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## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

cuba, lesbian, people, gay, houston, talking, call, february, guess, condoms, cuban, aids, laws, march, medicines, gay men, travel, clinton, friendship, jack

## SPEAKERS

Jack Valinski, Deborah Bell

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00:07

Imagine my surprise when. When Jack and Deborah came back after howling near Yes, we were surprised. We're surprised they still let us on the air. Yeah, imagine my surprise when they still let y'all on the air.



Jack Valinski 00:24

Well, it's seven o'clock and you're listening to KPFT see you guys



Deborah Bell 00:27

in three weeks. Houston. Have a great time. Yeah, going crazy. Crazy. And



Jack Valinski 00:32

actually, the truth is that 500 that Mary Helen and I are [inaudible],



Deborah Bell 00:38

I sort of say, Aren't you going to be very helpful?



Jack Valinski 00:40

I wouldn't be a stowaway



00:42

because you know what they say about Jack? Jack be nimble. Jack be quick.



Jack Valinski 00:46

Closet lesbian



Deborah Bell 00:48

Jack Valinski closet. Isn't there a mystery series with that title? Not that. Not yet.



Jack Valinski 00:57

Anyway, this is lesbian, gay voices. And it's a seven o'clock hour you're listening to KPFT Houston. And in the next hour, things coming up.



Deborah Bell 01:05

We'll have an interview with Paul Mullins from the Houston friendship, talking about gays and people living with AIDS in Cuba. Things aren't necessarily what you think they are. And they're going to update as there's a caravan coming through to take humanitarian aid to people in Cuba.



Jack Valinski 01:24

We also have a calendar of events coming up things going out of this community



Deborah Bell 01:28

news wrap from this way out.



Jack Valinski 01:30

And let's listen to some news. We have a piece of music we want to play from the soundtrack of Philadelphia. It's called Send me somebody to love bye. I've got to do this announcement. This one is just too much fun. Protest Clinton. On Sunday, February 6, Bill, the washer, washer?



Deborah Bell 02:10

Wellsford is the word you're trying to say

J Jack Valinski 02:13

Will be hosting a \$10,000 a plate fundraiser at the word of them center. This almost already? Oh, you do? You do? Okay. Did you? How many do you get table? Oh, yeah, a whole table. I mean, this almost seems like a Republican type fundraiser. But it's for Bill. It's Bill Clinton, actually, I guess it's for Democrats running in various rage races. And it's sponsored by Outrage and Queers of United Color. Some of the things they're saying is immediate passage of laws that guarantee equal rights for lesbian, gay men, bisexuals, and transgender people. Immediate lifting of the military ban against openly gay openly queer soldiers. Immediate implement implementation of recommendations from the Presidential Commission on AIDS, immediate passage of the single player health care system that guarantees universal coverage. These are all great things. It's going to be at the Wortham Center, which is 510 Preston, Sunday, this Sunday at 5:30pm. I guess that's a good time to leave town.

D Deborah Bell 03:16

And so whether you want to go to the fundraiser are be there to protest. I mean, I think we're still a lot better off with Clinton as president than we would have ever been under a Republican administration.

J Jack Valinski 03:28

Oh, that wasn't the argument. But I mean, we still need a protest.

D Deborah Bell 03:31

Well, the point is, is that, as I like to say, Bill Clinton said that he had a vision and that we were part of it. And I say, Well, we have a vision, and he's part of it. So we do have to make whoever we elect, whoever we work for, and give our money and support and votes to accountable. And speaking of voting Jack, this weekend is the deadline to register to vote for the upcoming March primary for the elections that are coming up primary races. And you may think you're registered and you really may not be for various reasons, such as you may have moved, and you haven't updated your registration are maybe if you didn't vote in the last three years, it's time to register again. And you can just call, don't you know, to 419 92 to 499. And they can take the information over the phone and get those records updated. But make sure that you are registered so that you can vote in the primaries,

J Jack Valinski 04:33

you should have received your new voter registration card in the mail if you didn't, they do not forward those things purposely. So that if you move you will not get it. So if you don't have your new voter registration, or if you're not sure, go out and register to vote.

