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SUMMARY KEYWORDS

parade, pride, year, people, organizations, committee, gay, houston, community, put, work, volunteer, problem, jack, lesbian, referendum, switchboard, mayor, kathy, bureaucracy

SPEAKERS

Jack Valinski, Jimmy Carper, Jewel Gray, Ray Hill

J Jack Valinski 00:01

considered objectionable by this word discretion is advised?

J Jimmy Carper 00:32

Oh yes, you've tuned into after hours queer radio with attitude right here on KPFT Houston 90.1 FM. The crew of after hours is ready to bring you news interviews, dialogue and music geared for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people and their friends. Hear it after hours, we may be diverse, but we have one thing in common. We are all out of the closet and urge everyone to come out of their closets. That means standing up for yourself taking responsibility for your own life, and being proud of who you are. Realistically, we know not everyone can do that because of age job or frame of mind. That's okay, we're here for you too. So sit back, relax, and enjoy this week's edition of after hours. Hello, Here's Dan in College Station and welcome to after hours. On Jimmy corporate, the producer. This is the June 24 edition, which also was pride as you as you readily found out from the music that was buddy Johnston's music from way back when it has all kinds of good pride stuff in it. Plus that wonderful song by Pamela Stanley. standing in the corner. Yeah. We have a whole bunch of folks here. We're gonna have a whole bunch of folks. All night long, hopefully. Yeah, yeah, that's what we want. Right now. I see jewel who is like, the real co host.

J Jewel Gray 02:41

I got a real treat because I couldn't come in last week to the gym would trade with me. So I could come down here tonight. Yeah.

J Jimmy Carper 02:45

Cool. Cool. Cool. And we've got Jackie Thorne, in here, and Joe Devlin. Hello, Joe Devlin. And tada. I'm sorry, I'm late. But the police wouldn't let me in that. Looks



03:06

to me like that's unusual. No.



03:10

No, it was one of those. You couldn't get there from here. No, I



Jimmy Carper 03:12

had to park at the Walgreens parking lot and haul all my CDs. Oh, man.



Jewel Gray 03:17

This police officer. I'm down here. What is this? This is Yeah.



03:21

Tap, tap tap.



Jimmy Carper 03:24

Yeah, he's like, Hey, I'm a DJ. I got this show. They didn't care. Yes, Chris.



Jewel Gray 03:41

We thought it was the guys before.



Jimmy Carper 03:43

I think this is the first time that Joan Devlin has been here with me. Yeah, for well for a while. Yeah. Yeah. Not



03:50

since Stonewall. Like the movie though. Not the original. It's true. And Jack



Jimmy Carper 03:55

Jack came here to debrief us.

J Jewel Gray 03:57

Yeah, that's right. And was it a glorious parade? I had such a great every Yeah, it's

J Jimmy Carper 04:04

I really had a wonderful time. I was with the I marched with the gay and lesbian community center because at representing as you switchboard, as you can tell by the phone, I saw

J Jewel Gray 04:16

a Barbie phone

J Jimmy Carper 04:21

and Jackie was marching with

⌚ 04:24

the transgender community. Jackie's having breakfast.

⌚ 04:30

I saw Jackie

J Jewel Gray 04:31

we all saw Jackie Yeah, and I

J Jimmy Carper 04:35

think Joe had one of the best spots ever. It's right on the porch of the Papa

J Jewel Gray 04:44

they treated as like like kings there. They were like very. I mean,

J

Jimmy Carper 04:48

it was wonderful. So yeah, it's a great place to watch.

J

Jewel Gray 04:52

Above the street, you know sitting up off the on the patio there and so even sitting down and having our leisure there we can see the parade pretty well.

J

Jimmy Carper 04:59

Drum were you in the parade or not

∅

05:02

in the parade? I was on the reviewing stand. Oh go Frank for the judges which was the best seat in the house. A wonderful time. I got lots of

J

Jimmy Carper 05:10

pretty BC that yes, it was just I got a few my own. So that's where I was too. I was with the you were right there. I saw you

∅

05:17

I met the pay the pagan, gay and lesbian people. And they asked me to write

J

Jewel Gray 05:24

one. One pagan?

