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Thu, Apr 04, 2024 12:58PM 1:01:40

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

gay, lesbian, year, law, houston, glbt community, aclu, called, homosexuality, military, harassment, people, men, center, group, falwell, scouts, civil unions, continued, members

SPEAKERS

Joan Devlin, Greg Gordon, Glenn Holt

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Glenn Holt 00:00

I'm Glenn Holt and this is lesbian and gay voices year in review for 2001. In this hour, we'll look back through the lesbian and gay voices archives at the issues and concerns national and local that captured our attention throughout the year.

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Hi, this is Anthony Rapp and you're listening to lesbian and gay voices on KPFT and Houston.

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Glenn Holt 01:10

this is lesbian and gay voices you're in review 2001 A retrospective. It was a very busy year for GLBT concerns. So let's simplify the landscape into eight topics. We'll call them chapters, chapter one gays in politics. We'll look at how the Bush administration had planned to ignore the Constitution and just pour federal money into private religious charities. It's called the faith based initiative. It also included a secret under the table deal with the Salvation Army that you and I were not supposed to know about. Unfortunately, official government harassment of glbts continued this year. Some Florida high school students were gay bashed by one of the state legislators they were visiting at the state capitol. Ironically, that action helped to get a law

passed, requiring Florida schools to take action against such harassment. And the US Surgeon General issued a report which spoke out against gay harassment. Chapter Two the GLBT community and the church. This year an international delegation went to the Vatican to try to get the Roman Catholic Church to tone down the anti gay rhetoric. They got a very unfriendly response. Meanwhile, Anglicans Methodists and Presbyterians reconsidered the role of gays and the Ministry and the issue of same sex holy unions. an Anglican book was published, which among other things, said that homosexuals are divinely ordered. Chapter Three, the great disasters, the huge flood called Tropical Storm Allison, which hit our city in June was as much of a disaster here, as the attacks on the World Trade Center were to New York chapter for discrimination against the GLBT community. There was progress this year and there were setbacks. Texas passed the James Byrd Hate Crimes Act, but upheld the antiquated sodomy law. Meanwhile, similar laws were repealed or killed by the courts in several other states. 25 states and the District of Columbia now have laws against discrimination and state employment. Houston City Council passed a similar ordinance protecting city workers, but then a constitutional amendment was passed preventing the city from ever considering partner benefits for those workers. The Boy Scout discrimination fiasco continued unabated this year, the Boy Scouts of America lost major financial backers. Numerous school districts across the country invoked their non discrimination policies and barred the scouts from using school facilities. Arch homophobe Jesse Helms sponsored a federal law to give the scouts special dispensation to meet in schools. Home Depot didn't want to, but after public pressure finally added sexual orientation to its corporate non discrimination policy, while Exxon Mobil Corporation voted down partner benefits. Chapter Five gays in the military. Openly gay Arizona State Representative Steve May was in the process of being drummed out of the military for saying that he is gay that was finally resolved and May was allowed to serve the remainder of his term. Meanwhile, a military judicial review panel this year recommended tossing out the military sodomy laws. Chapter Six the fight against AIDS, South Africa found itself in a lawsuit filed by 39 AIDS drug companies for trying to do something about the huge number of AIDS cases in Africa and the prohibitive cost of AIDS drugs on that impoverished continent. The drug companies lost the PR battle, and were shamed into providing no cost or low cost AIDS drugs to the third world countries. Meanwhile, HIV infection rates continued at an alarming increase in Africa and in black communities here at home. Chapter Seven gay civil unions. Last year, Vermont became the first state to provide civil unions. This year, its legislature outlawed gay marriage. And that's a matter of semantics. Congress also passed a law against gay marriage. Ironically, they called it the Defense of Marriage Act. Which leads us to the final chapter of this look back at 2001 Chapter Eight stupidity in the news, the GLBT community continued to be an easy target for cheap shots by stupid people this year. We were blamed for the terrorist attacks of 911. The Texas hate crimes bill was criticized for promoting homosexuality, and GLBT persons were equated with bank robbers. And we thought y2k was a bumpy year. This is lesbian and gay voices Year in Review. The San Francisco Chronicle reported at the start of this year that Representative Tom Davis, a Virginia Republican, told a story to a gathering of Republicans and their straight allies celebrating President Bush's inauguration. It was a warning to his party. A night left the castle one day on his horse to fight the Crusades, armor shining plume in his helmet, lance and sword at the ready. The night disappeared on the horizon and did not return for week after week, month after month, year after year, until the people inside the castle had almost forgotten him. One day they spotted a tiny figure coming toward the castle and as it came closer, the people in the castle realized it was the knight returning, the king came down and the people gathered. As the night drew near, they could see that his armor was dented and his lance broken for many battles. His face was crusted with blood, and His horse collapsed near death at the castle gate. I have conquered your enemies to the west. The night told the king but I have no enemies to the west, the king replied. While you do now said the night. Representative Tom Davis read that story. He laid it down as a gauntlet to the