D Deborah Bell 04:47

And speaking of protest, just a reminder coming up. Later in the show we're going to be having Paul Mullins and Gloria Rubik of Houston friendship, talking about what's going on with homelessness. Charles in the country of Cuba,

**J** Jack Valinski 05:03

and so trying to figure out what we're doing here. us this Friday coming up a week from today, February 11. The sweetheart sock hop ball. It's going to be at the Metropolitan multi service center 1475 West gray. There is a charge for this. It benefits a number of organizations including the switchboard, Northern Lights, alternatives. You Stonewall 25. And there's going to be dinner dancing silent auction stage.

**D** Deborah Bell 05:38

Listening to lesbian and gay voices.

**J** Jack Valinski 05:41

This is Deborah Bell. And I think I'm Jack Valinski is still recovering.

**D** Deborah Bell 05:45

He's in recovery, folks.

**J** Jack Valinski 05:47

Actually, I'm doing wonderful. I got four shots today.

**D** Deborah Bell 05:49

Oh, yeah, you ought to just be really in great shape. One of the things coming up this weekend, you know, I mentioned earlier in the show that they featured gay comics on the Rolando show the other night, and it seems like that that's kind of been a media darling. Several publications have talked about the fact that there are now many more openly gay or lesbian comics. And of course, we've Kate Clinton's kind of been, I guess she was one of the leaders of Robin Tyler, Lynn Lavner, who also is a musician lends comedy to her act as well as is with her music. And it's kind of fascinating that this whole new venue of entertainment field has opened up. And one of the comics that there's there's not as many men as women, it seems like but one of them who is billed as the funniest gay man in America, which means he has to be pretty darn funny because I think gay men tend to be among the funniest. And his name is Michael Greer. So he's, you know, like, queer Michael Greer, starring in a night of musical comedy for a gay and lesbian audience is also featuring Marian Pendolino. This is Sunday night, February, the

sixth at 8pm. At Fitzgerald's 2706, white oak. Oak at Studemont. Tickets are available at Crossroads market 610 with Alabama, and England's bookshop, 1846. Richmond, this is presented by one TV and the Texas triangle

**J** Jack Valinski 07:22

where you're talking about okay, Clinton being at the cutting edge of this. I mean, it isn't that long ago that, you know, she'd come to Houston and, you know, the room, we've packed with women and a few men, couple men here and there. And that was it. I mean, that was comedy and the lesbian and gay community that we knew of. And I mean, with the March on Washington, see all those people on there? The fact that it's branching out so much, and also that, you know, it's becoming a lot more mainstream may not mainstream so much, but they are beginning to be seen on mainstream venues.

**D** Deborah Bell 07:59

It's very interesting. And over at the Montrose Counseling Center, coming up this Wednesday, February, the ninth loving for the long haul, not the U haul. What a catchy title. Yes, lesbians can create fulfilling long term relationships and it ain't easy. Join this lively and empowering discussion. As Angela has already LMSW ACP I don't know what all those initials mean, but they've been she's a certified therapist in many areas. She shares a model and progress from the beginning and maintaining relationships were which are deeply alive. Angela is a psychotherapist in private practice, who is a lesbian, and has worked with lesbian clients since 1985. And that's it seven o'clock over at the Montrose Counseling Center. Women's Network.

**J** Jack Valinski 08:50

Well, I thought I had one to counter you but that's already happened. When am I what are things but there is a world travel Expo. It's a co hosted by the Dallas voice and Houston voice gay and lesbian visit center. It's going to be happening Thursday, February 10. At the Allen Parkway in which is 2121 elm Parkway. It is basically to know an expo on travel for the game lesbian community. It looks really interesting. There's a charge for that if you'd like some more information, you have to call The San Francisco number at actually it's better. Here's a better it's 800 Number one 800 Gay Expo. Sounds like it's interesting if you're into the travel.

**D** Deborah Bell 09:35

Hey, we'll be glad to take your gay and lesbian dollars. San Francisco is the number one travel spot for gays and lesbians. Are you surprised to hear that?