J

Jack Valinski 05:27

Hardly. They asked me to do security, you know, make sure people who didn't have press passes or weren't handicapped in some way did not get behind the gate in front of reviewing Stan, I got to see what Maria Todd looks like up close

∅

05:43

one on one of the radios and

J

Jack Valinski 05:46

put it this way, she should stay on the radio.

♀

05:49

Oh, that's not sorry. She had large breasts.

J

Jewel Gray 05:56

She's got my we were up there sitting. We were out there probably only lesbian group on that patio surrounded by men. And we were talking about lesbians and the women out there. And we were talking about breasts and things like that. And these guys look.

R

Ray Hill 06:21

Right, wonderful day,

♀

06:23

have a seat.

R

Ray Hill 06:25

Have a seat. Jack, congratulations. This thing gets better every year, doesn't it? Doesn't it? Yeah,

J

Jack Valinski 06:31

well, I have a tremendous committee of people who do very, very hard, and are very good at what they do and have a passion for doing this. And certainly Ray and I remember the early days, when you would get into a meeting and you'd have maybe five or 10 people in that meeting. And you'd say, well, who will do this? And who will do that. And somebody would raise their hand and they may have totally no experience. Yet, we still have people who do this stuff who learned to and that's good, too. But not that this is all gone to a corporate career. Because no never happened never happened.

R

Ray Hill 07:08

Not the way you got it structured, it will never happen.

J Jack Valinski 07:10

We certainly have corporations in the parade, which is wonderful to see. And you know, when you look at Chase, and you look at the diversity within the chase group, which chase people they

R Ray Hill 07:21

didn't even look like bankers. You good and tell from where I want

J Jimmy Carper 07:28

that let's not leave out Wells Fargo.

J Jewel Gray 07:30

And you know, shell was there when I worked for Shell it was something unspoken, speak about. I'm really proud of shell from, you know, their growth.

J Jack Valinski 07:37

Last year, we tried to sort of break another little barrier. And you know, you know, five years ago or maybe a little bit longer it was kB II radios, right? That sent in a an application with a check. And the parade chair says what do I do with this? I says we take the money and wrong.

R Ray Hill 07:55

They don't show just forget it. They've been plugging this parade for two weeks. I

J Jack Valinski 08:01

absolutely love it. And you know, we do this. And then we finally got an oil company in and we got the Chase Bank. And then and then this year, we had the Mayor of the City of Houston. Which was amazing. Thank you.

R Ray Hill 08:16

Rob, it was it was wonderful being actually it brings to mind something that makes excuse me, Joe, I'm still telling the kids. The largest number of supporters of gay and lesbian rights are not gay and lesbian people at all. That's right, but the straight people that love us and support us, and sometimes they're the most inclusive. I mean, I still have brothers and sisters that have

trouble with transgendered people and, and bisexuals are not really bisexual, there's something else. But the fact of the matter is the majority of the people that support us, except all of us without any reservations or qualifications on it. And I'm really excited about that.

J Jack Valinski 09:05

And that's because of visibility, you bet. And the parade. I mean, I'm more of a political animal than I am putting on parties. And I think you all know that, especially since that other stuffy show that's on the station that somebody produces and sometimes too stuffy.

J Jimmy Carper 09:19

Oh, come on, you're the 60 minutes of gay radio. And then, you

J Jack Valinski 09:23

know, the, the reality is, is that we have this celebration, so that not only it reaffirms us in what we do, and the volunteerism that everybody does in the community, because the majority of the parade are people who volunteer and do stuff within the community. But also it brings out the other people in the community who know us who and who are supporting us. And when we talk about the pride team within Chase Bank, the majority of those people are not gay and lesbian people they're straight people and the majority

R Ray Hill 09:51

of the people with a bearing contingents are the people with the democratic. That's right. We're not gay people and the majority that people with a lot of them Just Buddhists are not gay folks. But the fact of the matter is they're just as serious about your rights and freedom as anybody. And you know, Jack, you say that you're a more political animal I? Well, I hope so. I tried to raise you that way. But let me tell you something. Harvey Milk did not say organized, organized, organized. Harvey Milk said, Come out, come out and come out. He certainly did. Ultimately, that is the most political thing you can do. You know, you

10:30

put a face on the people. Yeah, you put a face on the gay and lesbian.

