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SUMMARY KEYWORDS


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SPEAKERS


Greg Gordon, Jack Valinski, Joan Devlin, Cindy Friedman, Glenn Holt


 Joan Devlin 00:00
punched in the wrong lot of numbers they'd meant to punch in the correct ones.

 00:04
Oh, I see. So

 Joan Devlin 00:06
hopefully that had work. I could go for that.

 Glenn Holt 00:09
Well, you know, we, of course, we were discussing this at work today. And what was that I said, in any kind of an election, a certain amount of conscious cerebral activity should be applied. So the those voters, those Jewish voters in Florida who voted for Buchanan if they weren't paying enough attention to really understand what they were doing, then maybe the same people who haven't been allowed to drive a car for 20 years, maybe they shouldn't be allowed to vote anymore, either.

 Joan Devlin 00:43
Well, it goes a little bit beyond that, though, because there is as time has gone on, there has been increasing evidence of voter fraud. So we'll see how it all plays out. In the meantime, I strongly doubt those particular types of ballots will ever be used again, anywhere.





Glenn Holt 00:58

Right, right. Well, interesting, you know, the same ballots were used here in Texas.



Joan Devlin 01:02

I know I had one. Yeah. So today, this is what I don't understand. Because I was I was concerned about mine, because it is a little different. So when I was done voting, I took my card out and kind of just went through and made sure. Oh, that a whole my whole thing was rounded with the holes that were punched. Okay. And they were, so that was fine. So maybe that was something that should have been done as well. Interesting. But then again, when I voted, there was nobody, you know, there wasn't a line of 100 people behind me waiting to get into the voting booth either. So Well, that's true, because I already voted. Yeah. Anyway, we have quite a packed show for you. Tonight, we will be talking to Barbara Wilson, the author of the case of the orphaned bassoonists, which is a Cassandra Riley mystery, who will also have the AIDS Foundation on to talk to us about some of their upcoming programs. And our law old favorite Ray Hill will be on to talk about a benefit show he's doing at the gay and lesbian community center this weekend. We also have this way out, and some other little surprises for you throughout the evening. So why don't we get started?



02:13

I'm Jay Sheltie, and



02:14

I'm Cindy Friedman with



02:15

news wrap a summary of some of the news in or affecting the lesbian and gay community for the week ending November 11 2000. This week, the eyes of the world war on US election results, a number of which were still not clear. By this way out to deadline. Gays and lesbians have been profoundly concerned with the selection of a president who may appoint as many as four Supreme Court justices during his term to either increase or reverse the current narrow conservative majority. It's also generally believed that a victory by Democratic Vice President Al Gore would help to advance an equality agenda. While a win for Republican Texas Governor George W. Bush would stall it. exit poll showed gays and lesbians favoring Gore over Bush by nearly three to one.



Cindy Friedman 03:01

But just as voters were split right down the middle of the presidency, they've installed a congress in which Republicans hold only slim majorities in both houses. Combined with the lack of a mandate for either presidential candidate. This is likely to impede significant legislative

changes of any kind. As even Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott has indicated it will force an increase in compromise and bipartisan cooperation. By contrast with the we win, you lose attitude of the majority following 1994 so called Republican revolution, gays and



03:35

lesbians lost a valuable friend in the US Senate with Republican Virginia Governor George Allen's defeat of incumbent Chuck Rob. Rob was one of only 14 senators to vote against the anti gay so called Defense of Marriage Act of 1996. Allen held Rob's gay supportive record against him in the campaign. But many gays and lesbians celebrated New York's election to the Senate of Democrat Hillary Rodham Clinton, the exiting president's wife, who in her campaign was outspoken in her support of civil rights.



Cindy Friedman 04:07

As for openly gay and lesbian politicians, all three current Congress members were reelected 20 year incumbent Democratic Massachusetts Representative Barney Frank was endorsed by more than three quarters of his constituency. 16 year incumbent Republican Arizona Representative Jim Kolbe was also returned by a landslide. Democratic Wisconsin representative Tammy Baldwin barely managed to hang on by a margin of only about 2% against Republican opposition that was far more united than during her first election to the Congress by 6%. Two years ago,



04:43

there's still a chance they may be joined by Southern California Democrat Jerry Shipp ski. She seemed to have fallen just short of ousting incumbent Republican Representative Steve Horne. But she believes that will change after absentee ballots are added in that process could take another two weeks. And then a recount is likely.



Cindy Friedman 05:01

Democratic Vermont State Auditor Ed Flanagan, the first open gay or lesbian ever to be nominated by a major party for the US Senate was trounced by gay supportive Republican 30 year incumbent Representative Jim Jeffords, finishing even farther behind Vermont's incumbent independent US Representative Bernie Sanders was transsexual Republican Karen Karen.



05:24

Three other openly gay Democrats failed by large margins against incumbent Republican representatives in Pennsylvania, California and Ohio. Well, two openly gay Green party nominees last in New York and New Jersey



Cindy Friedman 05:38



Cindy Friedman 05:30

are record 118 Open gays and lesbians were running for office in this election. 43 of them incumbents 66 were in races for state legislatures. Almost all the incumbent state lawmakers were returned to Office including at least two were facing re election for the first time since publicly coming out. There may be three gay and lesbian incumbents who were not returned. Democratic Montana State Representative Mary Ann Guggenheim was ousted. Democratic Maine State Representative Susan Longley also appeared to have been unseated by a narrow margin. Democratic New Hampshire State Senator Rick Trombley, has asked for a recount after apparently being ousted by less than 1%.



06:22

But a dozen other gays and lesbians gained seats and state legislatures to bring the total to at least 40. Notably, they include a Democrat Carla Draenor not only Georgia's first openly lesbian or gay state lawmaker, but the first in the five state deep south region and only the second in the South. Democrat Chris cold became the first openly gay or lesbian state lawmaker in Michigan.



Cindy Friedman 06:45

voting in the state of Vermont was viewed with particular interest because of a concerted campaign against lawmakers who voted this year for civil unions giving gay and lesbian couples all the state level benefits of marriage. That so called take back Vermont campaign was led fiercely by Republican gubernatorial nominee Ruth Dwyer. She lost to incumbent Democratic Governor Howard Dean by a few percentage points more than she did in their last matchup. Civil Unions definitely took a toll on the State House where at least 16 civil union supporters lost their seats while all civil unions opponents were returned. As a result control of the House has passed from the Democrats to the Republicans. In the state senate civil unions had little impact, with both supporters and opponents returned and the Democrats will retain a slim majority. In exit polls slightly more than half of Vermont voters indicated they support civil unions, although 14% were very angry about them.



07:48

Two states, Nevada and Nebraska voted by large majorities to deny legal recognition to gay and lesbian marriages. In both states, conservative religious groups were able to raise large amounts of money to support the initiatives, much of it from out of state. While gay and lesbian groups had little statewide organizational structure to even begin to mount opposition. The Nevada measure will have to be passed by voters again in 2002 in order to become effective, the Nebraska measure is remarkable for denying recognition not only to gay and lesbian marriages, but to the uniting of two persons of the same sex in a civil union, domestic partnership or other similar same sex relationship. A legal challenge is already in preparation. Although opinions differ, it's possible this prohibition could block private employers from extending domestic partner benefits and even void powers of attorney and other contracts between gay and lesbian couples. It's even possible it could damage legal partnerships of other kinds since Nebraska Law uses the term domestic partnership to describe business partnerships contracted within the state.



Cindy Friedman 08:57

In Oregon, gays and lesbians were relieved by the defeat of measure nine which would have prohibited publicly funded schools from instruction encouraging, promoting and sanctioning homosexual and bisexual behaviors. This was the latest in a series of anti gay initiatives proposed by the Oregon Citizens Alliance since the 1980s. And it appears to have revitalized that group, which last year nearly decided to shut down. Polling had been very close on the measure and early returns looked that way too. But the latest figures available indicated its defeat by about 6% of CA's lawn may Bong conceded defeat, but promised to be back in 2002 with a slightly edited version of the same proposal.



09:43

In Maine gays and lesbians were disappointed by the apparent failure of a ballot initiative that would have given them statewide civil rights protections from discrimination. A similar measure had been enacted by the legislature and signed by the governor in 1997, only to be narrowly repealed in a low turnout specially election early in 1998. This time all the signs were hopeful as Pro rights groups mounted a stronger campaign than their opponents. Polling was strongly in their favor, and even the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Portland supported the measure. But the survey results weren't matched by the actual vote, for which the latest figures available showed a loss by about 2%. Supporters of questions sick now await the official finding of Maine Secretary of State.



Cindy Friedman 10:29

And finally, on the same day as the general elections, gay columnist Dan Savage entered a plea of guilty to a misdemeanor count of fraudulently voting in a caucus. That plea bargain agreement ended a saga that began when the presidential campaign did at the Iowa Republican caucus in January to pick the party's presidential nominee. Savage went to Iowa undercover to see what would happen to a gay man volunteering in the campaign of homophobe Gary Bauer. He also participated in the caucus by simply filling out a registration form with the address of the hotel he was staying at. Something he said showed how vulnerable the system is to abuse. Iowans were not impressed by the security issue, and Savage was originally charged with an additional felony voter fraud charge that could have put him in prison for six years. By pleading guilty to the misdemeanor. He was sentenced only to a \$750 fine a year's probation and 50 hours of community service he'll be able to do in his home city of Seattle, Washington. That's good for savage who'd said earlier. I don't want to go to jail in Iowa. That's redundant.



