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📅 Thu, Sep 07, 2023 9:37AM ⌚ 1:03:34

## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

lesbian, conference, people, gay, houston, report, day, community, homophobia, march, lives, number, mississippi, pflag, work, information, voices, thought, call, taskforce

## SPEAKERS

Jack Valinski, Brian Nunes, Deborah Bell

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00:00

been recognized as being AIDS related and that part of the definition was changed about 15 months ago.



Deborah Bell 00:06

And Dr. H. Clifford Lane, the clinical director at the National Institute of allergies and infectious diseases, that's a mouthful, is going to be the guest speaker at the human humanitarian awards ceremony. That's right. And so that will be an interesting speech at



00:25

seven o'clock on Friday.



Jack Valinski 00:27

We're talking to Dr. Gary Bruton, who is one of the sponsors of the AIDS in America conference being held here in Houston as a sixth annual it's March 25, and 26th. at the Ramada hotel Astrodome, formerly the Marriott Astrodome Hotel. If you'd like more information, it's 9650566. That's 9650566. And it is free.



Deborah Bell 00:52

And people should registered in advance, all they have to do is call up, is that correct?



00:57

Yes, you can register any day next week, you can even register at the meeting. But if you wait to the last minute, there's always a risk that we may not have a place for you in the hall. The fire marshal says that's it, we can't let any more people in

D

Deborah Bell 01:12

exactly. Legal issues are also going to be addressed as well as medical.

U

01:18

That's right. And this is one area where I really have to give credit to the doctor and Rios, my colleague who's the organizer of this conference over the last six years, I really appreciate the unique perspective that he has, as a heterosexual person, appreciating the social aspects of this disease and the importance of homophobia. And this is where we need lawyers to help us change the laws and to protect us from discrimination. So every year we have some important contribution here. In fact, three of the honorees in our 1994 individual human humanitarian awards this year, her attorneys, Michel Katyn, Donald Skipwith and John Paul barnidge, all of whom deserve our great thanks and appreciation for the contributions that they've made over the years.

D

Deborah Bell 02:12

You will you Dr. Bruton deserve our great thanks and appreciation not only for being with us on lesbian gay voices tonight, but for the important work that you're doing and much luck with the conference.

J

Jack Valinski 02:22

Yes, so the conference is March 25 and 26th at the Ramada hotel Astrodome to get more information or to register which is free. It's 96505669650566. Thank you, Gary, for being with us. Thanks

U

02:38

for having me.

D

Deborah Bell 02:39

there anything that we didn't give you a chance to say that you really would like to say,

U

02:43

I want to tell the mashack right don't wear a nocket protector

I want to tell the masbuck right don't wear a pocket protector.

 Jack Valinski 02:49

right but you do have safe pockets right I don't know if I ever thought I'd be announcing Bruce Springsteen in a song on the lesbian and gay voices that's the streets of Philadelphia performed in written by Bruce Springsteen, the title song of the movie Philadelphia and it was a very good song when you're showing all these scenes of the different parts of the city and the neighborhoods and and I'm can't say that's my hometown because it really isn't but it's very close it's the big city and state same state right same state of despair of my thing and it was very nicely done and before that, we listen to romanovski and Phillips and no false hope from there. Be political not polite, which is a great title for an album

 Deborah Bell 03:51

and we're going to be have coming up Meg and Chris at Carnegie Hall with their song for the ones Wait a minute I can't I can't remember the name of it Jack and I can't see well enough to read it the ones who aren't here and we're dedicating that to Frankie Hill

 04:28

open my home see Yes. Yeah. Like the croakers growing up through this know how I'm gonna oh and my ha and say yes, yes. Like the frozen lake correct with the flow and gone Listen to the tender deep down in my I am going to nurture it and follow it three four my way to dance in this body of mine and my life was to make love to me how I'm gonna open to the truth that every dream that I read can leave here and now in my head I'm gonna open to the truth that these feelings can fly beyond what I imagine can be I'm gonna lose 10 levels deep down in my heart I'm going to nurture with bolo with bergerie II my wings to dance in this body your mind and my life wall. They love to me how am I gonna? Often My Ha and say yes, yes to write the dew drops which

 06:55

Oh, My Ha and say yes yeah and that my life job must be God Hi I'm gonna listen to the Dave my heart. Hi, I'm gonna follow with Ferrari for my heart to dance in this body. Mind might want to make love

 Deborah Bell 07:57

yes to life by Heather Bishop from her old new borrowed blue CD. This is Deborah Bell along with Jack Valinski, and this is lesbian and gay voices. We have a tape from this way out concerning the violence against gays and lesbians in the United States. It seems to be on the decline, according to the 1993 studies done by the National lesbian and gay Task Force, but there's an apparent increase in the severity of the attacks. Now we go to this report from this way out,



08:33

area professionals and Mental Health Social Work counseling education.



08:42

In a report issued March 8, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force released its annual statistical survey of violence committed against lesbians and gay men in the United States. The numbers for 1993 showed an apparent decline of anti career violence in the five major cities surveyed. But for many reasons the report was far from celebratory, with contributions from Bill McCullough and Sammy Lee Webster Woon. This way, as John say, anchors these reports. The Task Force Survey documents 1813 anti gay incidents in Boston, Chicago, Minneapolis, St. Paul, New York City and San Francisco. That represents a 14% decrease over an all time high of 2103 incidents reported in 1992 a downturn that's the first in nine years of such surveys. That's still in the taskforce his words, a dramatic prevalence of anti gay hate crimes, but those numbers do not reflect the real story. Author of the survey entitled anti gay lesbian violence, victimization and defamation, Martin Hiraga. Here people



09:47

are reporting fewer and more of the people who are reporting incidents are reporting multiple victimizing acts being committed against



09:57

and Los Angeles which showed a neared doubling of reports was not included in the taskforce numbers.



