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SPEAKERS

Glenn Holt, Jack Valinski, Joan Devlin

- G** Glenn Holt 00:00
We're at 90.1 FM, this is KPFT in Houston, the sound of Texas and now more of lesbian and gay voices.
- J** Jack Valinski 00:23
And it's also time to ask you to make that pledge here at Kpf. T. And John, are you out there in the lobby?
- J** Joan Devlin 00:30
Yes, I am in the lobby is strangely silent. It would just be great if we could get some people that call in pledge some money to us 713-526-5738 We've had a pretty good night. So far, we've had several people that think but we still are a little ways from our goal. So we'd appreciate it if you just call in 713-526-5738.
- J** Jack Valinski 00:50
So we're asking you to make that pledge for this type of programming here on KPFT in Houston KPFT is part of the Pacifica network. And the Pacifica network has always been very, very conscientious about the type of programming that's done here on this station in the stations that it owns, and also does programming for a number of other stations. So we're asking you to help support local programming part here of KPFT. So call us now at 713526573871352 6k p f t.
- G** Glenn Holt 01:23
Thanks, Jack. This is Glenn wholetime in the studio with a couple of guests and by way of introduction, researchers at Emory University you have identified a molecule that shuts down a

key enzyme in HIV before the virus begins the replication process, which potentially opens the door to a second line of attack against HIV infection. This new molecule known as polyoxometalate, or PLM, inhibits HIV protease at a location away from the cellular site where viral replication takes place normally, and preventing protease from performing its key role in the assembly of more copies of HIV. Current protease inhibitors affect HIV during the replication process. The research which was published in the February 7 issue of the Journal of the American Chemical Society, is the first showing the ability to inhibit HIV protease at non active locations within the cell. Because HIV can become resistant to existing HIV drugs, including protease inhibitors, a drug based on the palm molecule could function as a second line of defense for those who are experiencing drug failure, or as a complementary therapy to those responding to standard drug regimens. The researchers said, Now, along a similar line, I have in the studio with me, Michael Madura, and Kelly Hill simer, to talk about the AIDS mastery workshop at the Montrose Counseling Center.



02:53

Yeah, the AIDS mastery workshop is a service that's provided by the Montrose Counseling Center. It's been around really since like the 80s. But last year, the Montrose counseling center board voted to support the AIDS mastery workshop as a weekend long empowerment workshop for anyone who, whose life has been affected by HIV, whether they are infected with HIV, or they have known someone in their life who is who has it or had it. It's a workshop basically, just to kind of look at life and quality of life stuff. It's not really about how to do aids. It's not about treatments. It's not about medications. It's not about you know, scheduling medications or any of that stuff. It's about living your life and living life powerfully.



Glenn Holt 03:45

Okay. And Kelly, you've been through the program? Correct? What was it like for you,



03:50

it was an awesome experience, actually. Because, you know, when you're living with HIV, and with AIDS, it's, you know, a little bit overwhelming a lot of times, and you know, what they teach you there a lot of times is breathe and just enjoy life, laugh again. And a lot of times you forget to laugh, and you get wrapped up in your medications and, and just life in general. And they'll take care of yourself, which in turn, you know, make you get worse. And just to learn to breathe and to laugh again, is quite helpful.



Glenn Holt 04:21

How long have you known that you were HIV positive for 12 years? Oh, so you're a long term survivor then. And when did you take the AIDS mastery workshop? Last October. Okay. So even though you've been positive for a long time, you still found that the AIDS mastery workshop was something helpful.



04:39

Absolutely. Well, I I didn't start on medications until about two years ago, and really didn't start into the heavier medications until just in the past year. And just it became a bit overwhelming and, you know, life consuming, basically, and needed to find an outlet to you to release that and to learn how to deal with that. And I mean, it's just it's simple things. And but you have to look at them. And that's what they taught us.



Glenn Holt 05:12

Well, Michael, not wanting to condense an entire weekend into a soundbite. But how do you deal with I'm doing really? Well, we have, we have some time here. We've got, you know, 715 minutes, whatever. Just how do you deal with? With having to start to deal with a lot of medications? Perhaps if you haven't done that before? How do you deal with the psychological issues? I know, one thing that I've heard is the first sort of impression that a newly HIV positive person has is that, oh, my gosh, all my body fluids are now toxic waste. And not only does nobody want to touch me, but I don't want to touch anybody else. How do you deal with that?



