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SPEAKERS

Jack Valinski, Deborah Bell



00:01

KPFT Houston.



Jack Valinski 01:04

We're not in Kansas anymore from Pacifica KPFT in Houston This is Wildenstein, a special edition covering the Gay Lesbian pride activities at the multipurpose Center here in West grey and Deborah Dannenberg is talking now on the stage are committed,



01:21

working even harder for gay rights. Hope to see all of y'all in Austin next legislative session. Love you.



01:32

On behalf of Houston, Lesbian Gay Pride Week 1990 We thank you for being our honorary Grand Marshal this year. Because we appreciate all that you do for us and Austin. Thank you.



Jack Valinski 01:48

lady victoria lost presenting the award to Deborah Dandora State Representative 137 Debbie Holmes is now



01:54

turned on a sandv van who's going to be presenting the trophies to the winner

came on a sandy van who's going to be presenting the trophies to the winner.

J Jack Valinski 02:00
Sandy van from San Francisco and entertainer for the

i 02:03
most outstanding floats and groups have an extremely outstanding array. The first prize the Stark law trophy most original entry and the winner is

J Jack Valinski 02:20
she's opening the envelope

i 02:24
to envelope Katie and

J Jack Valinski 02:28
Katie and vaguely. Remember the people that were dressed in the spacesuits The trophy is about five feet tall

D Deborah Bell 02:45
they make wonderful pastries and cookies and breads as well as lovely floats won't have to stop by on the way home from West Alabama

i 02:57
the second one is the Houston trophy. nonprofessional opening the Houston gay lesbian political pocket

J Jack Valinski 03:14
they were the people who had the reflection mirror that when you look to the future you looked at yourself meaning get involved. That is Spencer's accepting the award. We spoke to Denis a little bit earlier Dennis is President again.

i 03:21

03:31
The Texas trophy best professional flow

J Jack Valinski 03:39
record record record was the people who had the flags from all the different states represented.

03:50
For record,

J Jack Valinski 03:52
John, John Nicks is accepting he is co chair of Pride week I'm sure the record if I were to

04:03
be NAB and we're here. Now we have the Unity trumping best non motorized unit.

J Jack Valinski 04:14
And the winner is

04:17
Garden Party. The Garden Party

04:26
for garden party Debbie Holmes

04:31
oh all of us at the garden would like to thank you oh.

J Jack Valinski 04:36
Debbie improvising.

 Deborah Bell 04:38
That trophy is almost as big as Debbie is.

 04:41
Now the fight trophy best motorized union. Is that non non float? I didn't bring my glasses I got gay lesbian switched

 Jack Valinski 04:59
to gay lesbians. switchboard they were the one that had the card game was being switchboard was the one that had the car that looked like a telephone. Somebody

 Deborah Bell 05:16
someone one of the switchboard volunteers probably running up to the stage to accept on behalf of the gay and lesbian switchboard who have a community booth here, most of their people are over there.

 Jack Valinski 05:27
And remember that number is five to 930 to 11.

 05:33
Now the two biggest honors first the spirit of Montrose trophy, best interpretation of parade theme, by a business. And this goes to Lobo

 Jack Valinski 05:50
logo was the one that had the printing press on there with a paper coming out talking about the freedom of the press logo does ads in the Montrose voice every week with sort of an editorial that they used to talk about issues about being free representative logo coming up accepting the award and this award presentation a lot of people

 06:17
for all the support y'all given us and I have to say all the employees at the store minus myself and my love and Larry. They built the float themselves. They did it all and we're proud of

 Jack Valinski 06:30
that was Bill White. He was co owner of global bookstore on Westheimer.

 Deborah Bell 06:34
Course that part also had the two Basset Hounds that are so adorable that if you go into Lobo often they are they're visiting,

 06:41
who'd like to take this opportunity to introduce the Grand Bar. So since the last trophy is the grand marshals trophy, we have a nice Parker

 Jack Valinski 06:56
on these Parker just

 06:58
just a little bit earlier,

 07:00
we'd like to present them with a plaque for day our grand marshals this year for a decent Lesbian Gay Pride Week parade.

 Jack Valinski 07:09
They shared the stage with us.

 07:13
Walter and I would like to thank the gay and lesbian community of Houston for choosing us and Grand Marshal this year. We both put in a lot of hours and a lot of effort on money, a lot of energy into the community. And it's it's nice to get some recognition back. So thank you. And I also I understand that West Hollywood or LA has Barbara as the honorary Grand Marshal. I don't know if you can really see this outfit, but Lazar is our answer to Elvira here.

 Jack Valinski 07:47
And of course, a nice is referring to West Hollywood where Christopher Street West is the

organization out there.



07:54

Marshalls trophy, best interpretation of parade theme, by a nonprofit group. And this goes to I can't read this names project.



Jack Valinski 08:11

The names project Houston, who have panels here at the Metropolitan multi service center, they also office here at Metropolitan open service center.



08:23

Inside will see that they get it.



Jack Valinski 08:26

They're all inside working and sewing. They had the float where there was actually somebody looked like they were making a panel there.



Deborah Bell 08:34

It's really something when you have what you would have picked as the winners be the winners. The excellent selections from for this year. All well representing our community and outstanding entries. We have someone else being introduced to us.



Jack Valinski 08:55

Oh, Dennis Spencer, who we talked to a little bit earlier. There's a number of people up on stage.