J Jewel Gray 10:34

I'm your daughter. I'm your child. I'm your neighbor in your community.

R Ray Hill 10:37

And you know, there was a time when the only role models that were available to my generation, for instance, were what scraps we could find in literature. I have no idea what it's like to go to football practice at Galena Park High School. After thinking I've got to be Oscar Wilde and taking time to pluck my eyebrows. I mean, I was the only guy on the team and the captain with plucked eyebrows. And, and now there are gay, lesbian, transgendered and bisexual role models in every block in every neighborhood within the broadcast range to this station.

J

Jack Valinski 11:12

That's right. That's a community group called the willows that was made up of like a few different communities in southwest Houston. Never had that memorial will abandon Exactly. And that was really neat. Last night, I left the community center about 1030 and hatch kids were still there working on their stuff, which was just fabulous. You have got this whole new generation of people that are going to carry this on. We had a good on tired.

J

Jewel Gray 11:36

As they went by, we nominate them to the future baby dikes. Yeah.

R

Ray Hill 11:42

The next generation that's not quite right. And what was really amazing is at my performance last night, David Patterson came, and that was a flashback to the late 60s, where Rita wannstrom and I were fighting over the presidency of the Prometheus society while David quietly run the organization is Secretary. Somebody got to do it. Yeah, we're from from Austin, listening to the show tonight. And it's wonderful to have your old friends in the struggle. You know, Papa Bear, Rita once, is not only still in live alive, she moved into his senior citizens home in Austin and promptly took it over is very characteristic of the reader that I know.

o

12:29

Oh, trust me.

J

Jack Valinski 12:30

Let me tell you about another barrier. We broke this year. Yeah. We invited Todd Cunningham, the publisher of the Texas triangle to be one of the judges. And we also invited Alan Gilman, who is the owner of this week in Texas magazine. And Alan says, I haven't been to a Houston parade since like, 87. Wow. And, you know, we all know that Alan was very sick and recovering anyhow, it looks better than than ever. I mean, it's really, really great. But you know, we, we and I don't mean to overdo this, but Dallas does not have a parade like Houston. No. And I know we go to Dallas prayed every year. But Allen says This is fabulous. This is absolutely fabulous. You know that we have all these lit floats and and it's also the you know, a couple other things. I mean, there are there's a professional float building company called parades,

etc, which builds a lot of floats for for the organizations. But then the creativity of a lot of different organizations. I mean, every outsmart out smart does this they did this boat with a light Yeah, you know who and to see that. And I mean, it's a little bit hard sometimes to describe it all on radio.

J Jewel Gray 13:33

What group did it with the marionettes the 12 foot tall? Wasn't that wonder was that?

R Ray Hill 13:41

Really driven? Actually, they I think they were attached to the chase thing to chase head though. Maybe they want with whatever they were funny heads. Oh, but there were other puppets in the parade. Whenever way back close to her I was there was another contingents of puppet theatrical puppets. You know, the creative? Well, my God, we're talking about Clinton, dikes and trend center people here. I mean, creativity. Yeah, I've got a line in my show. And I know you get tired of me plugging my show is where being gay is not the creativity of how you arrange the flowers in the vase, or the furniture in the room. But how you arrange the elements of your life to be creative. And so in a very real sense, we are some of the most creative inventions on the planet, because we give ourselves the freedom to arrange those elements. And we do that by showing off to one another very proudly. And I get all the feedback sometimes is Why does it always have to be pride? Because that was what was

