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SPEAKERS

Glenn Holt, Jack Valinski, Joan Devlin, Greg Gordon



00:01

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



Jack Valinski 00:20

Welcome to another edition of lesbian and gay voices. This is Jack Valinski, and



Joan Devlin 00:24

I'm John Devlin. And we're Glenn was tonight, Nasser Glenluce. Again,



Jack Valinski 00:29

actually, Glenn has done a lot of work because he put together the second hour of the show, which is a review of the year 2000.



Joan Devlin 00:36

Now, and he worked very hard on that. Yes, that is an excellent piece of work that



00:40

he did. Well, it's so nice to you to say that since you haven't heard it yet.



Joan Devlin 00:44

Part of it, you play part of it. Okay.

J Jack Valinski 00:47

I told you I listened to part of it was great. Also, we will be playing this way out, which is a one segment half hour installment on the year 2000. Music, gay and lesbian music. So that is going on. Besides that, we'll be chatting a little bit. I'm sort of getting over some allergy stuff. So if I don't sound like I usually sound actually sound worse than normally worse. But actually, I am feeling a little bit better today. And it's not quite as hard to talk. It's pretty rough being in a Christmas or New Year's Eve party last night. That's right, not being able to talk over the music.

J Joan Devlin 01:26

Yeah, we Troy Christiansen and guy I don't know guys,

J Jack Valinski 01:30

Guy burns, Guy burns, moved to Oakland. He's from here lived here. But then he's live in living out Oakland, he came back for New Year's Eve party,

J Joan Devlin 01:39

right. And they put on a party and the theme was 2001 A Space Odyssey. And so there was a Star Trek, there were some Star Trek stuff, Twilight Zone, all different things. We had a great time great food, great music, but like Jack said little hard to talk over it. He didn't make the New Year, unfortunately. But I did. And it was a lot of fun.

J Jack Valinski 01:55

Yes. Well, as one of my friends says only amateurs are out on New Year's Eve.

J Joan Devlin 01:59

Yeah, well, yeah, it was kind of like that driving home. But fortunately, I made it home. Okay, too.

J Jack Valinski 02:04

Well, you're pretty good at driving. It's not me, I was worried about oh, I know that. I know that. Well, I hope everybody is safe. And tomorrow, we sort of get back into the old routine of going back to work and doing all that type of stuff. Yeah. Which

J Joan Devlin 02:16

reminds me of something. Another topic, the short topic that I was reading in the paper that they said and this affects mostly or more affects people who live in areas where there's a lot of cold and snow and stuff, which we you know, do escape. But you know, there's this post holiday trip depression that happens to people because you know, your vacations over. holidays are over, it's back to the old grind. And you've got a long way to go till springtime.

J Jack Valinski 02:46

Well, actually, it's sort of strange, because we usually talk about the Depression during holidays,

J Joan Devlin 02:50

right. But you know, there is such a thing as post holiday depression. So again, you know, just like we tell you prior to the holidays, if you find yourself, you know, just not being able to shake out of it. Call the Montrose Counseling Center, they're there to help you.

J Jack Valinski 03:03

Yeah, and I was, since I haven't been feeling that good. I've been spending a lot of time in front of the tube. And so I've been doing like a marathon, this a marathon that. But it was really interesting, because C span was playing all of the old tapes or a bunch of the old tapes of the correspondents dinner in the White House Correspondents Dinner. And it was just incredible. I mean, after eight years of having Clinton in the White House, watching him doing presentations, in front of these correspondents was just incredible what a charismatic person he is. And I think that the best of it was last year announced subliminal things. Yeah, well, but he can make fun of himself. And, you know, do these things yet be this incredibly intelligent person. One of the things he was showing was at the last year's thing, and I think things happen, like around May or something like that, is that he sort of did this video of the end of his administration, basically, you know, Al Gore was out running for office, Hillary is out running for office. So he was sort of left in the White House by himself. So he was like, you know, he's walking down, he

J Joan Devlin 04:06

had someone to keep him busy. Well,

J Jack Valinski 04:09

you know that the video was shown him walking down the hallway, nobody's there. You know, sitting there watching the wash in the washing machine go around, out there cutting the grass in front of the White House. But the best part was like Hillary was going off in a limousine

somewhere. And he's running out with her lunch.



04:26

How funny. Oh, what



Jack Valinski 04:28

a character he is. I mean, you know, and to think of who was going to be there next. It's just incredible. And, you know, I've certainly been critical of the things that he hasn't been able to accomplish. But on the other hand, you got to look at the this is a guy who had so much against him, the Congress, et cetera, et cetera, trying to stop him from doing things and look at the things that he has been able to accomplish.



Joan Devlin 04:49

Yeah. And I mean, as somebody said, today on HANA, you know, because because somebody wrote in said, Oh, well, we'll survive George Bush. And they said, Yeah, but isn't it sad? For eight years that we have to start using terms like survive again.



Jack Valinski 05:03

Yes, yes. Another one of the movies that we're playing that even catch it all was a movie called dick. I don't know if you're familiar with



Joan Devlin 05:12

Christina Ricci, isn't it? Isn't she she spent the Nixon years. Yeah, it's



Jack Valinski 05:17

sort of these two teenagers who, you know, meet the President or dealing with Nixon don't realize what an what a cookie was, then find out and how they're sort of like they're actually Deep Throat them, you know, it's the way they mix this true history in with a couple of teenage girls. Just very well done. And the person who played Nixon was just fabulous.



Joan Devlin 05:37

Yeah. Well, there's some movie about the Kennedys coming out this year to



Jack Valinski 05:41

seven days. This like the seventh day, it's 13 Days in May. I think they're calling it yeah, there are some great movies and unfortunately, not all of them come to Euston yet. They've only been in New York and LA for the Academy thing, but Roger Ebert best movie of the year was almost famous that he and was just a fabulous like that movie movie a lot. Billy Elliot, I don't think it made it on either one of those lists.

J

Joan Devlin 06:06

It was really good though. Very immediate voted that Bjork movie best to the making your list?

J

Jack Valinski 06:14

Well, I liked it a lot. I mean, I know it was strange and stuff like that. But I did like it. dancer in the dark. That's what it was. But it was it was art. Yes, it is a strange movie. So we weren't able to get any live guests tonight. No, because David Elliot is skiing. Yeah. Normally David Elliot from national galas me and task forces on but he's taking a little bit big vacation, which you will probably need in reference to what he's going to have to be dealing with the rest of the four years.

J

Joan Devlin 06:46

Right. And he's going to be on the Monday before the inauguration, which I guess is the 15th.

J

Jack Valinski 06:52

Two weeks from tonight on

J

Joan Devlin 06:53

the 15th. And so that's that's what we'll hear from him. And I'm sure we will hear from him on this because I'm sure he has a lot to say about it.

J

Jack Valinski 07:01

Yeah, I'm sure he does. And there's gonna it's gonna be interesting what happens.

J

Joan Devlin 07:06

MTV special Matthew Shepard anatomy of a hate crime which will be premiering at 7pm Central Time. On January 10, which is a week from Wednesday, they will be airing it commercial free for its first airing. And like I said January 10 7pm, anatomy of a hate crime. It's an MTV original special about the Matthew Shepard murderer. You

J Jack Valinski 07:27

know, it is interesting now to have 80 channels to watch. I mean, there is a lot of garbage on TV. But there is a lot of good stuff. And the Matthew Shepard there's also something on Lifetime coming up. Right?

J Joan Devlin 07:37

It's called What makes a family and it stars Brooke Shields. She is the partner of a woman they have a child together. The woman who has her partner is the biological mother. The woman who is the biological mother is dies somehow. And Brooke shield and the woman who dies her parents, the child's grandparents tried to take custody away from Brooke Shields claiming that it is wrong for it's wrong to be gay, it's wrong for gay person to raise a child she's not, you know, biological parent, and so on and so forth. And this is produced by this film was produced by Whoopi Goldberg and Barbra Streisand. And he has a gay son. Yes, Jason goal. And it looks very good. It's gonna be the Lifetime original movie for January. They've been promoting it heavily but they haven't given the actual air date yet. They're keep saying premieres in January. That's all they say.

