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SPEAKERS

Dennis Spencer, Jack Valinski, Deborah Bell

D Deborah Bell 00:01

And we have another visitor here with us Live at the Star night Nani event. This is Dennis Spencer and Dennis is the president of the Houston gay lesbian Political Caucus. Welcome.

D Dennis Spencer 00:11

Thank you very much.

J Jack Valinski 00:13

So what's happening with GOP see these days are you all like taking a vacation because it's a summer season.

D Dennis Spencer 00:19

Now that you're saying that in jest, because you're well aware that we are in the process of organizing our political endeavors for November general election. This includes not only having speakers come to our general meetings on the first and third Wednesday of each month, but voter registration, we'll be doing block walking, we'll do our and our election news and work the precincts on election day as well as have very good precinct organization.

J Jack Valinski 00:52

Oh, one of the things that was mentioned in the article today in the Sunday post, I don't know if you got to see it. But it mentioned that the mailing list of the gay and lesbian Political Caucus that only a small portion of it is actually in Montrose. Is that true?

D Dennis Spencer 01:04

Well, actually, if you consider 1/3, a small portion has approximately what we estimate that live in zip code Oh, 698 and 19 to the north of Montrose. The rest of our individuals live throughout the city, our second largest ZIP Code interesting love is 56, which is the Galleria post oak area. Okay.

D Deborah Bell 01:28

So around the city, and people that are even outside of Houston can be involved.

D Dennis Spencer 01:33

That's quite true. On our mailing list, not only do we have Houstonians, but individuals live in Harris County, Texas, and numerous cities throughout the nation.

J Jack Valinski 01:44

One of the things that's been said about the game has been Political Caucus, that the screening process is very tough for a candidate to get an endorsement. Is that true?

D Dennis Spencer 01:52

It's, we've been told that it's the best screening process of any political organization in the city. Not only does it include a written questionnaire, but a verbal question period or interview. Some people call it an interrogation. We're very, very interested in the candidates views on gay and lesbian issues. And if they don't come up to our standards, per se, then they certainly don't get the nod or the endorsement of the organization. Now, is

J Jack Valinski 02:20

it only gay lesbian issues? No, we

D Dennis Spencer 02:22

also it's a myriad of issues, because we're the citizens of the city and the state just like anybody else. So we're in taxpayer taxation, we're interested in schools, we're interested in quality of life. We're interested in very, very small things. It's very large things, women's issues and the ecology. So our questionnaire is broad based, though it does specialize in gay and lesbian issues. Okay, well, thank

J Jack Valinski 02:52

you for coming by Dennis, you have a booth here today?

D

Dennis Spencer 02:55

Well, not only a booth, we're very proud to be co sponsors of the star night 90. That's right. We've been working for almost a year in the planning stages and certainly 10 hours a day or 12 hours a day, these last two days, staffing, the tickets, entrances, having our own information booth and the voter registration booth thing is very beneficial. And this being the first is the pilot for a series which I hope will be an annual event. And with the proceeds going to our the building of the Montrose activity centers Community Center for gay and lesbians in all of Montrose. This is something that we've needed for years and this organization should be commended for undertaking such an aggressive and far looking project.

J

Jack Valinski 03:41

Thank you, Dennis Spencer, president of the gay and lesbian Political Caucus. We're here live at Star night 90. And I think it's time to take a little bit of break. Let's let some people know about some other things happening at KPFT and then play a little bit of music and we'll be back. This is KPFT yesterday.

⦿

04:11

When I was a youngster playing house was all the rage. And I always paid a mommy and they all thought it was just us day. And as I grew older still I was to be a lady. Not so I could have a man but so I couldn't have a baby. No, it's kind of strange. Let me explain. The unknown. It's kind of crazy. I got home in the I want to have a baby. Now I like my equipment. I wouldn't traded but I am I traded by nine if I could only be now I don't want to be somebody's I just wanna have a chance to build America love I know it's kind of strange let me explain then no it's kind of crazy I got through Monday I want to have a baby I do it and that's a row the no Playtex bomb your love over me and that the doctors if I could just be pregnancy ready girl well maybe someday we'll make it a reality test to get inside of me everyday loving and gentle

⦿

06:35

men the

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06:42

men these

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06:49

men the



06:57

men the unknown and strange men they leave give me labor pain I got to have a baby. I got Ruhlman, B



07:21

bla



07:29

the men the



07:41

men the



07:57

Have you ever been so overwhelmed by play that it changed your vision of the world have enough speeches by the power of an art exhibit, or seen children's spellbound as they watch their first ballet? Likely none of it would have been possible without grants from the National Endowment for the Arts. But now the arts are under political attack by right wing extremists like Jerry Falwell, Pat Robertson and Senator Jesse Helms. They feel the power that art has in our lives. They want to control art, they want to control freedom of expression. That's why they're campaigning to restrict the National Endowment for the Arts. But if we allow them to silence the voice of the artist, they have silenced the Voice of America. This is Kathleen Turner. Please join me in fighting back. Call or write to your member of Congress today. urge them to support the National Endowment for the Arts. Let them know that freedom for the arts is freedom for everyone.



08:51

This message sponsored by the People for the American Way Action Fund



10:00

I'm feeling we're not in Kansas anymore.



