fun doing it. And it's



1:07:40

fun and it's very informative And we learn something new every time and it's working out very

fun, and it's very informative. And we learn something new every time and it's working out very well. In fact, we've got another deal coming up very soon at the penthouse in January in conjunction with alternative visions. All right, another fundraise.

D

Deborah Bell 1:07:54

One of the great things about 1994 Was that Nancy Ford turned 40 And she had a talk about your blowout at the ranch.

1:08:05

Still alive in 95.

D

Deborah Bell 1:08:08

You want to talk a little bit about what that was all about. Oh, especially star

1:08:12

it's been it's what a year what a year. You know what, what can I possibly tell you? It's just it's been an incredible year. In August we started Nancy Ford's first annual midlife crisis fundraisers at the urging of some people. And this year for my 40th birthday, Pat, Julia Sweeney. Yeah, Julia Sweeney. Julia. It's Pat Sweeney came out and worked with this. She used to be on Saturday Night Live, you know, the end Dratch? I androgynous Pat, I'm not speaking very well tonight. It must be all the caffeine, we. Anyway, it was great. We raised over \$3,000 On our first effort for lesbians safe sex seminars for AIDS Foundation, Houston. And it was just phenomenal. packed to the gills. It was a raffle. I believe you want a lovely, lovely weekend. Art. Yeah, what's in it for me? Absolutely nothing. Not even a meant on my pillow. I swear but it's it was just incredible. And looking forward to the second half of my life with that as a kickoff and we're going to do it again this August 40. Again, never to go any bending forward or backwards. That's it.

D

Deborah Bell 1:09:31

One of the things that's coming up that's a non alcoholic event the no blue no booze blues Say that five times fast. Well, so

1:09:41

you're sober. That's a problem. It's

D

Deborah Bell 1:09:42

a New Year's Eve party at cappuccino plus on the curve on Westheimer. So cool. Nice. Yeah. Cool And I hear that two nieces have a special deal after the live event for people to come over

soon. And I hear that two pieces have a special deal after the live event for people to come over there. Five, aroma. Yes, call that number now five I'm a Roma and I think the opening have to pee a lesbian down coffee shop. Whether they call it a coffee bar coffee boy was was a big thing in 1994.



1:10:11

Absolutely. It's well, I think we're casting was big this year to talk



Deborah Bell 1:10:16

about big things. Liza Minnelli was one of the stars that appeared at the Stonewall 25 celebration which you also worked for a year. Yes, it's important masa Minnelli again for the first time. And of course, the death of lies as mother Judy Garland was was part of the whole history that happened this year. No, no, no that happened 25 years ago. And a was believed to be one of the barks Yes. Sparks to the stone wall rebellion and Lhasa performed her song. I'm not sure which one we're going to now but she's she's incredible performer and we're going there. She's giving me a number but I don't know five



1:11:04

to aroma. Am I getting paid to plug these people over to PS by the way? What's



Deborah Bell 1:11:11

going on gratitude? They're very good. Was been engaged they



1:11:15

certainly are.



Deborah Bell 1:11:27

Imagine, imagine, imagine, imagine that. Liza Minnelli was here with us now.



1:11:35

Liza Minnelli was here this year earlier? Yeah. The arena theater. What was she here for the names project?



Deborah Bell 1:11:42

I believe it was one of those kinds of things I was

I believe it was one of those kinds of things I was



1:11:46

from Virginia Slims. That's what it was for. But it was for another it was for a fundraiser of sorts.



Deborah Bell 1:11:51

I don't know I can't keep up with all these things. I know. It's just your world, Nancy for



1:11:57

a veritable charitable whirlwind.



Deborah Bell 1:11:59

That's right. That's right. Well, it has been a year of accomplishment. We have touched on some things that had been significant.



Jack Valinski 1:12:06

It also was a pretty tough year politically with the elections, who we the sad part of the election was there was a lot of progressive judges, not only here in Houston, but all over the country, progressive candidates in many different levels of government that were just completely wiped out because of the landslide. And a lot of people were just I guess, sort of tired of government. But they didn't really look at who would be replacing these people. They just brought in the new people.



Deborah Bell 1:12:36

I heard a survey today that said that this very significant number of people think that Clinton should run for office again. And then I realized that these were probably Republicans that thought he should run again.