J Jack Valinski 08:35

And lifetime has been a good good channel also. And of course, now, Sunday. Again, they pick up the fifth episode of queers folk on Showtime, which they had a vacation over the holidays. And there's a number of of course, there's always a there is a site, I don't have it. There's a site on the web that actually has the schedule of the Gay Lesbian, Bisexual transgendered. So Oh, the other thing that I was watching was the Brandon tienne story, the documentary. Who did that documentary? What channel did that? Nene? Yes, it wasn't any of and that I didn't see that before. Of course, you saw the movie, which was great. But it's always good to see you know, you see the movie and of course they have Hollywood stars in the movie. But then you do you actually watch you know, some of the video and stuff and interviews and stuff. And it was incredible because the people sort of look the same. And the story was, you know, pretty much the way the documentary lands.

J Joan Devlin 09:33

If you can read the book, the book is by Aphrodite Jones and it's just an excellent book too. And you get a little more detail from the book than you do from the movies. And she

J Jack Valinski 09:41

was interviewed. Yeah, on that. Well, I actually have a new year son to play. I'm amazed. Yes. Well, when you find out where it came from, you won't be so amazed.



09:58

There it was from Rent Of course, of course. But



Joan Devlin 10:03

the joke around here every time somebody hears something from rent on the air, they know you're at the board.



Jack Valinski 10:07

Yes, yes. And Glenn's not here. But you know, rent does take place over the Christmas, New Year's holiday. And the second act takes place a year later. And of course, you love the show. I love the show. It's a great show, and nobody else plays it even on KPFT. But it's so relevant to our community. And I think what KPFT stands for, in a sense artists, street people, you know, singer songwriter type of stuff sort of documentaries. Well, I can keep on going, I guess.



Joan Devlin 10:39

Okay, well, I have to ask you something, because we had a caller during the song. And he asked you to explain how you feel about Bill Clinton's support for NAFTA and GATT?



Jack Valinski 10:51

Well, I don't know. I mean, I'm not an expert on it. And, I mean, that's more of a subject for Democracy Now. I mean, I think he probably made the wrong decision on it, but then again, and Richards was for it, too. So, but then I don't know. I mean, it's it's, but speaking of a good political story, in this week's edition of The Easton press, Tim fleck wrote this really good story about the insider how redistricting could rev up Montrose political engine.



Joan Devlin 11:22

Again, it talks about the Kathy Whitmire elections and some other things that happened prior to the first redistricting redistricting



Jack Valinski 11:29

well, and they're talking about that Montrose was in District C, right, which was sort of a progressive and a little bit more white than black district, connected with Westbury. And then we were redistrict into district D, which Jude on Boney is, it's his district, and basically, we lost clout because jutaan doesn't really recognize Montrose that much. And but on the other hand, most people who have district problems call it nice his office and he's Barker's office. So but, you know, that is sort of a story that they talk about, you know, in cities where they build a

freeway, right through a black community. And they, you know, the lude the district, a district, you know, whether it's a congressional district, city council, District, State Representative district, they lose power,

 Joan Devlin 12:18

right. And this is something we're talking about too, because you know, the results of the census are out. And so there's a lot of states now um, Texas has picked up some seats on North Carolina, some other states have picked up some seats in Congress.

 Jack Valinski 12:33

Yes, but the thing of it is Texas is going to pick up two seats. Is a Georgia I think, is going to also pick up two seats. California is not going to pick up one but they'll have 50 for Nevada, Florida is going to pick up maybe Florida is gonna pick up to maybe Georgia was one. But the the problem is, is those districts are probably how are they going to divide them and more than likely they'll be suburban districts and suburban. You know, it's it's going to be a mess. There's going to be lawsuits. I just know it. Yeah, that's, well, we got next we're going to be listening to this way out, which has done a retrospective, and I thought JD was supposed to be a part of this, but I'm not sure of music in the year 2000 In the game lesbian bisexual transgender community.

 Greg Gordon 13:38

Welcome to this way out the international lesbian and gay radio magazine beginning our second Millennium on the air. I'm Greg Gordon. As our news wrap college take some time off to celebrate the New Year, we invite you to enjoy a melodious review of some of the best queer music of the past 12 months as Chris Wilson and Pam Marshall with the masterful production of Christopher David Trentham bring you the best of audio file 2000.

 14:07

The year 2000 has come and gone but it has left us all the richer with more wonderful out gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered musicians than ever before. Hi, I'm Chris Wilson.

 14:19

I'm Pam Marshall, and you're listening to our special urine review edition of audio file. We've chosen five of our favorite artists from our year 2000 shows and as always, it wasn't an easy decision.

 14:33

First up is Amy Simpson. Nominated for a glamour, a gay lesbian American Music Award ...

Simpsons fresh melodic style frames lyrics of sometimes burning intensity. How will you remember



14:54

the CD is called circumstances strange and is Amy Simpson's first CD, though You certainly hope it won't be the last how often



15:05

today for more information about Amy Simpson you can write to a s i n six eight@aol.com.



15:22

Mark Weigel is first and foremost a storyteller connecting in a very human way with his audience whether or not they share the same affectional orientation



15:37

Mark Waggles CD All that matters is about just that the things that matter.



15:46

For more information check out his website at WWW dot song's dot com backslash mark, w e i g l e or C D is entitled drag queens and limousines and celebrates the diverse individuals who were there for her during leaner time I stole



16:13

this talented artist sets herself apart by compelling lyrics brought to life with her powerful vocals, she




16:19


said lover if you want to know more about Mary go Shay, drop on by her website at WWW dot Mary G au thier.com.





16:43

Remembrance regret remorse and revenge are all here on this elegantly crafted CD with Scott freeze the living dead deals head on with the reality of living with HIV and AIDS

 **Greg Gordon** 17:14
right

 17:35
sometimes explicit but always honest scot free takes his alternative style the level of performance our.


 18:10
Acknowledging the realities of the present as well as the past, Scott freeze, the living dead is provocative, disturbing and compelling all at the same time.

 18:25
For more about scot free, check out [www dot Scot free.net](http://www.ScotFree.net).

 18:31
And that's it for this special urine review edition of audio file. We would like to thank our CO Producer Christopher David Trenton for helping to make audio file possible. And we also want to welcome JD Doyle of queer music heritage which airs on KPFT in Houston, Texas. In addition to his regular show, JD will also be joining us this year as a co producer of audio file for this way out.

 18:57
Our address is post office box 429 Sunland, California 91041 or you can contact us online at info at audio file.org That's inf o at AUD IO FI le dot O R G this is Chris Wilson

 19:18
and I'm Pam Marshall. Keep listening

 **Greg Gordon** 19:28
thanks for starting off your new year with this way out the international lesbian and gay radio magazine. This week Chris Wilson Pam Marshall and Christopher David Trentham contributed program material and Kim Wilson composed and performed our theme music. Some this way out. Operating expenses are funded by grants from the kicking assets fund of the Tides

Foundation and the CPS desk Guadalupe fund 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 Got this way out, please email us at TW o radio@aol.com. visit our webpage at this way out.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 dot planet out.com and click first on multimedia than on radio for Alicia Chapelle and everyone at this way out. I'm Greg Gordon. Thanks for listening on WR UW Cleveland, Ohio, K UMD, Duluth, Minnesota for CCR Cairns, Queensland and more than 125 other stations around the world, including this community radio station, have a productive, prosperous and pleasure filled New Year. And of course, Please do stay tuned. As

 Jack Valinski 20:55

well and of course, other community radio station is here KPFT Houston.

 Joan Devlin 21:00

I know and I really enjoyed hearing JD get his credit. Well, I'm just

 Jack Valinski 21:03

wondering if you'll remember us, you know, when he gets big? That's right. I'm sure he will. JD Doyle does queer mural music heritage on the fourth Monday, second hour 9pm on KPFT. And just in case, you're listening on the web somewhere else, we're in Central time, actually, I call it Texas time, right Texas time, which is GMT minus six hours. Um, well.

 21:30

Yeah, we get a little time to kill his New

 Jack Valinski 21:31

Year's Day. And it's Jack Valinski. And Joan's here, John Evelyn's here. And we you said, there's actually a lot of new things, you're putting the calendar together. That's right.