Deborah Bell 09:00

Yeah, I think they're about ready to go into the political portion of this event because, of course, a lot of what we do, as a community is involved in politics. It's so important, because we have to fight for representation. We have to fight visibility. We have to be working on laws that concern our lives and such as repealing 2106 Texas penal code or whether it be an AIDS bill or the hate hate crimes bill. There are something that concerns all of us. And so we have several people I have noticed I think, Beverly nonprivileged Clark, Sheila Jackson Lee, I think it's over there and a few other people that either serve in some capacity as a politician or who are running for office.

 Jack Valinski 09:46

You know, it wasn't too long ago when a lot of politicians didn't want to talk to gay and lesbian. Right. We have

 Deborah Bell 09:51

George Prineas and Sheila Jackson Lee, Deborah Dannenberg. And it is nice for them to continue they solicited our support when they were running for office. And now that they are in office, they have not forgotten. George Gradius

 Jack Valinski 10:07

is going up to the microphone right now.

 10:10

It's great pleasure to be out here, this center, which is relatively new, as an addition to the Montrose area. It's also a source of real pride to see the parade today, because the longest one that I have ever seen the most units, and it seemed to me, there were an awful lot of people who come from all over the city, to see what the lesbian and gay community thinks of itself. And I think the message that was sent was extraordinarily strong, extraordinarily forceful, and extraordinarily good. I'm proud to be here with you today, to celebrate. And to say that as Houston comes back in the 90s, all of us need to make sure that the lesbian and gay community is part of that progress, and a key an integral element of this community. Thank you very much.

 Deborah Bell 10:57

Wonderful statement by George Grinia says, Say controller. And it's very important for us to recognize that we are here showing our colors as a community.

 11:15

Executive Director of the Human Rights Campaign Fund, which began in 1990, to fight for our rights on a national level. It gives me pleasure to introduce to you now, Mr. steed, nd

 11:33

quick correction, I'm, I direct the fields division of the Human Rights Campaign fund, I'm not the executive director, I bring you greetings from Washington, DC. You know, I travel all over the country where our job is to generate mail to Congress. And we travel everywhere, they're sent their 70, some Fridays around the country, this mine, for Friday wanted to be in most was used

in pride. And we've had a wonderful time down here, despite the hot weather. I've seen a lot of you sign up for our speaker at buttons. And I want to thank you for signing up and for making a difference on Capitol Hill. I want to bring one quick piece of information to your attention now. And that is that a short time ago, an amendment passed in the United States Congress in both the House and the Senate, the so called Food Handlers amendment that allows discrimination against those with HIV. And those were they in food handling jobs as waiters and waitresses, et cetera. We believe that the vet now will be deleted in conference committee, and then we'll be seeing a floor vote on the Americans with Disabilities Act, including people with AIDS in the next three or four days. Very important. Senator Jesse Helms.



13:14

Senator Jesse Helms is gonna move to reinsert Ben Harper amendment. Now, as many of you may know, Senator Benson, who votes right on a lot of things, made a horrible mistake and voted against us in the food handlers amendment. It's imperative that every one of you call Senator Vance's office this week. And the earlier excuse me, I'm losing my voice earlier in the week, but better urge you to support the Americans with Disabilities Act without the hams amendment. Again, I thank you. I salute Houston, Lesbian and Gay Pride. It's been a total treat to be here. And I urge all of you continue to speak out and be heard. Thank you very much.



Jack Valinski 14:15

Steven Dean, who is one of the people from the Human Rights Campaign fun of Washington, DC. He's down here visiting us to drum up some support. And one of the people who represent us in Washington.



Deborah Bell 14:29

You know, George was George graininess was speaking on the fact that often the eyes of the world look at the Lesbian Gay community during this week and how we represent ourselves and present ourselves the way we see ourselves. But also, there's some recognition of the fact that in a way, we're kind of at the avant garde as a community, we tend to be very aware of issues of human concerns and civil rights. And I think that speaks well for us very well for us and Dennis Spencer is once again making a speech to introduce someone. It's Sheila Sheila Jackson Lee,



Jack Valinski 15:07

one of our City representatives, representing us on a citywide basis, not a district, Sheila Jackson Lee.



15:16

One, you know, that it would take people like us to see this facility. And to make it a real good down home fun time, are you having a good time here? I want you to know you're the first and it looks good and feels good. And that's what community is all about. It's not about who you

it looks good and feels good. And that's what community is all about. It's not about who you are, how you walk, where you live, it's about people. It's about making a difference. It's about using resources in this is my neighbor, but he's also my friend. And I just want to say to you that no matter how far we go, and how high we climb, the most important thing that we need to remember whether we're in city government, state government, whether we're in federal government, is how important people are. And when you start talking about regulation, and who should get medication, you shouldn't be worrying about all kinds of red tape, you should be worrying about live.

 Deborah Bell 16:14
Thank you. Thank you,

 Jack Valinski 16:15
Sheila Jackson, Lee, Representative city council,

 16:19
I want to say to you that I had the privilege of being at the press conference, when Senator Kennedy in Washington introduced the care legislation. I've been following it. We've all heard the city of Houston as a site for the hearings, we haven't been successful. But we're very concerned about that emergency relief legislation. And I'm doing everything out of my office that we can to provide the insight and input to say we need it. Because Houston is on the list of city having the most AIDS cases. But more importantly, I think what we need to worry about is that we come together as a community and that city government be responsive. I thank you maybe for the first time publicly, for all of the support, I extend to you the continuing hand of friendship, because I do believe that we will be better as a city. Once we understand that what city is all about what state is all about, and what the national government is all about is just plain old people. Thank you again, so very much. Call me whenever you need me. Thank you again,

 Jack Valinski 17:21
you're listening to live coverage for the Metropolitan multi service center on West gray of the Lesbian Gay Pride Week. 99. Deeper into the political speeches. Right now from the stage. We have a perfect vantage point of seeing what's going on

 Deborah Bell 17:35
and we have a nice breeze coming up. It's making it very pleasant. And you know one thing about Sheila Jackson Lee, when she says Call on me if you need me, she means it. And that is something very rare and a politician that she's she's not just a politician for the glory or for her own agenda. She's really someone that's there for the people. And it makes us feel real proud that we're a community that supported her election

 Jack Valinski 17:57

who Sheila's has come to the community for support to get elected many years even when it wasn't popular to do so. And she was just recently elected to a city council City Council terms go every two years and there's another election coming up next year. Not this year.

