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SPEAKERS

Jack Valinski, Deborah Bell



00:02

This is a test of the Emergency Broadcast System. The broadcasters have your area in voluntary cooperation with federal, state and local authorities have developed this system to keep you informed in the event of an emergency. If this had been an actual emergency, the attention signal you just heard would have been followed by official information news or instructions. This station KPFT serves the Houston Galveston area. This concludes this test of the Emergency Broadcast System



Jack Valinski 00:29

from Pacifica's KPFT. In Houston, this is lesbian and gay voices a show for and about the gay and lesbian community. Join us for the next two hours as we do some interviews, some gossip, some cultural events, and so many other things. This is Jack Valinski along with



Deborah Bell 00:44

this is Deborah Bell



Jack Valinski 00:45

who?



Deborah Bell 00:45

well, Deborah Bell,

J Jack Valinski 00:47

Deborah Bell back in Texas. It's so nice to have you back.

D Deborah Bell 00:50

It's nice to be back, Jack. Great. Well, in tonight's show,

J Jack Valinski 00:53

we're going to be talking to Brian Bradley, who's going to be talking about the recent case concerning the Paul Rodriguez story.

D Deborah Bell 01:01

And an interview with Judy Nelson conducted by KPFT's Paul Nash,

J Jack Valinski 01:06

and Barry Forbes are on Barry Forbes is going to be interviewing Michael Angelo singer Nelly and of course, Mary Helen with women's music. And well Deborah, it's nice to for you to be back in Texas. And you're gonna be here for a while.

D Deborah Bell 01:20

I'm intending to be here for quite some time. Like the rest of my life. I cried. When I crossed the Texas Dateline, I was so happy to be home. I enjoyed the time that I spent in Washington, DC and like many others that have gone before me, I did my stead of time there. But now I'm ready to be back in Houston and continue contributions to our community here.

J Jack Valinski 01:44

Well, that's great. And we can talk a little bit more about that in later part of the show. But first I got a song I want you to listen to.

D Deborah Bell 02:12

Well, it's good to be back together. And I do feel like this is where I belong. And part of what makes me feel I belong here are all the people that I've gotten to know in the Houston Community and worked with as an activist and one of those is with us here tonight. Brian Bradley. Brian has been involved in many things in the Houston area and was instrumental in work done in queer nation and on AIDS issues. He of course, had the case where he was fired as a nurse on offer writing room nurse and sent off to do some other job other than his training

because he's HIV positive. But the reason he's with us tonight is to talk about the verdict that has come down this week in the murder case of Paul Broussard, which is kind of eerie that it was almost two years ago. Exactly. I remember that hot summer here in Houston. Brian flat what exactly has happened this week and that verdict.

03:09

This week, we disposed of five more of the cases bring a total of nine cases having been adjudicated all with guilty verdicts. We offered the 10th and final defended a deal if you would. He's currently in the McHenry County jail on a parole violation. And he turned that down. So thus far, we've got nine out of 10, admitting guilt and receiving some sentences. The five that appeared in court this week, two were given the opportunity to play to a higher charge

J 03:40

before we see what they were what they were allowed to plead to how are these involved in the case?

03:45

Okay, these five people, these five as a whole are less culpable and cause less bodily harm to Paul and the two other victims than the other three that have already been sent in. But that's not to say that they weren't actively involved in it. There are only one person could be convicted John Buice for wielding the knife and actually stabbing Paul and causing the liver damage that he ultimately died from. Of those five, three, were less culpable. And we're allowed to plead to a higher offense though murderer with a deadly weapon at that point that allowed them to be eligible for deferred adjudication. The other two more culpable ones, we're only allowed to plead to a murder charge of a lesser degree, because that would not allow them to be access to deferred adjudication. It sounds real Kafka esque and crazy. And it sounds like we're being shoved a load of manure. But that wasn't really the case. Nancy Rodriguez Paul's mother and family members and friends played an intricate role in deciding this punishment. primary reason behind that was that at least the two more culpable ones will forever and always be known as a murderer a convicted felon a felonious A record will follow them to the ends of their life with their voting and travel restrictions and such. But all five of them were given a 10 year sentence probation, with three allowing for deferred adjudication into not, they're not eligible for any type of consideration of lessening that probation in less than five years. All of them were giving a sentence of 500 hours of community service to strictly supervised to the gay and lesbian community. And Nancy was able to choose which organizations that would be que patrol NCCR and one of their projects, that Max center perhaps, and one other that I forget right now. And that's going to have to be okayed by the probation department. They'll have to undergo psychological counseling, testing, drug abuse, and such monitoring. Three months minimum of boot camp, they are all in jail right now went directly from the court to the jail to await a slot in the boot camp, their time in the boot camp will not be less than about the amount of time they spend in jail awaiting \$1,900 of restitution to the family and the family has elected not to take that money, but to give it to the gay and lesbian community. Quite a few other things, a curfew for six months of they must attend 12 meetings over the course of one year of the group murdered, parents of murdered children,

maintain full time employment, so on and so forth. But the biggest thing that we got out of it was that for 10 years, they will be closely watched, and should they do any crime and come front of the judge for that offense. They then in turn, will go back in front of Judge Brian Raines and be able to be sentenced for Paul's murder anywhere from one day to 99 years. So they must be squeaky clean. And it's thought that of these five, a good three of them probably will be seeing judge Raines or another judge very soon.

D

Deborah Bell 06:59

Brian, I have two questions One has to do with do you think that these young men can be rehabilitated and that they do have remorse and are sorry about what happened and will become decent citizens? I guess there's some hope for redemption there. And the other thing that you mentioned was that Nancy Rodriguez, Paul's mother was satisfied with the terms that have developed and the input from the community that allowed these sentences to take place. How exactly does that work? If you're a victim or your family of a victim? How do you get involved and have say so in the court system? Because isn't that part of what happened with this case?

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07:46

It is a part of what happened. Actually, according to Andy Kahn with the mayor's Victims Assistance Program, he has been with the family throughout this whole ordeal, he wrote and read to the press, a very eloquent gay and lesbian positive document about what abuse that we put up with daily from harassment to murder, and how that should be socially unacceptable. And he pointed out to us His words, that this was a landmark decision and as far as he knows, and other people with victims assistance groups, no, this is a first ever in Texas where victim's family and friends were able to play such a large part in the decision making body of or decision making process of the punishment. And it's my opinion, you might not get the judge to admit this with the prosecutor to admit this. That's a direct result of continued 23 months of pressure by several people and the threat of the gay and lesbian community turning out in the huge numbers that we did, not only for the original March, but the one year commemoration March, the march in The Woodlands, the protest that organized down at the courthouse in January, the judge has changed his opinion. He kicked back, put his feet up, took his coat off and said I got all the time in the world for this to be worked out. Because he did not want to be seen nor did the Prosecutor Mike Anderson want to be seen as not considering our failings as in what they were asking one time. Why are you making Miss Rodriguez be the prosecutor and the judge in this? It said loudly and clearly. If you become involved in you're persistent and you're right in which we have been, it'll pay off, maybe not as much as it would for our strike counterparts. But we all know about being second class citizens anyway. As far as they're being re rehabilitated or being remorseful of the 10 defendants in the nine now guilty, legal murderers. Only one and their parent in that person's parents Brian spied has shown any remorse or made any apology. That day in court Tuesday was perhaps one of the roughest days of my life. I had to get up and leave the court on more than one occasion. The courtroom. The defendant sat there and smiled and laughed and giggled and their girlfriend smiled and laughed and giggled their parents did they all had an attitude of how dare you put us through the inconvenience of having to come down here and sit and put up with this? Nancy myself, Scott Lewis, who's actually been more involved with this than anyone else, went to lunch and came back to representative from the mayor's office, we were all together, Nancy walks down

the hall clearly identified as a woman who's greatly upset about the murder of her child. And she is hissed in booted empowered bitch, and all kinds of things by the defendants and their girlfriends and family members. I sincerely doubt that they are remorse, or no, they're not remorseful. And I sincerely doubt that they are worthy of our consideration as far as attempting to rehabilitate them to far too many people out there that can be rehabilitated. And I'm not so sure that these kids can, I think they're, they're gone already. And they're 19. How might

 Deborah Bell 10:56

that affect their work within the gay and lesbian community? That's part of their sentencing?