GOP quit alienating gays or lose elections for the next 32 to 36 years, which is the approximate length of the long term political cycle. After being elected last year in a constitutional fiasco, the Bush administration continued to ignore the Constitution with a plan to put federal government financial support into private religious charities. Oh, not all religious charities though just the correct ones. It was called the faith based initiative and it included a secret under the table deal with the Salvation Army. That last bit pretty much got the whole thing tossed in the can. Gay and Lesbian high school students came face to face with government homophobia on a field trip to the Florida State Capitol in April, as one legislator accused them of being the downfall of America. The group of high school students was looking for legislative sponsors for an anti discrimination law. Instead, they got an anti gay lecture from one state representative. Here's more from this way out.



08:33

villians warning that the teenagers homosexuality would bring about the downfall of society made headlines across the US 10 days after the encounter with pavilion. Some of those same students returned to the state capitol. But this time they had a warmer welcome and some encouragement from Florida lawmakers. This way out. Susan gage reports. State Representative



08:55

Ken Gottlieb and state senator skip Campbell have announced they will seek legislation next year to pass a dignity for all students act. The legislation would implement statewide policies to prevent the harassment of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered students, teachers and students would have training in differences and diversity. And there would be a requirement that schools and school districts record incidents of harassment and violence against sexual minority students. The parents and the kids will have to convince the Republican dominated legislature to pass the bill and they'll have their work cut out for them with Governor Jeb Bush. When asked if he would sign such a bill, which fell back on discussing the comments of representative pavilion,



Glenn Holt 09:34

I would hope that the press would recognize that first amendment rights, whether you're elected or not, people ought to have the ability to express their opinion. Harassment is a separate subject. And I think there are existing laws on the books that deal with that. I'm not sure what the mean expressing your view is not harassment, anti gay harassment, ex gay therapy, and a lack of respect for diversity has a negative effect on the mental health of gays and lesbians. According to a report on sexual health released this year from the highest ranking medical officer in the United States, the Surgeon General's call to action to promote sexual health and responsible behavior, released in June. by the Office of Clinton appointed Surgeon General David Satcher said parents, schools and community leaders need to overcome discomfort with sex and sexually to impart plentiful and accurate information to children about the subject. In the document, Satcher said no valid evidence exists, that a person's sexual orientation can be changed, and efforts to do so can psychologically damaged gays and lesbians call to action also said although abstinence is a valid and important message for sex

education, abstinence only programs that don't teach about contraception methods are not effective in preventing sexually transmitted diseases. George W. Bush's administration, which backs a federal abstinence only program moved quickly to distance itself from Sanchez report saying it was a product of the previous administration. This is lesbian and gay voices you're in review 2001 A retrospective. A spokesman for the gay and lesbian advocacy delegation traveled to the Vatican at the beginning of the year said the trip was not futile. The delegation was a group with members from Seoul force and dignity USA. They were not allowed to meet with the Pope or his spokesman. They were there to promote a campaign against what they called centuries of spiritual violence and anti gay teachings by the Roman Catholic Church. They didn't get to speak to the Pope or anyone else in authority at the Vatican. But a group spokesman said he was pleased that they got the attention of the Italian public. This year Rembert Trulock published a new book called Steps to recovery from Bible abuse. And he came to Houston at the invitation of MCC er, he was interviewed in our studios by Joan Devlin. While



12:15

I was in Nashville, we developed the idea of steps to recovery. There were actually basically 12 steps and 13 steps of growing and continuing to learn. But these steps are really adapted to the gay and lesbian bisexual transgender people that had been abused by religion. And the greatest problem that I found in being a pastor of gay congregations. And only I had after I put my website on the internet with the same title, which is@trulia.com www.truelight.com I began to get a lot of email from people that talked about various ways in which they had been abused by religion. And so that's why it's directed to this. It's the most common problem that I ran into as a pastor, and then on the internet. And it is attempt to give the information that will correct this, and will help people to know that other people are struggling with the same



Joan Devlin 13:09

thing. And what does the Bible really say?



13:13

Well, the Bible really says basically, the message of the Bible, especially in the New Testament, and the life and teachings of Jesus, is that God's love is unconditional and inclusive. For Jesus, every human being had equal value before God. There was never any leaving out of people, in fact that I said, in our workshop we just did and Sunday preaching at MCC that really Jason's Jesus was crucified for loving the wrong people, because he would associate with people that were total Outcast rejects because they didn't keep the laws, they will consider to be unclean. So when you look at Jesus and Jesus be really objective about what Jesus was like. His characteristic way of relating people want to respect people, he listened to people, he asked questions, he listened to the answers, and he helped people to feel good about themselves. I would say my mission in life is very simple, help gay and lesbian people to feel good about ourselves and quit hurting ourselves and each other. Now,



Joan Devlin 14:09

what would you say to someone who has been through for instance these these ex gay

What would you say to someone who has been through for instance, these ex gay ministries?