11:41

That's news wrap for the week ending November 11 2000. Written by Cindy Friedman, and recorded at the studios of KPFK. Los Angeles,



Cindy Friedman 11:48



Cindy Friedman 11:10

follow the news in your area and then formed community is a strong community. For this way out. I'm Cindy Friedman.



11:55

And I'm Jay Sheltie.



11:57

Imagine yourself serving as a Peace Corps volunteer in one of 80 countries around the world.



12:02

I wanted adventure, I wanted to go out, learn about a new culture, learn a new language and bring it back to United States.



12:09

You know for sure for two years, it's going to be like nothing you've ever experienced. I joined the Peace Corps because I think Peace Corps as a development organization is one of the best in the world.



12:20

My dream of becoming a physician if anything has become enhanced.



12:24

The best part and my experience here I think is the volunteers that I found a second family,



12:28

I think one of the best things you can do with your time. It's a great program where you can come and help people out. excited about it.



12:35

There's a role for you and Peace Corps never really feel like work. You love what you're going through. You're helping people, you're in the community, and people really appreciate you so much. For every little bitty thing that you do. It's fine.



12:47

Make a difference in the Peace Corps, visit our website or call 800-424-8580 It's the toughest job and



Glenn Holt 12:57

you are listening to lesbian and gay voices.



Joan Devlin 13:00

Good evening, I'm Joan Devlin. And I have on the phone with me, Barbara Wilson, who is the author of well, several books, but her most recent one is called the case of the orphan bassoonist. Barbara, are you with us?



13:11

Yeah. Hey,



Joan Devlin 13:13

I have a few questions I wanted to ask you about the book, which I thought was wonderful. Very exciting. It's a fictional story. However there is it is based on some fact, which is that there is a story about orphan musicians in Venice, who were these girls? Well,



13:32

these this institution started in the 1300s in Venice and churches began taking in foundling girls who had a band than abandoned by their mothers who were often prostitutes in Venice. And someone had the bright idea that they would teach them to be musicians. And over the next centuries, there began to be four of these ospa Dolly, and they were quite famous. The girls were not actually allowed to leave and set up on their own as musicians, but as long as they stayed in the dolly, they could perform in orchestras and soloists and one of the most famous was lucky Atia and Vivaldi, I found out was the choir master who also composed most of this music for these girls.



Joan Devlin 14:17

That's amazing. And so what actually tell us a little bit of background about the story, how does your character Cassandra Riley, get involved with, you know, the history of these orphan musicians?



14:32

Well, many years ago when I was first writing about Cassandra, I gave her a bassoon playing roommate in London, with the intention that at some point, I would sort of utilize this fact that Vivaldi had composed all these bassoon concertos for these foundling girls. And so when this novel starts, Cassandra gets a phone call from Nikki, who's her landlady in London and Nikki is a Baroque bassoonist who has been involved needed to Venice to participate in a seminar using replica and period, the spoons. And Cassandra gets this call from Nikki, who's hysterical. She's been charged with staff, this bassoon has gone missing. She wants Cassandra to come right away and bring her some private papers and also a lot of money. And Cassandra is sort of mystified by this, because Nikki hasn't actually been arrested. But she goes anyway. And the plot thickens as they do. You know, there's lots more going on. In fact, within a day or two, there's a murder, Nikki goes missing. And Cassandra has to find out who did it and what happened to Nikki.



Joan Devlin 15:38

Now, I have I have notes here. But it says here that like you Cassandra Riley, the protagonist of the case of the Orford, bassoonist, is a globetrotter and a translator. So does the release, does the resemblance in there? Or do you also have a tendency to solve some mysteries in your spare time?



15:57

Well, fortunately, I've never come across to murder. But I am very interested in the detective as a figure in contemporary fiction, and I am really interested in history as well. So you know, I suppose my have a resemblance to Cassandra just in that. I'm interested in asking questions. I'm very curious person. In other ways, we're not at all like, she's kind of on the go much more than I am I live in Seattle with my partner, we have a house I have a garden, because Sandra would never do anything like that.



Joan Devlin 16:32

You have translated a number of books, though. One of your characters asked in the novel, what should a novel have for you to wish to translate it? Do you believe as Cassandra does that a book that you translate has to become yours?



16:45

I think so you have become attached to the writers voice in some way, so that you can replicate it or try and replicate it in English. And I have translated some things that just didn't appeal to me at all some nonfiction as well as some fiction. And I noticed that it's hard to get inspired. So I like to feel kind of a hard correspondence between me and the writer, since after all, I am bringing her words into English, and I think Cassandra feels the same.

 Joan Devlin 17:13

This is far from your first novel. In fact, again, reading my notes, it says you've written literary fiction, mystery essays and memoir, what draws you to each of these forms? What differences do you find? And what's in the future for Cassandra Riley?

 17:28

Well, you know, I suppose I am interested in dealing with loss. You know, I'm kind of a little bit of a fraud, I suppose, as a mystery writer, because I'm not all that interested in murder, I meant more interested in South. I'm interested in mistaken identities and impersonations of all sorts. And definitely, these books are quite comic. But I think the theme of law figures in all of my work, where I'm, you know, either writing about kind of unrequited love, or, you know, the death of my mother. And, you know, so I'm interested in writing across a broad range of genres. I'm interested in writing more lightly, and humorously as well as about very deep subjects. And as for Cassandra, I mean, she kind of has a life of her own and a will of her own, so I'm not really sure where she's going to pop up next. There is a film that's been made of *Gowdy* afternoon, the first novel that I wrote about her, which hopefully will be released next year. And that's been quite interesting. It kind of has given her another dimension

 Joan Devlin 18:34

is I was very interested in that because it says that that film stars Judy Davis and Lily Taylor, and they're Lily Taylor's a favorite of mine. So I was I was what I was wanting to actually ask you that when you thought it would come out, because it sounds like a prime candidate for the gay and lesbian Film Festival here.

 18:52

Yeah, it's a little bit less gay than one could wish. Cassandra's character has been made somewhat more ambiguous, though. I think Judy Davis does a great job. I actually just saw screening about a week and a half ago in New York. And I was really enchanted by her performance. She definitely has an eye for the girls so not as much as Cassandra does. And I think that the well, the film, it had an interesting trajectory. It's been in the works for many years. And I'm actually amazed that it got made at all. But even though it's an American director, Susan seidelman, and screenwriter and lots of the actors are English speaking. It was made in Spain in Barcelona by Lola film, which is Spain's biggest producer. And so the premiere will actually be in Madrid in February and it will probably open in England and in Europe before it opens here, but hopefully, people are hearing about it. And you know, it should be in some film festivals next year and possibly open for general release in the fall.

 Joan Devlin 19:58

How did it feel to see Is your work portrayed on screen?





20:03

Oh, it's fascinating, actually, you know, so many years had gone by that, of course, everyone had had their little finger in the pie. And so I didn't really know how closely it would resemble my book at all. And I remember sitting there watching the film, partly knowing what was going to happen and partly being curious thinking, what have they done with it, and I think it does lack a certain spiciness. But I was also very impressed with some of the things that Susan did, the things that you can do with films sort of telescope the emotion very quickly, rather than, you know, tell it in a narrative way. And I thought the music was great. And of course, it was in Barcelona, and there's a woman who plays the well, I won't give it away, but she plays a character called Frankie called Marcia Gay Harden. And she did a fabulous job. She's a real actor. She's a Broadway actress. So it's a pleasure to see her that Lily Taylor actually was not quite convincing as a butch lesbian. Bless her heart.



Joan Devlin 21:06

And it's a shame because she was did very well and Andy Warhol.



21:09

Uh huh. Yeah, she's a great, I love her, you know. But she's a lot of jumping up and down in this and quite a bit of whining, but she sort of lacked the moves, I thought,



Joan Devlin 21:20

well, it's still it's still something that I think would I would really like to see. Yeah, I'd like to see it featured in the gay and lesbian Film Festival. Now in Back to the case of the orphan. missin is one of your characters in the book makes a statement that gay and lesbian people are really the foundlings of the universe. Do you believe that? Or was that just kind of something that came to you as that characters philosophy?



21:44

Well, I think that's one way of saying it. I mean, I think that character who's researching the orphanages in Venice is really thinking through what is an orphan? And in some ways, you know, the novel is about family. And it's about rejection. And it's about, you know, who is our family? And I think, you know, you could make a case for the fact that many gay people have been rejected by their birth families and have had to sort of find, you know, other connections in the community or make their own families.



Joan Devlin 22:14

And much like, I'd say, the orphans in Venice, by people that are willing to take them in and give them a chance to excel. It often is what enables them to excel.



22:24

Yeah, exactly.



Joan Devlin 22:27

Well, I want to thank you so much for being with us tonight. And when, what before I go, what's the next book you have coming out? Because I'm reading here that you're currently working on a travel narrative?