**J** Jack Valinski 09:44

No, not at all. Not at all. But there's a lot of other places. I mean, there's the Cape Cod area, province town. There's far Ireland there's Key West and

D

Deborah Bell 09:57

there's nothing better than that. Yep. All right. And of course, we want to remind you once again about the conference that is coming up in March, presented by PFLAG hearing the heard a conference on homophobia includes information for the Layperson and for professionals. And that's Friday, March 11. Over at the university Hilton at the University of Houston Main Campus for more information, call the parents and friends of lesbian and gay voice mailbox at 713-867-9020.

J

Jack Valinski 10:33

Joe Watts is asking for people who are writers, people. Yes, Texas writers are would be writers dealing with gay and lesbian lifestyles. So he's hoping to put together a play of original written material for Pride Week. And the deadline is February 25. If you'd like some more information, you can call him at 5222204 and just original material about what you know everyday life and are which probably don't need to add a lot to Yeah,

D

Deborah Bell 11:02

and he's particularly interested in a Texas focus to that, I guess maybe what it was like in 1969 coming out and, and the beginning of the movement, so to speak, that began with Stonewall 25 years ago, which we're celebrating the anniversary of Houston press this week has an article about the tri angels, the gay and lesbian skydiving team. And that's really exciting that they're getting that kind of public. Yes, they've

J

Jack Valinski 11:31

been getting wonderful publicity.

D

Deborah Bell 11:33

So that's in this week's Houston press.

J

Jack Valinski 11:35

I can't believe that we're Mardi Gras is not too far away. It's happening like even as we speak. Yes, events are happening. But Fat Tuesday is the 15th. And already stuff is going on.

D

Deborah Bell 11:46

Why is it called Fat Tuesday?

**J** Jack Valinski 11:48

I don't get into those. Because you have all the fun you can before Ash Wednesday,

**D** Deborah Bell 11:54

right? before Lent begins. Now it doesn't. Being an atheist does have its advantages. Of course, I guess you can still, you know, play those games, you know, but Mardi Gras things, you can still have fun.

**J** Jack Valinski 12:07

I picked up a I guess it was John tree magazine. There was an NPR genre of Tim Miller. And it's actually sort of sad. I just picked it up yesterday. And he was writing about creating sort of our own celebrations. He was writing about he was in Venice Beach Tim Miller is a person who's one of the naa for and talking about living in Venice beach watching, you know, the the Knights get shorter and stuff like that and talking about light. But he was also talking about that he and his lover, were at the hospital visiting Michael Cowan, who recently passed away. And Michael was working on a new song and they were listening to it, and that we need to basically create our own. What do you call it? Our ritual rituals. Exactly. And you know, it's sad time for a lot of people as we talk about around the holiday season. But you know, I'm sure you can go home and play those games, but you got rituals of our own to


**D** Deborah Bell 13:05

do, and I and I think that's a really useful helpful thing. Heartsong is open to new hearts, more likely they're open to new voices. If you are a woman and you're interested in joining Heartsong, Houston's all women committee courses, they are holding their open auditions. And that's Monday night at 7pm. And that's over the First Unitarian Church 50 to 10 fan in itself more you can walk leap are bound up the stairs to the Sojourner Truth room rehearsals and at 9pm. So you can just go on over there and say yes, I'd like to check it out. And maybe you'd like to join Heartsong if you'd like more information, call Cindy at 522 1747.


**J** Jack Valinski 13:52


Something really interesting. And unfortunately, it won't be almost a year. So it happens. Major article in the zest magazine about the US to grant opera, premiering Harvey Milk and opera in January of 1995, that this is going to be their centerpiece of their season. And it looks incredible what they're talking about here. I guess basically doing it about his you know, his life. Harvey Milk was a one of the first persons elected to office as a supervisor, openly gay. And you know, he was murdered, assassinated actually, in 1978. But we're gonna certainly be talking more about this as time gets closer and stuff like that. But that used to great opera made a major commitment in putting on an opera based on Harvey Milk's life.