05:55

Well, a primary principle days mastery workshop is that our life, the quality of our life is not dictated by circumstances or duration. And so we can, you know, we get so caught up in the circumstances, whether it's we have HIV or we know people in our lives who have HIV, we have multiple loss issues. Or we have on any number of different ways, one response that a lot of gay men have had to HIV and AIDS is to kind of close off socially. So we've had men who are HIV negative come to the workshop, and they're like, I want my life back. And so we just start looking at, you know, what is the quality of your life today, and what is keeping you from getting what you want out of your life, what the quality of life that you want. So that's just real kind of inspirational, we look at some of the physical stuff that's going on, but it's mostly about finding support. It's about looking at spiritual stuff. It's about looking at emotional stuff. The mastery workshop has kind of a reputation in the community, as being one of those things that makes you have feelings. And so a lot of times people say we don't want to do that. But it's really great. It was for me, it was excellent. When I came to it in April of 95. It was great for me to explore my grief as a gay man who was basically trying to hide from AIDS. And so I guess I kind of came out of the closet with the AIDS mastery workshop, because now, five years later, I'm totally involved in the program. And I actually was area coordinator before it became something that the Montrose Counseling Center offered, I brought it to the board and I asked the board at the Montrose Counseling Center to support this program. And, and they went for it. So now it's part of my job before it was something that I just did, because I loved it.



Glenn Holt 07:51

Sure. Well, Kelly, what what do you mind sharing? What was your experience of, of the kinds of things that Michael was just talking about? It's



08:01

a very intense weekend. I mean, you go in not, they tell you nothing, you know, nothing. When you walk through that door, you're sitting in the chairs, and there's a lot of people behind you. Yeah, you don't know why they're there, or who's there, you know, what's going on. And it's, it's very intense. There's a lot of quiet time, a lot of getting in yourself listening to yourself, and, and, which was very scary for me, because that's not something that I would normally do, you know, I would avoid it, and not listen to, you know, listen to myself. And, you know, I give great advice, but don't listen to it a lot. Well, I had to listen to it. And it was, it was, it was quite an experience. To be able to laugh at myself and laugh at the ugly things and the bad things. And it was it was equally as intense to cry about them, and to let them go. And to look at him, you know, and it wasn't just a toy, it was you know, anything that happened to my life, you know, from being a child to being an adult, everything



09:15

everything is what made me you know,



09:18

who I am, what I am, where I came from, you know, is how I'm dealing with what what I'm dealing with today. And it was just the way they pull all that out of you it's just they give you the options you know, you can you can stay or you can leave they warn you you know five minutes at a time this is what we're going to be doing the lever you can't be here for this, you know feelings, you're about to have feelings, you know, everybody breathe, you want to leave or not. No may give you the options so and some people stay some people don't. I mean in our particular class we had will stay most people stay. But you know, we had one yeah, that But you know, it was just a little intense for him. So he did wasn't able to make it. But we all still, you know, we've, we felt for him, we all called him, you know, and and it was.



10:10

What's amazing is the amount of the amount of the sense of community that comes in in just a weekend. Well, actually, by the end of Friday night, the group of participants are so bonded that they just are looking forward to spending the weekend together on Saturday and Sunday. Absolutely. It's really frightening.



10:29

I mean, it was a group that maybe we should wait down and nobody knew anybody. Right. You know, at the end of the week, we were, you know, best friends. Sure.



10:35

And a lot of people come back to help to participate as what we call the back row, which Kelly refers to, we have volunteers that have done the workshop, and they come back for the weekend in order to



Glenn Holt 10:49

stack to the audience. Well, that's what they call it on the game show. Go ahead.



10:54

Okay. I wouldn't call it a game show, really. Because the back row actually functions as a support for the participants, rather, they're doing it. And they also do things like food is provided throughout the weekend. So they come in Friday night, and the volunteers have gotten the food out of the refrigerator. And they've arranged it on the buffet table. And so it's all out there, and the participants come in and look at their food. And then we do the same thing. Saturday morning, the volunteers set up a continental breakfast, and there's juice and snacks and sodas throughout the day on Saturday. The same thing on Sunday, we've started providing lunch again on Sundays. So there's the one meal out on Saturday, which is actually part of the structure of the weekend, where the participants are asked to go out to lunch together. And what's really great is that with the AIDS mastery workshop now being offered by the Montrose Counseling Center, we can get people to enroll in the workshop, we have a sliding scale for fee. But last year, the ability to pay did not interfere with anyone coming we were able to get them in on grants on scholarships, and whatever we needed to do in order to help someone be there to make sure that there was not a financial problem. And then we also were able to provide up to \$10 for each person who did not have money for lunch. So we made sure that everything's taken care of them for them. And the bad situation. The back row really functions is just a support network, and the participants feel that. And so then they graduate from the workshop on Saturday on Sunday evening. And then they come back to our support group that meets on Monday night. So they come back just whenever we have an AIDS mastery workshop, and they'll participate in the back row. So it's kind of a it's, it's a community, actually, of people who have done the AIDS mastery workshop, I have a mailing list of over 200 names of people who have come in and done the workshop. And, and some of the names and and some of the names of people are people that have are now deceased. And so I've kind of had to whittle that down to a list of just under 100, people that are kind of regularly involved getting the information in the mail, at least calling me and telling me thanks, I got this newsletter, I got this, and I'm really supporting it. And then we have probably a network of 30 people that are very active, either in supporting the support group, or being at the support group, or through being there on the weekends whenever they can. And sometimes it's you know, there are volunteers into there from Friday night until Sunday night. And then there are volunteers that show up for a couple of hours during the weekend. But they're all people who have done the workshop and they love the work so much they keep coming back to support it.