J Jack Valinski 14:47

missing? That's right. Oh, yes. You know, it's perfect. Rarey I know you know the story that when Larry binaries went for first grade from it, they said why is a nice little Mexican getting involved with a critical eye And that was, you know, this is the 22nd parade this year, the Convention and Visitor's Bureau of the Convention and Visitor's Bureau, which is a semi governmental type agency came to us and said, they wanted to put a full page ad about the Pride Parade in their magazine. Oh, and you could see that same ad, that's an outsmart it's with the sunglasses saying, you will not need these for our night parade unless you're under that disco ball. But we have been very, very fortunate that we have marketing people. And I know sometimes that's a negative thing. But we have people that can sort of focus the message to our community and to the community beyond. So credibly am proud of the people who do that, that, you know, we know that, you know, it is a party, it's a celebration, but we need to get the word out. And the speech that I give to all the contingents every year, which I stole from Ray Hill, which I admit to was about, you know, the people that are two blocks down, are the people who are listening to this radio show who may not feel comfortable enough going to the bank or listening to us now that you know, maybe next year after we talk about this, or they see it in the paper, or they see it on Fox News, the live cuttings that that were done, that maybe next year that feel a little bit more comfortable to be watching, and maybe two years from now, they'll feel comfortable enough to be in the parade. And that's our family that we really would love to get out there and talk about and, you know, we add different groups every year, we get more diverse. I

J Jewel Gray 16:21

was really, you know, last year, we were talking that the Asian and friends contingency was a lot bigger. But to see that those we were really impressed if they did a little number or something in costume last year was wonderful. Absolutely.

J Jack Valinski 16:36

And also Hollywood video or not how Hollywood food stores, food start. Well, Hollywood Video had the marquee up there. Yeah. And, you know, I have to talk about the Harrington

R Ray Hill 16:51

called me just before I came over here, he ran into a police officer that had been responsible for towing someone away from a no towing zone. And he thought that was unconscionable. And he called me and said, he demanded my identification as a form of intimidation. What can I do about it? I mean, I mean, I bless his heart, he is so focused and, and actually, although all of the work credit in the organization opened his credit goes to Jack and his predecessors, because this has been the most open organization for him forever. Lee Harrington is responsible for the night parade.

J Jack Valinski 17:24

Yeah, and that's it. I mean, the the visionary of Lee Harrington, who will call people at three o'clock in the morning and not even think about, think about, you know, that that might be a problem. But Lee comes up with these ideas. And you know, I love Lee to death. And sometimes he says he hasn't been sleeping in the past couple days, because he's so worried it won't be perfect. And sometimes I think we are, we do try to try too hard about being perfect. Because we feel that we have not, you know, when we were growing up, we were just not good enough all the time. Because we felt we knew we were different that we didn't quite fit in. So we talked so tried so hard to be perfect. And you know, I could probably sit here and list 100 Mistakes That happened tonight, that we will try to work on to do better next,

J Jimmy Carper 18:10

and you know, something's jacked, everyone watching and everyone and it had no idea that they were

18:17

done with it. Yeah. That's it. It's not it's not so much though, that we weren't perfect. It was that we were told we weren't

J Jack Valinski 18:25

by families, by church, or by our schools, by you know, every Yeah, all of us. And we still try to try to get over that. And when you look at that, and so I know I'm a little bit too close to the woods, but it's not just the pride Committee. It was all the contingents that were in there because they we are the producers of the parade. They are the stars and we do it for the audience. And the creativity. And you know, Charles Armstrong was on the reviewing stand, too. And he you know, he was very much involved in Dallas stuff before he moved to Houston the owner of the mining company and Jr's and, you know, he says, This is brilliant doing it at night. I mean, and and not only that, but the fact that the live cameras are out there and we don't do it for the live cameras only but that's that's an added bonus. But that's when Stonewall happened Stonewall happened that night it did and you know from a riot to a celebration and not just Houston. Houston is the kickoff of that major weekend when there are pride parades in New York, San Francisco, not Los Angeles. They had theirs two weeks ago. Seattle, Atlanta, Minneapolis, Chicago, the major cities around the country. And then there are celebrations different times you're like Dallas has in the fall. But the inner pride association which is Association pride committees, figures that we get about 12 million spectators around the world looking at this. And you know, that's just incredible when you have places like Waco, Texas, and you know, Mexico City or Tijuana and some of those places where these people are doing this now can get arrested and thrown into jail. Al and sometimes even be executed for



20:02

Well, a lot of in Europe and in South America, they're beginning to, you know, small group get together and and have a parade. And



J Jack Valinski 20:11

it's not only just parades. I mean, in some of the smaller cities, it's picnics, and all that when you go to this, and I mean, I know Houston has come a long way. But when you go there you in some of these groups that are college groups or in some of these other countries, and they talk about doing this, we just get all up there. And even though we've been through the wars ourselves, we get up there and we clap for them. Because, you know, they're they're starting where we started 20 years ago, they're