**D** Deborah Bell 14:48





You know, Michael Callen has that song where he talks about the measure of your worth, or those that how you're remembered when you're gone and those that you live behind. And I think that's real The apropos to Harvey Milk because what a message he still sends to us even after his death so many years ago, because he really was an advocate of being now that was his message over and over again, come out, come out and come out as most important thing we can do as a gay or lesbian person. Here's something that's kind of fun. A condom company is a sponsor of the Gay Games which are coming up along with the events surrounding Stonewall in June. In June in New York City, kimono and Max are official condoms of the Gay Games. And as far as I know, to my knowledge there have been no condom companies that have associated themselves in any way with any gay organizations or it you know, even suggested that condoms should be used by gay men. And I will actually it should be used by anyone who is in need of utilizing safe sex and their lifestyle. And they have signed on to be sponsor so the Gay Games for and it's the first US condom company to support an international sporting event of any type. So they also are the makers of aqua lube


 Jack Valinski 16:21  
for Lesbian Gay voices.

 Deborah Bell 16:22  
This is Deborah Bell.

 Jack Valinski 16:23  
This is Jack Valinski

 Deborah Bell 16:25  
Stay tuned. Coming up next we'll have folks from Houston friendship talking about the status of gays and lesbians in the nation of Cuba.

 16:41  
KPFT is January on your membership drive is now gone, but not forgotten. If you made a pledge to KPFT this is just a reminder for you to fulfill your promise to your favorite alternative radio station. You should have received the pledge form in the mail by now just return it with your check to the address on the envelope. Keep in mind that your pledge is important to KPFT however, more important for 90.1 FM is that you fulfill your obligation. So don't put it off too long. If you have any questions about your pledge call our subscriptions office during regular business hours at five to six 4000 And remember we have to have your contribution in hand before we send you your thank you gift.





17:45

Albert King once said everybody's got the blues. I know I have. You will have to if you tune into KPFT every Friday night for the off the clock blues show from eight to 10pm Whether you like BB came Eric Clapton, Albert King, Mo James Stevie Ray Vaughan are local talent. This is a show for you. In addition to music, we feature interviews with local, regional and national artists as well as specialists in some of the blues greats. Remember that every Friday night at 8pm for two hours of down and dirty blues here on World Radio 90.1 FM KPFT.



Deborah Bell 18:38

As lesbian gay voices you're listening to KPFT Houston I think he's well, I mean, do you think so? You that's put a Tourette in Hi Fi off the CD and proceed to read. Of course, it was one of the performers at the March on Washington. An interesting person and where



Jack Valinski 19:10

else but KPFT. Would you hear stuff like that? Yeah, that's in Houston.



Deborah Bell 19:15

Well, we're with who very fine people, activists in the community, Paul Mullins and Gloria Rubik, and they're with the Houston Cuba friendship, which is about what? Enlighten us. Hey,



19:29

the Houston Cuba Friendshipment is a group of us here that are supporting the national friendshipment, which is taking humanitarian aid to Cuba for the third time in defiance of the US government's law against doing such a thing. And we're working in Houston to collect money and donations, medical supplies, school supplies, Bibles, condoms, just all sorts of things that are needed in Cuba. The free shipment was organized by a man named Reverend Lucius Walker, who had has done a lot of work in Central America over the years. And this trend has tried to build solidarity between people in the US and Central America and Latin America. And the goal of the friendship meant is to by defying the laws of US government to try to put pressure on the government to get rid of their laws. And we know that yesterday, the government did, in fact, in this blockade or embargo with Vietnam, and we see no reason why this couldn't be done with Cuba all. So



Deborah Bell 20:39


why do we want to do away with these laws? Well,





20:43


I think they bad laws. Yeah. Who are they hurting? Most importantly, they're hurting the


average person in Cuba right now Cuba, because it doesn't trade with the Eastern Bloc in the Soviet Union to match anymore. There's a lot of shortages and food is in short supply. Madison is in terribly short supply. and Cuban has a very sophisticated medical system in the country much better than ours here there. incrementality mortality rate is lower than right here in Montrose. But they can't get medicines. And of course, one of the things we want to talk about was the situation with AIDS and Cuba to what is the situation


 Deborah Bell 21:26  
with AIDS?

 21:28  
Well, Cuba has had a policy over the number of years, approximately past 10 years, where they have taken very proactive efforts to stop the spread of AIDS, there is massive public education efforts in Cuba around aids, they discussed the use of condoms and other preventive measures. They talk very frankly, to their people about what causes age, and they go into sexual detail and so forth. And you don't have in Cuba, the kind of puritanism in your head here in the United States where you won't talk about certain sex acts and so forth cubicles were away from

 Deborah Bell 22:05  
people. At one time there was a ban on homosexual conduct much as it is here. But that ban was lifted. Is that correct?