Glenn Holt 13:42

I'm glad that you mentioned that the workshop is also for people who are HIV negative but affected by HIV. Right? Because someone in that position myself. I know from my own experience, that when somebody sero converts becomes HIV positive. Our community is now a lot better set up to deal with that than they were 15 years ago, there are certain support functions that kick in almost automatically. You automatically sort of get sympathy and support

from from friends and peers and so on. But for people who are HIV negative, but affected by having someone close to them turn HIV positive. What I mean is either death or emotional distance caused by seroconversion of a significant other. Right, you're left out there in the cold.

 14:37

Yeah, there's not a lot available for people who are affected. And so we're really pleased at the counseling center that we're able to provide this because it is one of the few programs it's available for people who are affected and not infected. We have a woman who did the workshop last year. Her husband died of AIDS and she was looking for support. She's I had died of AIDS some time ago, but she was still grieving, and are in her grieving process and looking for someplace where she could get support. And so she came to the workshop and she continues to come to the support group and is planning to become a part of the back row. A friend of mine from high school I've known since high school, she's a heterosexual woman, who really is not affected by HIV and AIDS directly. But she came and did the workshop because I told her it was such a fabulous thing. And she told me this past weekend that she wants to make gifts for graduates, whenever we have another workshop, I need to let her know how many people are going to be in the workshop because she wants to have gifts there for them when they graduate. So it's just, you know, it's we're getting support from all kinds of places. And again, other back row members have referred people who really their lives haven't been affected by HIV and AIDS, but they heard it was really a great thing. And so they came in and had a fabulous weekend, and came out of it. feeling like they had, they had a new perspective on their life. And, you know, for me, it was a life changing event. But what I did was I took what I got from the weekend, and I looked at what I wanted to change, and I did something about it. And you know, so I've talked about this as a life changing experience. But in reality, I changed my life after I got this new insight from having spent this weekend. You know, doing this work. I've seen plenty of other people who come they do the week do the weekend and Sunday night at graduation, they say this was a fabulous week, and I loved it. And I never see him again, unless maybe I run into him in the community or something.

 Glenn Holt 16:39

Kelly, I see you nodding your head over there, you've had similar experience? Well,

 16:42

absolutely. I mean, even our graduating class, from from last year, I mean, we still that come to the groups, you know, there's, there's just a couple of us. And we had probably one of the larger groups that have graduated like 12. And there's still maybe three or four of us that still go to the weekly, you know, support groups and, and it's just amazing. I mean, first year you're making you make the calls, and you talk to them, and then that just wenzels and then you don't see them anymore. And it's very disheartening. But, you know, we still think about

 17:16

them. I haven't had a lot of calls from graduates who are asking me because I sent out a newsletter announcing the dates of the workshop for this year. And I've had people call and say

newsletter announcing the dates of the workshop for this year. And I've had people call and say that I haven't been there for the support group. Maybe I've lost contact with my graduating class. But I'm going to be back for the tobacco the next workshop, or I can't make it to the February one, but I'll come in April or so. There, I'm trying to maintain that contact with people through sending out mail. So they know.

 17:47

And the good thing about that was like even even in my group, the group grew every day, the back row. And it was people who hadn't seen each other since their mastery. So you know, it's like, even if it's, you know, their schedule conflicts, and people can't always go to, you know, Monday meeting and, and so I mean, I'm really excited about being as part of the back row, because I'll get to see some of the people that maybe the reason they couldn't go is because of you know, work schedule or family schedules, and they taking the weekend off to come to the back row and be part of that group.

 18:19

That's a great observation. Because through the years that I've been involved with the workshop, I've noticed that there are people who have not been able to participate as part of the weekend back row for some time, and they come back. And it may be someone that I never seen before. But there are other backrow members, other graduates who recognize that person that oh, great, it's so good to see you. And then I've had the experience of people showing up from out of town who had done the AIDS mastery workshop someplace else. And they heard we were doing one in Houston that weekend. And they show up at the counseling center and introduce themselves to me and they're automatically a part of the back row. So there's a really kind of intimate connection among aids mastery workshop graduates.

 Glenn Holt 19:01

We are talking about the AIDS mastery workshop at the Montrose Counseling Center. And I think from what I've heard you say that it occurs quarterly.

 19:10

Well, not exactly Quarterly. We have one in February, actually, in a couple of weeks. Anyone interested? Give me a call, February 16 17th and 18th. That's Friday night, Saturday and Sunday. Then we have one in April, one in June and one in October. So it's not exactly quarterly. But we are offering for this year we did to last year. But it was the first year that we were that we were offering it through the AIDS mastery workshop. So we needed some time to kind of get things in order before we started actually having workshops. So this year, we're going for four I have I don't know half dozen to eight people registered for the February one and ordinarily we would have canceled two weeks in advance because we didn't have 10 but we decided we're gonna go for it. So you're doing fledging work. First, we need Vaughn. We need people to come to the workshop. So I'm really Colin, Colin and people and making connections and saying look the workshops February 16 17th, and 18th. If you've ever considered doing it, do it now, because we need to get it full.