14:16

We have a section of that in the book and the website. And I've reviewed the books written by people like Bob Davies, who was ex president of Exodus. And the problem with the ex gay movement is that it is based on some some false assumptions, things that just aren't true. The American Psychiatric Association, the American Psychological Association, American Medical Association, the American Law Association, all of these knock bar sources, all of these professional organizations long ago in knight in about I think it was about 1973. They made official positions that that homosexuality is not an illness, and that people who are gay and lesbian should be granted the same of benefits and same recognition legally as anybody else. But now the people that have fought against that have been basically preachers and politicians, the scientists, medical doctors, I've talked to a number of psychiatrists, because they've written about this recently, in my website, I give the most recent information that's come out just recently, from the American Psychiatric Association. The book includes that too. And I've reviewed these books written by these people in my website. And look, I do not know myself, anyone who has changed their sexual orientation. The American Psychiatric Association said last year after doing studies on that, that there is no evidence, no scientific evidence that anyone's sexual orientation has ever been changed. And yet the whole religious movements based on the idea that it can be through some sort of therapy, and it the see the Bible nowhere says that you can or should change your sexual orientation. Because the Bible never talks about sexual orientation. Most people don't realize it. But the Hebrew of the Old Testament and the Greek of the New Testament do not even contain a word for sex. There's not a word in Greek or Hebrew of the Bible. That equals our word for sex. That's a Latin term that came later. That



G Glenn Holt 16:14

was Rembert Trulock, author of steps to recovery from Bible abuse. And he came to Houston at the invitation of NCCR. He was interviewed in our studios by Joan Devlin, you're listening to lesbian and gay voices Year in Review for 2001 chapter three, the great disasters in June, Houston was treated to a drink. Well, a very large drink, okay, a flood of biblical proportions. Not very many places escaped the rising water. And the GLBT center on Hawthorne was no exception. The



16:49

Houston lesbian and gay community center sustained some damage, although it seems minor compared to damage suffered by MCC AR and bearing and even the Counseling Center. But we we have a seller, which I know it's a surprise to some people under the kitchen and the reception area. And it took on five feet of water during the worst of the storm. We the landlord started, brought a pump in yesterday and started pumping out water. And while he was pumping water, there was an electrical arc in the cellar filled with smoke. So of course, he immediately said, we need to shut down the power, which we did. So we were shut up, we shut down power yesterday. And the electricians showed up at nine o'clock this morning, and worked diligently all day, they were a terrific crew. And we had a wonderful crew of volunteers

from the center. And we cleaned out the cellar as the water was pumped out. So that the electricians would have room to work. And then we just decided what the heck, we'll just clean out the whole darn center, I'm sorry, the whole darn cellar, which we've been threatening to do for months and finally finally did. So the seller is cleaned out pumped out. The electricity was switched on about four o'clock. So we are fully operational. And we are back to our regular schedule.

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Joan Devlin 18:23

And if somebody wants to have an event at the center, what do they need to do if

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18:27

you're interested in having an event at the center. And we encourage everyone to think about the center as a place to have parties and private events, commitment ceremonies, even meetings, please give me a call. You can either call at the center 713-524-3818. Or if you'd like you can call me in my office number, which is 713-639-7574. And it's also listed in one of the mailboxes at the center number so you don't have to remember that. But please think about the center. And if you'd like to come by and just take a tour and see what the options might be. I'd be happy to meet you there and show you around.

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Glenn Holt 19:08

That was Tim Brookover. Speaking of problems with the GLBT community center, following the flooding of Tropical Storm Allison, on September 11, the sky fell down in New York City. Much has already been said about that. But the major media missed the news that one of the gay heroes on the hijacked plane went down in pence that which went down in Pennsylvania was a gay man. Ray Hill had some thoughts on all of this shortly after it happened. You know, I

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19:37

thought the national memorial service if you saw that from the National Cathedral was a very reasoned and careful response to a situation that just throws so many of us in absolute horror. I was nonpolitical. It called for a understanding and tolerance of people that are different. It I think the folks at the National Cathedral did what they were supposed to do in terms of telling the public there's so much jingoism in in a lot of the media. I mean Fox is just going to completely

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attack on America. Well, CNN is trying to copy what Fox is doing.

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20:19

And well, I mean, that's obviously sales. I mean, now we're in the situation where media is trying to out media, the media, and the blood and the gore sells a lot better. And the jingoism right around the corner from my apartment is the convenience store that I use, I go down there and buy my lottery tickets and diet, Dr. Peppers and Coca Cola and things and, and there's, it's the name of it is packs and pack is as in Pakistan. And I went in there this morning. And the clerk behind the counter was a woman and she was there by herself. And so I called her boss, the guy that owns his door. I know, I mean, I know everybody in the neighborhood. And I called him and I said don't leave her here but our staff, because the jingoism and all of that means that that she could do assume insulation and some protection here. I don't know what the investigation is going to show about the tire shop on Bissonnette.