Jack Valinski 10:03

We're certainly not in Kansas This is Houston Texas and you're listening to knh T Pacifica radio

We're certainly not in Kansas. This is Houston, Texas and you're listening to KPR 11, a radio in Houston. This is a special edition of Wildenstein radio, the radio forget about the gay and lesbian community and we're doing live coverage here of the Lesbian and Gay Pride Week. coverage that's happening here at the Metropolitan multi service center. 1475, West Gray, Deborah Bell. We'll be back shortly. But we're here talking about some of the many different events and organizations that are part of the community. Jim Owens is with us now. And he is president of Montrose activity center. Now, we've been talking a lot about the activity center this day. And in fact, some people think there's actually is one right now tell us what Mac does Jim. Mac in a short to you know, short set, really,



10:49

Mac is right now a dream. And it shelters groups in the community to help them deal with C Meyer to get him started and helps them to shepherd along toward their purposes team uses one of those groups, the Gay Lesbian Student Association and University of Houston.



Jack Valinski 11:04

That's a strange one. Why would the Gay Lesbian Student Association at the University of Houston want to be part of the Montrose activity center?



11:11

It helps them to integrate into the grip broader community. And they they're really an independent organization on campus, and apparently organization, our camp on campus, our I think makes perfect sense to affiliate with us.



Jack Valinski 11:24

Okay. And as the organization itself, what does Mac do?



11:29

Mac is an organization that not only shelters other groups, but intends, in fact, to build a community center here for the city of Houston. And we hope to start in a modest way, perhaps even as early as late this year, but we'll see. And eventually to have a community center.



Jack Valinski 11:43

Okay, what does it what would a community center do? What are we lacking here in Houston that a community center might be able to do? One of



11:51

these the community center traditionally does and other cities are a gay and lesbian Resource Center, if you will, ranges from a very small Center, which may just provide a networking function may provide mailboxes, telephone answering services and that kind of thing to community groups. Because Jack is, you know, when a group of five or six people to get together and decide to form a group, whether they're engineers or nurses, the first question to ask is, where are we going to send the mail and whose phone number are we going to use? What newsletter are we going to do? What newsletter what can we use? So we have to provide that function and then they go all the way into range all the way from the small to the very large ones of both coasts, that provide a services include legal, social services, and so on. We don't know where Houston is going to end up, but we certainly want to get on that same road.

 Jack Valinski 12:36

Now the one in Los Angeles has a budget of like \$4.1 million, which is an incredibly big organization. I spoke one time to the executive director who is Tory Osbourne and very impressive person works very hard. And in fact are Tom Coleman from Houston served as their legal director for a number of years. So is that something that Mack maybe someday?

 13:01

We certainly hope so Jack, but I think we're starting a little bit more modestly. The center's evolved depending on the needs in the community and La may need a legal services while Houston in fact, may need a different type of service. So it's certainly going to be built and structured based on the needs here in Houston, Texas. Even as we speak here at this festival, similar festivals are taking place across the country. And in New York City. In fact, they're dancing on the pier this evening. And that benefits the New York Center.

 Jack Valinski 13:28

Well, it made the national news today that the Empire State Building is lit up in lavender colors this past weekend.

 13:34

Yes, thanks to glad they've been working for several years on this. They were successful, as you'll recall, and getting the postage stamp, the postage imprint for Stonewall for last year. And this year, the accomplishment is lavender and the Empire State Building.

 Jack Valinski 13:48

They named part of Christopher Street Stonewall way as a commemorative, which last year was the 20th anniversary of Stonewall, which has very much significance to us. How can people get involved if they're interested in being part of the community center? What can they do?



14:05

They can get in touch with Mac, it's listed in twit, they can give you an address, you can write to a telephone number, you can call five to 91223 Glad to provide you information about Mac right now we really would hope that through starting of groups like Team ustun, you go to Vancouver and glue the Pride week as part of the groups that we shall do that involvement in those groups. In fact, his involvement in Mack



Jack Valinski 14:31

Greg, and this whole event tonight is a benefit for the Montrose activity center. Is that correct? It sure is.



14:36

The festival is in fact a benefit. And moreover, the most important purpose really is for this festival is to provide a sense of pride and worth here and in a very major festival. And I think that we've accomplished that.



Jack Valinski 14:48

It's really interesting because I've been going to some of the primary conventions over the past couple of years. And when I talked about their event, which was a two day events around the parade, and talked about all the booths and the different stuff. They just they had I thought, wow, that's really incredible. And I think Houston has made a good step in copying that and doing it our own way. I mean, getting some of their great ideas, but doing it the Houston way.



15:10

I think you're right check. We've got over 40 community group booths out there. The stage here continuous entertainment for two days, culminating with Thelma Houston coming on the stage this evening, Sandy van opening that act. A lot of wonderful space here with grounds and we've got something else Jack, we got something for the children as well. They're placed, placed swings here. There's a carnival here with adult and children's rights. So we haven't forgotten children. A lot of gays lesbians are adopting and have children and they need a place to take them where they can enjoy it also, and I hope that they'll come on out to the festival this year and in future years.



Jack Valinski 15:43

Great. Well, thank you Jim, thank you for coming by. And remind you if you want to get involved in Montrose Activity Center, you can call the switchboard and they can get you in touch. Thank you Jack, appreciate it. And Deborah Bell is back joining us as she's took a stroll around what's happening well

D**Deborah Bell 15:57**

I was checking out things talking to a few folks and you know, it's not just that the Carnival is here for children because apparently brings out the child in all ages. So there there's a lot of people there are taking advantage of that being here and really enjoying it. The food is full of people munching out on really good food in the community organizations is very full right now. Kind of wall to wall people. The crowds are still coming in to the gates people are coming in to enjoy this final event of Lesbian Gay Pride Week nannay, they're getting ready to present the the awards for the entries in the parade. Letty Victoria Luster, who was for a co chair is here in her finery with all her pearls to show to be one of the presenters,

J**Jack Valinski 16:48**

I hope a strong gust of wind does not come by or she may be the flying

D**Deborah Bell 16:52**

when she has a lovely pink feathered hat and lush chiffon looking pink ensemble. And then Debbie Holmes is in a white Tux with a pink cummerbund and bow tie. And she's the other co chair for the parade. Just an incredible job that has been done by everyone this year on the pride committee. All the events have just been things that we can all be proud of as a community.