10:04

A report released by the Los Angeles gay and lesbian community shows the number of reported assaults in the county rose from 107 in 1992 to 217 in 1993. The same report claims in almost 50% increase in physical attacks during the same period.



10:20

Angeles is a different situation than the nationwide trend as it were. And that's something that's quite alarming.



10:28

Why is it Kollek is a lawyer for the anti violence project at the center. While the Los Angeles study does not include a breakdown of incidence by gender COVID believes that the center

does not adequately reach out to lesbians who are victims of sex bias assault,



10:42

I find just in general, in the work that I'm doing here, the anti violence project is that we don't serve the number of women that I know are dealing with these bias violence issues out in the community. I have a background on rape crisis work and women tend to generally turn to other types of organizations which are traditionally centered and focused in the women's community.



11:04

Additionally, five other cities surveyed reported an average 59.2% increase in anti gay incidents, while four others showed only a 38% decrease in such offences, regardless of which figures used the seriousness of homophobic harm was underscored by two guests at the taskforce invited to the reports release, Brenda and Wanda Hinson of the beleaguered sister spirit and oh that Mississippi Wanda Henson



11:31

intimidation we face how hot 20 minutes and lesbians are cross country sides in our struggle for life and for equality under the law, we should have the right to live in peace on our property.



12:00

Okay, the 250 person town were camped sister spirit is located is in one of the most conservative corners of Mississippi. The town has no police department or city hall of its own. Just a general store and a post office. Hunting is one of the town's primary occupation. Local right wing organizations have banded together under the name Mississippians for family values and an attempt to force the camp out. The camp established as a feminist retreat and Education Center has been under attack over the past three months. Random gunshots bomb threats, and recently the placing of a dead female dog on top of the camps mailbox along with two sanitary napkins.



12:40

This is like a watershed. What happens here if these people are allowed to be driven off their land, it'll be like open season on lesbians. It'll really boost the Christian Right.



12:48

LISA deadener, a member of of Lesbian Avengers and the Women's Action Coalition



12:52



12:53

support women who are willing to be outspoken about being feminists who are clearly saying we don't need men. And that's a threat to the men down there. I mean, there have been statements made such as well, you're going to drive up our divorce rate



13:08

from our local and state officials, along with the sometimes hostile response from the local officials allows the harassment and intimidation to ask them like



13:21

we are not but vicious people down here. We're just trying to raise our family and a little community in it in a little peace and quiet.



13:32

Tahini Henry, a longtime resident of the town, and Weiser, the founder of Mississippians or family values, dismiss the charges that residents of the camp were in any danger.



13:44

We're going to make a big shot, they would have been shot 100 times over, weighed down made a bunch of radical people coming in here and say and they are facing beside a wall. They are the ones that get out and she's drawn to a nine year gunshot. They run and they shoot their gun in that direction by putting my feet up in the air. But who knows. One of these days I'm afraid there's no one to kill and no one is going to shoot those landmines.



14:20

We need our state and local governments to protect that. And if they fail to protect us, or they participate in efforts to limit our rights. We need our federal government to ensure that our safety and basic rights as citizens will be protected.



14:42

Think about the 60s the way law enforcement laid off and hid when there was a mob activity against black activists that were looking for civil rights. This is the same kind of thing.



14:54

Dennis Cunningham, an attorney with the National Lawyers Guild, the law has to be enforced at the local Left Gordy's aren't gonna do it that's when the federal authorities have to step in



15:04

into Henson and want to value support from the task force and a few of its residents, Brenda Hinson.



15:12

Invasion, lesbians many people don't know the definition and then the preachers make the definition. And then people who are under educated take that information and go with it. I mean, come by the driveway turning doughnuts in the driveway blowing off their guns, hoop and holler and Colin is clear. I mean, like, it's a siege is upon us, but then also the misinformation and the other



15:35

thing too is that we have other people in the community who are equally afraid of these people that come by the end of the driveway to say, we support your right to be here. One man told us that he was 77 years old, and then he'd fought more war to him by God. He fought for everybody's rights. And then he didn't approve of what was happening to someone who said did you go to the meeting and tell him that he said, God no, I'd have been dead for I got home



16:00

window and Wanda Hinson of ovett, Mississippi, helping the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force release its latest report on violence against gay men, lesbians and bisexuals for this way out.



16:12

Sammy Lee Webster Wouk DOMA kala Los Angeles I'm John



16:15

ze in Washington DC



16:17

in our homes and on the street corners we have been condemned to die we were murdered in the Holocaust by this life we will not





16:30

die we will go on the floor



16:54

Ma.



16:57

Ma. Last section



Jack Valinski 17:26

and that was from this way out the news magazine show that comes from KPFK in Los Angeles. We're now going to take a little station break here on KPFT Houston, you're listening to lesbian and gay voices.



17:40

90.1 FM is World Radio Morning News. Getting your day started with the only in depth comprehensive news in Houston. Here's just a sample of what you'll hear every weekday from six to 8am.



17:52

Warner Cable fully supports First Amendment liberties. But we also realize that community standards can affect those rights. You know,



18:00

who lives in the village, first of all, and they're not minorities. But when you go to court to see who's getting the tickets at night. They're Orientals, they're Hispanics, Blacks.



18:10

Among the proponents of zoning, there's a lot of desire to push low income people away from their neighborhoods, there's



18:17

not a lot of opposition to zoning in Houston. There are a few people who don't want any kind of government. I will not very client in that category because I don't

government. I will put very client in that category because I don't



18:26

think you can look at those times and determine rather than I feel by the numbers,



18:31

Hi, I'm Kyle Huckins. Join me for Houston news with a global view. The World Radio Morning News six to 8am weekdays on 90.1 FM a KPFT.