 11:01

Well, the judge heard the request, that they come and see what gay and lesbian men and women look like, and act like and how they feel, and that it was essential that they experience part of our lives. And perhaps they'll see that most graphically walking on the Q Patrol, having been a founding member of the Q Patrol, the first night out, I was hitting the back with something, if they let these guys be on the other side of the road, if you will, there are going to be strictly supervised, they're not going to be able to come into our community organizations and, and just serve their time, they're going to have to be sincere about it, or the probation officer is going to know it. And that's they're going to be right back there in front of the judge. And if they're not careful, they'll be behind bars where I think they really should be?

 Jack Valinski 11:50

Well, the question is, if they're behind bars, would that allow them to be out quicker, number one, and number two, if they're behind bars, they don't, they would never get the sense of what the community's like, or they would never get the sense of that they can't make a mistake. I mean, like making mistake and then being thrown back in jail again, this is like, because there was so much pressure on this case, that that they're trying to live up to a standard and show the community that this is a fair court system.

 12:20

And I think the result of that coming about was what our pressure, hopefully my hope is, I'm gonna hope I'm not so cynical and jaded that they won't be able to come out of this having learned something and not repeat this, again, I'm just fearful that their attitude is so firmly ingrained that they will do whatever it is they have to do for the period of time. And then they'll revert back right back to it. My mother and I were talking last night, and she was saying how fearful she'd become of young people. These kids were not born this way. They were taught this way. And in the most charitable of senses, maybe they can be untaught. But it's going to take some real close supervision. As far as if they had went to, there's a lot of concern, you know, that they got off easy and such as that it is my feeling. And many legal experts that I've talked to, it's their feeling that these guys did get less overall than someone from the general public would have gotten for killing someone, you know, from the general public that did get less time. Once again, that takes us back to the fact that we all know we're second class

citizens. And even when we're being treated better than we hired in the past, we're still second class citizens. In order to have gotten more we would have had to take this to trial, got a guilty verdict that happening was not too definite. Then on top of that, we'd have had to have a jury that would have at SST a high enough punishment to override everything that they got in this. And I just quite simply don't think that's realistic considering the general homophobia in society and the Texas judicial system. And then you throw in the fact that people that are sentenced to Texas prisons spend such a small fraction of their actual sentence in there.

J Jack Valinski 13:56

You're listening to gay and lesbian voices. And this is Jack Valinski, along with

D Deborah Bell 13:59

Deborah bell. And just to wrap up, Brian, I want to ask you, then how should we as gays and lesbians in the community who may encounter these young men, deal with them? What would be your suggestion?

14:11

Well, not not to be the cliche, but out and proud as our logo this year is the most important thing. And when we are victimized, we need to we need to stand up and immediately do something about it then, and if we're not asked to be a part of the process, make ourselves a part of process be contentious and upfront about our rights and demand it and be there every step of the way. And folks begin to listen, it was it was seen in this case.

D Deborah Bell 14:35

You think we've made inroads such as working with the police department.

14:39

I know we have I've seen that personally happen. Just look look at the media and the general public what they have heard from us following Paul's death. They know what hate crimes is now we got a very weak House bill that year passed about hate crimes this year a stronger one was presented. You know our issues are being addressed because we are making them other people's issues.

J Jack Valinski 15:00

The incredible thing is that there was a picture on the front page of the Chronicle, the story was very further down the post the story and the picture was on the front page. It was the top item in a couple of TV newscast. And that used to never happen before. It never



15:13

happened until you really saw queer nation getting out there and, and just doing their stuff. And even the folks who've been out there for years, and being largely ignored by the media, people are covering their stories now. And the world is realizing we're everywhere. And we are everybody. And slowly but surely, they're coming around to acting the way they should. But they're not doing that, because they're just good folks. They're doing that because we're demanding it. We're not being given our rights, we're taking our rights. You know, folks went to Washington, DC this year, excuse me. And I think they came back to various parts of the country going, I'm not going to take this anymore. And when they stand up and don't do it, things are a heck of a lot easier. It's easier to be out than in.



D Deborah Bell 15:59

Well, of course, this was a hate crime. And we've become more knowledgeable about what all is involved in hate crimes. And, of course, the Q Patrol was performed, was formed as a result reform. I mean, I know. And of course, I've been out of touch over the last nine months of being away to know exactly what the activities are with the Q patrol. So let's give them a bit of a plug. How would someone get involved in what exactly does the Q patrol do?



16:26

We have the Q patrol was formed after Paul's murder to largely monitor the bar area and then surrounding area of Montrose for hate crimes we they patrol the streets with uniforms, take down license plates, members of people who throw things or say things, turn that into the place work closely with them been responsible for apprehend and several people with guns that have been firing. And they get license plates, number of people that have said things in for like, once they've done that three times they send them a postcard in the mail. It's just given one more layer of protection to the people who come there. But they are in desperate need of volunteers. It's still such a everybody loves it. They're good. They're glad they're there. But once again, it's like well in you should be because that's your job. They need volunteers desperately. I don't have their number in the top of my head right now.



J Jack Valinski 17:18

But you can call the switchboard at 2529 3211. Well, actually, that's one of the unfortunate thing about most of our organization is there's a lot of good service like the switchboard switchboards. Another example that we had the other



17:29

organization that Nancy wants these men to add to do some service and also,



J Jack Valinski 17:34

JACK VALINSKI 17:15

and we have these organizations, but we don't always have the people to staff, the organizations to do the work that they're supposed to be doing.

D

Deborah Bell 17:41

What is the status of hate crimes in the gay lesbian community now in Houston? Has there been a tracking I believe the switchboard has a hotline now for hate crime?

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17:52

That's correct. But still, it's my understanding that the Houston Police Department as other municipalities throughout the state, they're not really adhering to the federal dictates of keeping up with the statistics to come through. I think it's still something that Sam Nucci considers not that important at all. But hopefully that doesn't send a message to anybody out there that's victimized to any degree to not report it. They need to report it to the switchboard. They need to report it to the police department. And unfortunately, it's not fair. But they have to be doggedly persistent in saying that they're addressed. I've been down to homicides on more than one occasion with a person of victim. We're papers weren't filled out at all. There are reports weren't taken, the reports weren't filed. Okay. They call me go down there with Dan. Everything's done proper. Well, I'm sorry, everyone shouldn't have to have someone else to go down there with them. But they have to stay with it. They have to stick with it. One of the best things they could do is if you're a hate crime victim in Houston, file your report to police department but also called the mayor's Assistance Office, tell Mr. Andy Kahn, what's happened to you and let him know about it. Also, that office that part of the mayor's office has really been active and and very supportive of all victims of crime. And gay and lesbian people are to their to get to that office are just as important as anyone else.