21:18

That's that's just horrible, absolutely horrible. Ah, well, before you



21:21

jump to conclusions about all of that, understand that that seems to be a solitary event and exceptional event and it bears an investigation. I'm always careful, you know, but but the thing about it is there are no classes of people that cause things like this. There are no people have specific beliefs or non beliefs. Of course, Jerry Falwell thinks that abortionist atheist and gay people, especially those who are members of the American way in the ACLU are responsible for this whole thing. But that's awfully convenient for the short of mind and short of intellect.



22:02

Well, he definitely is an apology to the American people for saying that.



22:05

He apologized to gay people, but he said you understand you mistook I was speaking politically when I was speaking theologically. Well, it's damn poor theology. Oh, absolutely.



22:15

And even the Chronicle came out with an editorial saying how poor taste it was and unacceptable it is in today's Rush



22:22

Limbaugh understand took him on today. Really? Yeah. And just just, you know, in rushes on, inevitably, but you know, right in the middle of all of this, I know, I have to make some confessions. I actually listened to Rush Limbaugh a lot. And I was listening to Rush Limbaugh and he said, he said, half of the American population do not understand the meaning of the

word war. Well, yeah, I mean, half of the American population think that war is like a video game they call Desert Storm, which came across like a video game. And the other half think that war is made for TV documentary called Vietnam, or World War Two. All of this use of the term war is pretty scary. And it's part of the jingoism. And if Rush Limbaugh, who is kind of this ideological icon of the far right, is adding caution about using the word war has changed his tune, because that's obviously become the main line of the Republican Party and Russia didn't want to get caught outside of his usual territory. But his instinctive thing on Wednesday, when he did get back on the air, he was furious that he was taken off there for Tuesday. He was preempted for minute by minute, correct, but he was back Wednesday, and his instinctive thing was Wednesday, showed a lot of clarity. But I mean, being written radios obviously had an effect on him. Because this is something that you don't put in terms of war, because if you put it in terms of war, it means that the United States is going to finance flying incendiary weapons, over Iron Age villages, in the mountains of Afghanistan, and making crispy critters out of helpless women clutching their babies.



24:21

Well, you know, the interesting thing is that the Russians did it a few years ago, they already did, and the Chinese did it, you know, a century ago and while the Russians



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were doing this, a few years ago, the United States was supporting and training and financing. This Bin Laden guy



Glenn Holt 24:41

says lesbian and gay voices you're in review 2001 retrospective. Chapter Four discriminates against the GLBT community. There was progress this year and there were setbacks. Texas passed the James Byrd Hate Crimes Act but upheld the antiquated sodomy law. Meanwhile, similar laws were repealed or killed by the courts and several other states. A Texas appeals court upheld the state's sodomy law in March. In the case of two men charged with having sex in a private home here in Houston. The nine member 14th Court of Appeals voted seven to two to overturn an earlier ruling by three members of the same panel. That said the law was unconstitutional because it forbids sex between same sex partners, yet allows the same acts between non gay couples. The Legal Director of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, which argued the case on behalf of the two men said there would be an appeal of the decision because it fails to enforce the US Constitution's promise of equality before the law. 25 states and the District of Columbia now have laws against discrimination in state employment. City Houston Council passed a similar ordinance protecting city workers. But then a constitutional amendment was passed, preventing the city from ever considering partner benefits for those workers. The leaders of local Boy Scouts of America councils in some of the nation's largest cities want that national organization to compromise on its blanket ban on gay scouts and leaders. The resolution presented at the BSA as a national meeting in June, asked the organization to let local sponsoring groups set their own policies regarding the sexual orientation of members. The proposal came from board chairs and presidents from nine councils in New York City, Los Angeles, West Los Angeles, Chicago, Philadelphia, San Francisco,