G Glenn Holt 20:15

And that's what the Montrose Counseling Center on Richmond,

i 20:18

right and the number is 713-529-0037. And I'm an educator so if you hit Option Two at the main menu that gives you the education department and you can get me or someone can take the message.

G Glenn Holt 20:32

And of course, if you didn't catch the phone number, you can just easily look it obits, Montrose Counseling Center, it's in the phonebook, but no website. I didn't find a website when I was looking for it the other day,

i 20:42

I really we have a website or you do I don't know like, okay, sorry.

G Glenn Holt 20:50

Because I did a search on Montrose Counseling Center and I didn't find it so to sell spring. Okay. Anyway, so look in the phonebook, then and find Motorola's Counseling Center and, and give Michael a call and ask about the AIDS mastery workshop. And so, Michael McGraw, educator, counselor, and leader of the workshop, I want to thank you for being with us and Kelly hills, Heimer. Hills, Meyer, a participant in the workshop. Thank you for sharing your experiences as well. I'm Glen Holton, you were listening to lesbian and gay voices.

J Jack Valinski 21:22

And of course, this is lesbian gay voices, and it is time for marathon. Marathon is fundraising for this program and many of the other programs that are here on KPFT. Joan, are you out there?

J Joan Devlin 21:35

Yes. As a matter of fact, I am in the phones are working again. Finally, yes,

J Jack Valinski 21:39

they got spooked a little bit earlier for a few minutes, just like they did last week. I don't know.

Maybe it's something about our show. Yeah, that's it.

J

Joan Devlin 21:46

But unfortunately, they're not ringing at 526-573-8526 KPFT, I will be happy to take your call, we'll be happy to take your pledge.

J

Jack Valinski 21:56

You know, KPFT is a community station, a community foundation station. And community means that they let people like us actually come in and do some of the programming. And we're very appreciative. We're all volunteers. We really enjoy doing this. We come down here every Monday night to talk about the things that are going on in the community, just like the AIDS mastery workshop. I mean, where else would even would you have heard about this type of thing that goes on. We talk about so many other things that go on in the community. We have a march on Austin coming up. We're talking about domestic partnerships last week on the show, so many different topics that happened in this community. I know when Ray Hill you know, Ray Hill sort of started gay and lesbian programming on the station. He talked about he says, you know, when we first started doing this show, I thought six months, we wouldn't have anything else to talk about. Well, it's like 25 years later, and we still have lots of things to talk about. So we're asking you to call us at 7135265738713526 KPFT. And you know, if you remember what it was like when you were growing up and you didn't know anything about the gay and lesbian community, you don't even know if there was another gay or lesbian person around. This is the connection that people have with the community. So many people who would have no other connection can listen to this thing in the privacy of their bedrooms with headphones on listening to them, listening to it on their walk person, lesbian and gay voices penetrates the closet door. So we're asking you to call us at 713526573871352 6k PF T.

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23:33

pay tribute to no cows.

G

Glenn Holt 23:45

This is lesbian and gay voices and taking a look now at what's been happening in the news. to Washington State lawmakers have filed proposals outdoors answer to the lit have filed proposals to allow same sex partners to establish civil unions in the state of Washington, giving partners the same responsibilities and rights as married couples. The bill quote does nothing to diminish marriage but grants same sex couples equal protection under the law, said Senator Pat Tibideaux of Seattle, the bill's sponsor in the state senate representative Ed Murray of Seattle introduced the bill in the House. State legislators have defined defeated similar efforts in the past, but the sponsors say Vermont's success with its civil unions law has heightened interest in such a law in Washington State. Gay and Lesbian activists in Broward County, Florida have formed a political group and preparation for an anticipated ballot measure drive by religious conservatives. More than 100 people met at the gay and lesbian community center in Fort Lauderdale last week to form a declined to sign pack that would try to convince voters not