18:43

Suppose my voice were HIV and you could get infected by listening. Oh, you wouldn't listen, you don't want to hear that. You change the station. But if I took a latex condom like this one and put it on the microphone you couldn't hear me right? You were protected from HIV. So the deal is sex without a latex condom isn't always safe and listening to me. It won't affect you, but it could protect you call one 800 342 aids for a free brochure. Do the right thing. Peace.



Jack Valinski 19:18

From Pacifica's KPFT in Houston. This is the final hour of lesbian and gay voices for March 18 1994. This is Jack Valinski



Deborah Bell 19:26

and Deborah Bell. And in this hour, we'll have a report from melody Blake on people's reaction to the healing the hurt conference on hope of homophobia, which she attended last week, was sponsored by PFLAG Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays and it was a really exciting conference. I'm looking forward to hearing.



Brian Nunes 19:56

Should but it should be useful for rental contracts and bank loans. As, as well as inheritance insurance and social security claims, a Basque activist group is lobbying for similar registries in the other two Spanish Basque city halls. The registry was promoted by victorious Mayor Jose on healthcare the of the Basque Nationalist Party PNV, who acknowledged that the measure breaks through established moral values and set it will ensure social, economic and judicial protection for couples formed outside of marriage and served as a first step toward dignity and equality for all people independent of their sexual orientation. On March 4, the Madrid Assembly passed a resolution asking the Spanish National Government to give social rights to both heterosexual and same gender couples. Surprisingly, most of the members of the conservative pee pee People's Party supported the resolution with only three out of 47 opposing it



20:56

see them holding hands



21:00

to gather



Deborah Bell 21:07

and that sound right there because that matters. So much in love lesbian has by the floatation flirtations, live audiences clapping they're they're out on the road CD and of course, that was with Michael calendar. flirtations are featured on the cover of the new issue. The April March 15, through April 15 issue of outsmart magazine what a



Jack Valinski 21:29

segue and they're coming to town in April. OutSmart is the service or second issue and it looks really smart.



Deborah Bell 21:36

And it is produced by Nancy Ford, written by Nancy Ford, edited by Nancy Ford, starring Nancy Ford.



Jack Valinski 21:46

I think she even sweeps the floors.



Deborah Bell 21:47

I think so to know, Greg Zhu and Nancy Ford and the crew over there at outsmart do a great job within their second issue is just as good as the first issue.



Jack Valinski 21:57

And while we're joking about Nancy Fordism, the mask had her wherever they call that thing with all the names and



Deborah Bell 22:03

directors and said it's still the right term.

**J** Jack Valinski 22:05

Her name is mentioned four times there. But I was looking here at the letters and this is a great letter, just a note to make the point. Although I think your publication is a class act, and certainly much needed addition to the Houston large game lesbian community. I'm a bit concerned about the implications with the name of the new publication in choosing a catchy phrase like outsmart for your title. I hope you're not implying that those of us who are not out and shouting about our homosexuality, ie Crimea down everybody's throat are not as intelligent or as worthy of respect as basic human rights of those who are making all the fuss and it's signed not out but certainly smart name withheld by request.

**D** Deborah Bell 22:51

Well, I think it's smarter to be out I don't I don't think that anyone should be denied their basic human rights and you know, it takes people making a fuss sometimes. Just a little bit of a follow up to the story about violence against gays and lesbians. And the happenings in ovet, Mississippi, two of the neighbors of the camp sister spirit have actually filed a lawsuit against a US Attorney General Janet Reno, because they claimed that she didn't have a right to intervene in the activities that were going on down there. When when the Hansen's asked for mediators, and a spokesperson from the US Department of Justice, has said that the Community Relations Service which is the meeting at an organization, they have mediated in things such as conflicts over nuclear power, the anniversary of the 1970 Kent State University shootings and tax disputes concerning the Christian, the Church of Scientology, and he says we fully believe that CRA S has appropriate and legal authority to mediate this vital community conflict. Brenda Hansen called the lawsuit ludicrous. They're showing by the suit that they really don't want to resolve this, she said. So that's one of the things still going on. There's another Mississippian Congress man who says that he thinks Reno should apologize for the reference. The representative is Mike Parker, a Democrat from Mississippi. He actually sent a letter to Reno asking for the apology on behalf of Yvette and Mississippi Yvette lives in Parker's district.

**J** Jack Valinski 24:47

There was also a story about a school where a principal was talking against interracial dating wasn't that like in Mississippi?

**D** Deborah Bell 24:56

That was an Alabama the sister state I'm I'm afraid Being the state of my birth. And what happened there was he more or less said that any one who have an interracial relationship or date for plan for the prom should just consider not going if he found out that there were people in that situation he would call off the prom. And one young woman out he said, Are there any questions? And this one young woman said, Well, what about me because she's mixed race. And he said, well, that's just it, your parents made a mistake. And, and no child should be a mistake. Every child should be a choice. And, you know, I happen to believe he was totally out

of line. But there's been a lot of support for him. Of course in Mississippi TOS where they're having all the stuff about a prayer in the school. Yes, that's another issue. And but you know, it's not that far away from Texas. And it's

**J** Jack Valinski 25:51

his drive is that what they say? It's a day's drive from here

**D** Deborah Bell 25:54

was a day's drive through Texas, the sun has risen, the sun has said we ain't

**J** Jack Valinski 25:59

Reagan slogan for how far it is from Central America. I say, you know, closer than Washington,

**D** Deborah Bell 26:06

right? And you know, sometimes I think listening to this program, you must just wonder at the world. And

**J** Jack Valinski 26:12

I wonder sometimes we've seen this program as well,

**D** Deborah Bell 26:15

the craziness of everything that we're faced with. I mean, we always try to talk about all the wonderful queer things out there. And then there's all those sad things and then there's the wacky things and just how can in 1994 there still be so many issues involving create almost create the craziness of homophobia and then how that affects people. Oh, well hang in there because we have more for you and lesbian and gay voices.