Boston, Minneapolis and Orange County. The PSAs current stance is that homosexual conduct is inconsistent with scouting values. And that's a position that was upheld by a close Supreme Court decision last year. In February, two states moved against the scouts. In Connecticut, the state commission of human rights and opportunities upheld a ruling from last May that bars the scouts from state employee charitable campaigns because of its anti gay policies. And in New Jersey, the state adopted a policy that would require school districts to stop renting space to the scouts. The anti discrimination rule prohibits schools from doing business with any organization that discriminates in April, Steven Spielberg resigned from a BSA Advisory Board, specifically because of the scouts ban on gays and the BSA lost major funding from several sources, including the Communications Workers of America, one of the largest unions in the country. In other news of discrimination against the GLBT community in 2001. Home Depot didn't want to but after public pressure finally added sexual orientation to its corporate non discrimination policy, while Exxon Mobil Corporation voted down both sexual non discrimination and partner benefits. Before the merger, Mobil Oil Corp had both. But the leadership at Exxon is more conservative, and they didn't result in no partner benefits or sexual non discrimination policy for the new company. As a result, in June, the Human Rights Campaign called for a nationwide boycott of Exxon Mobil saying that the company is out of step with most other corporations and most of its competitors on this issue. This is lesbian and gay voices you're in review 2001 A retrospective. Chapter Five gays in the military. In January the army retreated in the case of openly gay State Representative Steve May. But Pentagon officials said it wouldn't lead to changes in the Don't Ask Don't Tell policy on gays in the military. May is a first lieutenant in the army reserves. Dixon Osbourne spokesman for the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, charged that the Army has been asking and pursuing almost with impunity. Steve May said the decision is unprecedented and hoped it would be the beginning of the end of discharging gay soldiers near the ends of their terms, thereby denying them retirement benefits or perks like the GI Bill. Then in May, a panel established by the National Institute of Military Justice said the Pentagon should eliminate the armed services sodomy law. The seventh member commission on the 50th anniversary The Uniform Code of Military Justice released a review of the UCMJ. Among its recommendations, was the repeal of the military's sodomy statute, also known as article 125. It didn't recommend ditching Don't Ask, Don't Tell. But that recommendation has been made many times before by many other groups. With the collapse of military reserves as a result of the war on terrorism, it might just be that that policy is now moot. The military needs all good men, not just a few and not the non gay.



30:53

is big. He's abrasive and he can draw like a lion. Or be meek as a god knows he's courageous. And sometimes outrageous, inspires me to do all that I can. But I'll never forget. The last time we met. How am I hard stop. At the story he told me. He said



31:28

life can be hard when it is you expect that you never expected. Then he said it's not the end. I rely on my friends. All the affection and the love and maybe with hugs, and without shoes and drugs still amaze.



32:08

And maybe he will, as he is active still. He goes to the marches and parades. He's not giving in, he's determined to win. He's a person who's living with

 Glenn Holt 32:25

chapter six the fight against AIDS. The African nations have the financial burden of caring for 25 million people with HIV AIDS, and other third world countries are struggling with a mounting epidemic. In the US drugs to treat HIV infection costs about \$16 a day per patient. A price war broke out this year, as 39 drug companies pursued a lawsuit against South Africa to stop that country from implementing laws that would enable it to produce cheap generic versions of patented drugs or buy them from foreign sources. A spokesman said the legislation allows the South African government to provide medical care for a whole range of diseases as required by its constitution. A coalition of international pharmaceutical manufacturers that initiated the suit have agreed to pay the legal costs incurred by the South African government in the legal battle. Having made a terrible public relations blunder. It was their attempt to preserve profits at the cost of African lives. The pharmaceutical companies have been shamed into extending their offer of low cost HIV and malaria drugs to 63 Poor Countries around the world. Meanwhile, HIV infection rates continue to climb this year in Russia, the African continent and surprisingly here at home. The CDC warned that HIV infection rates are alarmingly high among black youth in this country. Paul Guillory of the men's group and Houston talked about fear and denial in the black community about male sexual practices. He talked with Joan Devlin about being on the down low.

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Basically, it means secretive, are hidden. And the reason this is an issue is because of the increasing HIV rate among specifically among black women. And just to give a little background, the CDC came up with different terms, as far as men who are infected with HIV, are being gay, and getting the virus from another man either being gay, bisexual, or men who have sex with men. And they found that in the black population, black male population 25 of the respondents would answer to having sex with men but being heterosexual. And so these were people that typically were in relationships with women or had sex with both men and women. And, and so this phenomenon of being on the Download became an issue with because 20% of the new HIV cases are among black women, and almost half of the black women who are being infected are being infected through heterosexual sex.

 Joan Devlin 35:18

And is this? How much of this is this the CDC and people? I've heard this complaint before, sort of tailoring everything to the white gay male population? Or is this a resource is the download recently new phenomenon?

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The download is different. It's not specifically related to the white male, because when you ask a white male who got the virus from another man, they will answer that they're gay or bisexual

95% of time, only 1% of the time will they admit to being heterosexual? So when they saw this significant difference between the white male respondents, and the black male respondents, this became an issue. Now the Hispanic or Latino is somewhere in the middle, about 12% of their respondents who are infected with the virus admit to getting the virus from a man but will not answer to being gay or bisexual.

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Joan Devlin 36:15

So is this but is that attitude fairly typical? Would you say? Is it because there's more stigma in these communities to coming out as gay? Or is it just that you know, people because I mean, I've met people even now that will tell me, Oh, I can't get AIDS or I can't get HIV because I'm straight.