to sign petitions to place an anti gay measure on ballot. The move comes after a conservative group registered as equal rights pack in an apparent effort to repeal a county law, banning public funding to groups that discriminate on the basis of sexual orientation. religious conservatives have criticized the law for targeting the Boy Scouts, which bars gay members. The Equal Rights pack apparently also wants to repeal the county's domestic partnership ordinance. If they do this, we don't want to be surprised, said Tony Ramos, president of gays united to attack repression and discrimination. Gay Activists maintain that the ballot measure is the brainchild of the Center for reclaiming America, a religious right group affiliated with the Reverend D. James Kennedy's Coral Ridge ministries. Janet Folger, Director of the Center said the group had investigated a ballot measure, but is not directly involved in the effort. Equal Rights Pac was registered with the county on January 24, with the stated goal of petitioning for quote, a ballot referendum to restore equal rights to Broward County's citizens. A bill that would ban anti gay workplace bias in Arizona passed that state Senate Commerce Committee Wednesday on a four to two vote. How does a person perform their job? That's all that's important, said Senator Elaine Richardson. Some panel members expressed concern about the bill. Do you feel it would be appropriate to hire a male crossdresser teaching in a public school? asked Senator Darden Hamilton. Kathy Herod lobbyist for the Center for Arizona Policy said the proposed law would force a church to hire a gay man as a janitor or even to teach Sunday school classes. Will does so what's the problem with that? A bill that would increase penalties for crimes motivated by bias based on sexual orientation, race, religion or certain other characteristics, passed an Arkansas State Senate committee Tuesday. Among those testifying on behalf of the bill was Randy McCain, a gay man who said he was beaten by a crowd yelling anti gay slurs. Violence in hate crimes is more intense. He said. I know because I've experienced it. The bill passed the Committee on a four to one vote. A similar measure was killed two years ago by a House committee on a 12 to four vote. Meanwhile, in Mississippi a bill to amend the state's hate crimes law to include sexual orientation died in committee Tuesday, at the same time a bill that would have put a measure on the 2002 ballot, asking voters whether to amend the state constitution to ban same sex marriages also died in committee. We are very pleased and disappointed at the same time obviously, said Jodie Ronaldo, chairman of the Mississippi gay lobby. All in all with the environment for gay equality and Mississippi as hateful and intolerant as it is. We can't complain with winning one of the two and quote Massachusetts House Ways and Means Committee Chairman John Rogers has introduced a bill to Gann at ban gay marriages in that state. The Democratic representative who came under fire from gay rights activists two years ago for proposing a similar bill has come up with a seemingly more tepid version this time around. But the implications could be worse. Activists say not only does the bill prevent the state from recognizing gay marriages, but it also threatens other agreements such as domestic partnerships and civil unions. Quote, It preemptively denies us any possibility of having a relationships recognized by the state. It puts in the law, our second class status and says that's the way it's going to be. So Jeremy Pittman, chairman of the lesbian and gay political alliance of Massachusetts. Rogers, however, the sponsor of the bill said the bill is meant to clarify the current definition of marriage not to exclude any particular groups, quote, Massachusetts is used 1000s of licenses a year. And there's not even a definition of marriage. There are definitions in all of our laws except for this one. If we have a common understanding of what marriage is, than we as a legislature, and as a society at large, can choose to expand or restrict that definition. Accordingly, Rogers said, Bill would define marriage as, quote, a legal relationship between one man and one woman, any other relationship shall be recognized shall not be recognized as a marriage or its legal equivalent, or receive benefits exclusive to marriage in the Commonwealth and quote, that additional wording seems to target domestic partnerships and civil unions, said Mary Bonato, a lawyer with the Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders. It may also generate confusion regarding the current rights enjoyed by some gay couples, such as property and finance

agreements and the ability to adopt children. She said the lawyers and lawmakers say approval of Rogers bill is unlikely. Pittman said that it could be used as a bargaining tool to get domestic partnership bills off the table. A court in the province of Ontario has ruled that a father's decision to change his gender from male to female does not constitute grounds for changing a previous child custody arrangement between the child's parents. The custody challenge was launched in early 1999 by Margaret Saliba. After she learned that Howard Forrester, with whom she had lived for three years and had one child had decided that he wished to live his life as a lesbian, Forrester legally changed his first name from Howard to Leslie and altered his appearance to look like a woman. Although he has not undergone a sane sex change operation. The couple who split up in 1996 had agreed to an equal time custody arrangement for their six year old daughter. Saliba sought a marital material change in that arrangement, claiming circumstances affecting the child had been altered. After Forrester began living as a woman in 1997. However, Justice Woolgar, the Ontario Court of Justice in Brampton ruled quote, the applicant's transsexuality in itself, without further evidence would not constitute a material change in circumstances, nor would it be considered a negative factor in custody determination. Legal experts note that the ruling reinforces the premise that a person's transsexuality is not deemed by the courts to be a factor in his or her ability to be a good parent. Joanna Redbird. An attorney who represented Forrester said the ruling could inspire other transsexuals who often abandon their custody fights, because they assume that the judicial system is biased against them. We live in a transphobic culture, but it's clear that the test for custody and access is always the best interests of the child, she said. Religious leaders in the Cayman Islands have started a petition drive, protesting a British order that decriminalized homosexuality in its five Caribbean territories. Last month, Britain scrapped laws making homosexuality a crime in the Cayman Islands and four other territories after local legislatures refused to do so. The move angered church leaders who say that homosexuality is immoral, and goes against the cultural grain of the deeply religious and socially conservative islands. The petition says that those who sign it, quote, object to enacting legislation against the will of the people of the Cayman Islands. So the Reverend Al Banks chairman of the Cayman ministers Association, quote, the people of the Cayman Islands as well as other overseas territories have made it abundantly clear what our position is on this matter. I don't know any partnership that can survive on the basis of this kind of one sided relationship. By partnership, he was referring to the fact that the Cayman Islands are British territories. He said the petition would be turned over to the Cayman Islands legislature and its British governor. The order from the British Privy Council, which acts as the highest court for the territories, decriminalized gay sex acts between consenting adults in private. It also applies to and gala the British Virgin Islands, Montserrat and the Turks and Caicos Islands. Britain's government said that the anti gay laws which existed previously in those islands violated international human rights agreements that Britain had signed. Britain has the power to unilaterally revoke the statutes, but for years had tried in vain to persuade local legislators to repeal them on their own. Pope John Paul the second said again last week that there was no possibility for marriage to be redefined according to different cultural models, stressing again, the Vatican's opposition to same sex unions. Quote, marriage is not just any old union between human persons susceptible to being configured according to a plurality of cultural models. The Pope said that in his speech to the Roman Rota, which is the Vatican tribunal that can grant marriage enrollments. Quote, you observe that in a very clear way in the ongoing attempts to present de facto unions, including homosexual ones, as comparable to marriage, in which one negates in fact the natural character when the Church teaches that matrimony is a natural thing. It proposes a truth made plain by reason for the good of the couples and of society and quote, well, actually, it's committed relationships that are the natural order. committed relationships have existed outside of and long before church weddings, and I failed to see how recognizing committed gay relationships is any threat to holy matrimony. And if it is, then what does that