**J** Jack Valinski 26:46

Some of the calendar items gay and lesbian Americans, gay and lesbian Americans GLA of Houston will conduct a public forum and strategizing session this Sunday, March 28, at 7:30pm at diverse works, art space and that's 1170 East freeway. The meeting will focus on how to bring out passages of local ordinances banning discrimination based on sexual orientation.

**D** Deborah Bell 27:12

The Metropolitan Community Church of the resurrection 1919 Decatur here in Houston Texas has a lot of things planned over the next several months and one of them is the beginning of their Easter celebration. So if you're aware and you're into the Christian religion, that's a place for you. You can go to the church on Sunday mornings at 1990 indicator or you can just give them a call to find out more information at 861 91 449

J Jack Valinski 27:41

I'm not sure if you have something to do with this. The on the 20th which is Sunday means me well the Miss camp America Foundation's third annual Deb you not is supposed to be Deborah you not all or Debbie, not

D Deborah Bell 27:54

Debbie has anything to do with rest assured Okay,

J Jack Valinski 27:57

to introduce new members, it's from 4:30pm to 7pm at Rich's 2401 San Jacinto for further information call 520 Star what an appropriate number in you know, Miss camp America puts on that big festive occasion. Wonderful

D Deborah Bell 28:12

show is just excellent, really neat.

J Jack Valinski 28:15

And you know, I guess it's would be stars.

D Deborah Bell 28:18

And it certainly is.

J Jack Valinski 28:21

Well, speaking of big starring events, though, we also got to mention that tomorrow is the big amfAR benefit concert featuring Liza Minnelli with who is the Mistress of Ceremonies Ramsbury 8pm at the Arena Theatre, and that's outside the loop on 59.

D Deborah Bell 28:40

And the Mini, the mini down.

J

Jack Valinski 28:43

And it's a rather pricey thing, but it's for a good cause.

D

Deborah Bell 28:45

But if somebody wants to give me free tickets, they can.

J

Jack Valinski 28:49

We're not going we're not going the information numbers 988 1020

D

Deborah Bell 28:55

Last time I saw Eliza, she was reading names at the quilt in October of 92. And she has little tiny feet. I wouldn't know that except that was very close and I was going good grief. She has tiny feet. You know. One of the things that we've talked about a number of times is that the Stonewall Rebellion in 1969 happened at the time of the day of the funeral of Judy Garland, of course who was Liza Minnelli's mother. And this week on channel eight on PBS. They're doing they're fun drive and we know how hard that is to do those fun drives. But they did this wonderful retrospective of Judy Garland. And it just I just can't help but love her. And you know, I understand why our community had an affinity for her. And a lot of carries on to this day.

J

Jack Valinski 29:51

A lot of the women actresses, strong actresses you know, back in the 50s and 60s

D

Deborah Bell 29:58

and you know, just the Wizard of Oz. I was alone and the term friends of Dorothy, so much of the fantasy and I think I think that's one of the reasons that we related to you know if little blue birds can fly with a rainbow and be happy then why can't we and that's all we ever asked for. So I really enjoyed that.

J

Jack Valinski 30:20

You got tears coming? All Misty here. It'd be so philosophical. I

D

Deborah Bell 30:25

have a public service announcement. The month of March is Women's month or Women's History Month and the American theatrical ensemble incorporated presents a women's Month celebration, a music festival and more to benefit Musical Theater Workshop for children at the Kaplan theatre at the Jewish Community Center. 5601 Soft brace would Sunday March 20 2pm and 11:30pm Come and see comedy religious folk music spirituals blues classical to Hondo Mexican ballads, vaudeville, jazz, pop, Ragtime, dance fashions, poetry, storytelling, the 21st century art exposition and a panel discussion with an open forum women's Month celebration for more information you can call 713626 35 of seven and asked to speak to war ally.

**J** Jack Valinski 31:21

There is a garage sale and two EJBs this Saturday and Sunday. And you know those garage sale hours are real early, benefiting a number of different local community organizations. I guess they're out there selling their wares and tears. And EJ is is our wares

**D** Deborah Bell 31:37

and tears.

**J** Jack Valinski 31:41

Good thing I make these things up as we go. It's at Ralph just off of Westheimer which is, you know, just before Shepard,

**D** Deborah Bell 31:49

I gotta get me some of those. Well, more public service announcements. So this is really exciting, something I wish I had known about. Prior to tonight, Pathfinder bookstores hosting a two day socialist educational conference to celebrate Women's History Month. On Saturday, March 19. There will be a forum at 730 entitled women in the Cuban Revolution given by Elizabeth stone editor of the Pathfinder book by the same name. There will be a reception at 6pm. And on Sunday, March 20 at 11am We'll on day go. Gerard will talk on a class perspective on women's issue in the US today. Your rod is a garment worker who is a member of the Amalgamated Clothing textile workers union and the Socialist Workers Party as well as a leading activist defending for all Florida abortion clinics. Both classes will be held at the Pathfinder bookstore 6969. Gov freeway suite 250. There is a donation, you can call for more information at 6449066. I'm not a socialist, and I don't always agree with things presupposed by the Socialist Party. But it's very interesting to find out what all the prospective ones are so that we can make our own decisions about them. Right. And we also did win the lottery. So there's also you know, there's often truth and in many things that we need to examine and educate ourselves about. Jun Jordan, who is a poet, essayist, playwright and political activist, she I think she's speaking at lib next week. And she's also she's on the one yes, and she's speaking at live next Friday night. But she's also going to be at the Houston Community College, central auditorium. 1300 Holman at 7pm. On Saturday, March 26th, it's free admission and you can call 866 8166. For more information, the