J**Jack Valinski 17:17**

W served as co chair of Pride Week for Well, yours, how long ago was that? Memory is sort of last too


D**Deborah Bell 17:24**

soon. It was a year before last it was 87. And 88 was the word the years that I served one year with Bruce raise his co chair and one year with Ray Hill. And it is a joy to be able to do something with where you're so involved in the community. But it's also an incredible amount of work. And, you know, I think that everyone, all of us should take time to be part of putting Pride week together and be part of Pride Week and certainly part of today. Once again, this is our holiday, Lesbian and Gay Pride Day. And there's a feeling this afternoon of comp a family reunion. as I as I went through the crowd, I was thinking as people were saying hi and giving me hugs and things. It just made me think of what a family we are as a community and the friends the friendships that we make. As you get involved in organizations, you find that that's where your friends are. And you tend to that tends to be the people you socialize and do other things with as well. And you look forward to those events that come up because you're gonna see your friends there.

J**Jack Valinski 18:32**

 Jack Valinski 19:02


Well, let's talk a little bit about the history of Pride Week and why it's around and how the all this thing got started 20 years ago, 21 years ago today, or actually it's Wednesday, 21 years ago today, the there was a riot there was a rebellion at what was called the Stonewall Inn in New York City, which was on Christopher Street. And my understanding, of course, all the details is not known that people at that time were routinely rested, because it was not legal to have a bar that cater to gay or lesbian people. And that some of these people, some known as drag queens, were there and tired of getting arrested all the time tired of seeing their names printed in the paper, and they began to riot.

 Deborah Bell 19:10

Well, it was also a matter of the New York Police Department continually raided the bars trying to accuse them of liquor violations. That was what they would go in on the pretense off. But then of course, they would round people up and take them downtown. They published their names in the newspapers, it was outing, long before outing was a term and it was done by people who were not part of the community but who really saw that they were doing something that they were persecuting a whole group of people. And there were several things that were going on that summer. It was of course the time of Woodstock. It was the Vietnam era and it was the day of the funeral, Judy Garland who had been an idol to many gay and lesbian people. And it just seems to be something about that time that made people want to fight back or to stand up. And so it was what is known as the birth of the modern gay rights movement. But it certainly has gone beyond that, that when we're celebrating today, in this week, it's not simply that we're celibate reading some riots from a bar, it has to do that we're celebrating our community, ourselves as a people and our right to love one another. Because that's what it's all about.

 Jack Valinski 20:38


And a lot of gay and lesbian people decided to either buy on their own behalf or because their family break away from their family, some of their family, people rejected them. So we begin to form our own family. So our own friends became our families, and it was a chosen family. And that's why we celebrate, we celebrate Pride week, once a year, and talk about our community, our community of friends and family.

 Deborah Bell 21:01

It's so impressive just seeing the people that were represented in the parade. And some of the people we're talking with this afternoon of what is our community, what is what is comprised by we have gay atheist, we have gay churches, we have gay and lesbian organizations of all kinds, political, religious, social, we have to use an outdoor group, the woman space people are here. So makeup put on a fine event during Pride Week. And I think that one of the things that Pride Week does is to once again remind us about that pride for us to have in ourselves, and to probably give some people a chance to see our community to be visible. And I think probably people I kind of would like to know the statistics, but I'm sure that a lot of people start coming out after experiencing Pride week that they they realize that there is this community.

 Jack Valinski 21:57


And so you know, basically we try to talk to people who are in the process of coming out or may have those feelings or questions and we try to give them some information about it. I wish when I was growing up that there was such a program of this that there was the access to know about what's going on. Stage entertainment is starting Sandy van is up there on stage. But we also have with us one

 Deborah Bell 22:22

of the various themed grand marshals and

 Jack Valinski 22:26

we're gonna put her in the hot seat right now. A nice Parker, welcome back to

 Deborah Bell 22:31

lovely and nice Parker.

 22:32

I'm glad to be here. This is an absolutely outstanding festival. We can we have room for about 20,000 more people on the ground. So well come on out. Come on out, come out. Can I come out?

 Jack Valinski 22:45

Tell us a little bit about serving as Grand Marshal.

 22:48

It was very interesting experience. I had a great time with Walter Carter, who's the other grand marshal,


 Jack Valinski 22:54

you had to compete with his dressing though? Yes.

 22:58

Walter was rather noticeable for someone who's kind of quiet and like to be out front, he is

wearing hot pink, a hot pink shirt and hot pink rubber boots that are just to die for.

 Deborah Bell 23:13

Or to die from looking.

 23:15


They're blinding in the sunlight. One of the duties of the grand marshals is to pick the best theme entry for nonprofit organizations. So after we were at the front of the parade, and so after we got to the end of the parade route, we got to jump out and stand on the sidelines and write the entries as they went by.

 Jack Valinski 23:35

So you want to disclose that to us now.

 23:39

You're gonna have to wait for the official and it's almost gonna happen. Yeah,

 Deborah Bell 23:42

the people are gathering in front of this stage at this time, because Sandy van just announced that they will be presenting the awards and she said, If anyone wasn't here to get it, they weren't gonna get it.

 Jack Valinski 23:55

Nice. You are involved in many different organizations. How did you get so involved? Why do you do this type of thing.