Jack Valinski 1:12:50

Well, it is really sad in some of the things the way they were handled by Clinton. I mean, I think it was hard. He really wants to do the right thing. He's not quite sure how to do it. He you know, it's just a tough game in Washington and unfortunately, it's a game to a lot of people.



Deborah Bell 1:13:06

...

We had wins and losses

J Jack Valinski 1:13:17
you know, that guy's been in the military. But the truth of it is, it sort of does set the tone for the rest of the country.

D Deborah Bell 1:13:22
It really showed the it was a thermometer or a barometer or some kind of instrument of measure to show where this country is on the whole issue of gays. But once again, our own people by virtue of their service and their their quality Tracey Thorn, Keith mine hold Marguerite Kemah Meyer, just just to name a few of the ones that have been courageous in either bad links are taking a stand coming out they're coming out certainly has made a difference. And one of the things to look forward to in 1995 is Glenn Close performing as Marguerite kellermeier In a way, I think it's gonna be HBO sometime. Movie of serving in silence, which is the book that Marguerite Kemah Meyer wrote about how to


J Jack Valinski 1:14:20
remember to drop HBO then.

D Deborah Bell 1:14:23
They've been had been


J Jack Valinski 1:14:25
in the band plays on The Larry Sanders Show they did, they had a cameo of Tim Miller being on there who is an excellent art performance artist. Just a lot of things that they have done. I wish you know, public television here in Houston wasn't so scared to put openly gay and lesbian programs on that the few that there are on the PBS schedule,

D Deborah Bell 1:14:47
we can keep working on it to the south. One of our victories in 1994 politically was the employment non discrimination act into which was introduced in both houses of Congress which gained a right Good number of co-sponsors 32 in the Senate, and 138 in the House of Representatives, of course, come this next year, which we're coming to very rapidly here is going to be a whole new ballgame and I'm not talking about the kind of it's on strike Okay. anti gay amendments, which were introduced by Senators Robert Smith, a Republican of new New Hampshire and Jesse Helms. I almost can't say at Republican North Carolina, in the Senate and

mail Hancock, a Republican from Missouri in the house, which would have killed gay counseling services and other supportive programs in the schools were eliminated from the final version of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act

 Jack Valinski 1:15:44


was absolutely incredible. But basically, the education money was held hostage by Jesse home by putting an amendment like that on there.

 Deborah Bell 1:15:52

And speaking of Jesse Helms, once again, the Senate by a vote of 39 to 59, defeated and then amendment offered by Senator Jesse Helms to restrict the availability of condoms in high school health clinics. This was a serious defeat for Senator Helms and a major victory for our community, and all those that believe that aid should be treated as a public health issue rather than as a political tool. There were anti gay initiatives on the ballot all around the country on October 11. Coming Out Day, a referendum that had been passed in Colorado the year before was rejected by the state Supreme Court and that's destined to go, you know, to higher court, we'll see how that happens. I think the Supreme Court will vote not to rule on it, and thereby letting the lower court standing Hall because I don't think they want to have to rule on it. They, how can they say that discrimination is okay. You know, yes, you have a constitutional right to discriminate? I don't think so.

 1:17:02


The word according to Newt,

 Deborah Bell 1:17:04

and, of course, there's been changes the national level and two of the national organizations, the Human Rights Campaign fund has a new executive director Elizabeth birch, a former of Apple Computer,

 Jack Valinski 1:17:18

and also chair she was chair of the board of the National Gay Lesbian Task Force, right.

 Deborah Bell 1:17:23

And which, ironically enough, has a new executive director, Melinda Paris, which has a lot of controversy surrounding her. It's really important that we get involved in organizations on a political basis, we need to



Jack Valinski 1:17:39

expect and demand from our organizations and of all the organizations that there'll be strong leadership in there. But there's no way there's going to be strong leadership unless we're not participants in it.



Deborah Bell 1:17:49

It has to be grassroots. Yes. And one of the most grassroots for us is our own lobby here in the state of Texas. We're one of only three states in the country that has someone actively working on lesbian gay rights in our state capitol. We have Diane Hardy Garcia. We are planning a march on Austin. And April is going to be following the Texas lesbian conference. Excellent. So they're, you know, all the lesbians are going to get together in Austin. And then they're all going to go march along with our gay brothers and families and friends. Right timing and,



1:18:23

of course with us for everyone.