J Jewel Gray 20:36

stepping across the threshold to open the front of Beaumont this year. Right



20:41

was that the first time they had been in



J Jack Valinski 20:42

it? No, Beaumont has been here a few times. We had razzle dazzle Dallas, which was the first time they were in there, which we're so proud because they were you know, they do a street

festival type of thing. And they're a pride committee. They just realized that, you know, and I'm not saying anything bad, but pride is celebrating commemorating the Stonewall riots or, you know, the the fact that we're gay, lesbian, transgender, bisexual people. And, you know, I mean, we have straight people are in our organizations who Yeah, that's important, too. You know, just like we had like ACLU in there, and we had the Democratic Party. We had the Libertarian Party,



21:22

or your PFLAG the vast,



J Jack Valinski 21:26

vast majority. Jacqui kind of slid over something a while back and I don't want to let that go. The mayor was in the Senate this year, very proud. Is there is this the first time that a sitting mayor has been in a gay pride parade here the day Kathy wittmeyer. got elected? Yes, it just by happenstance, and just sort of really strange. We understand that. Kathy wittmeyer was in the parade before she was mayor. Yeah, before he was mayor, she was in the first that's what everybody the consensus seems to be that Lee Brown is the first mayor that has been in the Houston perazzi



J Jewel Gray 22:02

would come to the rallies absolutely controller at the time. And she would come to the rallies and yes,



J Jack Valinski 22:08

but Kathy, you know, sometimes our memory of blurs us a little bit. When you look back and think those days were so great. It would not show up to the rally, which used to happen. After 1030 when the news was over with in the live cameras were gone. And, you know, here Lee Brown was with his wife going down the parade. And my understanding is that when he pulled off here in this partner, Stanford, that he turned his car around and sat and watched it for a while. Good. And, you know, I mean, it's our parade, but we are so pleased that the mayor is embracing. Yes, I



J Jewel Gray 22:45

bet. I bet he doesn't realize I bet he didn't realize till tonight how much people in the community really backed him up because when he went by us it just erupted. I bet that really was surprising.



J Jimmy Carper 22:55

On March 14, 2014, the Houston City Council voted to ban conversion therapy for minors. The bill, introduced by Councilwoman Kathy Wittmeyer, was passed with a 9-2 vote.

On, yeah. And I bet when we hit the corner it makes and chances just they probably went crazy. The



23:02

committee I mean, nobody had to, it's not like the committee had to beg him, you know, to be in the parade. He wanted to do it.



J Jack Valinski 23:08

Yeah, there's another man of firsts. There's another little thing that happened this year was that, and this is another crazy Lee Harrington thing. And I say that with love is that Lee one at the streetlights turned off at the corner of Montrose and West for like a two block area. And you got to realize what the bureaucracy and there's good bureaucracy too. And I just always bad bureaucracy, because the pride committee has lots of bureaucracy, but you have to do that to organize something like this on an all volunteer effort. But he went through the channels rely on energy. And, you know, he talked to the business owners and all this type of stuff. And then Friday, when we met the second, our second meeting with the police department, you know, we talked about this, and they said it's not going to happen. And apparently there was somebody in charge there that they said, you know, our job is safety. You know, this is not something that we you know, it's not that we don't like gay people or something like that. But, you know, we have there's like 80 police officers out there on a night like this.



J Jewel Gray 24:06

And we think everyone went by us.



24:08

I did too. For the last five years I have specifically as I walked past on offer, if I had the chance, I would say thank you for being here because we couldn't do it without you. And



J Jack Valinski 24:19

so going through the bureaucracy, he got it all signed off and got our insurance making sure and then but the police department sort of like you know, for their safety reasons they felt that shouldn't be done even though we said there was going to be more light and we had all this paperwork. It



24:34

was still it was still very effective.