 Deborah Bell 18:12

Coming to the mic is Glen Maxey lobbyist for the Lesbian Gay rights lobby from Austin.

 18:18

last legislative session for us is gay men and lesbians. It was about as hot politically as the weather has been this weekend here in Houston. But I'll tell you why. In 1991, when the gavel goes down in January, we're gonna make it hot again, for some politicians. We need your help to do that. Let me tell you about a few things that you can do. One, we're looking to add 1000 new members to the lobby by January come by our booth. Sign up. We're doing postcards. We're gonna put 10,000 postcards on the desk of legislators on their very first day to know that gay and lesbians are here, and we're going to be heard, come by our booth and find one of these postcards. This fall. The lobby has decided to order the Abell Grl has decided that we are going to expand our staff. And we're our goal is by November, you have a lesbian on staff as an openly lesbian lobbyist for the Lesbian Gay rights lobby. On July 28, in Austin on the UT campus, there will be a lesbian gay town meeting where we're bringing together people and individuals, people like yourself, to come to your town meetings to talk about the goals for our community. At that town meeting, we will make decisions about communicating between organizations between our healthcare groups, our minority groups, the lesbian groups, the political group, the religious and non religious group coming together as a community statewide. And secondly, we'll decide are we going to have another march on Austin in 1991 I'm gonna be decided in July come to Austin and help make that decision. And last but not least, I'm going to tell you about something that's most important for you to do. 1990 November 6, is the most important day for the lesbian and gay political movement ever. We're a 501 C four lobby group, we cannot endorse candidate. But I'm telling you on November 6, you can vote for a person for governor who will make a tremendous difference in our political agenda. I can't say who she is.

 20:40

If you want to bind a button or information right over here are a bumper sticker for that candidate who I can't name because we can't talk about endorsing candidates. Secondly, there's a race car lieutenant governor, and there's a man who's running for that office. He doesn't live in Houston as the other guy, and he is the most important second person you can vote for. The lieutenant governor's office has He has promised us publicly, no negative legislation affecting the lesbian and gay community will ever come to the Senate floor if he is in the chair. So check out with me individually, and I'll tell you that as are in the gay Political Caucus, we'll be letting you know. And thirdly, look at the US Supreme Court Rice's Linda Morales is going to be here to talk in just a second he's the plaintiff in the challenge to the

homosexual conduct suit. Three men are running for Supreme Court justice. They all happen to be Democrats, and they all will vote with us. Be sure to vote in those Supreme Court rises, keep the fight keep fighting comes down to postcard.

 Jack Valinski 21:52

When Maxine who is the lobbyist for the Lesbian Rights Law, the Lesbian Gay rights lobby in Austin, who is our only lobbyist that works for salary, give other people who volunteer right heel goes up sometimes. But Glen Maxey is our representative upstairs spoke to us as he's out there busy getting people signed up to his organization, getting people involved in politics. And the politics is very important to this community as we come along the way we suffered some things in 1985 with the the job referendums things that came up in front of City Hall now, Dennis Spencer's continue on announcing. I don't know who's next come up on stage. We'll just wait. Actually, Glen Maxey is sneaking around back here to talk to us. And we're very happy to have him come by and come into Houston for Friday. Glad Welcome to Houston.

 22:45

Thank you glad to be here. It's been a great, two days a little hot. That's the way we like it. We're sweating for gay and lesbian, right?

 Jack Valinski 22:53

You get a lot of people signed up and involved in the past couple of days, we have

 22:57

probably already surpassed 1000 People who sound pipe postcards that we will put on legislators desk on January 6, when the session starts. That individual involvement is most important when I go in and knock on the door and say, I'm here to talk about lesbian gay rights. They usually look at me and say, Who are you, but I'm putting those postcards on the desk.

 Jack Valinski 23:17

Now we had a march on Austin a year ago and April, March, March, April, earlier April. And we had a tremendous turnout about 25,000 people, even some of the conservative papers said that it was that high. And we've got some calls at the radio station right after that about young people not realizing that we had a community out there, and that we had so many people involved and beyond what it did to the legislature that letting them know it also let our community know what's going on.

 23:44

Most definitely I've had more comments over the last year of people who saying that I got

involved, I registered to vote. I got involved in my local organizations because of that weekend because I finally saw the community, the community with the Capitol, see that all of us pulling together whether we're political or religious groups or social groups or healthcare groups, education groups, you know, a real sense of community across the state of Texas. I'm really excited to be here in Houston. But I've been in Fort Worth and Dallas and San Antonio, I'm going to Beaumont two weeks going out to Amarillo, where they're starting a gay and lesbian group in Amarillo, Texas Vinda Lubbock group in Wichita Falls group in Denton. Two years ago, three years ago, we're talking about urban, we're talking about a state gay community now. And that's really exciting.