22:39

Well, it's a big project. I've been working on it for a couple of years now. And it's about a sea voyage I took from Ireland all the way through the North Atlantic, or the Shetland Faroe Islands, Iceland, Norway, by sea, and I collected stories of women in the sea all the way through. So I came up with some fantastic stuff that's never been published before. And certainly not kind of in a group. I mean, I found out that we've Erikson, for instance, had a sister who also commanded her own ship to the new world. I found out about herring girls, and about goddesses of the sea, and women who are whaling merchants and Icelandic Fisher women who were heroic and all kinds of great stuff. So I'm working on blending that into a travel narrative as well as the history.



Joan Devlin 23:28

Well, great, I want to thank you so much for being with us tonight. The name of the novel is the case of the orphaned bassoonists. It's available everywhere it is by Barbara Wilson. And it is a wonderful book, speaking as someone who has read it, you are currently listening to KPFT lesbian and gay voices. And we're going to listen now to another segment of this way out.



Glenn Holt 23:46

You are listening to lesbian and gay voices.



Joan Devlin 23:49

Good evening, I'm Joan Devlin. And I have on the phone with me, Barbara Wilson, who is the author of well, several books, but her most recent one is called the case of the orphan bassoonist. Barbara, are you with us?



24:00

Yeah. Hey,

J Joan Devlin 24:02

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Well, great. I want to thank you so much for being with us tonight. The name of the novel is the case of the orphaned bassoonists. It's available everywhere it is by Barbara Wilson. And it is a wonderful book, speaking as someone who has read it, you are currently listening to KPFT is lesbian and gay voices. And we're going to listen now to another segment of this way out. She's on the TV

 Glenn Holt 34:42

you are listening to lesbian and gay voices. And if you've been in the stores, you realize that Thanksgiving is next week and that means that Christmas is right around the corner, according to Macy's anyway, one of the things that Christmas brings with it and the Gay community is a toy drive for children affected by HIV. And a press release went out just today from the National leather Association, the eighth, the NLA chapter here in Houston, about the ninth annual toy drive in Houston, that the NLA is doing with the AIDS Foundation. And Dennis Watson, the president of NLA. And Mark Cohen, from the AIDS Foundation, Houston, are here to talk about that. Dennis, this is something that your organization has been doing for a number of years. How do you what do you how do you do this?

 35:39


Well, this is our ninth year, and one of the things we rely on is our membership to step up to the board. We talked to various organizations, businesses, and bars here in town. And the Saturday as a matter of fact, we start distribution of our toy boxes. And we'll be sending those out to the various organizations that will allow us in, and we leave those out there for approximately five weeks and go around to check on them once in a while and take them out. Because we do have those places that fill them up almost weekly. And we really appreciate those folks. And also we raise funds for the efforts of the transgender illusionist community, who put on a series of shows for us to help us raise toys and funds as well.

 Glenn Holt 36:30

Did you say transgender illusion or illusion?

 36:33

Oh, depends on your take on? Okay.

 Glenn Holt 36:37

Well, I can just imagine NLA being involved here. We're talking about leather Santa Clauses,



36:41

but Well, we would that idea has been bandied about.



Glenn Holt 36:46

Okay, so where do you put the toy drive boxes?



36:49

In most of the bars in town? Those are their leather friendly and as well as the gay owned and operated businesses, as well as a few others that are not specifically gay owned or operated, operated? Pardon me?



Glenn Holt 37:03

And what sort of toys are appropriate?



37:06

Well, what we're looking for is new and unwrapped toys for children from ages two to 12, for the toy drive, and the funds that we collect are going to a separate bucket, so to speak, where we support two camps camp hugs and camp hope or char products of AFH his organization. And Mark and explain knows



37:34

the the two camps that we do, we do a family weekend camp, and then a week long camp, and this is for children who are HIV positive between the ages of seven and 15. So that the monetary gift from in LA, goes to sponsor ship the kids to camp so that they can attend camp. And when is the camp held? Camp? Hope is the last week in July, this coming year will be July the 20th through the 27th.



Glenn Holt 38:04

Do you like to have it when it's hot? Well,



38:07

yeah, it's a great time for these kids, especially considering the economic level that most of these kids come from. It's the only opportunity that they have to to experience this type of event.

G**Glenn Holt 38:23**

Well, that's a good point. What's what who is your target with this, with this event with your toy drive target as far as economically?

**38:34**

Actually, most of those people that are involved as recipients of the toy drive are very financially deprived, we should say.

G**Glenn Holt 38:45**

Usually, I was that because of some specific circumstance or because they come from families where HIV is a problem or? Well, Mark.

**38:53**

I think most of the most of the clients and most of the kids that we serve their families, we're looking at family and it's they're living either at or slightly below the poverty level. A lot of our kids are living with someone other than their biological parents, a lot of them are being raised either by an aunt or an elderly grandparent, which really intensifies the focus of NLA because their generosity, a lot of these kids would not have the type of Christmas that we're able to help them provide. If we did not have the folks like in LA to help us out.

G**Glenn Holt 39:39**

And I'm sure you must get a very warm reception from the people that you do this for

**39:44**

their grade. One of the things that we found out as soon as we started partnering with AFH is what we've just done. This is just our second year. We were doing kind of a duplication of effort, where we would go into previously and pick a specific charitable organization to give to. And we found that why partnering with AFH, we were able to do being a part of a massive umbrella that they have to cover a lot of aspects of the community that we were not able to reach before. So the response we get from the community, as well as the response we get back from AFH, and other organizations is wonderful. They're very, very nice. I

G**Glenn Holt 40:30**

wanted to say a few few words about what the national leather association is about, because I think perhaps there's an image in people's minds, oh, is something kinky?



40:43

Well, there is that what our statement of purpose is, is to teach people how to be kinky in a safe, sane and consensual manner, there are rules that you need to operate by, if you're going to practice your kink. And that's one of the aspects of our organization is to educate people in how to do this in a safe manner, because people will go out and buy something they see in a store and use it and somebody ends up getting hurt. And it's our job to help teach them pushing them in the right direction to say there is a way to do this, to where it can be mutually satisfying to both.



Glenn Holt 41:21

And you do community service and fundraising as part of that.



41:27

Yes, we do. Part of our annual run is also a run big our anniversary, which we're coming coming up on number 10. This this April, Ryan, I want to explain run. A run is gathering. It's our anniversary party, we throw a three day party begins on Friday evening and sometimes Sunday. And we do a club call crawl, as well as a run to some various other locations. And that's yet to be determined for next year. And we just get fellowship together in the leather community and we got to have a good time.



Glenn Holt 42:07

All right, Mark, while you're here, and you have a microphone available, you want to say something about the AIDS Foundation.




42:14


We're very fortunate to be part of this community. The generosity that we've always received from the gay lesbian community is just overwhelming. And it's it's just very neat that folks such as in LA, understand that because of the manner of this disease. There are other folks that are being affected. And they're willing to help however they can.





42:44


We can't say enough about the people who step up to the plate to help us out with this. The outpouring of volunteers this year to do the fundraising shows and the like has been phenomenal. And we're looking forward to having our our best year yet. We have a series of shows lined up where we've actually dragged some troops out of retirement. God loved them. And we've generated a lot of curiosity and enthusiasm in the community. So we're looking towards a very good year.


 Glenn Holt 43:12
What sort of shows


 43:14
most of these are track shows, essentially, we did one last night in the pouring rain at Mary's it didn't start out that way. But that's the way it ended up. Unfortunately turned into Lake Mary's in the back there. But we managed to get through it and just under 45 minutes, half the show because we had to cut it off. We don't want people hanging onto a live mic in the rain. raised close to \$1,000. Just right there. The whorehouse girls and old troop that used to be here in town and has revived themselves and they're coming out to do our official kickoff show next Sunday. And we have four other shows aside from that.

 Glenn Holt 43:56
Are all of the shows going to be before Christmas? Yes.

 43:59
We have one practically every week. And in fact, I think we have two on one night.

 Glenn Holt 44:05
How do we know where these things happen?

 44:06
Well, we were putting up posters across town or I can start rattling them off here if you Okay, go ahead. All right, this coming Sunday at eight o'clock. The whorehouse girls will be doing their disco divas show for us at the BRB. Let me see what else I've got here. December 2, the Royal Sovereign imperial court of the single star here in town we'll be doing a show at chances at nine o'clock. That's a Saturday night on December 10 mother and daddy of Montrose 2000. We'll be doing a show at Mary's 5pm

 Glenn Holt 44:43
Let's mother and daddy of Montreux.

 44:46
These are titles that started out as a camp titles. Mother's certainly a camp title and daddy is

slowly evolving into a fundraising title and actually the both fundraiser title not as intent. Correct. Uh, Funding piles on top things to do for fun. And they're both contests that have been going on at Mary's for quite a number of years. And mother is elected on Mother's Day and daddy's elected on Father's Day. And these are folks who get out and work their butts off to help the community and the various services, service organizations that are out there.

G

Glenn Holt 45:22

Now, you know that you can't mention something like that without me asking the question. So who are these people? And you don't even have them?



45:30

Oh, no, no, no, no. mother and dad. Okay. Jerry and Chris. Well, actually, Terry goes by gingivitis. That's her first stage name. And Chris is Chris summers when he's on stage. Some people change their names, others do not. We also have one last show, which is our last blowout, which is December 17, to close down the the toy drive and that's the same book as sisters decades at five o'clock on December 17. The Sambuca sisters being another troupe of folks that have been around for a while and their only show this year is benefiting us and the toy drive. So they've decided to pull out all the stops, and they're quite a wickedly funny group.