 24:04

I saw I see a need. And I do it. It's really easy to get involved. There's so many places that that people can can plug themselves in. And you can work in long term efforts join organization do things month after month. Or you can participate in a single big event like star night 90 Very intense activity that bring something so wonderful to the community. So there's just a little something that anybody can do. They're always jobs. This festival is using about 150 volunteers.




 Jack Valinski 24:38

That's incredible. I don't know how they were all found. But I am incredibly surprised.

 24:43


I actually we learned a new technique after many years of working with volunteers is that we are paying volunteers but we're not paying the volunteers. We asked organizations to provide us with a certain number of volunteers. And then for each volunteer we are making a donation to that organization. addition from the festival, so it benefits the benefits everybody.

 Deborah Bell 25:05

Great idea. What was the first thing that you ever did that was an involvement in the community.

 25:11


I helped found a lesbian organization at Rice University back in the mid 70s. With Bonnie here ball and a couple of other rice dikes the next organization I belong to I was one of the founding members of the Rice University gay and lesbian support group.

 Deborah Bell 25:28

And that group is still continuing.

 25:31

Yes, the organization is is it's not as active as it once was. But they're a lot more organizations out there now than there were in 1979.

 Deborah Bell 25:38

If they Inklings booth doing well today, I hope they Inklings is a bookstore. A shop for gay and lesbian literature and feminist literature is that 1846 Richmond and you are the co owner of that establishment.

 25:56

Inklings is unique. It's the only business I know of in Houston that is owned and operated by two grand marshals, okie Anderson, my partner's a former Grand Marshal of the Pride Parade.

D Deborah Bell 26:07

About that, how do you feel about I mean, being named Grand Marshal is an honor, it means that you're being recognized by the community for your contributions. Do you have any feelings about that?

i 26:20

I was honored to be named Grand Marshal, I was a little surprised. But it's nice to get some recognition for some of the activities. One thing that there are, volunteer efforts are are activities that always need volunteers. And there there's a place for so many people to participate. But when you take a chance and try to get out front in an organization or for an activity, you never know how it's gonna be received. And I was very pleased that the community honored me as a Grand Marshal. And I guess I didn't make too many. Well.

D Deborah Bell 26:58

You know, in West Hollywood, the grand marshal is Elvira. So here in Houston, we have a much lovely or Grand Marshal.

i 27:06

Thank you. Walter Carter outdid himself. He's our answer to Elvira, the hot pink, whatever.

D Deborah Bell 27:14

You're really put, they'll borrow to shame but then of course, so to you.

i 27:20

The idea of choosing a virus, a lot of fun, but always in this grade, we have taken the role of Grand Marshal very seriously. We have honorary grand marshals, were Craig Washington and Deborah Dan Berger are honorary Grand Marshal has been in terms of the Grand Marshal, we really like to honor people who've given something to community and I'm really thrilled to be chosen.

D Deborah Bell 27:41

I think it's a well deserved honor, thank you. And nice and nice is being called up to the stage as we speak, because they are about to do the presentation of the trophies for the parade.

J Jack Valinski 27:52

So we've got a great view here from the side. We do and

so we've got a great view here from the side. we do and

D

Deborah Bell 27:55

more people have gathered in the lawn in front of the group to hear what's what's going to be presented the beautiful trophies about what

J

Jack Valinski 28:08

can be said. And we may go to the stage and hear a little bit of some of the presentation. But we want to thank, you know, a nice is a very impressive person, she has been involved in so many different organizations.

D

Deborah Bell 28:19

And from an early age. She she's done a couple of radio shows on commercial stations where she talked about her experience of being a lesbian, and is a very wonderful representative for our community. Someone and we certainly are very proud of John Nicks is being called to this Damn, he's co chair, male co chair of Pride Week this year. Johnny Diaz

J

Jack Valinski 28:46

worked very hard this year to get all this. I mean, it's very impressive that what was put together this year, you know, there's over 70 Different organizations in the community, many of them small, but I think almost every organization is somehow representative and Pride Week, whether they put on event, whether they send volunteers and as you know, many people are involved in many organizations, many different organizations.

D


Deborah Bell 29:08


We have social groups, we have aid service providers groups, the Montrose clinic, the Montrose Counseling Center, both are here today. Lesbian Gay rights lobby, of course, his here gay, lesbian Political Caucus, so many people that are involved in the community and who do things and they're not doing it just for themselves. Because if you if you're if you're doing it just for yourself, it doesn't make much of a community and it's all of us coming together that makes it happen.


J


Jack Valinski 29:42


George greediness is up on the stage, along with Deborah damper, Georgia says the City Comptroller and formerly was the the representative from District C, which is the district that encompasses Montrose and some other places. I mean, basically the city districts are made up of pie shaped and they cover both the inner city and the outskirts. Glen Maxey just waved to us and I'm sure he's gonna come over a little while once he gets finished with the stage

 Deborah Bell 30:11
applause for Ronnie Diaz


 Jack Valinski 30:13
has worked incredibly hard as even though she's female co chair she's still up there with her walkie talkie she


 Deborah Bell 30:19
was putting it on, oh my god and celebrate being proud to be gay and lesbian. All right. Proud to be gay and lesbian. Ronnie was out along the parade route still selling tickets to stern i She's still running around.


 Jack Valinski 30:39
This is the part where they're


 Deborah Bell 30:45
talking about the winners, John Nicks is at the mic right now and we're going to try to get a little closer in so we can pick up exactly what's being said. As we as they announced the product. They trophy awards for the parade entries stretching out from the board which seems to be terribly tangled. was with us.