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36:35

Okay. Let me let me go back to what you said earlier. And then I ask Robert and Daryl to pitch in. This is from an article from the CDC called a deadly secret and it appeared in the Atlanta Journal Constitution on July the eighth. And I'm gonna read an excerpt it says while white men who have sex with men are more likely to leave families and communities, particularly in rural areas and small towns, and move to gay communities in major cities like San Francisco, Atlanta in New York, this is not true of black men. There is no such thing as a gay community for African American men. The African American community provides them support to deal with racism, they experience in the general population, and the white mainstream gay community. So this type of environment, the cultural thing, whether it's, it's in a black community or in this country, is causing black men, not just to stay in the closet, but those that don't even know whether they're gay or bisexual to be on the download to be secretive. And in many of these men are not even aware that they even would be called gay or bisexual. That

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Glenn Holt 37:49

was Paul Guillory of the men's group here in Houston. Talking with Joan Devlin. What is Q Patrol? You've probably heard the name. It's a nonprofit corporation operating a volunteer citizens watch patrol in the greater Montrose area. Our patrols have been a successful deterrent to crime over the past five years, and we'd like to be even more effective. I'm Glenn Holt, the president of Q Patrol asking you to donate just one night a month to make our community a safer place. Get your exercise walking on a foot patrol, rollerblading or bicycling or if you prefer, you can drive or ride in a mobile unit. Q Patrol is a great way to do something positive for yourself and your community. Call us at five to wait safe. We need community minded people like you. That's 528 safe. 5287233 Q Patrol is affiliated with the Houston Police Department's citizens on patrol program. This is lesbian and gay voices you're in review 2001 retrospective. Chapter Seven gay civil unions. Last year Vermont became the first state to provide civil unions. This year its legislature outlawed gay marriage. That's a matter of semantics. Congress also passed a law against gay marriage and ironically they called it the Defense of Marriage Act. In October, we looked at an op ed piece from the walker wire about Vermont gay civil unions. He says it's been a year since Vermont enacted its civil unions law, which grants registered same sex couples. All the state conferred rights of marriage. And Governor Howard Dean says The sky has not fallen or even teetered the institution of marriage has not collapsed. He told the New York Times none of the dire predictions have come true.

Who there was a big rhubarb and a lot of fear mongering. And now people realize that there was nothing to be afraid of. Vermont officials have conducted two thought well, almost 2500 civil union ceremonies, and twice as many women as men have tied the knot. And gay marriage remains still a hard sell in America. But as the Vermont law and the sky remain in place, opposition will continue to slowly erode.

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Joan Devlin 40:26

Oh, that's interesting. Yeah, you know, is we're talking about it's almost like in the wake of the World Trade Center, you know, it's like we're living in a whole different time. Now. All that other stuff seems so far while trivial, which it is, it's petty. It is, and it's ridiculous that we should have to fight for such a simple thing.

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Glenn Holt 40:44

And in California, that state's civil unions law was enhanced to allow more marriage like benefits for same sex partners in 2002. Governor

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Greg Gordon 40:54

Gray Davis has given his approval to the addition of about a dozen rights available to the state's registered domestic partners. Lesbian Assemblywoman Carol Mignon called the signing of the bill she authored a stellar advance for lesbians and gays. The new law which goes into effect on January 1, allows gays and lesbians to make medical decisions for their incapacitated registered partners sue for wrongful death, adopt a partner's child and will property to a partner. It also requires health plans to offer domestic partner coverage to businesses and associations similar to the coverage they offer employees dependents. Davis acted on the measure in the last minute flurry of bill signings before the midnight October 14 deadline. AB 25 was sponsored by the gay and lesbian lobbying group cape, the California Alliance for pride and equality. Cape says the law represents the largest expansion of domestic partner writes in the country.

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Glenn Holt 41:52

This is lesbian and gay voices year in review 2001 A retrospective. And now the final chapter of this look back at 2001 Chapter Eight stupidity in the news, the GLBT community continued to be an easy target for cheap shots by stupid people this year. Ultra bigots, Jerry Falwell and pat robertson blamed the terrorists, terrorist attacks of 911 on among other things, gays and lesbians. As this way outs, Lisa Chapelle reports, the world was shocked at their lack of humanity.



42:38

People around the world were still reeling, and many were looking for inspiration and hope from spiritual leaders. When Christian Broadcasting Network founder pat robertson hit the airwaves on September 12 with the Reverend Jerry Falwell as his guest on the 700 Club, Robertson -

on September 15, with the Reverend Jerry Falwell as his guest on the 700 Club. Robertson, a former Republican presidential candidate had already issued a written statement proclaiming that progressive political achievements have lost America, it's divine protection. Those sentiments were echoed in a prayer he delivered during the broadcast.



43:12

We have sinned against Almighty God, at the highest level of our government, we stuck our finger in your eye. The Supreme Court has insulted you over and over again, Lord, they've taken your Bible away from the schools. They forbid a little children to pray. They take the knowledge of God as best they can. And organizations have come into court to take the knowledge of God and have a public square of America.



43:38

Later, Robertson was joined by fellow televangelist Falwell, the Baptist pastor who gained notoriety as founder of the moral majority in the mid 1970s. And who has been a leading exponent of anti gay and lesbian rhetoric ever since.