G

Glenn Holt 46:23

If somebody wants to be a beneficiary donate something to the toy drive or to NLA for this. How can they get in touch with you?



46:31

Well, they can either drop it off at one of the toy boxes if it's a toy or something like that you can find in the local businesses, or they can contact if they have email access in LA dash H SW bell.net. And that will go to all the board members for ELA or they can call me at 713-807-8186 I have an answering machine and I returned calls

G

Glenn Holt 46:56

and your name is Dennis My name is Dennis. Okay and mark if somebody wants to be a recipient of if there's a child with HIV in the family.



47:06

If they want to register, they can come by the AIDS Foundation. Starting meta fact on the 27th November the 27th through December the first and register with us at our offices, which are located at 3202 Westland.



Glenn Holt 47:26

It's the ninth annual en el a toy drive for the AIDS Foundation. We've been talking with Dennis Watson, the president of NLA and Mark Cohen, from the AIDS Foundation, Houston. This is lesbian and gay voices.



Greg Gordon 47:41

What do the women behind the acclaimed but controversial film its elementary Academy Award winning director, Deborah chesnoff and producer Helen s. Cohen do for an encore. It's called that's a family. And this way outs Chris Ellen has the story.



48:02

There's all different kinds of families. Their families was one parent, do parents, some relatives of foster parents



48:10

cancer reach from their aunts or their uncle, or their grandma or just one mom or two moms.



48:19

The team at women's educational media has created an exciting new film for children. I asked Producer Director Deborah chesnoff what the motivation was for creating the film.



48:30

This film that's a family is part of a series that we're producing called respect for all. And the idea behind this series came about because we realize there are very few resources that teachers can use in the classroom that begin to do anti bias education that's inclusive of lesbian and gay people. And when we did our research and talk to teachers and parents, what we found was that when kids are forming their ideas about the world and forming their very first thoughts about differences in diversity, their first point of reference is their family and understanding different families. So we thought if we could provide a resource that would help teachers and other educators, help kids to understand about differences in types of families, that that would help lay the foundation for them to be able to understand about differences in general as they got older.



49:21

Unlike women's educational media is last film its Elementary, which depicted educators talking about gay and lesbian issues in the classroom. The stars in this film are children. What we



49:33

wanted to do in this film was to have children explaining to other children about all different kinds of family structures. So we've got kids in this film, who talk about what it means to have parents who are divorced, what it means to be adopted, what it means to be raised by a single parent or a guardian. What it means to have parents of two different races and what it means to have gay or lesbian parents.



50:00

It is estimated that in the United States, six to 10 million children live with gay, lesbian or bisexual parents. In the film, three children tell their stories about their lives with same sex parents. Each interview takes place during an event the family is involved in. Dominique is interviewed at a family bowling night.



50:22

I'm Dominique and this is my sister, tickly Shannon, my other sister. And I have two mothers, Lee and Angie. Greg. Sometimes it's hard to tell other people that are too big because sometimes they don't understand. The way we became a family is our two mothers were friends and they decided they wouldn't be more than friends. So they get in to a relationship with each other and they started to fall in love. After dad, they act so man to be the father of a baby. Sophie had me and Auntie had to question Alma and we grew up together as sisters.



51:13

Josh was interviewed at home as he and his sister finish homework and play a game with their mothers. I like the



51:19

attention that might so mom's give me and I think it's nice to have two moms. Like sometimes I have homework that's in Spanish. And my mom's day, she she knows a lot of Spanish. So she helps me grow mostly in winter. And then my mom, Joan, she's more active and I think it's nice to have a mom that's a little bit more serious and a mom that's more playful. 123 Sometimes kids ask me, oh, isn't your mom Joan, your real mom. That means if she had you, then that would mean she is your real mom. But I tell them my mom's stay. She adopted me. And that that would mean she was my real mom, too. I think Jones Stacy are the main thing inside each other's heart. Except for me and Maura. And I hope it stays that way. The only hard thing about having two moms that sometimes kisses us mean words for gays and lesbians. And that hurts my feelings. Like last year, there was this kid at my school and he uses bad words for gays and lesbians a lot. She knows that it was alright to have two dads or two moms, or just anything. I wish she knew that it was okay to be different.



52:57

Brianna talks about her 10th birthday party.



53:01

My name is Brianna. And this is my dad David. And this is my other dad Greg. When I was a little kid, David met Greg. And then we decided that we were going to live in Greg's house as a family while I was my 10th birthday, and mostly kids from my class came. And it was a really fun birthday party. Some of my friends have gay parents too. I have friends that have all different kinds of family. Some people think that you are going to be gay when you grew up because you have gay parents, but I don't think that's true, because you could be but not everybody's gay when they grew up. But just because you have gay parents, okay, all together



53:56

I wish more people understood about being gay and weren't afraid of gay people, then they wouldn't say mean things about them. If you knew my dad's you would know how cool they are to the best dads ever.



54:17

I asked director producer Deborah Chas not to contrast that's a family with her last film. It's Elementary.



54:24

That's the family our new film and respect for all the series that it's a part of is really putting into practice what its elementary advocated. Namely, we are creating tools for teachers and others to use with kids that are inclusive of lesbian and gay issues. And they're done in an age appropriate way and in ways that fit into existing



54:50

curriculum. How have children responded to the film?



54:53

We've been thrilled with the response so far. I mean, every audience we've shown it to the kids that have been in that audience Kids have been absolutely riveted to the film. At first, it seems like they're really enjoying all the fun stuff that the kids are doing in the film like baking cakes and going to Chinese New Year Day parades and going bowling and doing fun stuff with their families, because they can relate to that. But we've had, you know, handed out questionnaires

afterwards. And the kids have said, you know, I felt exactly like those kids felt. And then kids have started telling us about the anti gay name calling that goes on their playground, they've started talking about how nobody at their school talks about single parents and nobody talks about divorce and that they really relate to the stories that are in the film. And it's been incredibly affirming for the children who have watched. This film



55:45

is also quite affirming for adults raising alternate family structures. For more information on the film, that's a family or it's Elementary, contact women's educational media. Their website is www.wellmedia.org That's www.wellmedia.org. Or they can be reached by phone at 415-641-4616. Thanks for listening. I'm Chris Allen.



56:18

There's so many different ways to be a family. It doesn't matter who's in the family. But it matters that you love each other and take care of each other. That's a family.



Greg Gordon 56:27

Thanks for choosing this way out the international lesbian and gay radio magazine. This week, Cindy Friedman the Sheltie, gram Underhill, Jason Lynn Chris Ambridge, Brian newness Rex Wagner and Chris Allen contributed program material. Thanks also to Chris Wilson, and to Nathan King and Pacifica network news, Kim Wilson composed and performed our theme music. Some of this way out. Operating expenses are funded by a grant from the kicking assets fund of the Tides Foundation by planet out from designated contributions by uncommon cloud Visa card holders who've chosen this way out and through direct charitable donations from our listeners around the world. For audio cassette information or with any questions or comments about this way out. Please email us at tworadio@aol.com visit our webpage at thiswayout.org or write to us at Post Office Box 38327 Los Angeles, California 90038 USA and please be sure to include the call letters of this station. Remember you can also hear this way out anytime online exclusively on planet out. Just point your browser to www.planetout.com and click first on multimedia than on radio for Lucia Chapelle and everyone at this way. I'm Greg Gordon thanking you for listening on W E are you Bangor Maine to ser Sydney Australia. KB Oh, Portland, Oregon, and more than 125 other stations around the world, including this community radio station, do stay tuned.



Glenn Holt 58:08


At 90.1 FM This is KPFT in Houston, the sound of Texas and now more of lesbian and gay voices





Jack Valinski 58:34


Well, I was running a little late today. Yeah. I had some personal business to take care of. You made it but I'm back here. Did you talk about broken hearts club? No, I didn't talk


 Joan Devlin 58:45
about broken hearts club.


 Jack Valinski 58:46
It was a fun movie. I was interesting. They had a full page ad in The Chronicle about it. And full page ad in the local press too. I guess. You know, Hollywood type of gay buddy movie pretty good.

 Joan Devlin 58:57
Also, the masquerade theater in town is playing chess the musical really and masquerade theater is off of shape put me on the spot, but it's in the heights. Very it's easy to get. I'll use a quote from somebody in Ohio. It's easy to get to if you know where it is. But that's like diverse works. Yeah. But it's they're playing chess. And it's a very, it's a small venue. So it's a very kind of threadbare set, but they do a wonderful job. The Singing is fantastic. It was just a really good time. I saw that on Friday night.

 Jack Valinski 59:30
Speaking of which Joe Watts was on the cover of zest two weeks ago talking about gay Theater, which is Joe has been doing gay theater in this city for a long, long time since the pink elephant day.