J

Jack Valinski 24:32

I've got a couple of calls from Waco and they're starting something up there. They don't know quite what they want to do. But on the other side of this 25,000 people show up and they do all this stuff in the lobby and they didn't have a lobby day was very successful. But does it also bring a negative side? Now that people know that there's guys out there? Did they get to hate us more? Well,

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24:51

there's always a reaction to people flexing political muscle. People who are who are on the other side legislators and others were a little I'm fearful that they saw all of a sudden 25,000 people on the Capitol grounds. That kind of reaction is not natural. In the 60s, the black civil rights movement had that kind of reaction. In the 70s, the women's political movement had that kind of reaction. And now, as we move into the 90s, the gay and lesbian political session, in movement, Will, does generate some fears and backlash. But each time we do that, each time where you are more visible, it becomes easier for our friends to support us and for our enemies to take us seriously.

J

Jack Valinski 25:35

No, I've heard some people nationally say how lucky we are to have somebody like Glen Maxey working the legislator up legislation sessions up in Austin, and it must be a very tough job. Yet in some way. We're also ahead of a lot of states because many states don't even have as much as we have.

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25:52

That's very true. Texas is one of only a half dozen states that has a full time lobby effort for gay and lesbian civil rights.

J

Jack Valinski 26:00

And sometimes that full time lobbyists doesn't get paid. Is



26:03

that true? That's true. That's why we set a goal in 1990. To say that we're gonna have 19 191 members of the lobby by 1991. We're doing a lot of direct mail right now. Hopefully, your listeners will be receiving a letter from us. Asking to join the lobby or at their organizational meetings will get a leaflet from us. We hope people will look us up, find our membership forms used to get Political Caucus office and other places like that. Get involved, be a member of the lobby.



Jack Valinski 26:33

Okay. Well, it's great to have you in Houston and celebrating lesbian, gay pride with us. And good luck, and we'll be keeping in touch on what's going on in next session. Thank you, Jack. Thank you.



Deborah Bell 26:42

Linda Morales is at the mic right now once again, make you one of her wonderful speeches. And we have with us another guest Deborah Dannenberg State Representative



Jack Valinski 26:52

137, which represents Montrose and welcome to our microphones and I know you've been like sentenced to Austin for a long time. And yet, finally, they made the decision. Finally, as Molly Ivan says, Governor, what's his name, finally made the agreement with that. And so what's going on in Austin, we're getting ready for another session next year.



27:13

Fortunately, nothing is going on right this moment, although, well, we're safe for the moment. But unfortunately, a lot still needs to go on. We still have not done what's necessary to comply with the law regarding prisons. So we'll have to go back for a special session on that. The bill that we pass on education, I think is constitutional for about four or five years, but it is certainly not a permanent solution. So we will have to revisit all of those issues.



Jack Valinski 27:42

Whatever. Let me just stop you there for a minute. You said something very interesting to me, early on, in my development, getting involved in it. Why are we so interested in education, you know, many most gay and lesbian people do not have children? We do have to pay the taxes for that. But why should we be interested in education?



27:58

It's a good question. I'm glad that you asked it. I think that most first of all, gay and lesbian people are good citizens and want and deserve to be recognized as good citizens. And we all have an obligation to future generations. I think that anybody who thinks that gay men and lesbians do not feel an obligation to a future generation is actually flooring the reputation of those individuals. Not only do we have a vested interest in future generations, generally there are gay people who do have kids. But in addition to that, all of us need an educated society, a better educated society, a literate society, for our economy to grow generally. I think George Christian might have said it best to me said that one of the reasons the Democrats absolutely have got to start winning occasional presidential elections, is that that is where the policy and the direction of the nation is made. And if we do not have some more victories, then what you are telling, what you're saying is that the poor people who need government most, you know, rich, people don't need government rich people can build their own roads, to their own mansions. But it is middle class working class and poor people who need government to do those services that we're all committed to do that we all promised to do when we run for office. And if if we don't have Democrats setting those policies, if we don't have middle income and poor people feeling a vested interest in the future, then what you create is an environment in which you have a permanent lower class of unqualified, unskilled workers. And yes, that does give you cheap labor if that's what you want. But that should not be our aspiration. We need to aspire to being better than that. Because what you have when you have a country with a guaranteed permanent underclass of cheap unskilled labor is a third world nation. And I think we all aspire to be being to be more and better than a third world nation.

J

Jack Valinski 30:03

One of the other things that I always found was very interesting is that you some of your responsibility, you feel the stopping bills from getting passed. Tell us a little bit about that. I'm hitting you with good questions, right?

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30:15

Absolutely. Frequently, bills will go rushing through because they've captured someone's imagination, or

J

Jack Valinski 30:24

we wouldn't be talking about the what's happening in the Congress right now, with the flagman. When would we

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30:29

Well, that didn't get through did it. But that's a good example. As you probably are aware, Craig Washington was the only vote on the Senate against that bill, and I was the only vote on the House side against that bill. Craig and I both take our responsibilities very seriously. And when we swear and affirm that we will uphold the Constitution, and we know that something is unconstitutional, not only we do not vote for it, we also do everything that we can in our power to stop it. Sometimes that means that we can kill things on points of order, sometimes that

means we can get them assigned to a subcommittee that we chair so that we can kill them single handedly by not holding hearings on them. Other times, it might mean that all we can do is vote against them and immediately help to file a lawsuit to stop them. And I've done that on a number of occasions. And I know that Craig has as well. So one person can make a difference, both in passing things whose time should have already come and gone. But sometimes you just have to move to the next step. And sometimes in killing things. But sometimes that is a lonely or one person fight. Other times, it's a matter of getting as large contingent of people as possible to go along with you.