J Jack Valinski 33:57

lesbians over age 50 meets this Sunday from two to 4pm. And they meet at the Metropolitan multi service center 1475 West grey, if you'd like more information at 661 1482

D Deborah Bell 34:11

Good, great Are they out doing stuff again, I you know if I could to be 50 I'm not going to be able to keep up with those women. Well, the South by Southwest Music Conference is going on in Austin even as we speak. I think our oriental nursery nursery is there as well as some stewardess

J Jack Valinski 34:26

cereal and fresh air. Terry Gross had a wonderful interview yesterday and I honestly can't remember the person she interviewed.

D Deborah Bell 34:35

Apparently this is a very big deal. And in this week's issue of the chickens triangle, they featured gay and lesbian artists that are performing really neat. And yeah, it really is and very exciting that that's going on and I think that off the clock will be on tonight after lesbian gay voices, but Nury won't be there. I think he's got a sub tonight.

J Jack Valinski 34:59

Okay. So it will be the clock is still I don't know,

D Deborah Bell 35:03

whatever ticking away.

J Jack Valinski 35:04

Let's take a little break here and we have some more stuff coming up for you.

D Deborah Bell 35:09

We'll be back with lesbian and gay voices with that report from melody Blake on healing the hurt. Hi.



35:17

I'm not home right now



Deborah Bell 35:30

learning is for life. Would you'd like to greet the sunrise in a hot air balloon. Want to learn another language? Or how to decorate your home or train your dog interested in career or personal development. Leisure learning has a class for you. Leisure learning Unlimited is a nonprofit educational organization offering hundreds of leisure time classes and activities. Leisure learnings instructors are experts, professionals and hobbyists who have skills and knowledge to share. Leisure learning even has two social clubs. So whether it's calligraphy or computers, pottery or pizza, making, hitting a tennis ball or hitting the town leisure learnings got it. Just call 8771981 for a free schedule. Start your lifetime of learning today call 877 1981.



36:35

spring out of the winter and spring into summer during KPFT seven days Spring Drive starting on March 25. through March 31 KPFT. We'll be needing volunteers to help answer our pledge lines. So spring on over to the phone and call us at 526 4000 and sign up to arms the pledge lines during your favorite show.



Jack Valinski 36:59

Well, and he was spraying around there,



Deborah Bell 37:00

yeah, that and he's he's always spraying around answering the phones. And you know what? We need some folks to come in and spring around answering those phones during our little mini fungi. We get tons of phone calls. That's right. And we need more volunteers to help with station anyway to answer the phones and to take pledges we get lonely sometimes. That's true. That's true. We get very lonely and we need you to come help us. So think about it and call us during business hours call Annie she'll spring on over to the phone to answer it at five to six 4000 during regular business hours or business hours here at KPFT. Nine for



Jack Valinski 37:40

yet time. Yes noonish I guess.



Deborah Bell 37:42

Right, right. So they had this magnificent conference sponsored by Parents and Friends of Lesbians and gays. It was for professionals and family members and all kinds of folks. I think

over 400 people attended. It was the first time they've ever done anything like this and it was a huge success. And we are going to report by our ACE reporter melody Blake to get some people's reaction to the conference.



38:09

Area professionals and Mental Health Social Work counseling, education, religion and law enforcement. Along with area lesbians, gays, parents, families and friends met at the University of Houston Hilton conference center, Friday, March 11 1994. To learn about homophobia, healing the hurt a conference on homophobia was the first event of its kind to be held in Houston. The one day symposium was organized and presented by the Houston chapter of PFLAG, or parents, families and friends of lesbians and gays. According to Gail Rickey, co president of the Houston chapter of PFLAG the conference was designed to provide a basis of understanding for persons in helping professions who touched the lives of countless 1000s of others. The conference featured a series of workshops on subjects of mental health, religion, civil rights, legislation, youth, families, and factual information about homosexuality. More than 20 presenters led the 12 workshops, with participants choosing a morning and an afternoon session to keynote addresses. And a question and answer plenary highlighted the day. I interviewed some participants and organizers at the conference.



39:38

I've got John Chrisman here with me. And we're at the PFLAG conference. And this is after the luncheon keynote speech. So John, how have you been enjoying this conference?



39:52

I think that if I had died without being here that I would have missed something that was very important to me. All the information not only the information with the energy, that being together with people who are healing, as well as giving and receiving information, it's just very powerful. It's a very powerful experience, as I am so glad that I came. I you know, it's like, if I had missed this, it would have been like a really deep, you know, like, like emptiness inside of me.



40:26

It's very exciting to be in Houston, Texas today.



40:30

Yes, it is. And there are people from so many places and all over the country and from different walks of life and parents of, of gay and lesbians and friends and, and gay and lesbian people here and we're all sharing with each other. We're all it's like creating community as the day goes on. It's there's this feeling of community and belonging to each other. It's been real powerful.



40:55

I'm with Carol Miller, who is special projects coordinator for PFLAG. And we're here at the conference and kill. Tell me about what you're thinking today, what you're feeling today about how it's going here.