J

Jack Valinski 24:38

to city hall or to a nice Parker's office and like that it was taken care of. And because we have an elected official now we don't try to pull rank. We know we understand that and if the lights were not turned off, it would have been a disaster for the parade. But it is really incredible that we have so many downtown that when there are You know, when we want to work with just like, when the night parade started, it had to be a smaller parade because that's where the ordinance was under a mile for two years, we had that shorter parade. And then we went back to them and said, you know, we, you know, there's no problems, you know, there's been no complaints Can't we go back and they rewrote the ordinance for the pride committee. And also, you know, we also have the banner district, where we have the flags down about four or five, about seven or eight blocks, I guess. And this year, we got a grant from the Hollyfield foundation to continue on with this. But there are only like four banner districts. And you know, in the scheme of things, this is a small thing. But in the city of Houston that has have 1,800,000 people there are only like four banner districts, and two of them are like the city wants to revoke them from them. But so we're basically us and downtown, from my understanding are the only two active banner districts because we do what we're supposed to do in that. And that's all part of pride. I mean, it's part of you know, when you're driving down the street, and you look at this, our city, who was so negative against gay and lesbian people, we remember the referendum that we're able to put our flags up there now. That's fabulous.

Ω

26:12

I think that referendum may have been one of the reasons why Kathy Whitmer. Oh,

J

Jimmy Carper 26:16

it was definitely the reason.

J

Jack Valinski 26:18

The reason, it was you know, and I was there at the time, and I was on the Political Caucus board, and it's something we didn't want to do, we sort of got shoved into and and couldn't stop it when it all in Kathy didn't want it to happen. And the original vote was eight to seven. But when the Klan in the black community basically got to, you know, turn against us. It was just,

Ω

26:39

it became it became a referendum on on gay lifestyle.

J

Jack Valinski 26:43

Right. Right. Not it was it was city employment. Now,



26:47

but that's why I'm saying it was not that wasn't that was the issue setting and the whole name a, you know, it became a referendum on Gala.



J Jewel Gray 26:56

They misrepresented it out completely.



J Jack Valinski 26:58

There's another thing that was going on today. And it's like, you know, we had no part of this, but simply the fact that we got 100,000 people together or something like that to the progressive voter Alliance, I believe it's called. Right? They were cyber all over the place to 200 people. Yes. Register? Yes. It's absolutely that they were they were, you know, putting these names into a list so that, you know, they know, the people who are supportive of our that our rights. And you know, the problem has always been that we don't get our people out to vote yes. Yes. We had a caller.



27:33

Yes, we had a Nina, I'm gonna butcher her last name rent Anita, I think Jack knows are wanting to congratulate jack on the parade, and said you don't take enough credit for it? Well, you



J Jewel Gray 27:45

know, your long job. And I know, yes, job, a real job.



J Jimmy Carper 27:49

I work very hard. But I also have a committee that works very hard, that is passionate about what they do, and are experts at what they do you know, Jack in this city where it's so hard for volunteer service organizations to get volunteers. I don't know how you do it that if you



J Jewel Gray 28:10

get them to perform miracles, and then follow through, on part, yes, people walk in your door, but getting them to commit? Yeah,



J Jimmy Carper 28:17

well



28:18

there's too many people that want to be treated.



J Jack Valinski 28:22

Well, but we also empower people. I mean, we empower people to be able to do things. That's what



J Jewel Gray 28:27

I've always noticed about the prime Committee. It when I went and sat in a few meetings that I've sat in, it was obvious that the whole idea was to empower other people to delegate and to give responsibility. And along with responsibility comes you know, that feel good after that, no, you did your job and your best game together. So I noticed that about the prime committee that not only is it inclusive, that just about everybody who can walk and drag themselves to the door as welcomed.



J Jack Valinski 28:55

Let me just say this, though, we and I'm going to, I'm going to be open about this, there are not enough people of color, and women involved right now. And I don't know how this happened. We have people who quit and moved away and stuff like that. And in July, we are really going to try to start recruiting and this is a call this is a call. And it's not only the pride committee, I think this has happened it happens



29:20

in almost all organization. I know in the transgendered organizations, you know, we will occasionally get a person of color or a Hispanic or an Asian person, and they'll maybe come one or two times and then they're gone. And we can never figure out why.