say about the state of traditional, the traditional institution? Marriage. Well, gay men are scheduled to be one of several targets and a tough talking federally funded public service ad campaign that will debut later this year. championed by President Clinton's former White House aides czar and the CDC. The campaign was expected to launch last month, but production has been delayed in the ads are now expected to start by this summer. A coalition of ad agencies is creating the effort known as ads against AIDS. This is the first time a federal ad campaign has targeted the gay audience specifically, the campaign will also target women and urban youth. Sandra Thurman, former director of the Office of National AIDS Policy, spearheaded the effort, but those involved say that it is unclear if the new Bush administration presents a threat. Leo Burnett's account director on the project says finding donations of work and cash have delayed things a bit. The change of administration has not helped our cause, says the openly gay Greg Warren, an 11 year veteran of the agency, still remains optimistic that the gay targeted campaign will prevail saying quote, We are not going away. Whatever the administration, the multi agency approach, modeled after the Partnership for a drug free America was an evolution. Sadly, Burnett apparently got the gay community assignment because no agencies had any experience in reaching the gay community. It was the fact that we had done anything in terms of outreach to gays says Warren, the agency did some ad work for the local Chicago health group called horizons. Though it serves more than just the gay community. The Ober net has already created the campaign's concept, but it has not yet been produced as that's waiting funding. One shows a party set in an apartment where the host brings out a tray of drinks that people pick up one by one, finally revealing a bottle of poison. A cocktail napkin on the tray reveals the tagline why are we killing each other? Warren says quote, It is very real, not Queer as Folk. Well, the second ad intended to depict the morning after shows a man in a bathtub about to be joined by another man carrying breakfast in the form of toast and the toaster. The man plugs in the appliance as he steps into the tub, and the the camera cuts to the why are we killing each other tagline which is written into the steam on the mirror. The closing shot is a lonely piece of toast floating in the tub. This is obviously one of those don't try this at home kids scenarios. And just in case anyone doesn't know electrical appliances like toasters and hair dryers don't belong in the bathtub or the shower because of the significant hazard of fatal electrocution. Of the somewhat morbid ads Warren says, quote, we had another campaign that was easier to take. But if it's too sugar coated, it loses its significance. We found it was the best way to provoke discussion. The message is not people with HIV giving it to other people. We're not demonizing people with HIV, there is a shared sense of responsibility that we want to get across and quote, the multimedia campaign will include TV ads for possible appearances on youth oriented networks such as MTV and web, as well as for video bars. As the public service announcement, the network's would donate the airtime. There will also be print ads in the game media and internet efforts with a planned website@www.stop.org. AIDS campaigns in general are a difficult sell to television networks, who resist carrying ads for condoms, due to what remains a heated political environment on the subject. Just a handful of AIDS prevention commercials have ever targeted gay men, and they have run only locally in San Francisco and Los Angeles. Despite its name, the country's largest AIDS service group, Gay Men's Health Crisis, has not created any television ads targeting gay men. The ads against AIDS campaign will come at a time when AIDS transmissions are on the rise. And many young adults are disinterested in the subject. We've identified the problem is complacency, says Warren. It is somewhat shocking. People are very familiar with AIDS. And some said that they've studied it in kindergarten. But what they see of AIDS is ads of a rock climber as in the piece promoting Crick's event, it's led to a sense of that it's being a survivable disease. The point is to start dialogue again. And once again, the the website for a plan for this effort is www.stop.org. That stops spelled sto p.org. In other news, the Atlanta is entering the competition to host the 2006 Gay Games. Of course, you don't have to be gay to play. In fact, unlike the Olympics, you don't have to even have to be that good. The athletic and cultural events set no minimum standards