 Joan Devlin 21:41

There's a few things there's going to be a potluck starting at the community center, it's going to happen, I want to say on the fourth Friday of every month, they're going to be premiering on January 11. And body positive art workshop photography exhibit. So I guess that'll be appearing at the community center for a while they're having a reception on the 11th to open the exhibit. Of course, you know, the usual things are still there, what women do, which Deborah Belle and

Maria Mina coochie is a lesbian sex workshop that will be premiering now it will be coming the first Thursday of every month, and it will start this Thursday, the fourth. And you know, used to just be like a quarterly thing. Now they're doing it once a month.

J Jack Valinski 22:21

That's great. And what's really neat about this is that John works on his calendar. And then we post on hand it but the other great thing is Jewel is now taking this calendar, right and she's doing now for a daily thing. And she's putting it up like two days before. So like today, Wednesday's calendar is up there. So you get to look at it. And just see, well, this is going on Wednesdays. And if you're interested in getting that you subscribe to go to EA groups.com. And you look for the Houston Activist Network or HAN. And you can there's three ways to subscribe and you can get emails delivered to you. Now you can get barrage with all these emails because there's a lot of them. But what you can do as you're set up your email, a client should just put it in one folder so that way you can just write no but then you can also go to the digest which means you get one a day I think right or you can actually read these emails on a web on the web

J Joan Devlin 23:12
page directly from so

J Jack Valinski 23:17
that way makes it a lot more convenient. And you can look at it basically I guess at any computer,

J Joan Devlin 23:22
right so a few other things are happening traffic is about the the film traffic is about to make it to Euston debut. Want to say this Friday. Traffic is considered a serious contender for this year's Academy Awards stars. Michael Douglas and Catherine Zeta Jones. Anna has been given rave reviews. I don't know that much about it. It's about drug trafficking. Orrin Hatch has a cameo, but don't let that scare you away because it's supposed to be a good movie. And some other things quills is still at Landmark, which is the film about the Marquis de Saud also considered a strong contender and the Academy Awards. And of course, if you're into mainstream, we've got the Grinch Castaway, what women want and all those others.

J Jack Valinski 24:04
There's a movie I don't know the name. It's not here yet. I think it's playing in New York. It's about a Cuban gay artist who comes to New York, and I believe he's a painter. And the story is not so much that he's gay, but it's about him being an artist, and that he has to leave Cuba because he's gay. And he comes to New York, but he does, you know, sort of do the Cuban art

there. And he dies later on. Complications of AIDS. Oh, Jack, just give me the whole movie. Well, no, actually, I'm not. Because it's supposed to be a very good movie. Unfortunately, I don't have the name in front of me. But we'll certainly be talking about when does come here.

J Joan Devlin 24:40

Right. And the other thing I want to mention is I just read talk a lot his book, it's called living and dying and for for time, talks about his as an openly gay male, his emergence from being a reporter for circus magazine in 1985. And for those of you that that don't know, circus magazine is a heavy metal magazine, and it talks about his Her journey from that to being a caseworker. For people who are dying of AIDS and throughout the book he keeps keeps kind of a diary. And he talks about how the face of AIDS continues to change, but people continue to die. And it's not the most, shall we say, joyous reading material, but it's definitely something worth investing your time in. He's an excellent writer, but he calls to attention things that we as a community sometimes forget or forget to mention.

J Jack Valinski 25:34

We're going to go to a piece of music that JD got for us. And it is called Love came in and you came out by Matthew Carlton Cohen. And he's put together a sort of compilation does for us to to play gay and lesbian artist you're listening to KPFT using the Pacifica foundation station, and this is lesbian and gay voices. Well, well, somewhat of a voice that I have. I'm sort of struggling here. It's allergy sort of thing that kicked in on Friday with me. So I sound worse, right? Worse than I normally sound, which is not necessarily great. But it is a brand new year and actually some people say a new millennium. And you know, nothing. Nothing crazy sort of hat makes it except for I guess the trains in Norway.

J Joan Devlin 26:34

Yeah, I heard about that. Had a y2k bug. Yes, that

J Jack Valinski 26:37

happened. You're late for the computers. But we do have a lot of exciting things coming up this year. The caucus has a meeting on Wednesday in Euston gay lesbian Political Caucus. And it also is their yearly election meeting. And it's at 730 at the love it in, which is 510. Love it, just down the street here from the station.

J Joan Devlin 27:00

And the prime committee has some meetings coming up to well, tomorrow we

J Jack Valinski 27:03

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have our monthly board meeting, which is of course open to the public at the Metropolitan multi service center, we are going to be having a local party, availing the new logo in early January, I don't have the exact date with me. But we'll be sending out invitations for that.

J Joan Devlin 27:19

The community centers looking for volunteers. There'll be having volunteer meeting on the second Saturday of this month, I want to say that is going to be the 13th.

J Jack Valinski 27:31

And the switchboard, which they're now working on becoming 24 hours, is looking for volunteers and they're in the community center. And so nice to see that there are people there a lot of the time, right.

J Joan Devlin 27:41

Yeah. So I mean, if you're if one of your New Year's resolutions is to get more involved in the community, there's just plenty of places that would love to have you. Any anything you want to do. There's probably a group out there that does it. So you know, feel free volunteer.

J Jack Valinski 27:56

Well, we're almost up to the top of the hour to our urine review thing. But before that, Ray, I understand it's gonna be in hospital soon.

J Joan Devlin 28:06

Yes, right Hill, will be going into the hospital on January 10. The last we heard from him, which was like I heard from him like a day or so ago. He said that date still stands, he will be going to have his surgery. So maybe you all need to think about right in the new year. I'm sure he'll bounce back and be as ordinary as ever. But still, yes. And that's important. That's very important. We need more ordinary people. I would say like Ray but there's like nobody like Ray. So we just need more ordinary people. But yeah, so I'll keep writing your thoughts and prayers as he goes through his latest round of doctors and other things.

J Jack Valinski 28:40

And of course it's cold here, but you know, our weather is so much better than almost anywhere else.

J Joan Devlin 28:44

.....

Oh, I know. I know. We didn't have a blizzard. My grandmother lives in New York. They had a blizzard. Philadelphia got 13 inches of snow.



28:51

Oh, I thought they were Washington was spared Washington DC was spared.



Joan Devlin 28:57

Was it Ohio Michigan all those places? They got like record breaking New Jersey New Jersey? Yes. And freak New Jersey got 29 inches of snow in one day. Can you imagine? I'm so glad I don't live there anymore.



Jack Valinski 29:10

And it was too cold to be out last night for two years. Just York? I don't know



Joan Devlin 29:14

I mean it was but a lot of people didn't turn out they said it was pretty good crowd to watch the ball drop and it's pretty cold here today for Euston. I mean Not that I'm complaining because I could take keep cold over the 111 degree summers any day but still it was it was pretty cold today.



Jack Valinski 29:31

And if you'd like to volunteer for this radio show. We sometimes haven't had the best luck with volunteers. But you can contact us contracted through the email info at [Pride houston.org](mailto:info@pridehouston.org) If you'd like to sorry I'm having



Joan Devlin 29:53

for Jack. Yeah, well, you had a heat problem didn't you? Didn't your heater go out or something? Just a pilot like you know Okay, I'm gonna say this is not the time of the year for your your heat to go out. I had that happen to me a couple years ago it wasn't fun at all. So well



Jack Valinski 30:07

let's let's go to our special that dub blended and it is a year review 2000 year review of lesbian and gay voices

G

Glenn Holt 30:24

at 90.1 FM This is KPFT in Houston, the sound of Texas and now more of lesbian and gay voices I'm Glen Holt, and this is lesbian and gay voices urine review of y2k retrospective. In this hour, we'll look back through the lesbian and gay voices archives at the issues and concerns, national and local that captured our attention throughout the year. Remember, don't ask don't tell as an election issue. Gays being allowed into the British military, the death of the magazine this week in Texas, the March on Washington, Gay Pride Day, World AIDS Day, PFLAG billboards and stop Dr. laura.com. The local fight against 2106 Vermont gay marriages, California domestic partnerships, and Oregon's ballot initiative number nine, and how the Supreme Court overruled democracy in a bitter partisan decision. Sit back and fasten your seat belts, why 2k was a bumper year. This is lesbian and gay voices Why 2k retrospective. In January of 2000, a bill became law in Vermont, the result of a state Supreme Court decision, which set up the equivalent of gay marriage in that state. It was a big victory for gay and lesbian rights. But of course, it wasn't without controversy.