 Jack Valinski 31:16
Brian, we're having a little tangle here. We're gonna take a break. Now you're listening to special coverage by Wildenstein of the events happening here at Star night 90 Play a little piece of music and come back you're listening to KPFT Pacifica Houston?


 31:45
The world loves blue and green and us no care


 31:57
and fraud is


 31:59
Bo Shan V


 32:04
MD

 32:15
harmony


 32:25
and it's the voice it's the voice it's the voice


 32:44
from a distance

 32:46
we

 32:52
know

 32:58
and there are no

 33:06
no hungry mounds

 33:14
we are aware more marching in a coma



33:26

named songs playing songs



33:33

they're the songs



33:41

God is watching us God is watching God is watching us from



34:17

from you



34:22

my friend Yvonne we



34:39

what all these



34:50

money



34:59

and It's It's



35:06

It's every man it is it's the love This is the song



35:41

KPFT Houston.



36:42

not in Kansas anymore



Jack Valinski 36:46

from Pacifica KPFT in Houston This is Wildenstein, a special edition covering the Gay Lesbian pride activities at the multipurpose Center here in West gray and Deborah Dannenberg is talking now on the stage are committed,



36:59

working even harder for



37:00

gay rights. Hope to see all of y'all in Austin next legislative session. Love you.



37:09

On behalf of Houston, Lesbian Gay Pride Week 1990 We thank you for being our honorary Grand Marshal this year, because we appreciate all that you



37:19

do for us in Austin.



37:21

Thank you.




Jack Valinski 37:24


lady victoria loves presenting the award to Deborah Dandridge State Representative 137 Debbie Holmes is now




37:30


turned over to Sandy van who's going to be presenting the trophies to the winners,


 Jack Valinski 37:36
Sandy van from San Francisco entertainers far


 37:38
the most outstanding floats and groves of an extremely outstanding parade. The first prize trophy most original entry, and the winner is


 Jack Valinski 37:55
she's opening the envelope.

 37:57
Oh, two envelopes are Katie and

 Jack Valinski 38:02
Katie and vaguely. Remember the people that were dressed in the spacesuits The trophy is about five feet tall


 Deborah Bell 38:19
they make wonderful pastries and cookies and breads as well as lovely floats won't have to stop by the way Oh, done with Alabama. So ultimately


 38:30
the second award is the Houston trophy. Non professional opening the Houston gay lesbian Political Caucus.


 Jack Valinski 38:46
They were the people who had the reflection mirror that when you look to the future you looked at yourself meaning get involved. Spencer's accepting the award. We spoke to Denis a little bit earlier. Dennis is President again.

 39:03
The Texas trophy best professional flow


 39:12
record

 Jack Valinski 39:13
record was the people who had the flags from all the different states


 39:21
accepting for a red card. John next John

 Jack Valinski 39:24
Nicks is accepting he is co chair of Pride week I'm sure.


 39:37
Now we have the Unity trophy boss nonmotorized unit

 Jack Valinski 39:44
and the winner is

 39:47
garden party.


 Jack Valinski 39:49
Garden Party.

 39:56
Garden Party Debbie homes

 40:01
All of us at the garden would like to thank you. Oh.

 Jack Valinski 40:05

Debbie improvising,

 Deborah Bell 40:07

that traffic's almost as big as Debbie is.

 40:10

Now the trophy best motorized union. What does that non non non float? I didn't bring my glasses

 40:25


gay lesbian switchboard.

 Jack Valinski 40:27

The Gay and Lesbian switchboard. They were the one that had the card. Game has been switchboard was the one that had the car that looks like a telephone.

 40:37

Somebody All right.

 Deborah Bell 40:44


I'm one on one of the switchboard volunteers probably running up to the stage to accept on behalf of the gay and lesbian switchboard who have a community booth here, most of their people are over there.

 Jack Valinski 40:55

And remember that number is five to 930 to 11.

 41:00

Now the two biggest honors first the spirit of Montrose trophy, best interpretation of parade theme by a business goes to Lebo

 Jack Valinski 41:16


logo was the one that had the printing press on there with a paper coming out talking about the freedom of the press logo those ads in the Montrose voice every week with sort of an editorial that they used to talk about issues without being free. Representative Lobo coming up accepting the award and this award presentation a lot of people didn't want us

 41:44

for all the support y'all given us out I have to say all the employees at the store minus myself and my love and learn they built the float themselves. They did it all and we're proud of

 Jack Valinski 41:55

that was Bill White. He was co owner of local bookstore on Westheimer

 Deborah Bell 41:59

course that part also had to to Basset Hounds that are so adorable that if you go into Lobo often they are they're visiting,

 42:06


who would like to take this opportunity to introduce the grand marshals since the last trophy is the grand marshals trophy. We have a nice Parker. Parker just

 42:22

just a little bit earlier.

 42:24

We'd like to present them with a plaque for being our grand marshals this year for decent Lesbian Gay Pride Week parade.

 Jack Valinski 42:33

They shared the stage with us.



42:37

Walter and I would like to thank the gay and lesbian community of Houston for choosing us as Grand Marshal this year. We both put in a lot of hours and a lot of effort on money, a lot of energy into the community. And it's it's nice to get some recognition back. So thank you. And I also I understand that it's in West Hollywood or LA has Barbara as the honorary Grand Marshal. I don't know if you can really see this outfit, but Lazar is our answer to Elvira here.



Jack Valinski 43:09

And of course, a nice is referring to West Hollywood where Christopher Street West is the organization out there



43:15

grand marshals trophy, best interpretation of parade theme, by a nonprofit group. And this goes to I can't read this names project Houston.