for competitors and are open to gay and non gay, bisexual and transsexual participants. It's all about inclusion. Its organizers say Atlanta is bid to hold the Atlanta's bid started about 10 months ago, and has involved nearly 200 volunteers. The group called Atlanta games incorporated put together a 100 page bid document that was due last week to the Federation of Gay Games. A decision is expected in October after a final pitch of the Federation's meeting in Johannesburg, South Africa. Atlanta is up against three other cities, including two with Olympic pedigrees, Los Angeles and Montreal. The final city Chicago also has a long history of hosting international events. Atlanta tried for the 1998 games that went instead to Amsterdam. Organizers say that they have a good shot at winning this time. And if so Atlanta is in for a two week event that they predict will attract as many as 1 million visitors and rake in as much as half a billion dollars for Metro Atlanta businesses. That would be about twice as much as last year's Super Bowl, and a 10th of the size of the take from the 1996 summer summer Olympics. The Amsterdam games attracted 800,000 spectators and nearly 15,000 competitors from 78 countries. And next year Sydney will host Gay Games sixth from October 25 to November 9. The Atlanta committee introduced its theme and a 100 page bid document earlier this month at a fundraiser for patrons and volunteers. The thing is reach 2006 As in reach out to embrace diversity featured is Atlanta's civil rights history. Its ties to Martin Luther King Jr. and human rights icon and former President Jimmy Carter and its significant gay and lesbian population. Atlanta's gay population is one of the largest in the nation. I want these Gay Games to come here to showcase the city said Ray home Atlanta games co chairman and a software executive. Atlanta games has already received \$25,000 In sponsorships, each from Coca Cola Coors Brewing Company, David magazine and southern voice newspaper. In return, those companies are of course hoping to buy a good name with Atlanta's gay and lesbian community. At last month's fundraiser at the Marriott Marquis Scott Coors told the crowd of more than 100 patrons and volunteers that corps involvement is a good way for his company to mend fences. Many gay and lesbian consumers had after all boycotted Cougars during the late 80s and early 90s Because the company had funded conservative groups that are anti gay chorus efforts to improve its relationship with the gay community included hiring Mary Cheney Vice President Dick Cheney's daughter, who until last year was the company's lesbian gay Corporate Relations Manager. For athletes, the games would offer a chance to compete in 30 sports including basketball, badminton, soccer and swimming. The Federation also requires a cultural element, which include performances, lectures and seminars. And finally, beginning on February 28, the CBS has making room in its Wednesday lineup for the gay themed sitcom some of my best friends. A week after the network's Grammy Awards broadcast on February 21. The network will showcase its new eight to 9pm comedy block, which will feature some of my best friends at 8pm. The sitcom which stars Danny Nucci and Jason Bateman will also get a one time only broadcast on Monday, March 5, at 9:30pm. Following Everybody Loves Raymond, and again that's on the CBS network Nucci and Bateman play mismatched roommates in New York City. Bateman's character is a gay writer while Nucci plays a straight aspiring actor. And if that sounds kind of familiar, the premise is similar to the gay film Kiss Me Guido, which was shown here in Houston as part of last year's gay Film Festival. And that is our look at what has been going on in the news this past week for LGV news. I'm Glenn Holt, and Jack just a little bitty bit of MIDI. Your mic is on, isn't it? No, there it is. Okay, try again.

 Jack Valinski 44:43

I was so bored. Correcting all your mistakes and your newscast.

 S... 44:47

G Glenn Holt 44:47
Oh, well, thank you so much kitty,

J Jack Valinski 44:49
just kitty. Joan does have one pledge on the line here but we're still a little bit short of our goal tonight. And we would really like to show The management of the station that we do have listeners who are, you know, really loyal to us and can really help bring up our share of what it costs to produce this type of programming here on KPFT. So we have one person on the line, actually that person, it's the mystery phone. Joan has it now. So that's one pledge going. But we really would like to get a few more, because it's the last few minutes of lesbian and gay voices. And it's the last time in this round of marathon that we will be asking for your support. Well, I must have caught you off guard there. Glenn. Yeah, you

G Glenn Holt 45:42
did you normally talk more than that? So

J Jack Valinski 45:44
I know. I know. Well, while while the microphone was off, I was practicing. So

G Glenn Holt 45:49
Oh, I see. So So you had everything prepared ahead of time and

J Jack Valinski 45:52
talking to myself out here earlier? Oh, I see.

G Glenn Holt 45:56
Well, what where do we stand in terms of goal and what we've got,

J Jack Valinski 46:00
we're about halfway there right now. So we still need about 250 more dollars to make our goal. And you know, we do have that special CD, which is the best of 2000 that you put together of interviews, not only from us here in the studio, but from this way out. And it was real good compilation of stuff that we played on the New Year's Day program that we did here on lesbian gay voices. And it's really good sort of a, you know, encapsulation of the year 2000 of lesbian and gay voices, and the stuff that happened in our community.

G

Glenn Holt 46:34

Well, that's right, it is, what I did, of course, is record as many of our programs as I could get. And then what I did is sort of went back and reviewed everything that happened, everything that I got recorded, and picked out the best. And then out of those picked out segments that represented the best of what those best were. And then I toiled over a hot computer all morning, putting all that together, you were burning those CDs. That's right. Well, I mean, you know, you do the editing in the computer. It's so much easier now doing stuff that way than than, you know, when I started in radio, of course, it was the old slice the tape and and patch it together with scotch tape deal?