32:19

Lesbian and Gay couples in Vermont are being joined in civil union, even as opponents to the law granting the state's marriage benefits to same gender partners are taking aim at those responsible for its passage. Many opponents cite religious grounds. But there were also church leaders supporting the representatives who carried civil unions through the legislature, Elaine Clift reports.



32:41

Among those who understand the human dimensions of the struggle for gay marriage, or at least civil union, are more than 100 Vermont clergy who've been active advocates. Among them is Katherine Kidd, you, Pastor of the United Church of Christ in the small village of Saxtons. River.



32:58

I've always been a sucker for justice issues. And this particular issue of legal civil rights for same sex couples and for gay and lesbian people and transgendered and bisexual people as well has always been sort of on my plate. And I've never been able to say no to it. And it's caused some difficulty with the church in the in the beginning in the early years. But as people grow and understand, it seems to be a less problematic, but even if it were, I wouldn't be able to say no to it, because it is a real justice issue for me. And so I'm happy to be part of this.



33:33

So how did the church community and Vermont organized around this, how there seems to be 100 or more clergy who signed on and who gave testimony, and maybe talk a little bit about that testimony,



33:44

grassroots folks began to contact clergy to see where they stood. And of course, the United Church of Christ has had a task force ongoing for many years, to look at this issue of lesbian and gay rights in the church. And it's been an ongoing dialogue. And I think more and more people have just become aware that this is a justice issue and have signed on. And you sort of make yourselves known and you go to the booths, at the fairs and at the annual meetings and pick up the stickers and, and then you find that people will contact you and ask you to be an advocate. And I've been involved with the taskforce for about two and a half years and I was asked to be part of a panel to talk about the issue of same sex marriage about two years ago and my first thought was, this is really scary because it's going to be very public. But then I realized that if you believe something you have to go public and just let it be. I attended one hearing where the leaders the the Episcopal Bishop and United Church of Christ conference Minister Arnold Thomas and the rabbi Josh chasen were asked for their opinions at the same time that bishop Harold Angell, the Roman Catholic bishop was testifying against it in another room, and I heard the positive testimony. And then I went into the other room and heard the last of Bishop angels testimony. And I felt really sad because it seems so kind of wrote, it seems so by the book. And so if you start at a certain place, then you have to end at a certain place, but it seems like he was starting in the wrong place. You know, even rabbi, the rabbi said, I love Kenneth Angel, but he's just so wrongheaded about this, you know, it was very, very powerful. I also heard Craig Benson from take it to the people. And it was just, I wanted to hear some bow, but I didn't, because it just seems so slick, and so insensitive to gays and lesbians, humanity. It was clear that we have to talk about this because even the people who are against gay and lesbian rights needed to be flushed out in a way we needed to know why they were against it. And it's very hard to say, Well, I love these people, but then say that they were an abomination. And they're the cause of disease. You know, some of the things that people said were just so so ignorant. The other the positive things were people who have been married for 40 or 50 years to say, this isn't going to hurt my marriage. And then people who say I used to be a priest, or I've been married for 40 years, because I have suppressed my homosexual yearnings. But they're still here, but, but I'm not acting on them. And I think everybody should have a right to have a family and a life. You know,



36:30

according to a two term state legislator, Elaine Alfonso, a healthcare advocate when she's not in her legislative role. It was the women in the legislature who made all the difference, perhaps because they do understand family issues. So well,



36:43

the women were overwhelmingly supportive of civil union, had it been left to the male legislators, if they only their votes counted, civil unions would have failed. So I think it was a really interesting cultural difference. In many ways, I think women often talk and learn more about other people's lives than men do. And that's more of a subject of conversation, and that women are more comfortable talking about and often no more situations because I was actually pretty astounded. A recent poll that was done here, had also showed that people who knew or knew that they knew of gay and lesbians were much more supportive of civil unions than those who didn't. Probably the people who said they didn't know anybody just didn't know that they

knew somebody. But a factor is when there's really a human face on it. And it's not an abstract issue. But it's somebody you know, who's deeply involved in a committed, caring relationship. It makes a tremendous difference.

G

Glenn Holt 37:39

Of course, the Vermont court decision was precedent setting, and California flirted with its own kind of state domestic partnerships.

G

Greg Gordon 37:47

KPFA Berkeley reporter Erin grants has more from the state capitol.

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37:51

The Assembly Judiciary Committee heard three bills designed to expand domestic partnerships in California. won by Assemblyman Darrell Steinberg of Sacramento. We've placed domestic partners in line to inherit property if one partner dies without a will. And another by Assemblywoman Sheila que of Los Angeles gives registered domestic partners the right to control the dispersal of their partners remains when they die. A third by Assemblywoman Gloria Romero of Los Angeles would allow a domestic partner to make medical decisions when his or her partner lacks the capacity to make decisions about his or her own health care. Good now, Johnson of Los Angeles spoke in favor of that bill. She told the committee the story of an illness she had nine years ago,

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38:36

I became seriously ill with pneumonia. I had an allergic reaction to the antibiotic that my doctor put me on and had to stop taking it. My temperature went up to 104 degrees. I became unconscious and delirious. I was not capable of making decisions for myself or calling my physician. My partner made numerous phone calls to my doctor to try and inform him of my condition, and let them know that it had worsened. But he refused to speak with her because she was not a blood relation. She was not next of kin. My partner attempted to call my parents knowing that they have disowned me because I am a lesbian, and my parents refused to help. I was in a situation in which my life was at stake. And my partner was terrified to take me to a hospital for fear that the same thing would happen with the doctors there.

o

39:41

Janelle said her partner instead cared for her from home using herbal remedies. Dr. Ron are now a neurologist at USC Hospital in Los Angeles said canal story is not an isolated one. He says one story repeats itself again and again. They're light partners are holding vigilantly at their bedside. But they were unaware that in order to help make decisions about their loved ones medical care, they had to fill out special legal forms when they were both competent to sign these forms.

G**Glenn Holt 40:11**

The other States saw the writing on the wall and got scared state legislatures across the country hurried to pass laws banning similar same sex unions and denying recognition of out of state unions. That's a violation of the Full Faith and Credit Clause of the US Constitution. So perhaps 2001 will be the year that that clause is put to the test in the US Supreme Court on a case involving recognition of a Vermont gay marriage somewhere else in the country. One example of state sponsored homophobia was the infamous Oregon ballot initiative. Number nine,

G**Greg Gordon 40:47**

Nevada and Nebraska have initiatives that would ban recognition of same gender relationships. They will be voting in Maine on anti discrimination protections. And in Oregon, there is a proposal to prohibit schools from encouraging promoting or sanctioning homosexuality, yet another measure sponsored by the rabidly anti gay Oregon Citizens Alliance. Sally Shukla, a lesbian feminist activist based in Eugene, Oregon, who performs with the group Wim Prov. Got the okay to record new words to the music of a 41 year old pop classic by Leiber and Stoller for a musical call to action.

G**41:23**

My travels down to an Andrew

G**Glenn Holt 41:33**

This is lesbian and gay voices Why 2k? Retrospective? Not since Anita Bryant has the gay community rallied to protest the kind of gay bashing in the media that Dr. Laura Schlessinger is famous for. She tried to take her radio show to television this fall, and it went over like a lead balloon. One after another big corporate sponsors dropped her show. The fight against the show was led by the stop Dr. laura.com website.


J**Joan Devlin 42:04**

Good evening, you're listening to kp FTS lesbian and gay voices. And I'm in the studio with dandy annato. And Vanessa Edwards Foster, and they're fresh from the stop Dr. laura.com. Rally preparation meeting. They're going to be having a rally to against Dr. Laura will actually are going to be picketing que se v. Is that correct?


G**42:24**


That's correct. Yes.


 Joan Devlin 42:25
And that will be when


 42:28
that's coming up this Friday, July 14, at 11 o'clock. We're going to meet outside Jr's and somewhat carpool over to KSV the studios over there and I 10.


 Joan Devlin 42:41
And what is the reason that you're picketing?