J

Jack Valinski 19:15

Brian, I'd like to thank you for coming by this evening and talking to us and congratulations on being named Grand Marshal for the Lesbian Gay Pride Week celebration.

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19:23

Thank you very much for both.

J

Jack Valinski 19:25

And are you also doing after hours?

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19:28

He's still doing that. Yes

J

Jack Valinski 19:29

doing it after hours is on midnight to 3am Saturday night Sunday morning. You're listening to lesbian gay voices. This is Jack Valinski and Deborah Bell and we'll be back in the next half hour with some women's music not we will be back Marie hammer will be back.

♀

19:53

It's only Friday, but it's never too early to plan for Monday. Hi, Kyle Huggins here, marked down six to 8am Begin your week with World Radio Morning News on 90.1 FM. We'll be talking big oil the election the art scene and lots more news interviews traffic weather local state global it's all coming Monday six to 8am World Radio Morning News my 90.1 FM KPFT

♀

20:23

Hi, this is so long staff therapist at the Montrose Counseling Center inviting you to join us for the Women's Network. The Women's Network is an open group meeting for lesbian and bisexual women and women sensitive to their issues. It's a safe place to join with other women to network. Hear speakers talk about issues of interest to the lesbian and bisexual community and to share experiences. The Women's Network meets the second and fourth Wednesday evenings of each month from seven to nine at the Montrose Counseling Center's new home located at 701 Richmond for a schedule of topics to be presented call 5290037 Hope to see you there

♀

21:17

rolling long I'm

♀

21:31

so hungry. Get sharp dig in the ground. Don't keep digging taboos. Rory block one of the many artists that are part of the sounds of Texas and the world, nine to three every weekday tune in for a unique blend of music. I'm Cindy Friedman. Join us for the sounds of Texas and the world middays on KPFT World Radio 90.1 FM

♀

22:12

then 90.1 FM is also the place for the sounds of lesbian and gay voices. All part of World Radio 90.1 You can hear lesbian and gay voices every Friday night from six to eight. My name is Mary Helen and I do the women's music segment from 630 to 650. Are there proximately there about somewhere and so as you may have figured out it is 630 and summers coming along just fine about 90 degrees outside right now. And so I decided well, tonight would be an appropriate

time to start playing music of summertime. Songs that particularly remind me of summer and I've got a few of them lined up for you tonight. So I hope that you'll stay tuned and listen to songs about the beach. The water you know



23:39

Wait a minute. That's not women's music. No, no, no, no. This is supposed to be women's music segment we'll try something



23:59

Joan Armatrading may mio beach. Another beach. Well, who's that girl with the pink surfboard?



24:18

Gun gun gun gun gun gun that's Petey Smith, with Redondo Beach and not Smyth either. Smith. And before that you heard Jane slippery Canadian Jane Sebree with me on the beach and we started the beach set off with Joan Armatrading with mom my meal beach and we all liked the beach here in Texas and sometimes we wish it was a little cleaner. And maybe we can do something about that when we get a chance. Do your part. Don't litter on our beaches? Hey, stay tuned because coming up in about 10 minutes. KPFT is Paula Nast will interview Judy Nelson of Who's recently published a book you may know about? About her relationship with M A R T I N A, one of our most favorite people here on gay and lesbian voices, Martina Navratilova. It's about oh, a little more than a little less than a quarter before seven o'clock My name is Mary Helen you're listening to 90.1 FM KPFT World Radio Pacifica in Houston and we're gonna go now stuck we're still at the beach okay. And this is Frank and her idea of what's cooking down by the waves



25:38

me



25:53

do us



26:02

I watched you standing by the door Love Me Do us



26:25

we could read to get why allowed wildflower the grow in mind. He would take you everywhere I

go. So I say me too. You will make your dreams come true. You love me, do you?



27:41

Linda Ronstadt brought me on the water. 90.1 FM is where you heard it. KPFT. And that's about it for the women's music segment of lesbian and gay voices. But stay tuned. Paula Nast is going to talk with Judy Nelson. Martina Navratilova's ex wife. And we'll have that interview. It's coming up right now on your local community station. Listener supported KPFT World Radio 90.1 FM



28:18

Martina began seeing someone else while she was still with you. You probably felt terribly betrayed, didn't you?



28:25

I want to say something and address this only to a small extent and that is that within our relationship, I believe that Martina was entirely and truly monogamous. Do I want to say yes, I really do believe that. If Martina indeed had or did feel something for someone else, she certainly did not act on that while she was with me. But I think that it's probably safe to say simply by the facts. Martina does not usually leave someone without having someone else waiting. But you know, what somebody pointed out to me the other day. And I think it's fair to say here that, you know, we're a lot all alike that it would all we would all probably be better if we walk out of a relationship and give yourself some time and so on and so forth. But most of us are that way. You know, when one finishes we've got another one waiting or so on and so forth. So that's not at all unusual. But it is you know, it's tough. Sure. Because I know that I heard this before that maybe that made her vengeful that you know she was seeing someone else and Judy wanted to get back at or you know, and that kind of thing. So that really never entered into the equation at all. No, I don't think that I think that if there was anything at all, I mean, certainly the lawsuit was not it was not getting back at Martina that was taking care of me. And as far as I was concerned that what made her made Martina angry about that was that she didn't think I would. I mean, if you look at it, and I thought if I followed the pattern of being the good girl that she knew me to be, then what I would do would be to sort of ride off into the sunset, go back home to my parents and my kids, and say, you know, boy, that was just a wonderful relationship. Wasn't that great? And, and Martina, I think expected that because if she had no reason to think anything else, because that way, you see, she would still like me, you know, and I need for people to reinforce, you know, liquid all I did for you. Look what all I gave to you look how much I loved you. And I needed her to love me back still, I don't want I don't want to live with you anymore. You know, but I still love you and appreciate you and you're a good person. And I think she depended on that. And when I didn't, it shocked her. I think she was truly shocked. And I think that's when she lashed out at me not for any other reason. And, and I knew I mean, I was, I looked at it long enough to know that if I didn't do that, if I didn't do what I thought was fair to me, because we had spelled out our responsibilities to one another. If I didn't look at that and address it. Now, I'm not saying that we had to do exactly what that contract called for. I never ever said that. All I wanted her to do was sit down and talk to me and spell out the responsibilities and say, well, then what's fair, what works for

both of us? And she wouldn't do that. And when she wouldn't do it, I had no choice. But to say, wait a minute, then we have this contract, and you're going to have to sit down and talk so she wouldn't come to the table? No, you will or stellar. That's right. Absolutely. I was.