Deborah Bell 1:18:24

We still have Glen Maxey in office and that's great right into



Jack Valinski 1:18:28

speaking of Texas and national organizations that are creating change was held in Dallas in November and that was a wonderful and you know, I wish there was more people there was about 1200 to 1800 people up there. I wish there was more people to get to see what a great conference that was. The fact that you with a lot of other people and it was you know, there was organizing, talking about different things. I got a lot out of that conference.



Deborah Bell 1:18:51

It is it's the premier conference to attend to be part of and I strongly encourage people to find a way to get there if they can is going to be in Detroit next year. Before we go to break I just want to say that one of the people that we enjoyed very much having on the program this past year was when Steven Stein who is conductor in residence with the Houston Symphony visited us such a charming man and he will be conducting New Year's Eve night at Jones Hall and the What a lovely classy way to celebrate the closing of 1994 I'm sure Stephen would enjoy it if a lot of family members attended that. We have heard on high rates



Mary Helen Merzbacher 1:19:48

Hey, wake up. It's Saturday night at midnight and you thought it was bedtime. We'll just listen

to what you've been missing. The snap queens are in the house



1:19:58

ladies and gentlemen, snap your finger For after hours



1:20:08

Jodie Jodie Foster. Jody, this is Nancy. You know who this is Nancy for Don't pretend you don't know who I am. And if you're listening you know you're listening to after hours a continuing tradition here on KPFT Houston 90 point



Mary Helen Merzbacher 1:20:30

this is Sarah G with the gang at after hours, saying if you're queer, we're here Saturday night at midnight to 3am on World Radio KPFT Houston.



1:20:45

That was Ricki Lake and the Pope.



Deborah Bell 1:20:47

Well, Nancy forward just informed me that of the 25 most intriguing people in 1994. And I'm quoting to People Magazine,



1:20:58

According to People Magazine, I've got it right here. 25 most intriguing people know, out of the closet gay and lesbian people.



Deborah Bell 1:21:06

I'm so glad you qualify that as out of



1:21:09

who knows it could be 2425 No gay and lesbian people. The closest we come to having one in the 25 two in the 25 are Ricki Lake. And the Pope. And that's, that's crazy.





Deborah Bell 1:21:19

Well, he wears dresses. There you go.



1:21:21

Yeah.



1:21:23

I could name 20



Deborah Bell 1:21:24

magazine kinds of things. One of the things they like to do every now and then is to kind of check on people like where they are now. Like they used to be on some TV show like one hit wonder type. Yeah. Or you know, like Gary Coleman. Where is he now? Yeah, where is he now? We've been isn't it kind of scary that we even know who that is? It's Michael investments birthday today. Happy birthday, Michael lobue. Get a life Mother. Mother was one of my all time idols. She invented Liquid Paper Liquid Paper whiteout. He also wrote one of my favorite songs be a different drum sung by Linda Ronstadt. Okay. That's trivia here on the TDA voices. This is Deborah Bell along with and Nancy Ford. And what one of the things that happened in 1994 was Sheila Jane's cool. Who used to play Zelda on the Dobie Gillis show, which some of us remember Nancy will now perform the theme song for if you



Jack Valinski 1:22:25

watch Nick at Night usually can see it Yeah.



Deborah Bell 1:22:27

became a state representative in the state of California their first openly gay legislature



1:22:35


well Sonny Bono became a congressman let's get to now.



Deborah Bell 1:22:39

Well, Bono ticket you know, in 96, which is well Bono to that is a scary thought. Isn't it? Oxy go into Canada. But one of the things that we've done in this past year is talk about movies and TV shows and theatrical events we've had Cynthia Geyer and Brent Shockley and Javier Tablas


give us reviews about different things that have been going on in our community. And let's touch on some of the ones that appeared in 1994.

 Jack Valinski 1:23:10

Philadelphia actually opened up in 1993, but in Houston it was until January and I don't know if you got to see the preview I did. It's just like you couldn't believe it was going to be like six weeks before they arrived at Houston. And it was absolutely incredible. I remember leaving the theater and talking to Joe Watson. He really had nothing to say. I mean, that's how

 1:23:29


I leveled Yes, sir.