 42:43
The reason that we're picketing is Dr. Laura obviously, just recently was awarded a television show. Now obviously, this is not the television show that we're picketing. This is a radio station. However, this particular radio station has Dr. Laura show on currently. And it's

 Joan Devlin 43:03
on for several hours a day.


 43:05
Yes, exactly. Six o'clock

 43:06
in the morning.

 43:07
Yes. Right.

 43:09
If you're up bed early.

 Joan Devlin 43:11

 Joan Devlin 43:11

The drive time, yeah, six to nine, I mean, so you're talking like three hours a day of this woman.

 43:17

And she's got a very good audience with that particular group. But what we're hoping to accomplish, by bringing this to the public forefront is to at least put in people's minds exactly what this woman is about. And also to kind of spotlight the fact that she is getting a television show to spread this kind of hate. Obviously, she's got a long history, and everyone's fairly aware of it. But we want to try and stop her before she gets on the airwaves. Television wise, if we give her that particular type of forum, we're afraid that this is basically going to spread it to a much wider medium than what it has already. And by having the audience that she has, it's it's enough of a backlash against our community, but by giving her a much wider one. Obviously, we worry about the repercussions that can happen as a result of them right now

 44:18


we understand that she is in our element, her conservative radio environment. And we know that we can't do much about that other than to create more of an awareness of the general public or to the general public that she is out there, and that she's going to be expanding into the main airwaves over the Houston area.

 Joan Devlin 44:40

And if you hadn't had much luck with getting sponsors for her TV show, though hashing

 44:44

Well, that's That's very true. Just a couple of days ago, actually. Geico had cancelled out their sponsorship of her radio show and the TV show understand and also we have word just today informally that there's going to be Other sponsorships that are cancelling out. So my feeling on the whole situation is that it's such a sensitive matter right now with everybody, you know, dropping her that nobody wants to advertise on her show. And my feeling personally is that she won't even make it to, to the TV.

 Glenn Holt 45:21

You know, one of the nice things is that the corporate community is waking up to the goldmine of gay and lesbian dollars. Exactly. They understand what side their balance sheet is buttered on.

 Joan Devlin 45:36

I'd also like to think, though, beyond that, and obviously, that's I'm sure their first

consideration, but I think they're also taking a stand in many cases, just for human rights. I mean, you know, in the same way that any company that has any kind of reputation at all, would not dare to sponsor say, a show put on by the k k k, exactly. I think, you know, they're looking at her in that same light, because she does, she's so divisive. She's so ugly, and it's not just to gay and lesbian people. This is



46:07

quite widespread. She's very hateful towards even folks within the heterosexual community that don't fit her particular views on what she considers acceptable social norms, single moms, yes, single moms. Anything that I guess is too divergent from the mainstream for her is something that she likes to target. And it's kind of similar to a lot of the other talk show hosts, they press certain hot buttons that they know, are going to cause controversy. And by drawing up this controversy, they draw the ratings whether for negative or for positive purposes. And by having those ratings, they continue keeping themselves on the air,



46:51

right. And they continue to stay on the air on the am stations where you know that that that same behavior won't be would not be acceptable on the TV.



Glenn Holt 47:01

This past year saw the millennial march on Washington, even that wasn't without controversy, as rumors were flying about sponsorship money going mainly into profits. But it was a success. Anyway, Ellen DeGeneres was one of the featured speakers at the Millennium March



47:18

1 of all I want to mention this, how wild this is, for me, first of all to be here. And what a privilege this is for me to be here because I wasn't out for the last March. And I sat at home and watched it on TV and cried, because I was not a part of a family that I knew I belong to. And I know that there are a lot of people at home watching, feeling the same way because you can justify it any, any way you want to justify it, why you're not out. But it's because you're ashamed of yourself and you. You've let society beat you down so much that you believe them. But the the wild thing for me is that this March is happening three years to the day of the airing of the coming out episode. Thank you, Disney. We love you for that Disney thing. We're kind of preaching to the choir here, we're all sending out these powerful messages. And we all feel the same way. People wonder why this is important to have a march like this and to have a celebration. And it's because when you grow up, being bombarded with messages, subconsciously or just as blatant as they can possibly be that there is something wrong with you simply for being gay or for whatever reason for you the color of your skin. If you're bombarded with that it's hard enough as a human being, to have self respect. It's hard enough to deal with the fear of rejection and approval. And it gets worse and worse and worse as you get older. But it's compounded when you're gay. And when you're raised with that for so many years, we need a day like this to overcompensate as much as we possibly can. We need this

love and support. Anybody can relate to going to school, going to high school or grammar school and just being tortured by the school bully. And as a gay person, we are bullied by society every single day of our lives. And it hurt. It hurts so, so bad, that sometimes you feel like it's safer to just stay in the closet and live your life and be safe. But there are children out there that are being tortured and killed. Because we're not visible enough. And I know as a celebrity, the most important thing I'll ever do is to stand up and make a difference for those children who need voices to speak for them. We owe that to them. And I would beg anyone, any celebrity to please come out. It is the most important thing you'll ever do to save lives. I do feel proud that I'm gay. I feel very proud that I'm gay because I feel like I'm on a special spiritual journey that most people don't get to experience if you're if you're not a minority. You don't have a struggle and you don't have a purpose to your life. If you're just going along with, with whatever your daily routine is, but when you're gay, and when you're fighting for something, or you're a person of color, and you're fighting for something, your life takes on such a meaning. And there's such a bond that we all have with each other because of that struggle. And that's why we cheer each other. And that's why the parades are necessary. And that's why we need to walk away from this day, and and spread this. We can't just have this day and you go back to your job. People think this is a political thing. It is a political thing. It's still legal to fire people in 38 states just because they're gay, this is political. This is who we are. We are human beings who are being treated as second class citizens. And we can't do that we just can't we see so much hate around us from Dr. Laura to you know, anybody the picketers when and when you see that kind of hate, it is just a blatant absence of love. That's what hate is. It's an absence of love. And it's, and it's hard because I feel like I see those picketers and I think, you know, if I were a loving and nonviolent spiritual person, I would really go over there and grab those signs and smash them over their heads and shove them up there.

G

Glenn Holt 51:10

In Houston, the y2k nighttime gay pride parade was even bigger and better than ever. The Houston area motorcycle society called hams led the parade with motorcycles and got things off to a thunderous start.

J

Jack Valinski 51:25

And Glen was on a motorcycle at the beach. Actually, what was your perspective then?

G

Glenn Holt 51:34

Well, it was very interesting, because turn your microphone on. Yeah,

J

Jack Valinski 51:37


it's my headphones that are.

G


Glenn Holt 51:42

Now it was very interesting, because we were, I think it was run over by a motorcycle, we were

now it was very interesting, because we were, I think it was run over by a motorcycle, we were heading down the street, just absolutely as slowly as we could possibly go. And very warmly received by the crowds, of course. And we had planned and what we did was when we got up to the reviewing stand we we had written up there, two by two, and then then we sort of formed up four by four. And everybody you rev their engines and made a great thunderous noise. And then the the crowd responded with great applause and everybody was very happy. And then nothing happened. We rode away and nothing else happened for a long time, but now the crowds looked about the same as last year. I noticed some real good eye candy in the crowds, some real good eye candy on the floats. See, what I did was after I rode through with with the hams motorcycle club, I thought that I was going to circle around, because I had been told that cute patrol was at the back towards the back of the parade. And so I was going to ride through again with them. Just change T shirts and ride through again. But it turns out that cute patrol was number 41. So by the time we got through the parade, they were already in the parade. Okay, so anyway, in circling back around and looking for them, and touring up and down the streets, I saw all the floats close up. So it was interesting, because there were some floats that were very tall. I remember, MCC RS float was very tall, and they had trouble getting through some of the back streets because of low hanging branches on the trees. So that might be something to think about next year.

 Jack Valinski 53:23

Well, that is always a concern. And one of the that's sort of unique things of Houston's parade is that instead of being on a wide downtown street or a wide street heading into downtown like Dallas, we just where they line up, we're in a neighborhood, and there are trees there and we do the best we can but there are trees there.

 Glenn Holt 53:42

Well it also occurred to me, looking at MCC RS flowed that the idea of doing the parade at night really opens up the avenues for creativity. Oh absolutely. Because the things that that that they did and some of the other people did with their floats with lighting and lighting effects and colors.