41:10

This is one of the more exciting days of my life. I've been on the planning committee from the very beginning of this conference and involved in once a month, and sometimes twice a month, and many, many phone calls for the past year, and to finally see it to fruition and know that there are over 400 people here is fantastic. It really is much more exciting. For me personally, it's more than it's more than I expected. I thought maybe we'd have about 200. That was my personal my personal goal. And we were way beyond that walking into today. And we had about 425 at lunch. So



41:48

have you been getting a lot of feedback from the participants?



41:52

Somewhat the people I had lunch with really enjoyed the morning sessions, they thought that they were very good, they thought we were very organized. So we're very proud of that, because we work real hard to keep it organized. And it just seems to be running very smoothly so far.



42:07

I'm here with Lane Lewis lane.



42:10

It's a very good conference. It's a very good turnout. I am very pleased to see so many active parents making a political statement simply by being here. I'm very excited. And hopefully they'll continue becoming involved and coming out and supporting their kids.



42:29

I'm with a nice Parker, a nice. What do you think of this conference so far? It's



42:34

wonderful conference, I'm amazed at the turnout. And just from a presenter standpoint, this is one of the best organized, best run conferences I've ever attended. It's just going incredibly smoothly.



42:45

The big surprise for us as activists in the community to see what they've done with this, isn't it?



42:51

It is and to see and to see new faces and new people and see so many parents here.



42:57

And so many professionals who are on the inside of what's going on



43:03

and coming to learn more to be better at their professions that this is a teaching conference as much as anything else.



43:11

And it is the first in the nation, isn't it?



43:15

Well, I was trying to I was thinking about that issue. I know that many, many conferences have a workshop on homophobia, but I have never heard of a homophobia workshop where all of the presentations dealt with homophobia. And my particular interest in this one is and I am just ecstatic about the fact that the Houston Police Department is one of the co sponsors of this event, and that police officers were allowed to attend and receive education credit credits for attending. We've come a long way.



43:45

I've got Gail Rickey here. She's the CO president of PFLAG. And, Gail. How long has this conference been in the planning stages?





43:57

A little over a year, we started planning with a vision of creating something but we weren't sure exactly where we were headed with it. We want knew we wanted to offer an educational tool to people who who touched the lives of others.



44:15

And in that planning process over the last year over a year. Lots of changes has happened. And now here we are at fruition. Is it everything you wanted it to be?



44:27

It's very exciting because the people that we wanted to communicate with or educators, psychologists, social workers, and those people are here today in great numbers, and we're very excited by that turnout.



44:42

I'm real surprised and real excited myself. Seeing your brochure when it first came out was a great joy. It's very professionally done. I want to acknowledge you and your team for everything that you've put in to it, and it's expecting that this is going to be acknowledged as a great success for the community.



45:07

Thank you so much. It is very important to us. It's come from the hearts of lots and lots of people, our circle of people involved, grew and grew until the very last minutes mobilized a lot of people. And I think that that that was a ripple effect we hadn't expected and that's been wonderful for our chapter. I run



45:26

Montgomery, a presenter and member of PFLAG



45:31

roll up conference was great today, I thought we helped a lot of people, I educated a lot of people. And I think that we need more of this more parents to come and have their eyes and hearts open to the reality of the situation. And I think that the parents need to come out of the closet. Period.



46:00

How can the children assist their parents in getting in touch with PFLAG



46:06

beanbags in the phonebook? If they will call PFLAG we'll be happy to take the ball and run with it. But they have to come to us and let us know there's a need first, I enjoyed the conference very much I thought was very full. I've learned so much I've got to go home now and process and because it's just information overload.



46:31

I'm with Alma, again, a vice president and hatch. Oh, Ma, what do you think of the conference?



46:38

I think the attendance has been incredible. I didn't expect this number of people I did not expect the number of organizations I see present here. And there's also a lot of very prominent people within the gay lesbian community, which I think is very good.



46:51

And the professionals that are here and the impact that that might have on the community into our lives,



46:57

I think that the presence of them legitimizes our work and our struggle, it says, you know, we're not just a bunch of radicals out there demanding some god only knows what rights. But you know, it gives us a more serious and more credible stance before the community and the Saudi is home.



47:17

So you're glad you're here.



47:19

I'm definitely glad I'm here. And I think that we're addressing a very important topic, which is, homophobia as opposed to homosexuality, you know, it's always been homosexuality and what we do, as opposed to homophobia, and the hatred and the misunderstanding and misinterpretation of our lives. So I'm definitely you know, enjoying being here and enjoying the topics that are being approached. And I think they're all very important.



47:43

Within Gray, and she presented in the parents conference, as a parent.



47:51

I just want to say that when we first had the idea of having a conference that was far the straight community, that it was a dream in our minds of having a conference where the community could be educated about the issues regarding the gay and lesbian community in a positive way and present it in a positive way. And it has gone beyond our dreams with a positive video and so much support. And we see so much of a need in the community for this kind of thing in the future. We were very, very pleased with it.



48:32

Do you see PFLAG presenting another of its kind in the future?



48:38

Well, it took us a year to organize this one. So certainly in the future, don't know when in the future. We had so many so much wonderful support this time. And, surprisingly enough some support from people that we didn't expect support from so we definitely are going to pursue this in the future, possibly with specialty conferences, targeting certain professions and that kind of thing to educate the public. I'm here with



49:09

Dean le Trell, publicity director for the conference theme.



49:14

Hi, thank you. I was thinking through some of the most poignant parts of the day. I have to say that one of the most moving parts for me was de mosbacher is tape and seeing the fathers talk about their sons. I'm a member of PFLAG because my parents have had a very difficult time accepting my being gay, and I have not seen them for over seven years because of the struggle that they've had accepting my homosexuality. So seeing this tape was at once devastating and helpful, devastating because it reminds me of the sadness I feel for for the loss of that relationship, even though they still live Healing and helpful because I know there are parents and there are people who are accepting and willing to love and help us to be the human beings that we need to be. And that acceptance is very important to have as we develop into more complete and loving human beings. So that was one of the most poignant and meaningful parts of the conference for me,



50:26

was the conferences success for you.