 Deborah Bell 1:23:30

Of course Joe's another contributed to lesbian gay voices. He came out and reviewed Philadelphia as I recall. Its significant in 1994 because of Tom Hanks winning the Academy Award indeed, and modeling that exuding acceptance speech, which, you know, he followed by Forrest Gump, which

 1:23:52


is he in his acceptance speech, he thanked two people who were most influential to his entire career to his entire life, which are two gay men. And and they were I think they were they had both succumbed to AIDS at that point. No, one of the one of them one of them was ill

 Deborah Bell 1:24:08

I was still kicking and

 1:24:12

incredible what steps

 Deborah Bell 1:24:16

I forgot what I was gonna say about about the Academy Award something Oh, they the other movie that was a summer came out in the summer was Priscilla, Queen of the Desert.

 Jack Valinski 1:24:29

Wonderful movie. Absolutely just fun. Great time. It was a it was a film on a wheeze roadshow type ailment a



1:24:37

wheeze wear mascara. It's true. It was great.



Deborah Bell 1:24:41

And and it was certainly a delight. Now of course, the surprise hit of the year had to be go fish thoroughly lesbian low budget. Rookie filmmakers rose



1:24:53

true. I actually know what was so neat about that film was it's really the first Stop offering of any gay well any lesbian film at least where the women weren't in crisis overcoming out or should I tell this woman I'm attracted to her or let you know let's drink this bottle of tequila before we can talk about it? It was it was real it was very contemporary and he always almost seems low up scenes No, no no car chases



Deborah Bell 1:25:22

it was a very real lesbian movie no



Jack Valinski 1:25:24

cars almost



Deborah Bell 1:25:26

it's pad which started our friend Julia Sweeney is appointment as far as well it



1:25:32

was a very Zen thing there was a very deep underlying message to pad which a lot of people didn't you know, get I'm sure



Deborah Bell 1:25:40

a whole show where you explain that



1:25:44

it's Pat is a great let's go rent a video kind of movie and and enjoy the nuance



Deborah Bell 1:25:50

it's harmless. Interview with a Vampire, which is currently playing one



1:25:55

could say it sucked.



Deborah Bell 1:26:00

Cruz and Brian Pitt and I think there's some homework erotica involved in that.



1:26:05

But nowhere near enough i My Biden



Deborah Bell 1:26:09

playing over at the green way this past week was Boy's Life boy's life a series of short stories about coming out as a gay man will take 18 Heavenly Creatures which is playing at the River Oaks, Donna and I saw that and Cynthia reviewed it a few weeks ago. A lot of people are saying it has a quasi lesbian theme.



1:26:31

Well, they did her makeup on her back. Yes.



Deborah Bell 1:26:35

It's a really good movie based on a true story and it definitely has a lesbian theme to it and is highly recommended. Remember, yes it is Heavenly Creatures, namely creatures and coming up I don't know if it's going to be playing before the year is over. But early next year, a man of no important story or starring Albert Finney who whose idol is Oscar Wilde in this movie, and I heard her review on National Public Radio and it sounds like it's going to be a treasure. Now on the TV scene,



1:27:11



1:27:11

my favorite subject,



Jack Valinski 1:27:13

we one of the shows that probably really touched me was MTV is where they call it real life real life Pedro Pedro and I mean it was set in San Francisco and it was a story about you know, it was sort of the the I mean the show itself is a makeup story of people living together in a wonderful place of course they couldn't afford it type of thing but the the story down to earth about somebody living with AIDS and have friends



Deborah Bell 1:27:41

dying and dying, Dad Pedro Zamora and also some



Jack Valinski 1:27:45

of the other things that MTV has done including coverage of the march including coverage of of conventions and stuff like that. They have been very positive on gaming has been issues incredibly positive. Okay,



Deborah Bell 1:27:56

the big news on TV as far as our community seem to be the lesbian kiss on Roseanne. Nobody even talked about a Halloween show they did that was queer for days. I didn't



1:28:07

see that I was working because it was Halloween and we were all Oh,



Deborah Bell 1:28:11

got to see it. It is one of the funniest shows I've ever seen. And it completely queer, daddy's girl starring Dudley Moore and Harvey Fierstein. I don't think it's still on there was a lot of excitement about having this regular gay character on a TV show. And actually, there's many more than some of us may realize, of course, they've had ongoing lesbian and gay things on Northern Exposure, including a wedding this year,



1:28:37

that new show my my so called Life has a gay T.