 Joan Devlin 54:01

I mean could you get over Tori Williams light up roses. I mean who would have thought of such a thing a lighter bouquet of roses? I mean you know phenomenal and you just

 54:12

said to her by by family or friends or something and

 Joan Devlin 54:15


it wasn't Olympus or get them working that was what she told us

 Jack Valinski 54:19

yeah cuz I think she was started a fire when she first tried well the two things I really noticed that was out smart there was somebody else that had a boat with like a sale on it yeah and they use the Christmas lights to make the sale up and I just thought you know That's so incredible. Absolutely incredible.

 54:39

Christmas lights work better this year. They haven't worked so well in the past because of of all the ambient light in the area. Yeah, with the streetlights but the streetlights for shut off.

 Jack Valinski 54:50


There were a couple of streetlights burned out along the route I noticed and reliant energy per the request of the pride committee of Euston and with the help of Have a nice Parker's office city council, they and and the barking dog of Lee Harrington. They turned off the lights in a two block area around Montrose and Westheimer. Because that's where the disco ball was, and there was so much light in the disco ball, it seemed that we didn't need those lights. And it really helps show that up. The interesting about the disco ball this year or the mirror ball is that it moved around and have movement. And there was a couple of times I was watching from the reviewing stand, where it went right over the people that were on the mound on Montrose watching the parade. And it looked like you were in a club. I mean, it was just really, really neat. But a

 55:37

club with an eight and a half foot disco ball, right,

 Jack Valinski 55:39

that was out in a big club. And that was really, really neat.

 Glenn Holt 55:45

Well, the idea of shining spotlights on it, even from on top of Cody's from that far away, that was very interesting.

 Jack Valinski 55:54

Yes. And the original idea was to do it in from the American general building, believe it or not, but I think that was a little bit overkill. They actually they were from four different angles. And that was that working out the logistics for that was really incredible. Of course now we're gonna

have to figure out what we're going to do next year to top that.

G

Glenn Holt 56:12

Well, the gay pride parade was probably the highlight of the year. There were other notable events, such as the billboards put up around the city, by Parents and Friends of Lesbians and gays. PFLAG

J

Jack Valinski 56:25

Cindy Murphy is here with us. And Cindy, what position are you on? With PFLAG? I'm

⦿

56:31

the Vice President.

J

Jack Valinski 56:32

Okay. Okay. Something like the minister of propaganda, you know, yeah, that's sort of my title. I love that. So you're all going to be putting up billboards. And it's like, every time PFLAG has done something like this before, there usually has been more controversy, which ended up getting you more publicity. And this time, what do you think is going to happen? Is it going to work? Is it good? You know, so it's

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56:58

going to it's going to work? We're going to have billboards, hopefully all over the city from really yes, we're going to try to have at least three up and it's going to last for about a year. Great. And some of these will be able to move them around the city. Okay. And, you know, just real nice messages.

J

Jack Valinski 57:15

And is it I mean, it's basically what I can see here is it's just like hate hurts or safe schools or unconditional love with your information and your name. I mean, very, very wholesome type of message.

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57:28

Oh, yes. The last one was very wholesome. I thought to that. Yes. Right. It is about family values. It's all very newsworthy. I mean, it's, you know, all the hate crimes in the safe schools. My goodness, you know, where else, you know, should a child be able to go to feel safe? Sure.

School?

 Jack Valinski 57:49

Absolutely. Especially with, you know, the taxes that we pay that a lot of us pay that don't have kids that we don't mind paying, because, you know, the future of our countries, you know, dependent on schools. So you're gonna have to pay for the signs, right? Oh, yes.

 58:05

That's very true. We're starting our fundraising campaign as of today. And we're looking for donations from the community for you know, really whatever you can donate, we would like to have sponsors for the billboard if an organization would like to sponsor a billboard, or a business or, you know, really individuals, we don't care. You know, we just are looking to raise the funds so we can have this year long campaign. We want PFLAG to have exposure. And for people to know what PFLAG is, and why we're here.

 Jack Valinski 58:43

Is this something that you're doing? This is a usin chapter. That's the Houston

 58:47

chapter. And we had great success. The last time we did it in 96. And, you know, we hope to have that same success

 Jack Valinski 58:55

being I mean, is this something that Houston is doing ahead of everybody else? Are there other chapters doing that? Because I know Houston usually, in the last, you know, five, six years had been way ahead of the curve.

 59:06

Yeah, we'd like to be in your face. Yes, we, there's chapters all over the United States now that do put up billboards. We kind of lead the way with our 96 campaign, and have apparently loaned out those vinyls to other chapters. So in New Jersey, now, they just started their their billboard campaign. And, you know, we like to think that that's, you know, we were kind of helpful in getting into the chapter seeing that something like this will work.

 Jack Valinski 59:37

You know, I've worked on Pride Week, you know, maybe too many years. But I remember many

times when we would go out and do business with somebody printing a pride guide, or, and we've done billboards to, we would make sure we told them who we were so that, you know, we wouldn't get surprised and say they didn't want to do business with us. Did you have to go to the same thing when you went to this billboard company and say this is what we want to do, and they agreed to do it. I did



1:00:01

not personally go to do the setup and everything but yes, that they are aware of what we are, what we stand for, and why we want to do these things. You know why we want to have these billboards up for our kids and for the community, you know, it's part of the community part of the part of the world. You know, let's get real here. They were very supportive as far as getting our message out,



Jack Valinski 1:00:26

right? It's great because I know when you all went to some of the TV stations with those ads, they all decided that they weren't interested in doing them.



1:00:32

I know that's seen as too scary. Exactly.



Jack Valinski 1:00:35

But then again, you got more publicity out of that then then you're right, probably you would have if they ran that's true. So what is this going to start



1:00:44

we're hoping to get it going mid March depending on location we want good locations so they're going down this week to sign the paperwork and our target is mid March have three billboards up those three the hate hurts unconditional love and safe schools. And, you know, like I said, we want prime locations, we don't want to be you know, out on a rural route somewhere or we want you know, 610 59 So we have the exposure, so people can drive by their everyday and say, okay, okay, make sense to me. It's just, it's just a nice, easy message. It's a it does say PFLAG Houston. It does say parents, families and friends of lesbians and gays. So there is no doubt who's sponsoring or who's putting up these billboards.



Glenn Holt 1:01:37

This is lesbian and gay voices. Why 2k retrospective. Unfortunately, AIDS and HIV are still with us in the new millennium. But the new drug cocktails are providing longer life expectancy, and better quality of life. For those infected. There were a number of important medical advances in

HIV research and 2000 benefits which will apply to a broad spectrum of virology and immunology, perhaps even to cancer. World AIDS Day was marked this year on December 1, Francisco Sanchez from avez appeared on our show to talk about it.



1:02:16

It's been going on since 19, a 1988. I think this is the 13th year that we've had World AIDS Day, it's a good opportunity for for us to be able to get the mainstream media involved and get the message across. But certainly in our community, it's something we need to continue to do every day in the gay and lesbian community. You see, the numbers are decreasing a little bit in the gay and lesbian community when you get when you look at the overall infections of HIV and AIDS. And when you calculate all the numbers, I think gaming still accounts for 48 something 47% Are men who have sex with men still and 82% of infections are men cumulatively since up until 1999. Over the past couple of years, we've seen that increase in the minority community eventually that'll swing the numbers a little bit, but overall, the research lab significant problem in the gay and lesbian community. So



Jack Valinski 1:03:05

and it's all just education, and it still hasn't quite filtered down to everybody has it?



1:03:11

No, it hasn't. I think it's very unfortunate that it's taking this long for for there to be a state of emergency declared in the city right in the city. And I'm even more concerned OB is particularly deals with reaching out to Hispanic community. And I'm really concerned sort of how long it's going to take for the city in funding sources to recognize the pattern that experts are already seeing in increasing numbers there. While it's certainly not a state of emergency, I call it a state of emergency. I mean, if we don't do something now, I think we should have learned a lesson by this point. And we ought to be funding efforts that address education in a culturally sensitive way.



Jack Valinski 1:03:49


And how do you do that? Well, even if you had a check tomorrow, that as much money as you can possibly use, how do you do that?