 59:41
It's a real pioneer. Joe and Joe's Of course. And this voice of course. It is really remarkable theater and he throws himself in enjoys wanted to legitimize gay theater and when you make zest you want

 Jack Valinski 59:58
absolutely absolutely. Ray Hill is with us. This is Jack Valinski. And I'm Joan Devlin. And we're in the second hour here of lesbian and gay voices of our queer voices, as we sometimes call it. Ray is going to be doing this is not a one person show. This is sort of just a talk and well, it's

 1:00:14
it's it's, you know, I've been, I've been pretty pushy about these things, I've been deciding what I was going to let people here. And I've done for a single character performances over the last three years starting with the prisoners, which was about the obvious in the sex police, about


the wrangle between me and the vice cops, it went on and on and on forever. And still, I guess going on, we just kind of go into an inactive phase. And then I did rail in love, which was about two wonderful men in my life. And then I came back with a more 60s oriented program very quick, all my things were personal, but it it talks about my evolution. And the title of it was outlaw career like Ray Hill, which dealt with the activism in the late 60s and early 70s. And so this time, we're gonna get together with the community center, and I'm gonna give you all the chance, I'm going to ask people to come in and challenge me. A lot of folks that come to my shows have lived through stories with me, and they haven't heard my version of what we went through. I think, probably one of the most articulate among that is Carl Reinhart, who reported to one reviewer that, you know, Ray, and I shared those experiences, but they're a lot more interesting when he tells them than they were when we were living through them. And so, yeah, that's true. That's what the theory is about is to make the borderline mundane, interesting. And I'm going to do that kind of impromptu and ad hoc. By the way, if you've got an axe to grind with radio, God only knows I am offended that I can't imagine every dance I'm doing right. Now I'm going to be setting up they're very vulnerable, there's going to be a whole audience of people there. Come on down and have that me.

 Joan Devlin 1:02:06

And being an axe to grind. That brings us to something that's been going on on the Houston Activist Network, and I don't know if you've had time to read through all of it.

 1:02:15

Well, actually, I've taken a sabbatical from a hand knit, and,

 Jack Valinski 1:02:21

and it's the only one left Yeah. Others hand

 1:02:26

a hand line inspection hand God, those are those are all hand grab, and throw and there was a bunch of those other things. So I really whenever I started feeling the pains of being a crippled old fart I, I had to lighten up on the stress in my life. And, and I really enjoyed that I really enjoyed participating in those exchanges. But I've been off of it. I've been offline. You know, I still get emails and people send me copies of things. And if they know my email address, they can personally wet my pant leg, but I'm not in any groups or any action.

 Joan Devlin 1:03:07

Well, the discussion hinges around the parole of Derek at heart. And there are people, one person in particular, who felt that your support of early release for this gentleman was a blow to the gay community.



1:03:24

Well, you know, I sometimes forget that people don't. Under this whole generation of people out there that have no idea that I've lost two companions to homophobic violence when was killed by a burglar in his apartment, who had chosen his apartment because he was gay, and therefore gay people are all rich, and so it's going to do well there. And Dale fluffy, sweat came home, the Barzan was murdered. And then Fred pies, of course, was assassinated by cop who claimed to be trying to arrest him for soliciting a violation of Section 2106 of the penal code. And there is no solicitation element of that. But it indirectly drag Fred into an alley and blew his brains out. And over the years, I have varied scores of friends who were murdered by anti gay violence. And I, sometimes I try not to be condescending. But you know, I listen to people's concerns about positions that I take in other things. If they have comforted someone who's been gay, bashed in their lap long enough to get blood on their clothes. That's kind of the price of admission for me to take people because I have been in that situation for many, many years. And hundreds of friends about I'm sorry about that. nine years and six months ago. on Fourth of July 1991, Paul Broussard and two friends left heaven after it closed and went around the corner to Willard street and they're upon a carload of punks who had been at a party in The Woodlands. Actually, it was one of three carloads. There were kin people involved in all ask the three of them, where is heaven? And they said, well, heaven is just over there. But it doesn't get to not gonna do any good. Because they close, we just left there. And that was identification that they were gay enough for the guys to bail out with the cars and start beating and stabbing. Paul Broussard was was mortally wounded back. The first I knew of it is I got a call from Steven Liddell, who lived around the corner. And Steven called me and said, At four o'clock in the morning and said, right, we need your help. There's a young man that has been badly beaten and stabbed. And he's bleeding to death over here. And the emergency team won't touch him. He's been here over an hour. Can you help us get them to take him to the emergency board. And so I got up and started getting a 12 pass my or even for the morning of Fourth of July, I got up and I put on my clothes, and I called the director of the EMT squad, and I told him what I had been told and said, I'm on my way over there. And by the time I got over there, he had radio to hit. And they loaded Paul into the into the ambulance and carried him to Ben tarp where he lived for another hour. In the hall had been Tom, I mean, this is weekend, Fourth of July, businesses good. And so they didn't pay attention to him for another hour. By the time Paul got into an operating room or emergency theater, he was already going into shock from blood loss. So I was on the scene before Paul's blood dried, and I stuck around long enough for the homicide detectives to get there long enough for me to see and say that find out that they were not adequate for our needs. And so I called the police chief, not Fourth of July, not that day, but the next day, and told him we needed better detectives and they gave us the best of the hand. Sergeant Baccharis and Sergeant Abby were on the case. And so I participated in the investigation, but Baccharis told me he's had Ray. In reality, this is not a case that we're going to solve. I mean, there were two witnesses, but they were so frightened and afraid that we don't have a description of the car. And at the time, we thought there was only one car. I mean, that's that's how backward he was. And Paul, of course, is dead and he can't give us any information. And so these this is an anonymous killing, we got no way to investigate it. So it was my idea to use a strategy of going to the media. So I called my good friends and act up and actually out of the Paul Broussard thing queer nation was organized. And we hit the streets. And within a week of being an item to into column inches in the back of the Metro section, we were on the front page of the Houston Chronicle and the Houston Post and we were the lead story in every television news station in Houston. And that ran for about a week and finally a woman student at the University of Houston came forward to Carl Reinhart, gay professor and said she knew who one of the assailants and we identified Derek at heart.

And so Derek was in New York, we had him arrested there. Sergeant Baca was in spite of several complaints actually flew to New York and accompanied Derek back to Texas and when that plane landed, we had the names of the other nine assailants. I give Derek points for cooperating with the investigation, which he did. And Derek's role in the assault was relatively I mean, everybody along for the ride was also involved under Texas law, but his role hands on involvement of Paul was relatively minor. And I when Eric first got probation, he successfully completed boot camp. There were those that didn't successfully complete boot camp Derek did he is and then he went on probation and it was tough probation. Yeah. To wear an anklet, one of those electronic things that you can't leave the house and he was under house arrest for a long time except when he did. He went to work. And when he did his volunteer required community service, which he did at Montrose clinic. The first round of community service service not only did Derek not report all of his hours, but after his hours were completed, he kept coming back because he had friends there now. And there was something about helping sick people. And people have frightened people about to be tested at the clinic that Derek thought was important work. And he did that. Derek's mom is the manager of a high rise apartment complex here in Houston. And her her tendons, it looked like an old folks home for Queens, actually. And she puts up with all of that. And I know Derek, I know all of those boys. I've communicated with only one of them whose name I stopped using. I didn't want to communicate with me because I've got to deal with does one have to be recalcitrant for me to care about them? And the answer to that question is no. It means that I've got to spend some more time helping that person develop into a better space. But that's kind of as much my responsibility as it is he is because the bitterness of punishment is pretty severe. So Wanda and I, and her boyfriend and her two small children, one of them requiring diaper changes. recently drove from Houston to San Antonio, in an unaired, conditioned pickup truck with a shaky alternator. We drove for hours to San Antonio spent 15 minutes with a member of the parole board and we drove four hours back. I was beat up. I was pretty crowded space and and when we got back, my mom had to have room for my crutch. When we got back, apparently what we had to say was persuasive because Derek has been awarded parole and that's gonna stick or Derek's gonna be home for Christmas. And I make no apologies for that. I think that the people I understand, lashing out, understand that I understand the fear and the anger at gay bashers. Let's understand, in the broader term. Over half of people who are involved in hate motivated violence against gay people



1:12:51

are themselves gay. And we need to know much more about this phenomenon than we do. And the best way to do that is to stop trying to fight the bureaucracy. And Texas prisons to get access for researchers that has we've been thwarted. Every ever that I do have a researcher working on that recently introduced him at a panel discussion at the gay communities again, lesbian community center. And he's very interested in the kinds of hate and violence that gay men, lesbians, transgendered people, and of course by association, bisexual people, but then this violence affects straight people as well, because there's not allowed due process on who's gay. And so my situation is that I don't revenge is not my thing. I mean, I'm an old Gandhian pacifist, and that there's an interesting where I get my philosophical approach to these things, is a Hindu was carried to Gandhi. And he explained to Gandhi that he had killed a Muslim during the turmoil of early independent India, and that the Muslim, had left a son in Ghandi said, I absolve you of the guilt of killing. However, it is now your responsibility to take that son and raise him as a Muslim, not a Hindu. And I think that in the long run, a lot of these young men

whose lives have been severely marked after the tragic and horrible death of Paul for sorry, I think they have additional responsibilities, but they can't fulfill those responsibilities in Texas prisons.

 Joan Devlin 1:14:52

And that's my next question. Do you consider your role as a prison advocate and your role as a gay rights advocate mutually Exclusive.