Jack Valinski 1:28:42

And it was like 90210 what it should be like dealing with people in school their real lives. And well,



Deborah Bell 1:28:49

not too long ago on 90210 They had lesbians, they they put together a rave, and it got sent over the Internet and accidentally got put on a lesbian bulletin board. So all these young lesbians came to this party it was it was great. They did it really wasn't



1:29:08

I invite you back. You weren't the one another young lesbian. One of the



Deborah Bell 1:29:12

main characters Kelly stripy Knight has a friend who is a lesbian who got caught in a fire with her and that was part of



1:29:22

that that show now which ones Kelly is is that Tori?



Deborah Bell 1:29:26

No, that's Kelly is the blonde. Oh, okay, played by Jenny Garth. As



1:29:31

long as it's not Tori Spelling.




Deborah Bell 1:29:33

There's a new show called Tori. Friends, which has an ongoing regular character who's a lesbian one of the main characters former wife is a lesbian and so



1:29:44


one of the characters former wife is a lesbian, his

 Deborah Bell 1:29:47

main the one of the main characters. His ex wife is a lesbian on the show left him to be with a woman but as pregnant by him. It's a fun show and they do it very well. Seinfeld of course continues to have gay characters in gay things regularly. Frasier the big surprise for me was accidentally channel surfing and coming upon Lea de Leiria. Who's a comic openly gay comment, playing a gay detective on Matlock could be a pilot

 1:30:19


when she was she's What are you making this? No, I

 Deborah Bell 1:30:23

am not making it up Nancy for it. Locally, we had Geoffrey playing over at stages. We had breaking the code, wonderful play closets, which was the Joe Watts feature that was put together in celebration of Pride Week and Stonewall. We had last flash from goat song productions and bent which played at Skylines sideline I want to say Skylab, that wouldn't have been

 Jack Valinski 1:30:49

we can't forget the commercials. The IKEA commercial.

 Deborah Bell 1:30:52


two gay guys buying a table. They have such good taste. Yes,

 Jack Valinski 1:30:56

a lot of controversy over it. It's interesting that a key is only in the major cities and they did play that commercial they had enough guts to play and also we also can't forget the Diet Coke commercial.

 1:31:08

Now, I think now I'm

 Deborah Bell 1:31:09

going out with the guy Oh, now I get a guy thing, Nancy, she haven't liked it. And of course, our friends had diverse works put on a whole series began desire with the five lesbian brothers Holly. a bunch of other things we love great year. this year. and I think that 1995 is going to be

money, a bunch of other things we love great year, this year, and I think that 2000 is going to be even greater kick in men.



1:31:34

And we



Jack Valinski 1:31:36

hope to stay on the arrows still alive. But lesbian and gay. will be joining



Deborah Bell 1:31:41

you in the early weeks of January asking for money. Nancy, any closing words?



1:31:47

Yeah, everybody have a great new year have a prosperous new year plan on attending spectrum 95 at the Astrodome a Big Gay and Lesbian consortium in June, anything at all? Well,



Jack Valinski 1:31:59

you want everybody to feel that it's okay to come out if it's right for you. And that's the most important thing. The only way we're gonna make progress right here is first feeling good about yourself before anybody else can feel good about you.



Deborah Bell 1:32:11

And maybe you can give that gay lesbian switchboard number



Jack Valinski 1:32:15

five to 930 to 11



Deborah Bell 1:32:17

Thank you to all the folks who take make lesbian and gay voices podcasts possible, especially you the listener. Thank you Mary Helen Nancy Ford, Suzanne Anderson, Rebecca Thompson, Zachary Steele, Ray Hill, Laura Newman, Jack Valinski. Deborah Bell, Cynthia Geyer, Brent Shockley, Sara dipalma, Bob early wines, Javier tamas, Cynthia Thompson Casey King and I probably forgot somebody but oh, yeah, are every lovely producer Donna going Yay. Oh, and



Jack Valinski 1:32:49

you the listeners, you're listening to KPFT Pacifica Houston See ya.



1:32:54

Right