1:03:57

Well, I we've been successful. And obviously, we sort of created a niche for Sheldon, in terms of dealing with Hispanic women. And I think we're hit a little ahead of the curve there. And there was an increase in HIV infection among Hispanic women in one year alone, but that the increase was about 20 something percent. If we I think the more nonprofits are the more that ASO is apply marketing techniques that advertising agencies use and sort of where my background is hidden from Hispanic niche agency we did Hispanic advertising and marketing,


those same principles apply. Whether you're doing health education, and even HIV and AIDS education, and the more agencies have those resources available to them, and that sort of knowledge available to them, the more impact they're gonna have.

 Jack Valinski 1:04:47

So education and marketing. Is that done? How's that differ? I mean, I guess we learned some this about smoking, you know, the smoking campaigns, that of course, all this windfall of money we're supposed to be thing from the tobacco industry really hasn't gotten into it for the most part, but some of it house and some of the techniques they use, is it sort of an MTV type style, is it?

 1:05:09

No, it's the trick in dealing with the Hispanic community is focusing the impact HIV and AIDS can have on the family. The slick marketing, it's probably going to be a two prong approach with we've got levels of assimilation. And if you're dealing with with recent immigrants, and people, their parents and their kids are still young, you still have to use you have to associate what they're being educated, has to do with HIV and how it really impacts the family. If they don't understand it, you need to make the connection that they need to educate their kids to prevent this from happening to them. That's the message that we need to take to recent immigrants. We deal with a younger generation that are influenced by the Ricky Martin's and Jennifer Lopez and the the next generation in the Hispanic community that's grown up over the past 2030 years. Some of that's like MTV advertising really works. And but you still need to try to use some cultural aspects of it to get the message across.


 Jack Valinski 1:06:18


So what does all this do?


 1:06:21


We do a variety of things we got we, we have a primary health clinic where we provide medical services to our clients. One of the challenges that we found, for a long time, we did education prevention, and we did social services, we would give people professional counseling, we'd give them case management, but we could never get them into a clinic because they didn't, there wasn't a doctor that they could speak Spanish to the staff didn't speak Spanish, and they just had a big distrust. We saw those numbers we saw the numbers grew up in dramatically, once we got the clinic, we were we became a one stop shop. So people felt a lot more comfortable and get accessing medical care. And so that's really the clinic's the gem of the agency in terms of the impact that it has, because I mean, as we all know, the sooner we get people on medications, and the sooner we get them into treatment, and being involved in that and doing actively, the better off they're going to be in the long run. We still have street outreach programs and prevention programs, we but we have two very exciting programs that we're pioneers. And we've got a program with Office of Minority Health, where we talk to recent immigrants about HIV and AIDS and we talk to the adolescents about HIV and AIDS. And in that

course, we also educate teens about acculturation issues, self esteem issues, and make sure that we address all the issues as they're being acculturated are important so that they have a high esteem of themselves and accept the message better about HIV and AIDS. We've got another program, which is the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, SAMHSA, where we are in a community in Willow Creek, it's an apartment complex in southeast Houston 9000 People want to complex. And it's a 98%, Hispanic, the bulk of those recent immigrants, and what we do there, because those are recent immigrants, we do a lot of the acculturation training, we teach them how to strengthen families, we tell them how to talk about sex with their kids, and that their kids are expecting that conversation here in the United States, because it's a culture that growing up in and those are two very innovative programs that I'm very proud of, and that we're really taking the lead on. And so I'm looking forward to, to seeing those grow, and I hope other agencies will, will be in to take on those as well

 Jack Valinski 1:08:34
to get into schools at all.

 1:08:36
We through the Oh program, we do a little bit because a part of our target population there is dealing with with adolescents, so we have to recruit at churches and schools. And actually, we've had a collaborative partner with the Center for AIDS. There'll be on with the program later and they're helping us go to physicians that treat the Hispanic and treat primarily Hispanic clientele so that they can one know how to talk to them about it. And be know what some of the signs are, because they may think this isn't a population that's at risk because for cultural values

 Glenn Holt 1:09:11
in local news to Houston men and their lawyer decided to take on the Texas sodomy law known as 2106. That case is still not settled. But we spoke with the lawyer working the case for the defense, Mitchell Katyn,

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actually, I'm one of the attorneys Lambda Legal Defense from New York are the lead attorneys. And I'm the local counsel with Williamsburg and Anderson. And with this being Gay Pride Week celebrations. It's it's it's really amazing that the courts, the 14th Court of Appeal has decided to give us this opinion and my clients John Lawrence and Tyrone Gardner. Both here in Houston are two men who in in one sense are really heroes. This is something that they didn't have to do. They didn't have to go forward and, and let the lawyers do their thing. But for those of you I guess if you are gay or lesbian and weren't, we're living under a rock and don't know, last Thursday, I guess it was last Thursday, let's get the EU. It was filed on June 8, the decision where the 14th Court of Appeals here in Houston, determined that the homosexual conduct law is unconstitutional, because it makes a sext based distinction in order to determine the criminality of the law, and really, I have the opinion here in front of me. And I like to read this

one sentence right here says, The simple fact is the same behavior as criminal for some, but not for others, based solely on the sex of the individuals who engage in the behavior. That sentence is key. And that sentence may be the basis as to why we when we go to the next level. And I understand the district attorney is appealing this decision. When we go to the next level, which is the highest criminal court in Texas, known as the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, we do not go to the Supreme Court, because that only hears civil cases, the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals. Hopefully they will look at this simple fact. And the law and and determined that the Court of Appeals was correct, or they can actually even declined to hear the case. And if they did, because it's discretionary with them. And if they declined to hear the case, then in essence, it affirms the decision below, and it's it remains good law. Some people are talking though, if we go to the next level, and we win there, that will make it the definitive law for the entire state. If we don't make it to the next level, then it's persuasive authority for the state. But it's binding for the 14 counties that go to the 14th Court of Appeals. So you know, and then if we do if we go to the next level, and we lose there, there's always a possibility of going to the United States Supreme Court, and having us decided for the entire country.

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Glenn Holt 1:12:31

Mitchell, I understand how the different courts of appeals have different jurisdictions. But it has always confused me that in a case like this, you could have relief from a law like 2106 in a limited geographic area of the state. It that does the Texas Constitution not have something similar to the US Constitution about equal protection under the law, or equal application of the law across the

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state? You mean, Full Faith and Credit? Yes, I think credit within the state and actually, that's why I've when critics and people like from Dallas have been saying, Well, this law doesn't help us. And that's not really true. In at least 90, if not 95% of the cases. The other courts around the state follow each other, they follow the first appellate decision. Remember, this is the third appellate court that has held 2106 to be unconstitutional. You had one in Dallas, in the mica, England case versus City of Dallas, that was a Dallas police officer, the lesbian Dallas police officer, then you had the Morales decision out of Austin. And now you have the Houston decision. So we have Dallas, Austin and Houston all agreeing we don't have any cases that go the other way. So this is extremely persuasive. And 90 to 95% of the other courts will do it, but they don't have to. But they usually do so.

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So in the first two decisions, the court above it chose not to hear it is that

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that's right, the Supreme Court got the case and said, Hey, this is a criminal statute, you're in the wrong court. So we're going to dismiss it. We're not going to say the lower decisions were wrong. We're just not going to decide this because it's a civil case. And I guess for non lawyers,

it's hard to understand what I'm saying. But let me just try to clarify it. In the past in Texas, these type of challenges have been brought in a declaratory judgment where you really haven't had someone injured except for Myka England, but that was an employment case. And they were proceeding along a civil track. You have civil and criminal laws, civil, civil and criminal courts, and you have criminal laws, you have civil statutes, and so all along in the past because Quite frankly, we didn't have anybody who was really arrested, people who got arrested, who chose not to fight, it would plea bargain out or the case might be dismissed. But we didn't really have people willing to go all the way as we do now with John Lawrence and Tyrone Gardner. And so when the case got to the Supreme Court, they simply said, this is a criminal statute, it's in the wrong court, we're going to dismiss it and not rule on it. That's what's so important about this case, is that we have people who are really arrested. Remember, my clients were arrested at 1130, at night, dragged in handcuffs out of their apartment, in their underwear, put in the police car, and put in jail for nothing more than what 1000s of other people are doing. And essential activities essential adult. And, you know, a reporter said the other day said, well, weren't they in a window? Couldn't you see it? Now? Remember, this is nothing being done in the public or the public view. This was in the privacy of their home. That's why so many people can't believe that it really happened. I mean, I've gotten calls from Germany from the BBC did an interview, think probably saying, well, these crazy Americans, you know, look what they're doing. But we are in a different state. Now. We are now different state. We're in the same state of Texas, but we're in a different state of mind. Now we are legal. And, you know, as as Ray Hill says, he's he goes back historically, and looks at the history of what we've done. And this period, and we don't know what's going to happen at the Texas Court of Appeals Criminal Appeals. But at least for the next six months, nine months, gay and lesbian people for the first time, in a long time, maybe 190. Since 119 years are free.