J

Jack Valinski 31:45

What's coming up in the next session, I mean, we still have a lot of problems with getting money for AIDS in the States. In some ways, Texas has looked like as a third world country, toward concerning health and social issues. And I know you're very much concerned about that.

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31:58

Absolutely. One of the things that has worked pretty well for us, we got a lot more money, not enough, but a lot more money for AIDS, for example, in this last legislative session. But you can't just rest on that, because we have to have the problem, since we're not capable without spending the problem. For example, I've been working with Glenn, Maxine in the health department, so on and so forth, to make sure that we can get the AZT and other early intervention drug money released earlier, because of the more recent findings that the earlier that people get their diagnosis and get into therapeutic trial treatment and training, the longer they can live with a full quality of life. So staying on top of those kinds of issues, and working with the various agencies in the interim being on the Appropriations Committee has been fabulous for me, because they know that not only do I know where every dime is going, or at least that's supposed to, I do my best to with the limited staff we have. But they know that I'm gonna be there year after year watching that budget. And so that if there is a way to be cost effective, or if there's an issue that they perhaps don't know, as much as they need to, they know where there's a source who's committed to find out the answers, and to work toward getting the money spent as cost effectively as possible. So we can have more people helped with the amount of money that's available.

J

Jack Valinski 33:18

You know, I've heard you have a reputation of being a very hard person to work for, because you're very demanding. And you expect your staff to be very thorough when people call them up and ask questions, and they get back to you and all that type of stuff. So we certainly appreciate you coming by Being part of the parade today and talking to us doing here on KPFT.

o

33:36

Thanks. Thanks very much. And I've my my staff is wonderful at helping people. So even though you you do know that they're ever worked, and it is a tough, tough job. And we consider our constituency to be a lot broader than just the voters in our district. They enjoy being able to

help and they enjoy being able to be productive, so don't hesitate to call.

 Jack Valinski 33:54

Thank you, Deborah, Deborah

 Deborah Bell 33:55

Danford, a honorary Grand Marshal this year.

 Jack Valinski 33:58

You know, and this type of interviewing doesn't happen at any other radio stations, because usually you just hear a little 32nd bites. But we are able here to Pacific and have the time to be able to go behind the issues and really get involved and if you like this type of radio, perhaps you should consider contributing some money to keep this type of station going on. Keep this type of public forum that KPFT does have if you'd like to get involved in this radio station or would you like to help out this radio station? You can call us during business hours at five to six 4000 Or write to us at 419 love it for 19 Love at Houston 77006. And, Deborah, what's happening?

 Deborah Bell 34:37

Well we just had Deborah Dannenberg. Now we have another Deb writes a very popular name and such wonderful women have it like Debbie Holmes, who is the co chair this year's Pride Parade and hat now that it's over and done, Deb What can you say?

 34:54

That's right, damn it is over and done. And even though I'm wearing long sleeves and long pants, I say have stayed cool all day, the sun's not out. Really, it's kind of shady. So it could be a lot worse. But I'm just glad that it's over and everything went well. And I'm going to be looking forward to getting more than five hours

 Deborah Bell 35:14

sleep from now on for the first time in many months. Yes,

 35:17

yes, we've been planning this since last September, it takes many months to get everything out coordinated with all the groups that are going to be in the parade with all the organizers with the businesses, with the people making the floats, and the list goes on and on and on. When

somebody goes to watch the parade, they stand by the line of cars and everything and stand there and wave at the floats. They have no idea what goes into planning a parade and I would love for somebody to just go through it once.

 Jack Valinski 35:47

Well, you did a lot more than just the parade, it seemed like you got recruited to do more things like answering the phones, taking messages, helping out with some of the other committees on there. And I'm real proud of how hard you worked and made this a very successful year.

 36:01

Well, thank you very much Jack, I'm, I am a people person and I enjoy working. The fact that Ronnie, my lover, the co chair of Pride week had nothing to do with me doing all these extra things. I did retrieve all the messages about and information for Pride Week. Excuse me, my I really

 Deborah Bell 36:20

got the impression that Joe we're working as a team though, and that was really nice. It was kind of a nice touch to see couple of partnership that was doing it as a community activist partnership to you're both really involved in MCC er, and you're both you're with the band. So you do a lot of things throughout the year. Anyway,

 36:41

Ronnie and I like to work together, we like to be a role model for other couples, because we think that there's a lot of misconceptions about what couples should and shouldn't do. And I think it's very healthy, healthy for couples to work together. Ronnie and I work well together and we enjoy working together. And it does bring us closer we can share with each other our problems. And everything works really well. We do work together on the on a lot of different things. And we are very active in the church. And we're always touting something, if anybody will lend us an error, we will tell them about the church or gay pride or anything else that happens to come up.

 Jack Valinski 37:18

Well, thank you very much. And there is going to be another meeting in July.

 37:22

If there is and this is going to be the meeting where we kind of critique what has happened. And also thank you party for for like, for example, the businesses that that took in our T shirts,

and sold primary T shirts, koozies and buttons, people that advertised in the pride guide. There's just a multitude of people that we'd like to thank and this is we're gonna thank them at this party.

 Deborah Bell 37:46

And well, this goes on till 10 o'clock tonight. So people who still have plenty of time to come over and be part of the festivities. Yes.

 Jack Valinski 37:52

And we even have a chance to do that because the broadcast is going to end at seven o'clock tonight.