43:54

I agree totally with you that the Lord has protected us so wonderfully these 225 years. And since 1812, this is the first time that we've been attacked on our soil. And I fear as Donald Rumsfeld the Secretary of Defense said yesterday, that this is only the beginning. And with biological warfare available to these monster, the Hussein's the bin Laden is the, the the Arab that's what we saw on Tuesday, as terrible as it is, could be minuscule if in fact, if in fact, God continues to lift the curtain and allow the enemies of America to give us probably what we deserve. You're that's my feeling. I think we've just seen the the anti chamber to terror, we haven't even been done to see what they can do to the major population. View of ACLU has got to take a lot of blame for this. Oh, yeah. And I know I'll hear from them for this but throwing God off successfully with the help of a federal court system Throwing God out of the public square out of the schools, the abortionist have got to bear some burden for this because God will not be mocked. And when we destroy 40 million little innocent babies, we make God mad. I really believe that the pagans and the abortionist and the feminists and the gays and the lesbians who are actively trying to make that an alternative lifestyle, the ACLU People for the American Way, all of them who tried to secularize America, I want the thing in their face and say you help this happen. Well, I totally concur. And the problem is we've adopted that agenda at the highest levels of our government. And so we're responsible as a free society for what the top people do with the top people of course the court system. Pat, did you notice yesterday the ACLU and all the Christ taters the the American people who American way, n o w, et cetera, were totally disregarded by the Democrats and Republicans in both houses of Congress, as they went out on the steps and called out on to God in prayer and sang God Bless America and said, Let the ACLU behind that rip. In other words, but the nation is on his knees. The only normal and natural and spiritual thing to do is what we ought to be doing and all the time calling upon God. Amen.



43:55



46:25

responses from the accused culprits were as could be expected. The ACLU said it chose not to dignify the Falwell Robertson remarks with a comment. People for the American Way said the preachers had chosen the path of division rather than unity. The Gay and Lesbian human rights campaign called the discussion irresponsible at best and a deliberate attempt to manipulate the nation's anger at worst, and a White House official found it necessary to go on record saying that President Bush does not share those views. The Reverend elder Troy Perry, founder and moderator of the predominantly lesbian and gay universal fellowship of Metropolitan Community churches found the remarks unconscionable.



47:10

I just don't know what was on Mr. Falwell's mine when he made the comments, but all of us every American has suffered.



47:19

In October of 1999, the Reverend Mel White Falwell's gay former Ghost Writer led a delegation of gay and lesbian Christians from his group soul force, who met with Falwell and a group of his followers. Their aim was to get Falwell to tone down his homophobic rhetoric. White says that although the results of that summit had been less than satisfactory, the failure has a silver lining. On one hand,



47:46

this extremist language always helps our cause in alienating him from the general public and distancing him from civilized society. On the other hand, it's frightening in that Jerry Falwell doesn't say things that he doesn't believe. And because he is a fundamentalist Christian, not unlike Osama bin Laden is a fundamentalist Muslim. fundamentalism believes that it's called to redeem a nation by eliminating those things which they find alien or evil, and fall well in taking this stance, even though he's apologized for saying it. He really means that he really believes that unless gays and lesbians and these feminists and these Abortionists, and these pagans are, are not eliminated, that the country can't be saved. And that makes it all the more important for us to take them seriously. And to demonstrate to them the seriousness of the error of their ways. Robertson



49:00

flatly denied that any guests on his program suggested that anyone other than the Middle East terrorists were responsible for the tragic events fall while complained that his remarks had been taken out of context, and told CNN, I would never blame any human being except the terrorists. And if I left that impression with gays or lesbians or anyone else, I apologize.



49:25

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well, we certainly offended a member of our church in New York City who is in a coma again, Reverend Troy Perry, who has burned over 50% of her body, who leaves a lover and a wonderful group of children. He should ask forgiveness of Tommy stir and jelly. A police officer who is a member of our church in New York, who immediately ran down to the World Trade Center and has volunteered over and over again. His other half Omar Thoris Omar worked in their restaurant on the top of the World Trade Center. He's lost hundreds of friends and co workers that worked in that restaurant. He needs to apologize to all Americans for how much hurt this attack is brought on, and to in any manner, try to put women women who believe in choice. Religious groups such as pagans and Christians, such as Metropolitan Community Church, I call for him to do more than apologize. I hope that he'll repent of what he did. In