Jack Valinski 43:32

The names project Houston, who have panels here at the Metropolitan multi service center, they also office here at Metropolitan multi service center.



43:44

Inside we'll see that they get it.



Jack Valinski 43:47

They're all inside working and sewing. They had the float where there was actually somebody it looked like they were making a panel there.




Deborah Bell 43:54

It's really something when you have what you would have picked, as the winners be the winners of the excellent selections from for this year. All well representing our community and outstanding entries. We have someone else being introduced to us.



Jack Valinski 44:15


Dennis Spencer, who we talked to a little bit earlier. There's a number of people up on stage.

 Deborah Bell 44:20

Yeah, I think they're about ready to go into the political portion of this event because, of course, a lot of what we do, as a community is involved in politics. It's so important, because we have to fight for representation. We have to fight visibility. We have to be working on laws that concern our lives and such as repealing 2106 Texas penal code or whether it be an AIDS bill or the hate hate crimes bill. There are something that concerns all of us. And so we have several people I have noticed I think, Beverly nonprivileged Clark, Sheila Jackson Lee, I think it's over there and a few other people that either or in some capacity as a politician, or who are running for office.

 Jack Valinski 45:04

You know, it wasn't too long ago when a lot of politicians didn't want to talk to gay and lesbian. Right,

 Deborah Bell 45:09


we have George Prineas and Sheila Jackson Lee, Deborah Dannenberg. And it is nice for them to continue. they solicited our support when they were running for office. And now that they are in office, they have not forgotten that

 Jack Valinski 45:23

George Gradius is going up to the microphone right now.

 45:27

It's great pleasure to be out here, this center, which is relatively new, as an addition to the Montrose area. It's also a source of real pride to see the parade the game is the longest one that I've ever seen, the most units and scenery, there are an awful lot of people who come from all over the city to see what the lesbian and gay community thinks of itself. And I think the message that was sent was extraordinarily strong, extraordinarily forceful, and extraordinarily good. I'm proud to be here with you today, to celebrate. And to say that as Houston comes back in the 90s, all of us need to make sure that the lesbian and gay community is part of that progress, and a key an integral element of this community. Thank you very much.

 Deborah Bell 46:13

Wonderful statement by George Grinia says, Say controller. And it's very important for us to recognize that we are here showing our colors as a community.

 46:30

Executive Director of the Human Rights Campaign Fund, which began in 1980, to fight for our rights on a national level. It gives me pleasure to introduce to you now, Mr. Steed, and a quick correction I'm, I direct the field division of the Human Rights Campaign front, I'm not the executive director, I bring you greetings from Washington, DC. You know, I travel all over the country where our job is to generate mail to Congress. And we travel everywhere they're set. They're 70, some Fridays around the country, this mine for Friday I wanted to be in most was Houston pride. And we've had a wonderful time down here despite the hot weather. I've seen a lot of you sign up for our speaker buttons. And I want to thank you for signing up and for making a difference on Capitol Hill. I want to bring one quick piece of information to your attention, though. And that is that a short time ago, an amendment passed in the United States Congress in both the House and the Senate, the so called Food Handlers amendment that allows discrimination against those with HIV. And those were they in food handling jobs as waiters and waitresses, etc. We believe that that will be deleted in conference committee, and then we'll be seeing a floor vote on the Americans with Disabilities Act, including people with AIDS in the next three or four days. Very important. Senator Jesse Helms.



48:24

Senator Jesse Helms is gonna move to reinsert that amendment. Now, as many of you may know, Senator Benson, who votes right on a lot of things, made a horrible mistake we voted against as an a food handlers amendment. It's imperative that every one of you call Senator Benson's office this week, and the earlier excuse me, I'm losing my voice. Earlier in the week, the better urge to support the Americans with Disabilities Act without the hams amendment. Again, I thank you. I salute Houston, Lesbian and Gay Pride Day. It's been a total treat to be here. And I urge all of you continue to speak out and be heard. Thank you very much.



Jack Valinski 49:23

Steven Dean, who is one of the people from the Human Rights Campaign fund out of Washington, DC. He's down here visiting us to drum up some support. And one of the people who represent us in Washington.



Deborah Bell 49:37

You know, George was George graininess was speaking on the fact that often the eyes of the world look at the Lesbian Gay community during this week and how we represent ourselves and present ourselves the way we see ourselves. But also, there's some recognition of the fact that in a way, we're kind of at the avant garde as a community, we tend to be very aware of issues of human culture. Darren's in civil rights. And I think that speaks well for us very well for us. And Dennis, Spencer is once again making a speech to introduce someone. It's Sheila Jackson Lee,



Jack Valinski 50:13

one of our City representatives, representing us on a citywide basis, not a district, Sheila Jackson Lee,



50:22

wouldn't you know that it would take people like to see this facility, and to make it a real good down home fun time, are you having a good time here? I want you to know, you're the first and it looks good and feels good. And that's what community is all about. It's not about who you are, how you walk, where you live, it's about people. It's about making a difference. It's about using resources. This is My Neighbor, but he's also my friend. And I just want to say to you that no matter how far we go, and how high we climb, the most important thing that we need to remember whether we're in city government, state government, whether we're in federal government, is how important people are. And when you start talking about regulation, and who should get medication, you shouldn't be worrying about all kinds of red tape, you should be worrying about lives.