 22:13  
Right. anti gay and anti lesbian laws in Cuba were taken off the books about 10 years ago, there certainly were problems before that. There was work within the party done around the issue and laws applying society as a whole were lifted approximately 10 years ago. The Cuban Communist Party itself lifted the ban on homosexuals in the party about proximately, two years ago. So, you know, in a legal sense, you don't have that problem anymore in Cuba.

 22:44  
When I when I was in Cuba, I went on the friendship met in August and last summer. And I was I had been there in 79. And as far as the question of lesbians and gays in Cuba, things had really led up because there's parts of Havana along the seawall, where people congregate. There's like a family section and the young kids with a really loud music. And then there's a huge gay section that's close to the gay bars. And you see couples, same sex couples holding hands. And there isn't

 Jack Valinski 23:13

scare tactics there that people are watching or the the secret police are watching. Or,



23:18

in fact, because of the electricity shortages. In Cuba right now, there are a lot of people hanging out in the streets, because certain sections of the Mr. Havana certain sections are blacked out for so many hours a day. So like, the government actually pays musicians and they have giant street parties a lot as a form of entertainment and to keep people busy, and so on. So when I was there, on a Friday night, there was like bands playing and women were dancing with women and men were dancing with men. We were on our way to a gay bar. But unfortunately, the blackout hit that neighborhood when we got there. So the people came out of the barn joined everybody dancing in the streets. So it's it's a very relaxed situation. Nobody's what? I guess somebody could be watching, but you'd be watching 1000s of people. You know, it's attitudes have changed drastically. I was there in 79. And there was a lot of discussion of homosexuality then. But I believe it was still illegal then. And but you could tell that people were really looking into, they had gotten a lot of information from the German Democratic Republic, East Germany, which is probably the most progressive country that's ever existed as far as lesbians, gays. And there was a lot of talk. But when I went back to summer, I saw the result of that. And things were very open. There's I'm not it's not perfect. There's problems certainly prejudices that people have in their minds take a long time to go away. But the laws are off the books and people feel very free. One of the things I was just telling Paul is that the Cuban French film festival this year, which is a very prestigious event. For all of Latin America, as far as reviewing Spanish language films, the winner was a Cuban film that was a gay film. It's about two gay men. And it won the Best Director, Best Actor. I think he won six awards, I guess it'd be comparable to our academy awards. And when the young man accepted his award, he said that he wanted to dedicate this to all of the people who were no longer with him in Cuba, referring to people who had come to the US, particularly on the Mario boats, what 1012 years ago, who felt and he says, I want to dedicate this to them, they felt they had to leave, because this day would never come in Cuba. But now it's here. And here I am accepting an award for playing a gay man and a film. That's just, yeah, well,



Deborah Bell 25:48

all that has changed is very important. But there are still some very hard times in Cuba. Now. I know, there's been a lot of effort recently by people who are seeking to live the ban on travel because it is still restricted. There are only certain folks that are allowed to travel to and from



26:06

How did you sneak? Yeah. Well, actually, I heard the Clinton lifted that ban yesterday, but I can't find it in the news. I was here at the agent busy. This hasn't been at the station last night on info K Latinoamericano. That was the word that Clinton had lifted the travel ban. So I guess that's true. How do we get in? We just went, we went through Mexico, Mexican citizens? Well, most people in the world can travel to Cuba.



Deborah Bell 26:32

I was gonna ask you that. Is there much isolation between Cuba and other countries? Or is it? Or is it just strictly from the United States to



26:42

the United States? When I was there we went spent a day at a resort on I guess, their most famous beach, and there was these gorgeous Italians and only the bottoms of their bathing suits. Women. And you know, just people from all over the world enjoying the beauty of Cuba. Canadians and Mexicans in particular travel to Cuba a lot because it's close and relatively inexpensive. And it's it's gorgeous. You can see why it was a playground for the rich.



Deborah Bell 27:13

Why does it UVA says gays and lesbians to be involved in a project such as this? And exactly what is the friendship meant about?