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Glenn Holt 50:33

other cases of stupidity in the news. The new Texas hate crimes bill was criticized for promoting homosexuality, and GLBT persons were equated with bank robbers. Christian conservatives mounted an 11th hour attack on the hate crimes bill, trying to pressure Governor Rick Perry to veto it over concerns that it would expose Texas school children to what they called, quote, immoral and unhealthy teachings about homosexuality. What the conservative hate mongers objected to is an amendment added to the bill by Senator Rodney Ellis that develops a hate crimes education program for children through the state attorney general's office and the Texas Education Agency. Across the big pond, gay activists expressed their extreme displeasure with Sydney's new Archbishop who has compared gays and lesbians to bank robbers. The installation of a new Archbishop there in May met with protests by gay rights activists who consider the cleric to be de homophobic. This is lesbian and gay voices year in review 2001 A retrospective. And finally, there was another feeble attempt this year to show scientific support for ex gay therapies. As news of the study spread through the press on the GLBT community. The American Psychiatric Association sent out a press release distancing itself from the study, the APA said there is no scientific evidence supporting reparative therapy. reparative therapy was also in the news and editorials in the western states surrounding the Mormon church, so called reparative therapy organization operating through the Mormon Church in Salt Lake City, has recently authored a couple of Op Ed pieces which appeared in that city's newspaper. And in so many cases where religious fundamentalists claim success with converting homosexuals to heterosexuality. These claims have been based on circumstantial and preferentially edited data. The Op Ed pieces in question drew the ire of three correspondence, including Ted Packard, who is Professor of Educational Psychology at the University of Utah, a Board Certified counseling psychologist, and current president of the American Board of Professional Psychology. Along with two others, Packard wrote a response to the letters claiming success with reparative therapy, and the response was distributed on hen net this weekend. Here is their scathing denouncement of reparative therapy and the methods used by the authors in the two letters quoting Dean Byrd, the lead author of a recent Salt Lake Tribune op ed piece called homosexuality the in innate immutability argument, published on May 27, is a licensed psychologist who has been heavily involved in reparative therapy for homosexuals along the Wasatch Front for the past decade. His primary employment is within a faith based institution. To our knowledge Byrd has not been involved in any genetic research. Yet, unfortunately, he along with his two therapists, social work co authors, offers to the general public a superficial critique of genetic research related to homosexual orientation, in their eagerness to claim that science has not proved a genetic basis for homosexuality. Byrd, Cox and Robertson misinterpret the research they purport to analyze, and use selective quotations in a fashion that belies the scientific objectivity they claim. The beliefs espoused by Bert and his associates seem based more on a priori view of the matter than on the relevant

scientific literature. In fact, the argument presented by Bert and his associates is to some extent self contradictory, since these three authors and virtually everyone else admit quote, homosexual attraction, like many other strong attractions, includes both biological and environmental influences. This is the second op ed piece on homosexuality by Bird published in the tribune in less than a year's time. And in both the conclusion is drawn that quote, homosexual attractions can be diminished and that changes can be made. Thoughtful readers will be struck by the vagueness of this assertion diminished how and to what degree exactly what kinds of changes. Unfortunately, because this is a field about which the general public is ill informed Byrd and company are successfully getting out their message and having an enormous influence. Their theories about changing of sexual orientation are accepted as fact by many church leaders, by some professional counselors, and by some homosexuals and their family members. Over the past decade, bird and a number of his associates have worked with hundreds and hundreds of homosexual clients. And yet to date, they have produced no comprehensive summary of their work, even as they continue to promise change. In a published article by Nicola OC bird and Potts. Last year in psychological reports, only 79 Mormon church subjects are included in a sample of 869 successful reparative clients based on a highly selected nationwide sample. And that was year 2001. It started with the Bush administration's secret deals for the faith based initiative, and it saw catastrophe and heroism in Houston, New York City, Washington and Philadelphia. Unfortunately, it also was the year that Houston voters approved a poorly worded referendum to deny city employees same sex partner benefits. So what's ahead for 2002? Perhaps as the nation pulls together to fight a common enemy, it will become clear to everyone that hate mongering is counterproductive whether it's against Muslims, gays, or any unfairly stigmatized population. Stay tuned to lesbian and gay voices throughout the year for further developments. for lesbian and gay voices 2001 retrospective I'm Glenn Holt.



57:38

The bread is best. I don't believe one of the stars from spending 3,000,002. Consenting Leatherman doing that it might have been private. When no one complained. The judge put an end to their phone and the games, he sends the members to four or five years believe that sort of thing happens if you're glad to be happy that way. If you're glad to be gay, saying if you're happy that the Lions have been commissioned by bigots and written by shifting the class to lead pages with been going to then add on the scandal and slander the things that make out the victims destroying their lives they see that they smear as they daven despise its teachers. Oh, lesbian nuns. If it's filled out it's fiction that in the sun you're glad to seeing it that way. Y'all glad to be so happy that. Now there's a nightmare that blame on the gays. It's brutal and bullying slowly in the medical facts are ignored by the bigots who think it's the judgment of God attacked by the Vatican. bashed by the bill with cheap politicians making the message simple, obvious, please just lay off the patients and let's fight the disease. Say y'all Glad to see you're happy you're glad to be just seeing if you're happy with 21 Yes now for the right for people is to ever they like the righteous around for my blood. Now I live with my kid and a woman I love with a gay liberation means freedom for all. The label is no liberation at all. I'm here and I'm Queer. And I do Gong away a strange jacket I say y'all glad to see seeing if you're glad



1:01:08

you're glad to see you glad to be to seeing if you're happy this