J

Jack Valinski 47:16

Well, you and I certainly go back aways in broadcasting. And I go ways back here at KPFT. And I remember the days when we used to be off the air a lot, that we used to have these red alerts, and you listen to the station, and you'd hear records that, you know, would skip and you would hear, you know, dead air and you would hear you know people Off mic all the time. And we've come a long way. I mean, we still got ways to go here. And the fact that we don't have the most modern up to date equipment, but we have, you know, we have a pretty good share of stuff. So we actually have a couple people to thank, we have Howard to thank, who is a new member. And that is really, really nice to have a new member and another and of course, we always like this is one of our favorite donators Baba anonymous. And pledge for eight years paid for six. That's not bad. That's not bad. We will certainly take that pledge for eight years. Yes, but he but he actually only paid for six of those eight years. Okay. And he's likes to get the gossip. You know?

G

Glenn Holt 48:19

Well, yeah, you know, we do have straight people who listen to the program just because they they care about gay people and want to know what's going on in the community? And what better way to find out?

J

Jack Valinski 48:28

Yes, and there's gay and lesbian people who pledge during other times of the broadcast schedule here on KPFT, which is certainly all right, because you know, a lot of people who listen to this station, don't just listen to one program, or don't just listen to the news. They also like the music. And I mean, this is an incredible cross mix of the singer songwriter type of music, and the sort of country progressive music, and of course, to some of us that we still love the old protest music. But all that combined together with the different types of talk programming that goes on here, from the locally produced of lesbian and gay voices, and after hours, to shows like the world and Democracy Now, what an incredible blend of programming and viewpoints and interesting discussion. And you know, the type of stuff that you'd be driving somewhere and you get to your destination, but you just can't get the car because you want to listen to the last part of that interview, or the last part of that song, because it just means so much to you.

G

Glenn Holt 49:25

Yeah, yeah, I have been there. Also, I enjoy listening to the BBC News.

J

Jack Valinski 49:30

Yes, which is, of course, probably the best in the world.

G

Glenn Holt 49:34

And I used to listen to that kind of stuff on shortwave. And now that it's available on FM over the satellite, it the quality is wonderful.

J

Jack Valinski 49:40

Oh, absolutely. And not only the quality from where they are in the studio in London, but the quality from the reports all over the world that they do, and nobody covers it. You know, there's something in the paper about how CNN is, you know, going to focus less on doing the hard news and more on The Talk Show type of stuff. Well, the BBC doesn't do that. The BBC is just fabulous. And we play that every morning, Monday through Friday at 8am News Hour, which is just a fabulous program.

G

Glenn Holt 50:08

You know, I played a couple of cuts off of this CD that you brought in called Tom Robertson. Cabaret. 79 glad to be gay. Yes. You said that that was a vinyl album. Originally,

J

Jack Valinski 50:21

yes. And you play the song, glad to be gay. And you know, if you listen to that song, it's really a very sad song because it talks about the police busting people. And this was really, you know, when he wrote that song back in the late 70s. I mean, you know, that you would laugh at the jokes at work, because you didn't want anybody to know you're gay. You know, sort of like the movie boys in the band. I mean, it was actually when you watch that movie, it's really sad about the way the community was back then. Well, we've come a long way. But yet, they're still people growing up, and having to deal with the pressure of their parents or their school or their church, telling them everything they think that is right is wrong. So and that in, we try to, you know, to let people know what our community is all about on a show like lesbian and gay voices.

G

Glenn Holt 51:09

Yeah, even including the occasional time that I toss in a little editorial comment along with the news

NEWS.

J Jack Valinski 51:15

Yes. And that was an excellent interview you did earlier when? Oh, thank

G Glenn Holt 51:19

you. Yeah, with the guys from the AIDS mastery workshop, the AIDS mastery workshop.

J Jack Valinski 51:25

So, you know, before we slip away here, because we're almost at the end of our time, we're asking you, you know, you can still call us here at 7135265738713526 KPFT. Whether you're listening here in Houston, or you're listening on the internet's in fact, Jimmy was talking about an after hours they had somebody listening in Australia.

G Glenn Holt 51:46

Oh, really? Well, that's good to know. Yes. And of course, we had David Elliot on the first of the program to and that's

J Jack Valinski 51:51

even further away. That was Washington.

G Glenn Holt 51:55

Okay. Well, lesbian and gay voices is heard every Monday at 8pm here on KPFT. It's a publicly funded Pacifica networks station, lesbian and gay voices is produced live in Houston with recorded segments from this way out, which is produced at KPFK in Los Angeles, lesbian and gay voices executive producer is Jack Wolinsky, and on air voices are Joan Devlin Glen Holt 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. This is the sound of Texas 90.1 FM KPFT in Houston. for lesbian and gay voices. I'm Glenn Holt.