50:29

It has been far more of a success than I could have imagined. We were hoping that we might have 300 people, we have the final tally at something like 415, we're thrilled. We were hopeful that the press would be interested. They're still here interviewing tonight, at a quarter of six. They're interested, they want to know, and we're very excited that it's generated that kind of interest. We had police here today, I mean, that were interested wanted to have some programs started in their training that would incorporate sensitivity to sexual orientation. So yes, unequivocally, it was a wonderful success, I would what I would really like to do is quit my day job, and travel around the United States, and help people do this, set it up in their communities, or someone gave me an idea too, that it would be fun. If we could take this on the road, let's say do a road show on the weekend, take three of these people around and you know, condense it somewhat, but take it to Waco or to Lubbock or some smaller areas that might not have the advantage of the larger city.



51:38

Pat, Ricky here with me. He's the CO president of PFLAG Houston, Pat. Hi.



51:46

I guess what the impressions I have of this conference is just a feeling of euphoria about how so many people have come together. And so many people have worked so hard and put so much into it. And it wasn't like one person trying to do all the work, it was just like, everybody got such a joy out of contributing. And there was such a feeling of, of happiness and togetherness and and everybody working together to for a common goal during the day that was just just made it a real special event for me.



52:22

I know it was in the planning process for a very long time. Did it come off exactly as you wanted it to?



52:30

I guess I'd have to say it was better than my wildest dreams. I thought that surely something would go wrong. And we'd never done one of these before. And we didn't know what we were doing. And surely we were going to say, Oh, if we'd only done this or that. And it just seems like everything worked. And it was almost magic. I don't know. It's just a great feeling.



52:53

So it was a huge success.



52:55

I think so I mean, it feels like it to me, and we've gotten nothing but good comments. So yes, I'd have to say it was a huge success.



53:02

And do you see this conference as being a prototype for other conferences all over the country?



53:08

I hope so. And I think that there's certainly the need, and there seems to be the general support. And I would say if people in other cities do it, people will come out of the woodwork. They are just like they did for us. But I think there's so many people that feel that this is a need. And this is something we need to do that. Yes. I'd say it's it'll work for everybody.



53:32

Reaching a lot of people out there, aren't we?



53:36

I think so. Yeah, I think we're, we're on a roll. Thanks, Pat. Ricky.



53:43

This is Melody Blake for lesbian and gay voices.



Deborah Bell 53:48

It's melody Blake for Lesbian Gay voices. And she's out of there, and we're past fruition. Thank you, Melody. That was a wonderful report. Sounds like it was a very exciting event. I think it should go to Lubbock.



Jack Valinski 54:00

Yes. It was interesting that both the voice and that both with voice or both the Chronicle in the poll, lots of ways in the triangle had nice long stories on D mosbacher.

D

Deborah Bell 54:11

And, you know, we have something coming up. That is at the end of the raid role, and I think that what could be at the end of the rainbow is the Texas lesbian conference, and it's going to be in the lovely Alamo City, San Antonio TLC 94. is scheduled for April 29 through May 1 And among the things going on, there will be the Dr. Ruth of didactum Joanne Lou LAN, and Linda Villarosa who is one of the editors of Essence magazine, and it's it's going to be a very exciting conference, but there's been a lot of rumors about the hotel is already all booked up. And we have it from Spa the conference organizers that that's not true the Crockett who Hotel does have rooms available for the Texas lesbian conference. And the phone number there is one 802, nine to 1050. You do have to say you're in attendee at the Texas lesbian conference, if you want the special rate. And for you can also get more information by calling textures bookstore in San Antonio at 210-805-8398.

J

Jack Valinski 55:31

I got a call from somebody in Kansas like last week or so with him or Helen. No, it wasn't very hellish. I guess she didn't get up there was a Kansas or one of those states up there. And they were looking for information on starting Community Center. And I had both the work and home number. So I called the work number. And the person answers and says, she's not here, but her wife is. And it just threw me back because you're not used to hearing that what you call, you know, business place, but I guess it was a lesbian feminist gate bookstore.

D

Deborah Bell 55:59

You know, I'm very interested in what's going on in Hawaii. Because does that mean we could buy the Hawaii and get married and then come back to Texas and

J

Jack Valinski 56:08

what hasn't actually happened yet?

D

Deborah Bell 56:10

Not yet. I mean, I think is definitely the way to go. I mean, there's all kinds of legal things we have to do to protect our relationships,

J

Jack Valinski 56:18

you can deduct it from your income tax, and you have to go I mean, that's the only place you could go to get married.

**D** Deborah Bell 56:23

There's an idea. Well, that was that was clearly Yeah, that really would. And it is about to be spring, I think Sunday sometime all around the Android No, no. The vernal equinox will be taking place. And one of the places to celebrate spring is over at Luci's garden over on Virginia at West Alabama, they have a lot of activities going on if you'd like to find out about growing herbs or spiritual work, or all kinds of things going on over there. And that has really nothing to do with being lesbian or gay. It's just that I love Lou Chia because she's a person who's brought a lot of magic in my life. And I

**J** Jack Valinski 57:06

think herbs has a lot to do with being gay. You know, I think we use more in cooking and stuff like that. Well, actually, it

**D** Deborah Bell 57:13

is all connected. The all of that stuff is she's having a fairy festival. So there you go. It is definitely a place if you're a lesbian or a gay man who appreciates things like flowers and jewelry and books and herbs and things to the checkout.