J Jewel Gray 29:37

Well, I'll tell you why. Because when they get there, there's not other people like them to feel like they're really being included. But the problem is that they get there and they then they want to leave we had that same problem. The switchboard we've had here, we beg for you know, we want to have a you know, a piece of every kind of diversion in our community come in here, but it's hard and



J Jimmy Carper 29:56

you know, we have to get a different mindset. because here we are saying they

J Jack Valinski 30:03

it's us, it's us. I would like to I there's there's we have a board of six now it was nine originally this year. But there's two people that I really, really want to thank one is Troy Christian. Oh, What a sweetheart Troy has been fabulous. I mean, he has made he's put My words into press releases that I don't remember saying. But but he has, you know, from my talking and rambling on sometimes, you know, we put out 20 press releases this year. One of them two, actually, two of them were major that went out to 200 organizations, including the New York Times and The Dallas Morning News and stuff like that. And one of them went on and CD ROM that we had our resource guide and media guide in there. And another one and I have there are so many people, but I really have to thank these two people. The other one is Nick Brian's, and Nick Brian's has he works at the University of Houston, he has broken the barriers of getting corporate sponsorships into our committee without them taking over, of course, but you know, it's opened the door to chase, to open the door to Gallery Furniture, and to open the door to so many of these other things that because it takes money to do this, I mean, you know, we're very lucky that the permit is only about 11 to \$1,200. But it does take money to buy the you know, put the stage up there and do all these other things. But we're still we are still a grassroots organization. And you come to a meeting after two meetings, you have a voting right? Yes, very

∅ 31:33

simple.

∅ 31:34

You have the practice of the cost of of all the police that are involved in that thing, and must be incredible. Because

J Jack Valinski 31:40

it's a parade, which is sort of the First Amendment rights. We do not have to pay for the police participate, pray, pray permits,

J Jewel Gray 31:48

but aren't the police officers that come down here volunteers rather than your assigned to do this, I

J Jack Valinski 31:53

don't know that. And there used to be some problems. But you know. and every once in a while

you'll hear one thing or another, but from my understanding from the community in general, we have no problems, you know, and you know, we always wait the next week to see if there's our letters in the press of people who may have you know, a problem or call in the pride line or stuff like that. And I should give the pride line that number out, which is 712-529-6979. Or the The web address is pride euston.org. And it's not just a pride committee in this this community, there are so many good organizations where you can get involved. I mean, after you saw this parade tonight, don't you want to be part of this community? Oh, yeah. Don't you want to? Yeah, there are so many things. There's a switchboard issue patrol. We had it today. I mean, this is an incredible story. Today, we were having some problems with our radios. And we almost basically told them to take them back because they were so bad. And they still were bad. Shoe patrol was ready to volunteer their radios, I mean, at a minute's notice. And, you know, it's just you know, when you get in a pinch in this community, and you can pick up the phone and say, well, that's part of it. Sometimes you just have to say I need help, you know, I've got against a wall helped me out. And it's amazing. You know, it's amazing what, you know, what kind of response you can get. And it's just like, I was looking at the pride guide that we did this year. And the ken Donnelly was our editor. I mean, he was brand new this year. And I'll tell you, it didn't cost us a penny to do it. But there were some real problems in dealing with the company with their deadlines and all this type of stuff. And he stuck with it and he stocked with it and there was all these false things about when it was going to be delivered and you know, getting the volunteers together and all this type of stuff. But he was an absolute Trooper when it got here three weeks late. He just had these people organized, he had the trucks and they were delivering them and all they were all of a sudden they were everywhere. They were everywhere. There's 35,000 Yes, and it was funny today my good friend Carol Clark and I were walking down the street and every year we put up these trash cans and every year they're these cardboard things and they fall over with the with the slightest bit of wind or a car driving by fast and so all these pride guides are out there we know we're not going to distribute them all and so all of a sudden Karolina look at each other and Carol says well you know if we put two of these pride guides in this trashcan, it will anchor it down. Oh, that's funny. I'm sorry, I'm going on and

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Jimmy Carper 34:29

on. No, please do this. This is you know, it's kind of a tradition now that you come on.