 Deborah Bell 37:57

We have a couple of more people to talk to I think before that BRB ban gets cranked up here. Thank you so much, Deb. Thank you. Well, now we have with us Linda Morales Linda was speaking while ago while we were talking with Glenn, Maxie and Linda is the lead plaintiff and the case against the state of Texas 2106 or 21. Zero because she likes to say that's the section number for the Penal Code of the state of Texas that makes certain homosexual conduct illegal. And would you I wanted to talk to you a little bit about that. And then I also want to ask you a little bit about Mica. Okay, so first of all, and explain what the case of 2106 is about,

 38:38

hey, in April of 1989, the Texas Human Rights Foundation, which is the organization that is acting as of counsel in this litigation, filed a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of section 21 06 of the Texas Penal Code, which criminalizes the consenting of sexual conduct between two adults. We believe that we can overturn this law on the right to privacy issue, as well as equal treatment under the law issue. Personally, I'm very optimistic about the lawsuit. We have Patrick Wiseman out of Boston, who is the attorney in the case, Patrick is very familiar with the civil rights litigation. And so I'm very optimistic about the case where we are at at the moment in the stage as far as a lawsuit. The plaintiffs have been asked to file affidavits and or submit affidavits. We have sent those affidavits. And if we get a positive opinion from the Attorney General's Office, chances are the plaintiffs will not have to testify. So we are hoping that that matter, will issue a favorable opinion concerning our challenge to 21 06.

 Deborah Bell 39:54

And that is essentially saying that this is an unfair law and should not be on the books of the state. of Texas. Right, exactly

 40:01

correct me there's 24 states in the United States that have a sodomy law,

J Jack Valinski 40:06

just as Linda, what was your quote in the paper today?

i 40:11

Well, when I first decided to challenge the lawsuit, it was sort of my it wasn't my first coming out to my mom, but it was like, okay, sit down. I have something to tell you even though you know. And so I said to her, I'm challenging the state of Texas on the homosexual conduct launch. She said, Linda, do you have to tell the whole world who and what you are, and I said, Oh, just the state of Texas.

D Deborah Bell 40:34

I will start there. In a way it is about telling the whole world who we are, I think Quinton Crispo, was one of the things he advocated. And as far as a makeup that's one of the organizations that you kind of were the got the midwife to you saw it be born, you keep it going you work on activities with it. You guys had a fun event last Sunday for for everyone, but certainly featuring the music and talents of many Latina women. Tell me a little bit about what omega is and then what are your feelings about that organization.

i 41:14

Amiga is the acronym for all Mohit is interested in getting active. And we were created as a support group for lesbians, Latinas, also to create as a means of promoting Hispanic, lesbian, gay pride within our own lesbian gay community as well. Right now we Amiga has been active in the community for about two or three years, we were co sponsors of the second annual Texas lesbian conference, which was very successful. And we're certainly proud of that endeavor we did with woman space. We're very proud of the fundraiser we had on the Friday, I mean, on Sunday, Father's Day, because normally when you think of Hispanic groups be in Texas, we do things Tex Mex style, this one was a little bit different, we reached out to our other sisters and brothers who are from other Latin American countries, and presented more aquatic quote unquote, the word Latina music applies, as opposed to Tex Mex music. So it was a little bit different. And I was really glad for that,

J Jack Valinski 42:15

you know, that's one of the neat things about living down here in Houston is really getting to know the different cultures here and be able to share some of that, and we're gonna be talking a little bit about the balay shortly. But, you know, and you all coming out into the community

and showing us that there is some differences in the community, that we all have different views on things and our culture's are set up differently. And the gay and lesbian community is really a wide spectrum, but let it get a lot of us don't try to know the differences.



42:41

Exactly. And I think you're in Pride Week, it's really important that that everyone support the different cultures. I know, I was my first year this year to make the gay atheist event and I was really happy that I was able to do that, because I don't know much about the atheist culture, or their endeavors are what they're trying to do in the community. And so it was really good to see at our fundraiser, a lot of different people there and people that normally don't come out to our events and support Latina culture. So I was really proud and I'm really proud that during Lesbian Gay Pride Week, we have an opportunity to show off the differences in culture within the community.



Deborah Bell 43:19

It's kind of like we get a chance to know each other and, and and having done that we are stronger for it and happier for it. And and I know I feel like I grow a lot through my experiences of being an activist. Are there any parting words? I know you've been really busy this week, because you are a spokesperson for the community because of the 2106 issue and your own activism?



43:44

Well, just what I said earlier, when I was talking to said that during this lesbian Pride Week, we cannot forget amidst all the gaiety that is lesbians and gay men, we have not gained equal status in Texas or for that matter in the United States. And we have a lot of work to do. And through community effort, we can do it. And so I am optimistic that this lawsuit can be overturned, but it is going to take a joint effort and so we need everyone's support. How can people be supportive they can call the Texas Human Rights Foundation at their office in Austin, that phone number is area code 2512479 t h r f. And they can just ask Are they make it an answering machine? I don't know. But just ask how they can be part of a persistent action towards lesbian and gay quality. I want to thank you and Jack for doing a lot of work in the community and for really including in your program, the diversity of the Lesbian Gay community and I appreciate all your hard work as well. Thank you, Linda. That



Jack Valinski 44:40

was a paid political by Linda Morales. Thank you Linda. He gets



Deborah Bell 44:45

a cold drink for that because it is still pretty warm this afternoon. And she's we've got another person to talk to now another person from the Hispanic community.