31:55

Let's back. How did that document come about? I mean, were you just for the benefit of our listeners? Read the book. Yeah. And it kind of around one night saying, hey, let's



32:06

actually, you know, people talk about a prenuptial agreement or whatever. This was not prenuptial. This was two years into the relationship. You know, we had, we had made a commitment to one another, I think we both thought we would live with each other the rest of our lives. I mean, we certainly that was our intent. It was suggested to us early on by her agent, and others that we have some sort of an agreement between us. I think there have been conflicts in Martinez life before, where she didn't have an agreement, and there were problems. So they thought this, this would be business wise, it would be a good idea. We finally talked about it and decided, you know, there are no legal structures for homosexual couples, you know, nothing is there to provide it for us one way or another. So I think we decided that it would be best to sit down and spell out those responsibilities. And that's exactly what we did. You know, and that's how it came about. And I don't think it's unusual either. And now, I'll come to her defense, again, one more time, a little bit, not a lot. That it's not unusual that when you break up with somebody, when that relationship is over, and you're not like really madly in love with them anymore, then all of a sudden, whatever you thought was fair, when you loved them a lot, all of a sudden doesn't seem so fair. That happens, you know, and I can I can understand that. But really, all I wanted her to do was sit down with me at a table and talk to me face to face. I didn't want to go through her manager. I didn't want to go through her attorneys. I wanted us to sit down and talk about it. Ultimately, I think much to our credit, we were able to do that. But it just took a long time to get there.



33:53

Certainly did you have to go through quite a lot. Yeah. Do you ever? Did you ever think she instead of having a paralegal being Sizemore? She was the one that was there that you know, she got that from the library? Do you ever think I should have done it through a lawyer we should



34:07

absolutely do that. My suggestion would be to, to homosexual couples out there is number one, you know, if this brings to focus anything at all, perhaps something good from it is that you should look at your relationships and decide what your responsibilities are to one another. Because the legal system doesn't provide it for you. So I would suggest that to everybody that makes a commitment in a relationship. And it doesn't have to be how we did it. It doesn't have to be on your own terms, depending on what each is doing and putting into that

relationship. But certainly if one is in the caretaker role, that's a valuable role. Don't ever get me wrong. It is but on the other hand, it's also important I think, to get some legal counseling. We did what we thought would work. And ultimately, it was going to be challenged because we didn't have attorneys there. But you know what, you know, I come from, from a school that says A deal's a deal. You know, if you shake your hand and say, I bet you \$1. You know, we used to have to pay that dollar off. I don't know if you can relate to that or not, but that's what I was taught. And so I think that, you know, I certainly expected Martina to uphold the fact that we had an agreement and to recognize it. And if she wasn't going to then I needed to see if if indeed the the court system in Texas would uphold to women having an agreement and especially to women that lived together. You know, I was willing to see if, if that could happen, because I was told it might not. You know,

35:55

would you ever get back together with Martina just a water under the bridge, it's another life and we've closed that door. I

36:00

think I've closed that door. But you know, I still love Martina. And I think that you know, that's so hypothetical because they just in my wildest dreams, I know that she would never ever come back. I think I damaged her. I challenged her to hard to fiercely to publicly for ever come back. But on the other hand, if if, by some remote chance she were to come back, we would both be different people. And it would be on different terms. You know? Yeah, I come a long way, baby.

36:37

Yeah, so things have really changed for you. So what does the future hold for you? Let's end on a positive.

36:44

Yeah, yeah, the future is that finally I think that after 47 years, I really am my own person. I really am authentic. I'm just who I am. And you either get it or you don't. And that's okay. You see the good in me and you see the bad I put it right out there. I put it in the book. That was tough. Even my mother looked at and she said Honey, you don't have to tell the people all these things. You said it's okay. If you take care of if you're a caretaker. It's okay. And, and I think that, you know, even even even being willing to write it, being willing to put it out there knowing that some people are going to come at me and say, Aren't you exploiting Martina? Isn't this a you know, a sort of negative thing that you're doing? I was willing to take that on and, and and not be wonderful again. It's made me grow and I think that that like I say for the first time in my life, I really am just me the good and the bad. You're I am

Jack Valinski 37:59

you're listening to KPFT Houston.



38:07

On behalf of the staff, the volunteers and the 1000s of listeners just like you who enjoy World Radio 90.1 FM KPFT wants to thank all of you who made pledges during our spring membership drive. And if you haven't already done so take a moment and send in your pledge check today. If you have any questions about your pledge, call our membership department at 526 4000 and thanks again for helping listener supported KPFT remain the thoughtful alternative in Houston radio.



J Jack Valinski 38:35

This is lesbian and gay voices here on Pacifica's KPFT Houston. This is Jack lynskey and Deborah Bell and welcome to the second hour of our show. We're going to be talking to Deborah Bell this hour coming back from Washington. Also, we're going to be listening to an interview that Barry Forbes did with Michael Angelo singer anelli, author of queer in America, it's the second part of his interview. Also, we do have a module from this way out, which we'll be playing in the next half hour. Deborah, it's great to be back for you, isn't it?



D Deborah Bell 39:05

Yes, it is. But it was quite an experience working in Washington DC I'm really glad to be back. And I am still adjusting to having gone through the experience that I have and then being back and seeing familiar, friendly faces.



J Jack Valinski 39:25

Okay, well, we'll talk more about that. But first let's listen to our friends romanovski and Philips. Romanovsky in Philips, one of the enemies and this song comes off the feeding the flame album which is a wonderful collection of a number of different songs by male artist which a lot of us don't know too many of gay and lesbian gay artist A very nice song by them, we're going to listen to an interview that Barry Forbes does, you know, he occasionally he comes out of his White Tower here at KPFT. And if anybody know what our studios look like, you know, we don't have this big white tower upstairs. But Barry Forbes is our general manager here at KPFT. But he occasionally he gets time to do some interviews. And this he interview with Michelangelo Signorile the author of Queer in America.



40:27

Well, in the book itself, you really broke down the, what you call the trinity of the closet, basically focusing on the media, primarily based in New York, politics based in DC, and the entertainment industry based in Hollywood. And you also were quite forward and saying that the book is going to be about people trapped in the closet, people who have escaped the closet

and people who worried about breaking down who are working to end the tyranny of the closet, what is the closet? What what are you striving for? Well, the closet, I think, is something we're just coming to terms with in the mainstream having a discussion about in the in America, and I think the gays in the military issue is probably bringing forth that first discussion of the closet. People thought, you know, my first sentence in the book says that there's a conspiracy to keep everyone in the closet, and people six months ago, some people thought that was completely out to lunch. And when you look now at what Sam Nunn is doing, it is a conspiracy to keep people in the closet. To me, the closet is misunderstood by many heterosexuals. And I think I think a lot of gay people to people tend to be taught that the closet is someplace we decided to go into when we got older, and that we have a right to be there, that it's a great little place for us to seek refuge, and that we chose to go there. The truth is that we were forced into the closet as children with no choice, and that we exist there against our will. And that if there's any right we have, it's to be out of the closet, not in it. A lot of the information that you gather was, was most of it was firsthand some of second hand or third hand, do you feel comfortable and presenting that as fat in the course of the book, I think that you have to make your own decisions as a journalist as to what you think is a proper source, and what you think is trustworthy information. Sometimes when information is second hand, for instance, if I decide to use it, it's because I actually have other first hand information. But perhaps for legal reasons or sourcing reasons, sources, not wanting to be even anonymously quoted. You don't bring them forth, but you're confident that the information is true. So you you present what sources you do have, even if they might be second hand or third hand, and you leave it to the reader to decide whether or not they think I mean, I think what I what I did in a lot of cases was simply present the information and the attitude was sort of okay, here's the information, you decide, rather than forcing it and saying, Look, this is ironclad, this is exactly what's happening. I think that's the way you have to present that kind of information. How many people did you have working for you or working with you researching the information? I really have worked by myself. I had a couple of interns who did a lot of information gathering with sort of through newspapers, magazines, Nexus doing Nexus searches, but not as much as as I did myself. I mean, I think I spent, you know, enormous amount of time sitting behind a computer doing Nexus searches. And certainly out there interviewing people. It was really just me. I mean, I spent 12 hours a day for a year and a half just doing that. In one passage on page one on day one, you say of right wing, Republican Congressman John Hinson that he railed against homosexuality on the floor of the house. Is that true? That was what I had read in several accounts when I did some background information on him. And, in fact, Deb price, I believe in the column that she quotes him. In had also written that that he had railed against homosexuals on the floor of the house. But you didn't research that with the Congressional Record? No, I did not. Okay. I just spoke with John last Friday, and saying that that's not true at all. That's not true at all. In fact, the one time that a gay related bill came up on the floor, he took a walk, and he's on record for being the entire day as being accounted for except for that one vote. Well, that's an instance again, where we, as journalists tend to probably trust too much and other journalists and I tried to talk to John Henson. Now, if John Henson would have spoken to me, I would have known firsthand that John Henson, not only never railed against homosexuals, but would have had the interesting angle that the media now wants to portray him as that as being a self loathing homosexual, who railed against homosexuals, and I would have had an even more interesting story about the media's homophobia, again. Without him speaking to me, it was difficult for me to know that and I was going by trusted media reports. Deb price is a very respected openly gay reporter and a lot of the other reports that I had read said that I wish John had spoken to me. But instead of ignoring the subject, you relied on secondhand information from other journalists, right, right. Okay. In the last section in the epilogue, you talk about the rising influence of gays and lesbians in high technology. Do you really feel as you said in the book that high technology were assumed shape, the the trinity of