Deborah Bell 51:18

Thank you. Thank you,



Jack Valinski 51:19

Sheila Jackson, Lee, Representative city council,



51:23

I want to say to you that I had the privilege of being at the press conference, when Senator Kennedy in Washington introduced the care legislation. I've been following it. We've offered the city of Houston as a site for the hearings, we haven't been successful. But we're very concerned about that emergency relief legislation. And I'm doing everything out of my office that we can to provide the insight and input to say we need it, because Houston is on the list or city having the most AIDS cases. But more importantly, I think what we need to worry about is that we come together as a community and that city government be responsive. I thank you maybe for the first time publicly for all of the support. I've sent to you the continuing hand a friendship, because I do believe that we will be better as a city. Once we understand that what city is all about what state is all about and what the national government is all about? Just plain old people. Thank you again, so very much. Call on me whenever you need me. Thank you again,



Jack Valinski 52:23

you're listening to live coverage for the Metropolitan multi service center on West gray of the Lesbian Gay Pride Week. 99. Deeper into the political speeches. Right now from the stage, we have a perfect vantage point of seeing what's going on




Deborah Bell 52:36

and we have a nice breeze coming up. It's making it very pleasant. And you know one thing about Sheila Jackson Lee, when she says Call on me if you need me, she means it. And that is something very rare and a politician that she's she's not just a politician for the glory or for her own agenda. She's really someone that's there for the people and makes us feel real proud that we're a community that supported her election,

 Jack Valinski 52:57

who Sheila's has come to the community for support to get elected many years even when it wasn't popular to do so. And she was just recently elected to a city council City Council terms go every two years and there's another election coming up next year. Not this

 Deborah Bell 53:11

year. Coming to the mic is Glen Maxey lobbyists for the Lesbian Gay rights lobby from Austin.

 53:17

last legislative session for us is getting men and lesbians. It was about as hot politically as the weather has been this weekend here in Houston. But I'll tell you why. In 1991, when the gavel goes down in January, we're gonna make it hot again, for some politicians. We need your help to do that. Let me tell you about a few things that you can do. One, we're looking to add 1000 new members to the lobby by January come by our booth, sign up. We're doing postcards. We're gonna put 10,000 postcards on the desk of legislators on their very first day to know that gays and lesbians are here, and we're going to be heard, come by our booth and sign one of these postcards. This fall. The lobby has decided to order the avail Grl has decided that we are going to expand our staff. And we're our goal is by November, you have a lesbian on staff as an openly lesbian lobbyist, the Lesbian Gay rights lobby. On July 28, in Austin on the UT campus, there will be a lesbian gay town meeting where we're bringing together people and individuals, people like yourself to come to town meetings to talk about the goals for our community. At that town meeting, we will make decisions about communicating between organizations between our health care groups, our minority groups, the lesbian groups, the political groups, the religious and non religious groups coming together as a community statewide. And secondly, we'll decide are we going to have another march on Austin in 1991. It'll be decided in July come to Austin and help make that decision. Last but not least, I'm going to tell you about something that's most important for you to do. 1990 November 6, is the most important day for the lesbian and gay political movement ever. We're a 501 C four lobby group. We cannot endorse candidates. But I'm telling you on November 6, you can vote for a person for governor who will make a tremendous difference in our political agenda. I can't say who she is. Secondly, if you want to find a button or information right over here are a bumper sticker for that candidate who I can't name because we can't talk about endorsing candidates. Secondly, there's a rice paddy lieutenant governor, and there's a man who's running for that office. He doesn't live in Houston, the other guy and he is the most important second person you can vote for. The lieutenant governor's office has He has promised us publicly, no negative legislation affecting the lesbian and gay community will ever come to the Senate floor if he is in the chair. So check out with me individually, and I'll tell you who that is or the gay Political Caucus. We'll



56:15

be letting you know.



56:17

And thirdly, look at the US Supreme Court Rice's Linda Morales is going to be here to talk in just a second he's the plaintiff in the challenge to the homosexual conduct suit. Three men are running for Supreme Court justice. They all happen to be Democrats, and they all will vote with us. Be sure to vote in those Supreme Court races, keep the fight keep fighting comes down to postcard.



Jack Valinski 56:43

When Maxine who is the lobbyist for the Lesbian Rights Law, the Lesbian Gay rights lobby in Austin, who is our only lobbyist that works for salary, have other people who volunteer radio goes up sometimes. But Glen Maxey is our representative upstairs spoke to us as he's out there busy getting people signed up to his organization getting people are involved in politics. And politics is very important to this community as we come along the way we suffered some things in 1985 with the the job referendums things that came up in front of City Hall now, Dennis Spencer's continue on announcing, I don't know who's next come up on stage. We'll just wait. Actually, Glen Maxey is sneaking around back here to talk to us. And I'm very happy to have him come by and come into Houston for Pride Day. Glenn, welcome to Houston.



57:35

Thank you glad to be here. It's been a great two days a little hot, but that's the way we like it. We're sweating for gay and lesbian rights.



Jack Valinski 57:42

You get a lot of people signed up and involved in the past couple of days,



57:45

we have probably already surpassed 1000 People who sound pipe postcards that we will put on legislators desk on January 6, when the session starts. That individual involvement is most important when I go in and knock on the door and say, I'm here to talk about lesbian gay rights. They usually look at me and say, Who are you but I'm putting those postcards on the desk.



Jack Valinski 58:05

Now we had a march on Austin a year ago in April, March, March, April, earlier April. And we had a tremendous turnout about 25.000 people. even some of the conservative naners said

had a tremendous turnout about 25,000 people, even some of the conservative papers said that it was that high. And we've got some calls at the radio station right after that about young people not realizing that we had a community out there, and that we had so many people involved and beyond what it did to the legislature and letting them know it also let our community know what's going on.