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Jack Valinski 34:35

You know, my friend Joan, you know, I lose friends all the time because I keep putting them to work and put you to work but Joan has stuck with you. Yes. I just can't get rid of Joan. I don't know what it is. Joan does the calendar every week on Monday and Joan helps with the radio show. Yeah. And which happens to be right here Monday night eight to 10 Kpf ti 90.1 FM. Joan helped out this year with the reviewing stand. And another person Ryan rice. I mean, we had I know 26 was there. I know two was there. I know 13 was there. I think 11 was there too, but I didn't see them. I get I think most of them did live shots. And

J

Jewel Gray 35:17

nobody had a helicopter. I saw one really helicopter and that's on news helicopter.

J

Jack Valinski 35:22

I know, we were you know, I know the press. We were in the press. We were in the Chronicle. This week. And, you know, it's the press always hasn't been against us. Part of the problem of getting into the press was that we weren't always doing our job. You know, it's there competing. I mean, you just look at the mail you get or the advertisers you get hit with. I mean, you have to call them up, you have to do a press release, you have to be there on time. And, and that because they got a job to do. And the Chronicle, you know, God when the post, I know you were talking about this when the post, not that the post was this great liberal right thing, but it was but it was, you know, on palumbo work that, you know, was there came out in the paper and all that stuff. The Chronicle has gotten better not just for the pride committee, but for so many other organizations. The write up they did on Tory Williams, oh, wasn't that incredible? Last year, we got all this publicity on the disco ball. This year, it happened again. And it's like, well, that's not really what the publicity is about. This year, they opened up they did this wonderful story on Twitter last Sunday, in the Chronicle half page, and that's it. The pride committee is not just there to try to get press from themselves. We want the story of the community told Tory Williams, you know, real unfortunate thing that Richard reader Hall passing away. And, you know, it's really, really sad when we go on, you know, and now it's all we remembered him. He was still here. Absolutely. And Don Sinclair. Yeah, no, that's who I

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Jewel Gray 36:54

think the Chronicles who spent some time on it, Duncan Sinclair, they may have marched with Martin Luther King, but have been doing this for his whole life, you know, and what he's done with Barry? Oh, yeah, he's turned into one of the premier, Metropolitan. Metropolitan,

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37:11

I will have to say with Don Sinclair, initially, at least when he became involved with PFLAG he was not real trans friendly. No, but he was not no, but he has changed his tune. And I, you know, I respect him for that. But you know, that He's big enough person to admit,

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37:30

well, hey, maybe I was wrong. What it means is that he was big enough to get educated.

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Jewel Gray 37:36

Right. Right. Exactly.

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Jack Valinski 37:38

And, you know, certainly there's things in the community also that, you know, we've learned from the pride committee and radio show. and all this type of thing is that. and we're still a

ways to go. We all do, you know, but it's a learning experience. And it's by being involved in these organizations where you meet people, you know, Phyllis Frey, I mean, you know, what, what a wonderful person and you know, be sure, and I will never, never forget 1987, when her and I were taking the bus from Baltimore, to go to the March on Washington, and we get into Metro Center, and she pulls out that Texas flag, and everybody just starts screaming in a metro station, and it starts vibrating it all with sticks and everything like that. But, you know, if you're learning to it's just like people getting used to game as being people getting used to transgendered people getting used to different types of people. I mean, that's what I love about Euston. I mean, it's absolutely this mix of I mean, where else can you get all these restaurants? Well, that's

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Jewel Gray 38:37

how I see the pride. That's how I see the pride parade and all the events about pride is the coming together, the helping each other, supporting each other, and recognizing the vast web we have all over town everywhere, that, you know, we are in this little niche, and we are in that little niche, and that we are connected. Although this people, these people in this niche do this thing. They're connected by other organizations that they work with and support to the other organizations that they may not even come in contact with. It's kind of like a spiderweb, you know, out everywhere. And it pride time is when it's so when it's most visible. I think it's when it's most visible. It works all the time. I think that at prime time is when it's most visible. And one of the things

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Jack Valinski 39:15

that we are not successful at is we do not have a festival. And we really tried to make the AstroWorld be more than you know, we I think we did a decent job on that. But still, you know, we have all these organizations in the parade. There's so many more organizations, but having a festival which many other cities do where you could have all these groups, get a table and then have people on stage performing, giving a little bit of a political speech here and there, which we used to do in the rally. Yeah, with the night parade. It's hard to start at 1232 All right. Yeah, you can't there's no way having enough