the closet, the media, politics, entertainment, I think it is already. In fact, Newsweek, this week has a huge story on the front page called Interactive, that's just the name. And it's all about how much of much of our lives are going to be rely on interactive media, which is Silicon Valley, interacting with so many of the other power structures, and with so many gay people in that industry, I think the gay movement is going to benefit from that. The book ends with what you call a queer manifesto. Is that kind of a queer calling to arms? It is it's a it's a way for me to tell, not just lesbian and gay people out there, but it's directed toward four different groups. All all gay people, the religious right, sympathetic straights, and all gay activists. And it's basically my way of saying, you know, I think what we all should focus on is the closet that too many times we focus on so many other tangential issues, or we in we have so much infighting. And I think that if we could just drop all that for even, you know, a month, and then we all focused on the closet, we'd get so much done. Do you consider yourself to be homosexual, gay, or queer? And what's the difference? Um, I think that there, there are differences in the use of the word, although to be quite honest, I think in some sense, I'm all of those things in one. And I, I definitely use the word queer, for instance, in that way, I don't apply it just to certain kinds of activists or radicals, or people of the younger generation, I interchange it with gay, lesbian and homosexual. But there are times of course, when one of those words is better than the others. And I think there are times when each of us is one of those words, more than the others. There are times when I'm a homosexual, I think and there are times when I'm a queer, and there are times when I'm simply just plain old gay. So I think we all have that. Your first encounter with activism was in 1987. And then of course of three years, he rose to national prominence in terms of the outing. How have you grown since that time? Well, I think I've started to think about reaching a larger group of people and realizing how then strategically to go about that, I felt that back then I was really at a sort of ground zero of an explosion. And that using anger was an incredible tool to get all those people together, and to really move people to action, who agreed with what I was saying. But now I realize that the larger task of actually changing the minds of people who don't agree, anger does not work in that way. It only alienates. And so, I've found that, especially in writing this book, The best way to do that is to present logical, clear rational arguments. And so in a sense, I guess, I'm not any less angry



49:09

as a person, but I think what I am learning is that sometimes I have to temper that in order to reach certain people. One of the observations you made was that the gay movement is irrevocably twined with the religious right movement. And yet the religious right movement is not motivated by logic, it appears by emotion, will logic prevail over emotion? I think that the logic will prevail over motion in the public arena. It'll never appeal to those people on the religious right. What I mean by that is that by talking right to them directly on a personal level, trying to appeal to them, we're wasting our time. What we have to do is really get our message out into the public arena of the larger American public and let them make up the decision because for them logic does, does overpower emotion and they will make up their minds. But But what we have to do is present the truth and refute every one of the rights arguments instead of what I think we have a tendency to do is to ignore their arguments, hoping people don't believe them. I don't think that works. I think we have to refute every one of their heinous lies. Is this book queer in American aimed at people who are homosexual, gay or and queer, or a broader audience? I think it's aimed at people who are just coming to terms with whether they're homosexual, gay or queer. I think I really wrote it in the spirit of the people out there, who are not the hardcore activists, although they're loving it, because they see themselves in the book, and then they're validated by it. And I think they see their energy out there. But I really was writing it in the vein of the people who are just coming out of the closet, or just being

politicized. Maybe they may be, you know, people who've maybe been out for a few years, but they've never really thought about politics. They're just looking at what they are. Am I gay? Am I homosexual, mi queer. What is this whole queer thing about? What is the closet about what's going on? I'm trying to read some people who are asking a lot of questions to give them a lot of answers that I believe might help them. Michael Michelangelo's in your rally, thank you very much for being us today. The book is called queer and American sex, the media and the costs of power. For World Radio News. I'm very Forbes,

J Jack Valinski 51:43

the old closet thing.

D Deborah Bell 51:46

The closet is not a refuge, it's a prison.

J Jack Valinski 51:49

Well, Deborah, it is so nice to have you back in town. I don't want to sound repetitive. But what was your experience like up there?

D Deborah Bell 51:57

It was without a doubt.

J Jack Valinski 51:59

Wait a minute, let's first say you were national coordinator for the Yeah,

D Deborah Bell 52:02

I had several different titles. The title I was hired under was national organizing facilitator. And then that kind of got changed to Grand diva of the universe. But just feel that the Oh, certainly okay, I still have it. The end in the working title I ended up with was national organizer. And the nine months band included me coming into an office that was pretty bare, with one other person who was working full time in a non paid position. And that was Billy Heilmann, who was one of the co chairs of the march. And when I heard that song that Romanovsky and Phillips were singing about one of the enemy. Billy is a teacher in the Pittsburgh School System, and he is out. So he's not pretending to be one of the enemy for the kids in Pittsburgh. And we we took care of just about everything there was to take care of between the months of August till the end of the year. And that included national steering committees and executive committees, which were meeting the phone system setting up the office recruiting volunteers, I worked quite actively with the host committee in DC who are very blessed people because they really

had a lot on their shoulders to, to host that event. And there were really some wonderful people. And I was very rewarded by that work in January, along with the inaugural parties and events that took place, which

J Jack Valinski 53:42

was a smaller event. Yes.

D Deborah Bell 53:45

Which was very exciting for us. I mean, when that helicopter with Bush went up, you know, on the day that Clinton was sworn in, I was just a waving by by George. And somebody says, well, but you know, that means he's in Houston, and that's where you'll be. And I said, Yeah, but I rather have him there than in the White House

J Jack Valinski 54:07

was they closed on that street.