 1:15:00

Oh, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no. I mean, in a broader sense, whenever I put on that that prison advocate hat, the people that I deal with have already been judged and condemned. I don't have to do that at all. But in this case, I was involved in the investigation and the prosecution. I mean, the part I left out is the the month of agony with Mike Anderson and the prosecutor who is now a judge, a district judge in Harris County and working sometimes with questionable ethics behind the scene with Brian Raines, whom I've also known for many, many years. Brian was the prosecutor of the cop that killed Fred pines. Didn't work. But we worked together on that. And I knew Brian, Brian even before that, but But no, these boys were my role in the beginning was to identify the assailants because the issue is there's a issue of public safety here. My role was to identify the assailants and bring them within the system of laws under the jurisdiction of the courts, and to adequately prosecute them. And you know, the embarrassing thing is that there was a lot of misinformation. We always assumed that John Buice, the young man who got the longest sentence, John is serving a 45 year sentence in Texas prison right now. And he was the guy with a knife and we always assumed that because Paul bled to death that John biases knife was the cause of death. And then Nancy Rodriguez, Paul's mother filed a wrongful death suit. And there was actually a trial because it was not a trial. When the resolution of the criminal cases it was all pleaded. They pled out without any evidence being presented at court. But in the civil trial, the autopsy of Paul's death came up, and I studied there. And I found out that the knife wound was basically superficial. The knife wound did not hit any major organs not penetrate anything. Any major veins or arteries, there was not significant loss of blood from the knife bone. And the cause of Paul's death was not John by says night. John Buice I mean, Paul's dad was he bled to death primarily from the blunt trauma or on the side of the head. So the guys with the boards are the ones that are more directly related that now ethically I've got to realize that if John Buice is knife did not cause Paul's death, it certainly wasn't John vices fault that it didn't because he did carry the knife. And he did stab Paul. And so so there is some motivation there. And there's a lot of responsibility there. But I was able to because by this time, but then I found that I knew John Well, and I visited the unit and tow John Young man went to prison when he was 18 years old, sentenced to 45 years, carrying much heavier burden than his sentiments. He was convinced that he was the cause of death. And I was able to tell him otherwise. Which I think is one of the most rewarding moments in my life, because the truth is always worth telling. And so yes, my roles are different, and all this but I'm primarily told the community when these boys went to prison, that if we didn't do something else, besides send them to prison, we were going to be sending my exact word, or sending mad dogs to prison, or we're going to get rattlesnakes back. Because there's nothing in prison society, that lessens the chance of violence. Prisons are more homophobic than the homophobes we send there. And their behavior will be reinforced rather

than challenge. And that challenge needs to come from us. And so I've not only communicated with all of the assailants that we're willing to communicate with who but I've also encouraged others to do the same. And I still do that.

 Joan Devlin 1:19:23

And now my next question, the young man who was put in jail for basically

 1:19:31

hand job training, when he was ill in Harris County Jail, they have not transferred him to prison. His case is still under some kind of extra appellate review. I got a letter from him yesterday. As a matter of fact, when I came back from a conference in Dallas, I was I was gathering with my old friends and the gay, old gay friends and straight friends in the HIV activist of month, and trying to convert them to hepatitis C, which is a prison related issue, but it certainly affects us as well. And I opened up and there was a letter from Michael. He doesn't say it, Michael anymore. It's my Mike Williams, and the boy has grown up in Harris County Jail. And I don't know if that's a benefit to growing up in prison. But why don't you folks come on the 17th? Is that what I'm doing this thing Sundays on June 17, and asked me about Mike Williams. And because I love talking about Mike. It's a tragedy of homophobia, and which, young, below the age of consent, gay people experience that the rest of us can't even imagine. When you're really young, you have less rights than adults. And that's very hazardous atmosphere for gay and lesbian, transgendered and bisexual people.

 Joan Devlin 1:21:04

Well, Ray Hill, I think you've answered that eloquently as always, and we look forward to your show this coming gay Standard

 1:21:10

Time, like seven o'clock or something. Community Center at the corn corner of Stanford and Hawthorne, Hawthorne, Sunday, Sunday 17th.

 Joan Devlin 1:21:23

Sunday, the 19th.

 1:21:25

Tonight, yes, whatever Sunday is. We will be there. And please, if if I have embarrassed you, and you want to take me to task, come on down and I'll embarrass you again.

J Joan Devlin 1:21:40
You're listening to KPFT lesbian and gay voices

G Glenn Holt 1:21:53
Okay, pop quiz. Obviously, that was Saturday night. The question is, of course, who was the band and the answer 321. The Bay City Rollers. This is lesbian and gay voices and taking a look now at what's been happening in the news. In last week's election, Nebraska voters overwhelmingly approved a same sex relationships initiative that went further than any other in the country. It set in place a constitutional ban on same sex marriages, but also banned domestic partnerships, civil unions and similar same sex relationships. Initiative for 16, also called the defensive marriage amendment will be challenged in the courts. But already there are some people who say that this is the case that will finally bring equal rights for gays before the US Supreme Court. Opponents of the initiative said the second part could lead to invalidation of legal protections for gay families and prevent companies from offering domestic partner benefits to their employees. Proponents dismissed those claims, saying their intent was to defend marriage from attempts to redefine it through imitations of marriage like civil unions and domestic partnerships. They further said that they did not want out of state groups to influence Nebraska laws. An interesting thing to say considering that the vast majority of funding and supportive initiative for 16 came from out of state. One of the people predicting possible Supreme Court review of the initiative is Amy Miller, a staff attorney with ACLU Nebraska. Her organization and the New York based Lambda Legal Defense Fund are considering challenges to 416. In cooperation with Nebraska advocates for justice and equality. That organization is taking over anti for 16 efforts. Now that the election is over, and the Nebraskans against 416 committee is being dissolved. I think it would be appropriate for the Supreme Court to make a decision. Finally she said the court has declared through years of decisions that marriage is one of the most important rights and individual has Miller said it may finally be time for this country to make a decision that what people do in the privacy of their own homes is what they do in the privacy of their own homes. Miller called initiative for 16 language poorly written and discriminatory, saying that it was along the lines of Nebraska's partial birth abortion ban law that got slammed down by the Supreme Court. But talk of Supreme Court review is getting way ahead of the game, when there hasn't even been a lawsuit filed yet. Miller said ACLU Nebraska's board of directors would meet this coming Saturday to decide how it would be involved in challenging for 16 as the lead organization in a lawsuit or in a supporting role. or set a challenge to the initiatives constitutionality could address questions or privacy rights, rights or free association or the right to equal protection of the laws. There might also be a legal challenge to the validity of the election because of a glitch that had ballots and several counties, saying that marriage is between a man and a women. Wilson points out that on Tuesday, Alabama voters had an opportunity to become the last state in the union to drop a long standing, but currently unenforced ban on interracial marriage. two fifths of Alabama voters chose to keep the discriminatory language in their state's constitution, Wilson said, quote, so what Nebraska has done is open another chapter in our nation's unfortunate history of sometimes writing bigotry into our state's constitutions. Oregon voters narrowly rejected a proposal to ban educators in that state from providing instruction that might encourage homosexual behavior. Quote, this is an incredible victory for gay youth. Oregon voters have sent a message that you can't choose which students are legitimate and which students are not, said Jim Anderson, a spokesman for the Gay Lesbian and Straight Education Network. Measure nine would have prevented Oregon Public Schools from giving lessons that would encourage promote or sanction homosexuality. Schools found in violation

could have lost state funding. Rural Counties mostly supported the measure, while urban areas such as Portland, rejected it by an almost two to one margin. The election defeat was the third and eight years for anti gay activist Ion Mabon and his Oregon Citizens Alliance. Maven said that measure nine was needed to prevent schools from portraying homosexual behavior as natural and acceptable. Maven said he plans to reword the Measure and place it on the 2002 ballot. Saturday was Veterans Day and in Phoenix, Arizona, a few proud vets gathered at Arizona's national cemetery for a ceremony ceremony that was unique in the nation. Wally Strawn, Frank Solia and a small crowd of other vets dedicated the first memorial in the National Cemetery system to acknowledge the service of gays and lesbians in the US military. The memorial was donated by the gay lesbian and bisexual Veterans of America, strong and black Solia were instrumental in the memorial's creation. The two said that creating the memorial was part of putting some painful memories behind them. Strawn said that during his five year Navy stint during the 1970s he kept the fact that he was gay, totally secret, quote, it could be dangerous to be openly gay. At first, as a veteran I wanted nothing to do with the military, he said. black soldier remembers that in 1992 when he arrived for Air Force duty in Japan, a soldier was beaten to death for being gay. But strong and black soldier both decided that the best way that they could exercise painful memories about being in the service was to do something positive for everyone who had served his or her country. Two years ago, they became part of a local effort to create a memorial that would honor all of the nation's war dead no matter what their sexual orientation. The memorial is the first donated by a gay or lesbian organization in any of the 115 National Memorial cemeteries in the 39 state system. The local gay veterans group spent about a year getting approval for the memorial. The application made locally in 1999 was passed on to the regional office in Denver, reviewed by the National Cemetery Association in Washington DC and approved last spring. The memorial is a granite boulder 33 inches long by about two feet tall. It has an American Eagle etched into it and a metal plaque with an inscription which reads in memory of all veterans who served with courage and pride donated by gay lesbian and bisexual Veterans of America. Overseas German lawmakers took a first step last week towards giving legal recognition to same sex couples, after a sharp debate over what conservatives branded as an attack on family and society. So apparently conservative record rhetoric is the same all over. Lawmakers from the governing social democrats and the Greens use their majority in the lower house to push through legal changes expected to give gays and lesbians the right to sign life partnerships by the middle of next year. The changes would allow same sex couples to exchange vows at local government offices and require a court decision for divorce. Same sex couples would also receive rights given heterosexual spouses, inheritance and health insurance. The long years of discrimination are over declared greens leader Kirsten Muller, whose party led the push for the changes. Lesbians and Gays today get their rights. The aim was to support lasting relationships between people, regardless of their sexual orientation, said Germany's Justice Minister, but conservatives who have denounced the plan could still scuttle parts of the bill when it reaches the upper house of parliament, and are weighing whether to ask the country's highest court to rule the plan unlawful. The German vote came more than a decade after Denmark became the first country to give same sex couples legal status in 1989. Others including France and Norway introduced similar laws during the 1990s Gay and Lesbian advocacy groups that have campaigned for a decade for partnership rights. Welcome the parliament vote as long overdue. Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder his government promised to pursue the goal of legal status for gay couples. After he hosted Helmut Kohl in 1998 elections. The State Superior Court of Pennsylvania rejected a lesbians couple of couples appeal and a landmark legal case last Wednesday, refusing to allow one gay partner to adopt the other's children. By a vote of six to three the superior court judges upheld the original decision by Lancaster County Court Judge James C. Cullen to reject the adoption. Attorneys for the Lancaster couple and another couple in somewhat similar circumstances, argued the controversial issue before the entire nine Member