 Jack Valinski 44:57

Red is here and last night was in incredibly successful, then I guess you're used to this, that was my first experience of being at the ballet. And it was at the downtown height in the Grand Ballroom, the full ballroom, all sections opened up, is packed. That's right. And congratulations on that. Thank

 45:14

you, thank you. Well, we just wanted to come out here tonight, today and also be a part of the festivities, but at the same time to let the community know that we are truly grateful for their support for coming out and having a good time with us and celebrating our heritage, our culture and, and, and being a part of the community. This is also very proud time for for us. We don't get that many times to come out and be a part of the community, culturally, and because either being gay or lesbian, and so this for us, and the Hispanic community provides us an excellent avenue for that. And we, of course, are very much a part of the community, we had estimates probably a little over 900 people last night. And it was truly at the high no experience. And we had a really good time. But we wanted to come on here and to to thank all our friends and supporters. Interestingly enough, we had individuals, we had three individuals that flew in from San Jose, California, they had called our information line, which is eight, eight o g, I Hu. And on the recording, it said about the Pride Week in Houston, and they had heard about Pride Week in Houston. And so they decided to, to come out to Pride Week in Houston, and they've been here since Thursday. And they came out Saturday last night to be part of the byli. And so we had three individuals flying from San Jose. We had many, many friends from throughout the state from Dallas, from Lubbock, San Antonio, from Austin from Brownsville from Corpus, San Antonio once again, and it was truly united effort in the Hispanic community and as well as our non Hispanic friends, we are truly grateful to our non Hispanic friends, for being there for supporting us. And it was fun last night. Well, we thank

 Deborah Bell 47:18

you so much for all you do in the community. You have another bite coming up in New Years, right?

 47:26

Yes, and that's, that's another fundraiser that has become a very popular fundraiser. Last year, we, we took a gamble and had it at the Georgia brown convention center and use part of that facility. And it was very successful. And we're planning on on having it again this year, but possibly in another location. So we'll be talking to the community about that event also.

 Deborah Bell 47:49

So if anyone wants to get involved that number, again, is it's 880



47:54

G L H. Au, which is 4548. Also, we'd like to thank both of you for coming out last night it was it was fun seeing all our friends there. And thank you very much for supporting us. If



Jack Valinski 48:06

you want to learn more about the Hispanic culture in the community and get involved, the number would be sufficient to start.



48:13

Or you could write to GLA to PO Box 70153 Houston, Texas 77270.



Jack Valinski 48:21

And you can get that information from the switchboard. That's correct. Thank you, Brad, thank you very much for coming by. Thank you for having a great event, getting people from all over the state into Houston to see how we work together here as a community.



48:33

Thank you thank both of you.



Jack Valinski 48:35

And Deborah, that means that we're sort of here together again, it is ourselves. Again, we want to thank everybody who was involved in Pride Week this year. And thank the facilities of KPFT for allowing us to do this type of broadcast, that we can bring people from all over the state and all over the city who's celebrating Pride Week, how our friends and some of the politicians to that may be our friends who are involved, who's come out here who talked to the community, not afraid to be seen on the press or talk on on microphones to be part of the game lesbian community to solicit support, and then ask for our support as we ask for their support and helping us get recognition and get some of the civil rights bills passed.



Deborah Bell 49:15

We've had a full 10 days of activities of events from different organizations and sponsorships. We've had stages putting on Torch Song Trilogy, we've had the playing of the movie longtime companion over the Greenway playing



J Jack Valinski 49:30
and there was a write up today in The New York Times in the art leisure section talking about I didn't get a chance I haven't gotten a chance to

D Deborah Bell 49:36
read the paper for three days myself. But I do want to also

J Jack Valinski 49:39
remind people that in today's Sunday Style section of the Houston post, there's a wonderful article called Pride and Prejudice

D Deborah Bell 49:45
is that's what they call it that they said we have a lifestyle, our lifestyle.

J Jack Valinski 49:50
Well, it's a very comprehensive article and what's really neat it talks about KPFT in there. That is really neat. And his shows which is called out For hours, which is heard every Saturday night, Sunday morning between midnight and four talks about him being an openly gay person at the police department who was a dispatcher, and talks about being a little bit risqué and how we can't as lesbians and gay people usually talk about our, our lives, the people we share our love with, and our intimacy with

D Deborah Bell 50:21
I love that question when you're getting interviewed, and they say, Well, what do you have to tell everybody? And I know that one way to answer that is to say, as an oppressed people, that we must continue to stand up for our rights, and we must stand up for those that are, for whatever reason, not in a position to stand up for their rights.

J Jack Valinski 50:41
And because we are people that are can be chameleons that we can easily fit in as most people perceived as not gay and lesbian people. So it's very hard for sometimes to identify each other. And so people don't know who we are. There's a

D Deborah Bell 50:56
survey results of an interview of a questionnaire called our attitudes towards homosexuality changing as part of the article Pride and Prejudice in the Houston Post Style section. This is by

changing as part of the article, Hate and Prejudice in the Houston Post style section. This is by Clifford Pugh of the Houston Post staff and I know he's been going around the community talking to a number of people. And it's nice to see coverage in the in the commercial press. Actually, it's been

J Jack Valinski 51:24

very good the past the past couple years, the post has done a lot more to chronicle starting to come around. And there's been a lot of coverage of the International AIDS Conference in San Francisco, which of course, led up to Pride Week.