D Deborah Bell 54:11

And there were a lot of activities around the inauguration and that included the gay and lesbian community. And suddenly the march took off, everyone got really excited. The whole issue about gays in the military drew in more attention. Having gays and lesbians that had been active in the campaign brought a new energy and having people such as David Mitzner involved who is an adviser to the president. And also other people that were on the executive committee, left their homes and came to Washington DC people from Alaska and Georgia and Florida and Illinois. Suddenly were there working in the office as well. Well, we went a long time without having additional paid staff. And so almost everything that was done for the march was done in completely a volunteer capacity. And that is right up to the day of the March with the performers. And everything that people saw that was done totally by volunteers. There was money that had to go for big screen televisions and for equipment. And a lot of the support that came into the march came in late in the game, like a month or two out, suddenly people realized that it was going to be something hot and big and exciting. And they got on board. And unfortunately, it which I mean, it made it hard for the March that early on, we didn't have that kind of supportive visibility. And then the I don't know where to go with this except to bring people up to the day of the March on April 25. Let me have worded and well, I was gonna, I was hoping you would actually ask me some questions, but but I do have the official statement concerning the count, because, you know, the March organizers estimated that there was probably a million plus people there at the March and the media kept reporting or because the Park Service counted only 300,000. And the reason for that is because lesbians and bisexuals are invisible.

J Jack Valinski 56:26

Oh okay. Okay. Yes. That's Yes. We all know about that. So what do you want to ask now? Well

Um, okay. Okay. Yes, that's right. So what do you want to ask me? Well, this experience of being in such involved in such a major thing, probably one of the most major things that happened to our community. How do you feel about that? I mean, being right there in the forefront. I mean, I actually though, I guess as seeing that, you probably saw a lot of problems, a lot of things that you wished, went a little bit differently, that a lot of us probably wouldn't, probably didn't notice.

 **Deborah Bell 56:56**

It. It was amazing to me, especially when people from home would come up to me and say how wonderful it was and how it was the most fantastic thing that they'd ever seen. And I knew that there were a lot of problems. And for most people that were there, the day of the March, they saw the numbers of people. And they saw the incredible shows that went on. There was the the afternoon rally was broadcast on television. But there was also a rally in the morning. And when you were talking about not very many of gay entertainers, they mostly seem to be lesbians. We had all day stages of gays and lesbians. And I think the reason a few straight supporters in there, entertainers,

 **Jack Valinski 57:43**

the amazing thing about the stages was one it kept on going never never stopped. The other thing was the diversity.

 **Deborah Bell 57:49**

Yes. And we worked very hard all through the march organizing to have 50% participation by people of color and 50% participation by women. Of course, some people think, maybe even went overboard a little bit. But we have a diverse community. And we many of us have diverse opinions, we don't all agree on the same thing. And we tried to allow for that. Even in the formulation of the platform. It was that we all had a voice about what our community was about. And the march was for everyone. And it wasn't just one thing. And it was people coming together. The most incredible thing to me is the way people came forward and made their contribution in whatever way they could. That helped out that day. Some people may have just passed out pamphlets and other people were there doing the sound system and other people were doing security. And I had one volunteer who stayed at our volunteer check in tent the whole day and didn't really get to participate in the march and but him doing that allowed me to be free or to do some other things I needed to take care of. And so it was just incredible, the way people came forward and made their contributions. So I was very rewarded by that. And about the people that I got to know.

 **Jack Valinski 59:09**

It was absolutely incredible. I mean, it was certainly an event of a lifetime. And in a sense. I mean, on a personal level at seven Wentworth meant more to me because that was my first march of any type of stature like that, other than our pride events that happen every year.

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Deborah Bell 59:22

You think Pride Week is a lot. I mean, this is like everybody's Pride Week, come together. So and of course our community is a demanding community. So, you know, there were some issues around that. But all in all, I mean, it topped 8787 It was really special for me too, and it was hard to believe there could be anything that would top it but having been an essential part of this whole event and know that my contribution helped make it a success means a lot to me. You're listening

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Jack Valinski 59:50

to lesbian and gay voices and we're going to take a little station break

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1:00:10

Armstrong, Ellington, Holliday, Parker, and Davis. Some of the milestones along the dynamic continuum in jazz. Join me miles Willis, as we touch upon these and other points of interest will also keep up with new markers being set by today's young practitioners of jazz is straight ahead tradition by Winton, Marcellus and Marcus Roberts. Tune into milestones every Monday evening from eight to 10pm and let the music take you away on KPFT 90.1 FM

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1:00:52

this is a point of pride a minute of gay and lesbian history. In December 1981, the gay and lesbian switchboard of Houston went online to give out information and referrals within our community. Over the years, hundreds of volunteers spent 1000s of hours answering questions or providing a sympathetic ear to some people who just wanted to talk to another gay or lesbian person. The switchboard acts as an information center for gay and lesbian visitors to Houston and to referral source to organization, social groups and medical and business professionals call the switchboard at 5293211 Any day from three until midnight for more information or specific questions. 5293211. This has been a point of pride, a public service announcement from the gay and lesbian switchboard of Houston, proudly on the line for you since 1981.

J

Jack Valinski 1:01:47

You're listening to lesbian and gay voices. But next hour, on the top of the hour, the BBC News will be coming your way live from London right after that. And greenery will be here with off the clock. And want to remind you that after hours is on from midnight to 3am. Saturday night, Sunday morning. There's a number of topics we want to touch in the next half hour, including the elections, which we all want you to go out early and often to vote tomorrow. Other things are going on Pride Week is coming up the Texas observer isn't really special issue that you really need to pick up and read because a lot of your favorite people that you've heard on this show are in that publication to talk about. But let's continue on with our discussion with Deborah. It's really interesting and to be on something you've been involved, you've been co

chair of Pride Week, and you've been involved in many things here in Houston and Texas, both with the Lesbian Gay community and the women's community. How did this differ is was there a difference?

D Deborah Bell 1:02:43

There is a real difference in Washington DC and and I've expressed to other people that a lot of people go and spend periods of time in Washington, DC. And I really urge everyone to, at some time go there for a visit. Because it is our capital city. And I think it we all feel that that it's not just the city somewhere else, but it does belong to this country. And the the museums and the history that's there is is so incredible. And it's there's a lot of energy and excitement. And different people go there and make contributions over time. And of course, thanks to the 1987 March, we have incredibly strong national organizations that are working for our benefit that we need to support and be part of, such as the National Gay and Lesbian taskforce and the text of the astor's, they've been Texas human rights, the Human Rights Campaign fund. And there's also a lot of AIDS organizations and like that are operating on a national level. Now there is this little bit of a different animal in that there are so many national organizations there, including the National Organization for Women, which has a very active lesbian rights Task Force. And that's is that local activist plug in quite readily to those organizations. And sometimes it's hard for them to keep things going for their own local level.

J Jack Valinski 1:04:15

That's really interesting, because I remember you called me somewhere in the middle of this sort of, in a sense, that was sort of a nightmare, because I know how busy you were. But you asked me about certain states that you had nobody to reach out to right did that. Did you ever find people in the States?

D Deborah Bell 1:04:30

Well, I think we're a state like Montana I think was the one that you know, they they're very low populations and not a visibly out gay or lesbian community or organizations. And I think we get spoiled a little bit in a city like Houston, and the unique animal that Texas is. And so yes, that was a problem and finding although we had people quite active in some places that you may not have imagined I mean, such as the Anchorage, Alaska. He was a very active community. Some of the communities that have been facing some of the worst such as the people in Colorado, people in Oregon, Tampa, Portland, Maine, where they've been fighting referendums and ordinance and that sort of thing. And that's the the whole amendment to thing. And Colorado is another thing that brought attention to the March. But the point is, is that it can happen anywhere in this country, that there are about 12 states right now that are trying to model legislation on the amendment to that passed in Colorado. And that's why we need a federal civil rights bill for gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgendered people. And that was part of what though, that was one of the key elements to the platform for the March. And the other thing about being in Washington, is that there there are a lot of opportunities to see how our government works or doesn't work. I mean, I think there's probably a problem because people can't park there. But I think that's a whole nother show about the parking.