**J** Jack Valinski 57:32

Well see I don't have that because I keep forgetting to water my pets and feeding my plants. That's just a

**D** Deborah Bell 57:39

real you always get that confused down to you. Yes, I

**J** Jack Valinski 57:42

guess I'm just not working to get you

**D** Deborah Bell 57:45

boyfriend who knows how to do those things, Jack. So what else is going on?

**J** Jack Valinski 57:53

Lots of things are going on.

**D** Deborah Bell 57:55  
Don't leave me this kind of scary stuff.

**J** Jack Valinski 57:59  
Lots of things are going on, as you know, because there's always something with spring break. It's spring break. Except we don't get spring break. Things are going on in the fact that oh the grand marshals

**D** Deborah Bell 58:12  
were selected for pride and who my favorite day honored.

**J** Jack Valinski 58:16  
grand marshals, Jay Allen, who is under Pacific Street, female Grand Marshal Cicely Wynne, who is very well deserved that honor active and agora and she is not very probably very well known in the community because she does a lot of work behind the scenes. And the honorary grand marshal is Claire Koepsel, who was very well deserved that she helped her son when he was suffering from AIDS and saw him pass away and she's very active herself in the community. She's on the board of the game has been Political Caucus, I believe there's like five different organizations she's involved in and herself. She's not in the best of health. But yet she does all this work and the organization that was chosen was Q Patrol. Very good. Yes, I thought it was a nice selection.


**D** Deborah Bell 59:07  
We're gonna go to a piece of music before we close off this evening. But let's just a touch a little bit.

**J** Jack Valinski 59:13  
I need to be reminded where I am.

**D** Deborah Bell 59:16  
You're listening to lesbian and gay voice on the radio and KPFT 90.1 FM. But with Pride Week, we need to remind folks that it's not going to be at the usual time,

**J** Jack Valinski 59:30  
time and location. Pride week starts June 3 and goes through the 12th which is a Sunday. Do I


time and location. This week starts June 9 and goes through the 12th which is a Sunday. Do I have those dates right? It is

 Deborah Bell 59:40


the hammer with his organizer.

 Jack Valinski 59:42


I was right third to the 12. The parade will be on Sunday the 12 starting at 1pm. Same location. And the reason why we moved it up is because those people in New York I'm going to have a grand celebration.

 Deborah Bell 59:54

In the coming weeks on lesbian gay voices. We will have people from the Stonewall organization She's talking about what local planning is being done. And also folks from Team Houston to talk about the gay gang so that

 Jack Valinski 1:00:07


they meet on Wednesdays and we had the location of their place but they had moved it to somewhere else. Well, let's play some music and then we will come back and give you the location or the number.

 Deborah Bell 1:00:19

Okay, we're going to play Chris Williamson and Trent ferry with postcards from Paradise

 1:00:32

ah,

 Deborah Bell 1:00:34

and that was done as close personal friend Trent fury along with the other person Chris Williamson. Singing little world spinning blue from their postcards in paradise. C. D, they're they're sitting on the beach, on the beach. Just under our umbrella, just you know. So So gazing into each other's eyes.

 Jack Valinski 1:00:55

I just met you spring break

I just met you spring break.

D

Deborah Bell 1:00:57

Yeah. Something something about the music lovers make together. It's pretty special. Actually.

J

Jack Valinski 1:01:03

I do have the phone number for the Stonewall celebration. They meet every Wednesday, their meeting place has been changed. I don't have that. The phone number for more information is 2720656. That's 2720656.

D

Deborah Bell 1:01:17

We've been all over the place tonight. You know we had Dr. Gary Bruton on talking about the sixth annual AIDS conference in Houston that is coming up next weekend over at the Astrodome the what is it called? It used to be the Marriott now it's something else it is right here.

J

Jack Valinski 1:01:39

sheets that were supposed to know it is at the Ramada hotel Astrodome, which used to be the Marriott Astrodome. And the information number is 9650566. That is next Friday and Saturday. And it's free.

D

Deborah Bell 1:01:52

And of course, we talked about what's going on in the world of the National Gay and Lesbian taskforce with their report on violence against gays and lesbians, and some interesting reports about how we're being treated in the world. Of course, we had Suzanne and Brian, of course, were very, they just come up with all kinds of things, don't they? And of course, we have to thank melody blight for that report, or the first of what I think will be a series of wonderful reports, not only from this conference, but from other things coming along. And melody is one of the trainees that we have right now with lesbian and gay voices that were expecting great things from give us some nights off.

J

Jack Valinski 1:02:33


We also want to acknowledge that very Forbes has been moved to Washington. He's our former General Manager and growing Ganter is acting general manager for the time being,

D


Deborah Bell 1:02:46

you think garlin will let us do coverage of the parade this year?


you think garin will let us do coverage of the parade this year?

 Jack Valinski 1:02:50


Well, it's not so much does he want to are we going to be able to do we have the energy and the volunteer? Do we

 Deborah Bell 1:02:57

really want to maybe we'll just want to march maybe we want to have a lesbian and gay voice. Maybe we should.

 Jack Valinski 1:03:02


We should march the Mardi, the remote broadcast up and down the parade.

 Deborah Bell 1:03:06


Now there is a thought we haven't tried that. The possibilities are

 1:03:10

endless. Yeah.

 Jack Valinski 1:03:11

Anyway, you're listening to KPFT and this is lesbian gay voices. And we want to thank everybody who helped on the show tonight.

 Deborah Bell 1:03:18

And even Mary Helen even though she's not here, she's in Canada. Yeah, she did. She did leave with some music. She's welcoming into the world a brand new little nephew.