D Deborah Bell 51:36

And I think part of that is because of things like the march on Austin and the March on Washington where we just got together and said, Here we are taking our stand as a community as a people. And once again, that celebration of diversity of so many different kinds of people coming together as family, having a family reunion once a year, late in June when it's very hot, and flooring our banners with pink triangles and rainbow colored flags, and say here we are, and we are so proud. And

J Jack Valinski 52:11

also things like longtime companion Torch Song Trilogy. And Joe Watts effort in the theater we're still playing that helps to bring out what we're about what we're all and longtime companion is really a film that's seen in our eyes and in gay man's eyes about what's happened in the past seven or eight years, how the disastrous thing and aids we've lost a lot of the people we've known and love, and the people are no longer with us to be part of that community. It's been a tough, it's been tough. It's been very tough. And I want to more than ever thank the people at Pacifica, who let us do this type of programming. We're very happy that the mainstream media is really starting to take more serious look at the gay and lesbian community. But it was specific and it was the small Alternative Press like this week in Texas, the Montrose voice. That was really the seed of getting the information out. Yes, Pacifica

D Deborah Bell 53:01

was there first and continues to be there for gay and lesbian programming and other alternative styles of programming. And we really are appreciative of that have the opportunity to come to you every Tuesday night at 10pm. And to spend a couple of ours with you, bringing to you what's going on in the community and some commentary, some interviews some, some other folks that can talk about what what this community is about.

J Jack Valinski 53:30

It was through Pacific that I brought in my cultural talking about acoustic music, I've become a big fan of the when's Tuesday and Wednesday morning shows unfortunately, both those hosts are leaving us and I'm sure they'll be replaced by somebody who will be equally as good. It may

take a little while to catch on. But that's okay. And because of that I went out to Kerrville two weeks ago, and I had a wonderful time listening to some of this, some of this music. And then of course on Friday morning with breakthrough in women's music. I had no comprehension of women's music eight years ago when I started doing this radio show, and really got to like and some of the music we heard tonight. And some of the music that we played out in the loudspeakers before we went on the air represents that stuff that's being played on breakthrough, usually, hokey and cherry combined. I guess we just sort of missed them say,

D

Deborah Bell 54:15

well, pokey is probably busy over at the Inklings booth because I think she was letting a nice have her day is Grand Marshal. And since they're co owners, one of them has to kind of be responsible somewhere while the other one that's pretty difficult when two activists are in business together. And, of course, it's really nice to know that part of the KPFT community you notice we saw a number of people that we know from KPFT around today, either as supporters or who are actually part of the community and that's really nice. That makes us feel good once again that since the family is there, there's still so many things going on. It's been an incredible week.

J

Jack Valinski 54:56

You know, I usually say that KPFT is like a human that works. That's true. That's true. We want to thank everybody who helped with this broadcast together. Deborah, I want to thank you for stepping in, because Mary Helen was supposed to do the show, but she got called out on business to go to a Florida for a Pacific radio. And we understand that her duties as being station managers, carries her sometimes things that she'd like to do. She was here on stage yesterday, but Heartsong and so she is on her way, I guess to Florida right now as we speak, covering some meeting for Pacifica, which means that Mary Helen was probably a very important person at Pacifica now, as she's still Jean Palmquist shoes, we've done a wonderful chance to fill. And I want to thank growing dancer who is taking his Sunday, usually his off Sunday, not only helped run this show on the board, but he helped to the run the show from Pacifica in San Francisco with the sixth International AIDS Conference which Pacific and has done excellent coverage on

D

Deborah Bell 56:00

and of course, we had our after hours delegation in the parade itself. Once again, buddy Johnston and his crew of loonies. Were out representing KPFT and their show, and that was nice to see in the parade as well. Just we're winding up with just a few more minutes, the BRB band is getting tuned up here. So we may be out of here just in time, really, because we know they're gonna crank it out, worked out

J

Jack Valinski 56:27

a lot better than we had even planned. We have got back behind the stage. And we've been able to hear people on the stage and talk to them behind stage. And it was just really luck, because we don't always have the fancy equipment to do the real serious remotes that some

because we don't always have the fancy equipment to do the rear, serious remotes that some of the other radio stations do. But sometimes we do it better because we've got very committed people and people who help out doing these things. And we have a community that really appreciates KPFT

D Deborah Bell 56:50

I think that we've served ourselves well this week during Pride Week. 1990 Lesbian Gay Pride week course next year, it'll be gay lesbian Pride Week, because we like to remind people that it is a diverse community of men and women that come together each year, this time of the year, to be visible and to show our pride in ourselves as a community and to celebrate and that's really what it's about. It's a celebration.

J Jack Valinski 57:16

And we're in our closing minute now we just want to remind people that we're on Tuesday nights at 10pm. Coming up this Tuesday, we have David Fowler, who is going to be talking about cure AIDS now. Next week, we have people from the other economic summit toes and you also have sunshine scheduled,

D Deborah Bell 57:31

yes, Sunny. She calls her stuff Houston sunshine, and she's got a whole agenda of things coming up including self defense workshops for women. So we're going to be talking about that.

J Jack Valinski 57:42

And we also have Bart Lozier scheduled a week after that to talk about safer sex. And we're hearing a little bit about gay men relapsing how to safer sex. So I think that's a very important thing to to listen to on our show. But thank you very much for everybody who joined us today. If you want to find out more information about the community you can call the game has been switchboard at five to 930 to 11. If you'd like to get more information about KPFT you can call us at 526 4000 during normal business hours Monday through Friday. Thank you. You're listening to Kpf T in Houston and this is Jack Valinski , along with

D Deborah Bell 58:16

Deborah Bell saying goodbye