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Jack Valinski 1:06:08

Yes. Well, you know, in Texas, if you can't find a parking space, you just drive on.

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Deborah Bell 1:06:11

That's right. But there's one thing that I really want to say to people, Donna and I had the opportunity to go to the Holocaust Museum, which opened the same weekend as the March occurred. And I think that was very significant. And in viewing how Hitler came to power and what took place during the Holocaust, it reminded me what those pink triangles are about, that it could happen again, and it would be us and that that was like the whole day of the March that was with me

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Jack Valinski 1:06:41

yet. There's 20% of this population, this country that don't believe that it ever happened.

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Deborah Bell 1:06:46

Yeah, well, they need to go see the Holocaust Museum.

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Jack Valinski 1:06:50

We're going to listen to something you know, sometimes favorite sons or daughters of a community are never recognized until they become famous and they leave us and how during that time, they were not only not famous, but they are really grounded Primeau we've got somebody from near down the road a piece, who is a fantastic singer, and this is just the right time and

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Deborah Bell 1:07:09

a bisexual.

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Jack Valinski 1:07:23

Boy, that certainly cleaned out our tubes on our transmitter. The flirtations, they'll be here next weekend on Saturday, the 12th, the world's most famous, openly gay, politically active multicultural app, Apollo singing group, and their first Houston appearance, with the Houston gay man's course, opening. That's at 8pm and 11pm. At Fitzgeralds, which at 2706. White Oak, there is a charge for this and your number is 8623838. We have a very important election coming up tomorrow. And in fact, KPFT is one of the election voting places, if you're in precinct 34, and probably like 9027, and you know, they, they've broken up the precinct soon, so many times, but it's really important that you go out and vote.

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Deborah Bell 1:08:10

And that is the US Senate race. A Bob Krueger against Kay Bailey Hutchinson. And the polls keep reporting that Ms. Hutchinson is ahead. And the gay and lesbian community needs to come out in support of someone who's going to be supportive of the community. And that is not Ms. Hutchinson. But the important thing is that you vote and make your voice heard, you know, we got a president elected, we still are waiting to see if he will live up to his potential. He recruited our votes, gays and lesbians who worked actively in his campaign are visible in his administration. And we need to see that our support goes to someone who we can work with in the United States Senate, as well. And so it is important that people make sure they go tomorrow and vote polls are open from 7am to 7pm. So make sure that you take the time out to do that tomorrow.

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Jack Valinski 1:09:15

And Kay Bailey Hutchinson wants to continue the ban on gays and lesbians in the military. And she's very wobbly on the choice. Position also. It's really important that we have somebody in know you know, as Sue level says it's like going to get your teeth clean or going to a dentist. It may not be the most exciting election but we do need your vote. And if you have some extra time, you can help volunteer that the game as being Political Caucus. You can call them at five to win 1000 And also going to ask and this is sort of like a special plea for help. This weekend. We're going to be doing the mailout for the gay and lesbian Pride Week guide that's been distributed all around the community

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Deborah Bell 1:09:57

and Jack it is beautiful. out and proud out Houston gay and lesbian Pride Week 1993. And this is the guide to all the events and information about the community.

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Jack Valinski 1:10:08

It's in those very loud colors, the pink and blue. The guide is basically an information source. It also has listing of all the different organizations around the committee, the community. Also the calendar of events are happening and many informative advertisings and including talking about a rally that's going to be happening at spots Park, we're going back to the park this year. But we would really like your help if you have some time because we want to be a lot 5000. This is basically an outreach to a lot of people who may not be able to pick it up in the community, there's also going to be 10,000 as distributed all around the community, including here at KPFT. So if you have some extra time, we would certainly appreciate even if you don't have some extra time helping us out between 10am and 6pm, both Saturday and Sunday. If you're not there, you know people will talk about you.

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Deborah Bell 1:10:53

That's right. Just got in where is that meeting place for the new

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Jack Valinski 1:10:57

the brand new Montrose Activity Center, which is at 3330 barstock. And it's really nice. I mean, it's not the most beautiful building you might see or like a skyscraper downtown. I

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Deborah Bell 1:11:10

like that five storey building, they have an LA No, but it is a

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Jack Valinski 1:11:13

start. And it is actually very nice. You have this beautiful view

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Deborah Bell 1:11:17

and it belongs to us. It's the community, our communities.

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Jack Valinski 1:11:20

I didn't I honestly didn't think it was going to be done. And I'm glad to be proven wrong, that we actually have the center that just this one. The yes just this one's the the game has been put a caucus meets their act of Gulf Coast meats there. And there's another other organizations that are meeting there. And in fact, we're going to be there all this weekend.

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Deborah Bell 1:11:40

So Mel out for the Houston pride we died at 330. No 3330 Grace Stark? Yes. Is there a cross street there

J

Jack Valinski 1:11:52

it is off of Westheimer just behind Wendy's. Okay, that should be easy to find, remember? And if you'd like some more information you can call 5296979. But be there be there type of thing. Tell us a little bit you read the story about 2106? Well, we thought we were going to be shut out of it.

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Deborah Bell 1:12:10

Right. The Texas triangle this week gives a report on exactly what was going on behind the scenes as to why 21 06 which is the section of the penal code in the state of Texas that makes homosexual acts a misdemeanor in this state. And the Penal Code was being rewritten. And we

thought that it was going to be rewritten without 2106 being part of it was the Senate, which essentially happened, but there were some changes. We were trying to keep a low profile so that the right wing conservatives wouldn't get all bent out of shape. But it is more or less. They they found out about it and did get bent out of shape. And it did get placed back in there. And because of the other work that was done on the reform of the penal code, Governor Richards does not feel like she cannot sign it as is. There was a protest staged by the Lesbian Avengers in Austin, when they unfurled a banner that said legalized lesbian sex and homophobia stinks. And so it ain't over until it's over. Hopefully, our next action is the fact that 21 06 is being in court as being held unconstitutional, which it has been by two lower courts. And the next step is the Texas Supreme Court. And hopefully we will win that case that's being conducted through the Texas Human Rights Foundation.

J Jack Valinski 1:13:46

The Lesbian Gay rights lobby of Texas did. LAUREL Iserlohn did a wonderful job in trying to keep it out. And we're talking about one person, basically in a few other people.

D Deborah Bell 1:13:55

Glen Maxey and Debra Danberg both were working on that Senator John Whitmire, became a vocal proponent for the repeal, and apparently people are just, they're just so afraid, they just do not understand what it's all about. They would have rather had a law that actually criminalized sodomy among all people, whatever their sexuality, but they they felt like they were safe with doing it based on the homosexuals.

J Jack Valinski 1:14:25

And it's not unlike the legislature to pass a law even if they feel it's unconstitutional. Now, that does not stop. Isn't it? Great to be back in Texas?

D Deborah Bell 1:14:33

Well, you know, Texas is not alone in this. And I think we've made some real inroads, and we will continue to do so. As Brian talked about earlier, we're all fired up. I mean, and Urvashi bad said it perfectly. She says gay and lesbian people have returned from exile. And that that is how I feel and I know that I'm going forth and doing whatever I can to make a difference in this state. So that's what I would like to see everyone else do. as well,

J Jack Valinski 1:15:00

it doesn't happen by just a few people out there it happens because we're all out there. And it's really important to make these statements and go out and demonstrate or doing these radio shows and things like that. But what's really important also is to come out to yourself. And that's the first step and deal with it on a family matter. And let them know that you're okay.