State Superior Court in June. While same sex couples are allowed to adopt non biological children in Pennsylvania, the state prohibits the same sex partner have a gay parent from legally adopting the others children. Quote, The Pennsylvania legislature has specifically decided that homosexual domestic partners may not legally marry and Pennsylvania judge Corelle F. Stevens wrote for the majority, but judge Joris Morris Johnson, writing a dissenting opinion called the application of the law by the majority of judges wooden and illogical, quote, the reality of our society today is such that unwanted infants are left abandoned in dumpsters, and some married heterosexual partners are unfit to raise children whom they often grossly abuse and neglect. Johnson said we should interpret the laws of our Commonwealth in such a way that adheres to the mandates of our legislature and promotes the placement of children in stable families who can provide nurturing and supportive homes. The attorney representing the lesbian couple said no decision had been made as to whether they will appeal this week's decision. The other case in which a gay man wanted to legally adopt his partner's children was joined with the Lancaster case for purposes of argument in the appellate court. Quote, The main opinion was disappointing, clearly wrong, and reached out to the marriage law, which is irrelevant in this case, said Christine Buncee, the Pittsburgh attorney who argued on behalf of both couples before the Superior Court. Given the strength of the dissenting opinions and the incorrect basis of the decision by the majority of judges. I think we have a very strong case for the Supreme Court she said judge Todd, in her dissenting opinion, noted that 14 counties in Pennsylvania already have permitted such second parent adoptions in more than 100 cases. Ordinarily, an application for a name change is not on the cutting edge of civil rights law. But a state judge's denial of a lesbians petition to take her same sex partners name as the ACLU gearing up for a constitutional challenge. At issue is whether a name may be changed to reflect a same sex relationship when New Jersey does not recognize marriages between same sex partners. On August 10, Essex County Judge Anthony Giuliani denied an application by Jill Bacharach to change her last name to a hyphenated version that would include the last name of her lesbian partner. According to Buck Rocks attorney, the judge denied the name change because it would create the impression that Baca Rock was married. When the state does not recognize same sex marriages. The American Civil Liberties Union of New Jersey is helping with the appeal, quote, the statute and common law allow for people to change their names, said JC Siler, the staff attorney for the ACLU, which filed a notice of appeal last week, the judge shouldn't be allowed to let personal tastes or preferences. Enter into the decision. He said. The ACLU will argue that Giuliani's ruling was not only improper based on the applicable laws, but was a violation of equal protection rights, and of New Jersey's law against discrimination. University of Missouri students will Chapman and Kyle Burson are trying to create a chapter of a fraternity for gay, bisexual and open minded men on campus. The mission statement of the national fraternity is to quote, enhance the quality of life among gay bisexual and progressive men by providing dignified and purposeful social service and recreational activities. Chapman said he came up with the idea for the fraternity. After investigating the Greek system at the University of Missouri. Quote, It began with a general feeling that not everyone could join a fraternity Chaplain said, I have always wanted to join a fraternity. And the only way I sought to do that was to hide who I was, or to bring about something that fit into who I was. The fraternity would be open to everyone, but some people might not want to take part person said the fraternity is open to anyone. But generally those who do have homophobic thoughts and tendencies won't be lining up to join in. He said, the Director of Student Life Kathy Scruggs said a new fraternity would provide a way for a group of students to get involved in campus activities and to form their own identity group. The Novell Corporation has announced that it will no longer match employee contributions to the Boy Scouts of America, citing the youth organizations exclusion of gay scoutmasters as a violation of the company's anti discrimination policies. Quote, Novell has criteria for organizations that can participate in matching funds. It is a fairly standard line about not discriminating on the basis of race, religion or sexual

orientation. The Boy Scouts of America no longer complies with that requirement based on the Supreme Court decision, said Novell spokesman Bruce Lowry, Nobel's decision was not expected to have much impact on the bottom lines of local scouting programs. However, more than \$5,000 has ever been given to scouting nationwide. During the five years the youth organization was included in donations according to the company. Lowry acknowledges that the company's decision may raise the ire of some people in Utah, given the more than 150,000 Scouts in the state 90% of whom are sponsored by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, but they need to understand Novell status as an international corporation, he said. And finally, Britain is set to enrage its Caribbean territories by forcing through legal changes decriminalizing gay sex. Following a year long battle with politicians and religious leaders and the Overseas Territories. Government ministers have vowed to act and order in Council is expected before Christmas that will push through measures to legalize private consensual sex between same sex couples in an geela, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Montserrat, and the Turks and Caicos Islands, Baroness Scotland, the Foreign Office Minister responsible, said in a recent letter to a member of parliament that she had tried to encourage each territory to pass the necessary legislation themselves. Anxious that the British government did not impose the laws on the territories against the spirit of partnership. The minister held a series of discussions with politicians, church leaders, the local press, and many ordinary residents living in the Caribbean territories. But when asked to enact the law they refused. Ladies Scotland said in the letter quote, we said that in the event of formal notification that they were unwilling to pass the necessary measures, we would have to consider making an order in Council. The government's decision to act was also welcomed by gay and lesbian advocacy groups Stonewall. This is a very welcome initiative, equality before the law is a basic human right wherever you live. We are delighted that the government is taking these rights seriously, said Executive Director, Angela Mason, and that is our look at what has been happening in the news this week. For lesbian and gay news. I'm Glen Holt, and now Joan is in the studio with Donna Garrett. Donna Garrett. Yes, but

 Joan Devlin 1:39:43

we also have in the studio,

 1:39:44

Rose, Ben Asante Schmitz. I'm Donna Garretts. Partner in crime at the moment.

 Glenn Holt 1:39:51

Rose let me get you to grab that other microphone because that wasn't working. Yeah, just switch mics. Thanks.

 Joan Devlin 1:39:57

Okay. Now we were having a very interesting conversation while Glenn was doing the news. And it was about local theater here in Houston. And there was a very large disparity. You said between the for instance, you know, the desk striker play, which did phenomenally well had

sold out crowds pretty much every night that it was showing. And a play that was done here called wanted a giant, a dike and a gin, which just didn't seem to have much audience. So we want to talk a little bit about, well, a couple of things. First, Donna will be doing an appearance at the community center on Friday, to read some poetry, but also about the independent theater in Houston, you know, what is it that drives it? And what can be done to get more people to come out?



1:40:42

Correct. We're real interested in finding out what the lesbian community would like to hear and hear from us, because we're both putting our, you know, Donna's risking her herself, her writing about herself and putting it out there to the public. And, and we're wanting to see what exactly people want to hear. And, and I was talking with Joe watts, actually, this morning, we were talking about the response that we have from the community, and particularly for the lesbian community, and we want to give them what they want. And we want them we want Donald to be heard. And she has a very strong support system. And we just want them to continue to let us know what what they'd like to hear from us.



Joan Devlin 1:41:26

And what do you think, personally, is the reason why I hate to say like, primarily women's theater, because theater, you know, isn't always women's or men's. But why do you think it is that we can't seem to get, you know, the women in our community out to the theater, the way we can get the men out to the theater?



1:41:44

dama? Do you want to talk about what,



1:41:46

why don't the women come out to the theater and see what's going on? I don't know, I hate to even get into why they don't? I'm more concerned with why how we can get them to come out? You know, sometimes I wonder, is it an advertising thing is that lack of talent, it's hard to say, but I'm gonna put forth my best work, my best effort, and I'm going to advertise heavily. And, and people have been so kind to me, they've been wonderful as far as coming out and checking out my work. So it's just an idea whose time has come. You know, I got a new producer, Miss Rose Schmidt. And she's working with me very closely. And we've come up with some really good ideas. And hopefully, by the first of year, we'll have a production something to connect the dots. And, and see what see how people will take to my work.