27:25

Well, if I could speak to that, there have been a lot of misconceptions about gays and lesbians in the past. And today, it is very important for gays and lesbians and certainly AIDS activists in this country and people with AIDS to fight for the lifting of the blockade that's been set up against Cuba, the United States government has had over the past 30 years since the Cuban Revolution engaged in a lot of efforts to prevent trade with Cuba. But over the past couple of years, those efforts have really intensified. Cuba is facing a situation where not only they have lost all their trade contacts with the Soviet Union and former Eastern Bloc states. But the United States a couple of years ago instituted a law called the Torricelli bill the Torricelli Bill does a few things that really limits Cuba's ability to strengthen itself economically. It prevents foreign owned or excuse me foreign based subsidiaries of US companies from doing any trade with Cuba that means a foreign based subsidiary of a US company



Deborah Bell 28:23

like Coca Cola is not even there. I don't believe that amazing to me,



Jack Valinski 28:28

wherever deprived they must be.



28:31

Well One example is like this baby food factory in Canada was just read they Cuba wanted the baby food and they were gonna sell it big because they were subsidiary somewhere down the line of a US corporation that food can go chicken feed from Venezuela was just denied.



28:48

And since and since us owned companies you know whether based in United States or foreign companies can do trade with Cuba that means that they're going to have a lot of problems getting some you know, basic necessities that come from the United States take for example AC t you know an aide sir it's not a perfect drug, but it that's almost totally unavailable in Cuba now because of the blockade. And you know, gays and lesbians should be interested in the Sasa people with AIDS in Cuba because the blockade is really preventing a lot of necessary medicines from reaching Cuba and giving human people with AIDS a lot of the options that are available elsewhere in the world, as far as pharmaceuticals go or drugs go.



Jack Valinski 29:28

So what does Houston Cuban friendship wants to do? Or is trying to do?



29:34

We are gathering material aid to go to Cuba and at least one of the are in our specific Tara



Deborah Bell 29:39

caravan. You right. And it's coming to Houston very soon.



29:43

It's starting March, February 24 of North there's 10 routes from Seattle. Actually several rounds are starting in Canada, and 10 rounds will converge in Laredo. So about two thirds of those people actually come through Houston. So through corpus, go to LA Righto they'll be in Laredo for a few days, they're going to drive to Tampico. In Tampico, the union stevedores or whatever they're called, are going to load all this aid. Oh, last time we had about 100 vehicles loaded, they'll unload all this stuff, put it on a Cuban ship that will be in the port. The aid will sail and the kind of on Easter's will fly to Cuba and spend a week there. Distributed. Do



Jack Valinski 30:25


you expect to be stopped at the border?



30:27

Yeah.




 Deborah Bell 30:29

And so when will that be in Houston? And how can interested parties? Hook up with it? And what can they do? I mean, what should I bring down? You know, clothing. Should I? Okay, yeah,

 30:43


good question. The caravan will actually be here, march 4, which is a Friday, we're going to be at Allen Parkway Village at 530. There'll be a press conference and a potluck dinner. We want people to bring food for the dinner. We're not taking food to Cuba, however, because that's too, there can be so many problems with food, but medicines, school supplies, I'm a teacher, I've been collecting, you know, pencils, and pens and staplers and so on bicycles because of the fuel shortage. Everybody rides a bike, spare parts for bicycles, different health things, medicines, and if you need if you have specific medicines, you can call but this medical supplies condoms. crutches, wheelchairs, just all sorts of

 Deborah Bell 31:32

things. So there's a lot of things that are needed. If you'd like to find out more what what number should people call,

 31:40

you can give a call to one of us at 5244462. Right?

 Deborah Bell 31:48

So if you'd like more information on the Houston Cuba friendship meant and how you can get involved call 524446 to Paul and Gloria, thanks for being with us. And

 31:59


we were going to be having an event of diverse works on February Friday, February 25 25th. There'll be a film and some entertainment.

 Deborah Bell 32:09

So they can also call that same number right more info. So

 32:12

that's February on called diverse work. And then march 4, the caravan will be here.

 Jack Valinski 32:17

Thank you for listening to lesbian gay voices and we'll be back only in Miami, that was a really good song. They're looking away at Cuba. A lot of you know, the Ricky Ricardo shows in the Lucy in the early how Cuba was was so important to us in those days.