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Glenn Holt 1:16:49

This is lesbian and gay voices. Why 2k retrospective. In 2000, the local magazine affectionately called the twit this week in Texas, stopped publication and went out of business. Brian Keever is well known locally. He worked at the twit offices in Houston.

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I've been working for the magazine for 15 years in some form or fashion. I started as a reporter, working for Chuck Patrick, who was the person in charge then so yeah, and Chuck is no longer with us. Because no longer as matter of fact, Jim, Jim Chappell, Jim Cagle, who were the two original owners both are not with us anymore. Chuck Patrick and Jim Theta Tau. Were the next people. They're no longer with us anymore. And it was sold a couple of years ago to Alan Gelman, and Steve Miles, who worked for the magazine for years.

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Jack Valinski 1:17:41

Well, and Twitter has always been a, you know, they call it a bar magazine. But the quality, especially in the early days, when they started to go with, you know, heavier paper and eventually with color and stuff like that. That was way ahead of the time.



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Yeah, when we started doing color, no one else just about was doing color with the exception of maybe there's a sister publication on the East Coast that was called *Cruise*, which I'm sure if it is still business, but and then we had some friends that moved from Houston to Atlanta, Georgia, that were good friends of the owners here, and they started a publication in Atlanta, and they patterned after *twit* and they called it *etc*, or *excetera*. And because we were *TW* t they became *etc*. And every time we changed here in Houston, they would change in Atlanta. And so that was kind of like our, our child Atlanta was, *etc*. But we were on separately.



Jack Valinski 1:18:30

And then there was one in Florida called David Right. Yeah.



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David was the original one in Florida. Unfortunately, they folded went out of business. I actually worked for David magazine. I lived in Charlotte, North Carolina back in the 70s. And was the North Carolina representative for David magazine. And like 70.



Joan Devlin 1:18:47

Now and all the time that you've been doing, *twit*, what are some of the major changes you've noticed in the way the magazine has unfolded? And what are some of the things that have stayed pretty true to the original plan?



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We used to have a really cool column back in many years before I came to work for us that was called *Lapras Vera*. And it was it was a very tongue in cheek type column which did well. We've had showbiz columns we used to have, we used to have a poetry editor, a showbiz editor a, you know, I mean, we had like 130 to 150 pages back in the mid to late 80s, you know, of everything, we covered the entire state of Texas heavily. But you know, after so many years, you know, in money cost and you know, some of the business aren't around anymore. We became more entertainment oriented, as opposed to hard news oriented and more into the theater. When it first started, there was nothing else around and so this was like four years long before the pink triangle was adopted long before the rainbow flag was adopted. And there were two things that you identified with in the community. One was alarmed, which was a very discreet symbol that people use in 70s to talk to each other. If you were alarmed a necklace or a price or and all, you're all okay. And the other one was a *twit* sticker, we had that we had *twit* stickers that people would put on their cars across the state of Texas. And if you're in, you know, say the South Texas Valley and you saw someone with a *trip* sticker on their car, you kind of figured, well, they must be part of the family.



Glenn Holt 1:20:24

Of course, there were many other things which happened locally, so many that we just don't have time to review them all. The Exxon Mobil merger and employee rally, the formation of the gay and lesbian immigration Task Force, the hatch gay and lesbian prom, the forum on racism held at the community center, GLBT Aggie Awareness Week, and many others worthy of mention. But the final big news item of the year 2000 was the disaster of the presidential election. The whys and wherefores have been beaten to death in the public media already. But here's what we heard from Deborah Rogers, about what it means to the GLBT community in Houston.

 Joan Devlin 1:21:07

I really think the Wright felt like once they got bush in he was in their pocket.

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I get that feeling too. And I think a lot of people get that feeling. One of the counter attacks that I've heard, and then also appeared in the salon article was that there may be a bone thrown to the religious right, by Bush with him immediately trying to seek some sort of partial birth abortion ban. Yeah, but

 Joan Devlin 1:21:33

are we going to be the bone? Well,

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I you know, that's that's always the question is who is really going to be the the bone when all of a sudden done. The other thing that they've suggested we may see play is the religious right may take an extreme view and just rattled or change horribly, so that bush can then come in with his so called moderate compassionate conservatism, and seem to wrestle with this extreme idea and settle for a compromise, which will make him look like he's fighting the religious right and winning. But actually, he'll be playing in conjunction with them.

 Joan Devlin 1:22:11

I find that hard to believe simply because I really get the overriding impression that these people feel like he owes them.

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Oh, I think they do. I think they I think they feel that strongly. I


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 Joan Devlin 1:22:23

think in their minds, I use the term loosely. They think he's theirs. They think he's in their pocket, and that he's in office now to completely and totally put forth their agenda.

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I think so. And I think my gut feeling is that he'll he'll go for things like making a run against ru 486, the partial birth abortion ban, which would be such a tremendous waste of energy, because that's going to get bogged down. And it's going to divert everyone's attention from all the other issues that are going on. You have other major issues that we're going to be looking at for the next four years that he's going to be trying to throw on the table, such as the privatization of security. Further issues with HMOs, and how people are protected school choice and school choice and vouchers, which really is is a hot potato. Interestingly enough, wasn't it just in Cleveland, Ohio this past week or week before last when one of the federal courts declared their voucher system unconstitutional?

 Jack Valinski 1:23:33


Yeah, that seems to be happening a lot. Yes.

 Joan Devlin 1:23:36

Well, because in the few states where it's been allowed to go forward, they quickly have found out that they have no control over it. These are they're a public organization when it gets the money, but they're a private organization when it comes to making gay people scoutmasters? Well, it's kind

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of like that flip flop on states, right? states rights are a wonderful thing until you need the Supreme Court to step in. Right. I noticed in this article, they were quoting Barney Frank, quite a bit. And his point was that you're gonna have a lot of fluff going on on both sides for the, you know, up until February and March and is gonna be till probably after March that we get into some real meat and potatoes on things. But the spin is spinning out of control on both sides. You have some Republicans who are suggesting that the Democrats are going to make a big deal out of bipartisanship. And they're going to define the rules of bipartisanship so strictly that no matter what Bush does, he will have failed this bipartisanship issue at the end of his four years. I don't know that that's necessarily a bad thing. And I see a lot of centrist Republicans saying the same thing. They want the bipartisanship effort as well. They have to have it in the Senate, there's nothing's going to get done otherwise, and got help any congressman or whatever that's trying to push through some pork. He's going to need that extra help and that extra vote

 Glenn Holt 1:24:58

and that was the year to 1990. It started with fears of blockades and riots because of the 1981

and that was the year to 1000 it started with tears or blackouts and riots because of the y2k bug. The problem that wasn't. It ended with a much worse fate than we could have imagined last New Years, a breach of democracy from our nation's Supreme Court. So what's ahead for 2001? We have a conservative president whose legitimacy is questionable at best, and a Senate which is split 5050. So will this be the year that the hate crimes bill is passed in Congress? Keep your seatbelts fastened 2001 could be even more bumpy than the Millennium year. But one thing's for sure. It's going to be interesting. Stay tuned to lesbian and gay voices throughout the year for further developments. for lesbian and gay voices. Why 2k retrospective? I'm Glenn. You gonna be listening to lesbian and gay voices heard each Monday at 8pm. Here on KPFT, a 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 David Sanders and Jack Valinski. You can write to us at PO 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 United Press International gay financial network@gfn.com and hen net. This is the sound of Texas 90.1 FM KPFT in Houston. for lesbian and gay voices I'm Glenn Holt.



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