1:42:46

We may even give them a little surprise before that before the first of the year, we don't know, we have a few things, you know, that we have working in in a lot of people that are interested to work with Donna. And like we were talking earlier, I think you don't have to really like go to

to work with Donna. And like we were talking earlier, I think you don't have to really like go to Manhattan to get wonderful theater here. I mean, we have a wonderful group of talented people here we have large, you know, a large amount of resources to draw upon from that talent, not just in the acting arena. But in song dance, the staging, lighting engineering. And I think we just have a lot to offer. And people look outside of the box. Sometimes I think we should look outside the box a lot. But sometimes you miss what we have right here.

 Joan Devlin 1:43:33

Also, you know, I was talking a little earlier about having gone to see chess this weekend. And, you know, chess was at the masquerade theater, small venue. The tickets were very inexpensive, and it was a wonderful show. So I got to spend a wonderful evening, enjoying myself seeing a great performance of one of my favorite plays. It didn't cost me a whole lot of money. You know, and that is not you know, chess at the masquerade theater is not unique. There are things going on at all times in the city that fall into that same category, a wonderful evenings entertainment for not a whole lot of money. And you know, we have a great talent base here. Really do go to Houston. And speaking of our talent base, Donna, see you have a poem for us.

 1:44:19

Yeah, you know, I'm getting ready for the venue on Friday night at the gay and lesbian community center, which is an erotic affair your favorite and so what we're gonna do is and I don't have a list, everyone that step by me small Cunningham I think is leaving out. And now who there Alex Okay, and, and I did want to bring a poem to kind of get you in the mood to let you know what the he's going to be like Friday night. This is really going to be fun. I call this one too timid. How many times have you missed out on an opportunity? Because you just couldn't bring yourself this Speak up in to this poem is about that used to be share years ago but I assure you was not timid at all now. I wanted her to see it. I wanted her to look into my eyes and feel it. I wanted her to make no mistake. I wanted her to ache where I ate. I wanted her to feel the moistness. I wanted my house to scream the message. I wanted to proclaim that I had a need a need that I wanted her to claim. I wanted her to take it on and bared like a hungry woman would. I wanted her to acknowledge the heat of pure passion. I wanted her to know these things from a mere glance because I am too timid to speak the words. I am too timid to take the chance.

 Joan Devlin 1:46:06

So this is this is kind of, well, the erotic theme will be playing throughout the evening on Friday. Right,

 1:46:12

right. Right, exactly. That's one of the areas that we're working on, together to bring forth because we are trying to Donna has such a wonderful faceted personality. And she has that the erotic and the sensual side that I think women need to embrace. I mean, we, we embrace it,

but in a quietness, let's embrace it, let's embrace it. I mean, it's a beautiful part of all of us. And that's where I've, I've been I had this affinity towards Donna is. And I think that's the area where we're working together, I can see the need for us to embrace all parts of ourselves. And she just does a lovely job of it.

 Joan Devlin 1:46:52

And has the community center been supportive of your efforts? I know this is not the first time you've appeared there.

 1:46:57

Oh, yeah, they've been very supportive, is such a great place to, to be the people are so friendly, it's always crowded. Like, they've got a real good thing going right now, Maria, you're doing a great job. Great job. And it's just a pleasure. It's just a pleasure to be over at the community center. I'm glad thanks for inviting me. You know,

 Joan Devlin 1:47:19

I've noticed too, they they tend to really try to make a community center, they really seek to reach out to all different segments of our community.

 1:47:30

And I'm glad that everybody has been really supportive. And we will talk about support. Well, they are supportive over the community center. And so come on out Friday night, seven o'clock.

 Joan Devlin 1:47:44

Right. And then any teasers about what you're gonna be doing around the beginning of the year,

 1:47:50

beginning of the year, I'm trying to work on a little one woman production that I want to present. And I don't have the faintest notion as to where it will be. But I'm putting it into the universe. And I'm working on it. You know, so we're going to try to have it together by January. Listen for the advertisement, we will announce it heavily because I want your support, I want you to come on, check it out. And watch me get started on something new, something different and something exciting. And of course, we'll keep the portrait because that's what I do. Right. Okay.



1:48:21

She has the CD. Yeah, we got the CD kind of that definitely is gonna weave that really good reviews from the demo that we have out. And I mean, people are just wanting to buy the demo. And so we've been really proud of that Donna just we just laugh and and we just weren't you know, I went to I wasn't really you know, we weren't really prepared like for the not prepared, but we weren't expecting to have such a wonderful for the just the demo. So when we get the full album, just be ready. Just be ready.



Joan Devlin 1:48:52

I have to say, you know, the book was wonderful. Thank you. So we'll hear the demo and then we'll wait for the movie.



1:48:59

We're working on that. New universe. Yes. And Lucy? The cut on the CD that really seemed to have gotten people moving and get them high was the cut call bisexual lady. You know, we do have a thing on that and it's really fun. And let me read this poem for you. Before I leave Okay. Bisexual lady. What's your fantasy when you groove? What are you thinking when I feel you move? Bisexual lady? Is it me? You are thinking about? Some man you used to love is your orientation for the Janssen I need something necessary to the life you leave when we make love. Are you only half relieved? Should I enjoy the moment and not feel deceived? Tell me that sexual lady And you



Joan Devlin 1:50:01

can hear that and more on Friday night at the community center. What time will this be taking place? Seven



1:50:05

o'clock. Come on out. We're going to have some fun. I was have fun with these venues.



Joan Devlin 1:50:10

And we have been talking to Donna Garrett and



1:50:13

Rose has been Asante. Schmitz. Thank you.



Joan Devlin 1:50:15

J Joan Devlin 1:50:15

Thank you. All right. And we're about wrapping it up here. Jack's wandering back in? Yes. playing hooky all night. Yeah, Jack, even kind of quiet tonight. Well,

J Jack Valinski 1:50:24

you know, you do a good job when you're interviewing. So I don't always need to be in here. This Saturday, the 18th, there is going to be a meeting at the community center. Speaking of the community center, my goodness, they're getting a lot of play between two and 4pm. And it's basically talking about the future in the community center, you know, do they need to go somewhere else, you know, easier said than done, because it does take a lot of money to do that. So that's something to do. And of course, on Sunday at the community seven center 803 Hawthorne, at 7pm is Ray hills, I guess sort of a round table talk or something like on that order. So that's going to be really interesting. And you know, we've got Thanksgiving coming up to

J Joan Devlin 1:51:06

That's right at the community center. The community center is also having an event for Thanksgiving. not mistaken. Right.

J Jack Valinski 1:51:11

So they'll feed me that day. Listen to Jack.

J Joan Devlin 1:51:16

Jack, the community center man. Now actually they are they're doing a big dinner. They're going to be cooking turkeys and expecting quite a few people at this point, I would say,

J Jack Valinski 1:51:26

All right, you can see the parade in the morning and then come over to the community center in the afternoon. Right?

J Joan Devlin 1:51:30

Well, some of us will be out of town.

G Glenn Holt 1:51:33

And Joan, have you started putting up your leather Christmas decorations?

J Joan Devlin 1:51:37

Of course they stick up your around at my house. Oh, I see. They're in the dungeon. That's right. We just hang Christmas lights in the dungeon and call it decorations.

G Glenn Holt 1:51:46

Actually, there's one house in my neighborhood. I drove past coming to the show here tonight that I noticed a great big huge Christmas tree in the front window, all decorated and lit up.

J Joan Devlin 1:51:59

I look forward to the lights every year. But you know, I have people in my neighborhood and I guess they just have time on their hands because I appreciate them. But I'm not one of them. You know they will decorate for Easter for Halloween for Christmas, named the holiday and they do some wonderful things with their house, which I like to look at. But unfortunately, like I said, it's not something I do. I just don't have the time not to mention with My Grace and charm, I'd probably fall off the roof more than get lights up on it.

J Jack Valinski 1:52:23

Well, maybe we'll know who the president is by

G Glenn Holt 1:52:26

by next week. Or by Christmas maybe.

J Jack Valinski 1:52:29

Oh, well, you know certainly bill would be happy to stay and I would be happy to have him stay.

G Glenn Holt 1:52:41

You have been listening to lesbian and gay voices heard each Monday at 8pm here on KPFT. publicly funded Pacifica network station, lesbian and gay voices is produced live in Houston. The executive producer is Jack Valinski. On Air voices are Joan Devlin Glen Holt and Jack Valinski. You can write to us at peal box 66071, Houston, Texas 77266 or email to LGV news@aol.com. Be sure to listen to KPFT every Saturday night at midnight for after hours with Jimmy Carper. It's queer radio with attitude. Lesbian and Gay voices credits the following news sources Associated Press Agence France press, the Houston Chronicle, the Nebraska State paper, the New York Law Journal, The Arizona Republic, the Lancaster new era, the Salt Lake Tribune, gay financial network@gfm.com and head that this is the sound of Texas 90.1 FM KPFT in Houston. for lesbian and gay voices I'm Glenn Holt.



1:54:07

Houston is 90.1 KPFT the sound of Texas at Pacifica network station KPFT Houston.