D Deborah Bell 1:15:23

And the speaking of demonstrations, there is one scheduled tomorrow at Castle Dental, dental center. I believe you have the information on that.

J Jack Valinski 1:15:34

What makes you think that it's at 5356, West timer, very close to Sage 10pm tomorrow morning.

D Deborah Bell 1:15:42

And what's being protested is that there was a man going getting treatment, he was having braces, orthodontic work done. And at some point, he said, Well, you know, I really would like my teeth cleaned. And at that point, they had him fill out a form. And on that form, he revealed his HIV positive status. And as a result of that they wanted to discontinue treatment. They sent him a letter actually saying that was why they were discontinuing treatment. And they also verified that they had not been living up to the set standard safety standards that they should be doing anyway for people regardless. And so now it's like going to go to court or something, but

J Jack Valinski 1:16:23

but people need to go out there and voice their opinion, because it can happen anywhere, anytime, if we let things like this happen. And so Brian Bradley talking about the case earlier, the murder case against Paul Broussard. It's like would that have happened if people weren't there? Working on this making sure this stuff happened? It probably would have just

D Deborah Bell 1:16:42

I don't know, Brian is he's adamant that it actually loosely was the involvement of Nancy Rodriguez, Paul's mother and the community that made a difference in what happened in that case. I mean, that is the lesson we learned in a very hard way that it's up to us to do it. Nobody else is going to do it for us. And Jack and I both get on our soapbox about, you know, you need to get involved to get involved. But but it's absolutely true. It's you that makes the difference. Just like KPFT it's all of you out there making the difference for this station. Because once again, it's one of those things is done by volunteers.

J Jack Valinski 1:17:18

And we just don't preach about other people. We're involved in certain things ourselves. In fact, two weeks from tonight is the opening of Pride Week and there's going to be a kickoff party at the Lovett in at 501 Lovett.

D Deborah Bell 1:17:28

And it's the room a true that's going to be a live broadcast.

J Jack Valinski 1:17:31

Yes, yes. And I hope you can fit us in your busy schedule. Deborah.

D Deborah Bell 1:17:36

I'll, I'll pencil you in.

J Jack Valinski 1:17:38

And we'll be talking to people out there. But it's it's an effort to do a live broadcast, but we're going to be very proud to do that. It's it we'll see how it works out and they may never let us do it again after that. So broadcast and

D Deborah Bell 1:17:51

in coming weeks on lesbian and gay voices, we'll be having some of the folks involved in Pride Week and some of the special events there's a a wonderful concert being planned at the word them. There's another production of feign Ray the play, that's going to be at stages, there's the annual barter, of course the gay and lesbian Hispanic unidos are doing the their baalei and so many exciting things involved around Pride Week and it's when we come out and show our colors and and I guess, you know, we want to do ourselves particularly proud and since we've closed off from the March and are moving forward to next year,

J Jack Valinski 1:18:33

bring it back home, right bring it back home and Houston and show our pride here on Houston as we go back and next year we're going to be going to New York, it's going to be the 25/5 anniversary, speaking a 25th anniversary today is the 25th anniversary of Robert Kennedy's death. Very, very sad time. And a lot of things happened in the 60s including Stonewall, which we which is like the birth of our modern gay and lesbian rights movement.

D Deborah Bell 1:19:01

Right and we'll be talking a little bit more about what that's all about. Happy birthday to garland wherever you are. And coming up. In the this week. Also in our community. The women's group meets on Sunday the sixth at the First Unitarian Church at 5210 Fanon I have forgotten all the addresses 50 to 10 fan in itself more in the Sojourner Truth room, there will be a panel of Latina women talking about their experiences dealing with oppression, violence,

history, stereotyping and political power. And more so joined the women's group and that's going to be followed by the first Sunday luncheon over at Bell park so bring a dish or some food to share with a woman with women in Bell Park.

J Jack Valinski 1:19:51

Also on Sunday Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays will be meeting at intercare Hospital which is 7601 Fannin. It's at 2pm. And the topic of course is going to be Pride Week, myself and Brian Keefer are going to be there addressing and it's also going to be it's basically an open forum type of situation.

D Deborah Bell 1:20:10

I think PFLAG is one of the most wonderful organizations. They were next door to us. The March office and wonderful folks working there. Tuesday, the Lesbian Gay Pride Week executive meeting, everyone is welcome. That's from seven to 9pm at the Metropolitan multicultural center mistake happened last Thursday. It's an era it is not taking place

J Jack Valinski 1:20:35

the somebody Miss Dunn, the misses on the calendar.

D Deborah Bell 1:20:39

Well, so forget that one. Coming up on June 9 Wednesday, the Women's Network meets at the Montrose Counseling Center. This is a group for lesbian and bisexual women and the topic will be aromatherapy, presented by Lou Chia battler and I'm very curious to what that's all about. But it's certainly something that's good for you. And if you're a woman and you'd like to take part in the Women's Network meet over at the Montrose Counseling Center, which is a new location from last time I was in.

J Jack Valinski 1:21:10

Yes, we wanted to confuse you when you came back. Right? It's 701.

D Deborah Bell 1:21:15

Richmond some things were torn down to the and then the is the Houston gay and lesbian Political Caucus meeting on the right schedule

J Jack Valinski 1:21:23

and no they met last Wednesday. Next Wednesday, they have their board meeting. Okay. And

if you'd like to get more information on the calendar items, you can pick up the wand which is distributed at Charlie's in Inklings, and then has all these wrong calendar lists. And also the Wildenstein calendar appears in the Pride Week newsletter which is also available with those things. Or you can call the switchboard at five to 930 to 11. But I do want to tell people to pick up the Texas observer because Cicely Wynn and Pat Gandy basically put this issue together. And it's got some wonderful stories, especially that story at the end about West Texas and born to be a Baba but my name is Lucille I mean that's humorous as somebody from Lubbock, but is a yes, of course, of course, the Lubbock connection, but there are so many different stories in here Juan Palomo Molly Ivan's on East Parker. Connie Moore,

 D Deborah Bell 1:22:15

is that a monthly publication? Well, it's

 J Jack Valinski 1:22:17

sort of like a semi occasional Yes, semi sometimes. But this is the first openly gay and lesbian issue dealing with our community. And it's just a wonderful time that that's

 D Deborah Bell 1:22:29

probably available like at Inklings and crossroads and Lobo and places like that.

 J Jack Valinski 1:22:33

Absolutely. And they've put extra issues in there, because they knew people would probably be interested in that.

 D Deborah Bell 1:22:40

Well, it really is nice to be back in Houston. I feel like I'm learning to ride a bike again. And I want to thank Donna Goren, yay for engineering, our executive

 J Jack Valinski 1:22:49

producer. I also want to thank Deborah bell for stopping by and helping us out. And everybody else who's involved in the show, Lori Clark Judith Meyers, Suzanne Anderson, one Palomo will be back next week. At this time you're listening to KPFT Houston, and we want to thank you very much for listening and remind you that the mailout is going to be happening Saturday and Sunday at the Montrose Activity Center. 3330 are stock and 5296979. For more information, be there help get involved in the community.