58:31

Most definitely I've had more comments over the last year of people who saying that I got involved, I registered to vote. I got involved in my local organizations because of that weekend because I finally saw the community, the community with the capital, see that all of us pulling together, whether were political or religious groups or social groups or healthcare groups, education groups, you know, a real sense of community across the state of Texas. I'm really excited to be here in Houston. But I've been in Fort Worth and Dallas and San Antonio, I'm going to Beaumont two weeks going out to Amarillo, where they're starting a gay and lesbian group in Amarillo, Texas, into Lubbock. Group in Wichita Falls group in Denton. Two years ago, three years ago, we're talking about urban, we're talking to you about a state gay community now. And that's really exciting.



Jack Valinski 59:17

I've got a couple calls from Waco, then they're starting something up there. They don't know quite what they want to do. But on the other side of this 25,000 people show up and they do all this stuff in the lobby and they didn't have a lobby day was very successful. But does it also bring a negative side and now that people know that there's chaos out there? Do they get to hate us more?



59:35

Well, there's always a reaction to people flexing political muscle. People who are who are on the other side, legislators and others were a little fearful that they saw all of a sudden 25,000 people on Capitol grounds. That kind of reaction is not natural. In the 60s, the black civil rights movement had that kind of reaction. In the 70s. The women's political movement had that kind of reaction. And and now as we move into the 90s, the gay and lesbian political session, in movement will, does generate some fears and backlash. But each time we do that each time where you are more visible, it becomes easier for our friends to support us and for our enemies to take us seriously.



Jack Valinski 1:00:18

Now, I've heard some people nationally say how lucky we are to have somebody like Glenn Maxi working the legislator up legislation sessions up in Austin, and it must be a very tough job. Yet in some way. We're also ahead of a lot of states because many states don't even have as much as we have.



1:00:34



1:00:34

That's very true. Texas is one of only a half dozen states that has a full time lobby effort for gay and lesbian civil rights,



Jack Valinski 1:00:42

and sometimes that full time lobbyists doesn't get paid. Is that true? That's true.



1:00:47

That's why we sort of go in 1990. To say that we're going to have 19 191 members of the lobby by 1991. We're doing a lot of direct mail right now. Hopefully, your listeners will be receiving a letter from us. Asking to join the lobby or at their organizational meetings will get a leaflet from us. We hope people will look us up, find our membership forms used to get Political Caucus office and other places like that. Get involved, be a member of the lobby.



Jack Valinski 1:01:14

Okay. Well, it's great to have you in Houston and celebrating lesbian, gay pride with us. And good luck and we'll be keeping in touch on what's going on in next session. Thank you, Jack. Thank you.



Deborah Bell 1:01:23

Linda Morales is at the mic right now once again, make you one of her wonderful speeches. And we have with us another guest Deborah Dannenberg State Representative



Jack Valinski 1:01:32

137, which represents Montrose and welcome to our microphones and I know you've been like sentenced to Austin for a long time. And yet, finally, they made the decision. Finally, as Molly Ivan says, Governor, what's his name, finally made the agreement with that. And so what's going on in Austin, we're getting ready for another session next year.




1:01:53

Fortunately, nothing is going on right this moment. Although saying, Well, we're safe for the moment. But unfortunately, a lot still needs to go on. We still have not done what's necessary to comply with the law regarding prisons. So we'll have to go back for a special session on that. The bill that we pass on education, I think is constitutional for about four or five years, but it is certainly not a permanent solution. So we will have to revisit all of those issues.



Jack Valinski 1:02:01

 Jack Valinski 1:02:21

debi let me just stop you there for a minute. You said something very interesting to me. Early on, in my development getting involved in why are we so interested in education, you know, many, most gay and lesbian people do not have children? We do have to pay the taxes for that. But why should we be interested in education?

 1:02:36


It's a good question. I'm glad that you asked it. I think that most first of all, gay and lesbian people are good citizens and want and deserve to be recognized as good citizens. And we all have an obligation to future generations. I think that anybody who thinks that gay men and lesbians do not feel an obligation to a future generation is, is actually slaughtering the reputation of those individuals. Not only do we have a vested interest in future generations, generally there are gay people who do have kids. But in addition to that, all of us need an educated society, a better educated society, a literate society, for our economy to grow generally. I think George Christian might have said it best when he said that one of the reasons the Democrats absolutely have got to start winning occasional presidential elections, is that that is where the policy and the direction of the nation is made. And if we do not have some more victories, then what you're telling, what you're saying is that the poor people who need government most, you know, rich, people don't need government rich people can build their own roads, to their own mansions. But it is middle class, working class and poor people who need government to do those services that we're all committed to do that we all promised to do when we run for office. And if if we don't have Democrats setting those policies, if we don't have middle income and poor people feeling a vested interest in the future, then what you create is an environment in which you have a permanent lower class of unqualified, unskilled workers. And yes, that does give you cheap labor if that's what you want. But that should not be our aspiration. We need to aspire to being better than that. Because what you have when you have a country with a guaranteed permanent underclass of cheap unskilled labor is a third world nation. And I think we all aspire to be being to be more and better than a third world nation.

 Jack Valinski 1:04:37

One of the other things that I always found was very interesting is that you some of your responsibility, you feel the stopping bills from getting passed. Tell us a little bit about that. I'm hitting you with good questions, right?

 1:04:48

Absolutely. Frequently, bills will go rushing through because they've captured someone's imagination or we

 Jack Valinski 1:04:57

wouldn't be talking about the what's happening in the Congress, right? Right now, with the flag, I'm in what way? Well, that



1:05:02

didn't get through did it. But that's a good example. As you probably are aware, Craig Washington was the only vote on the Senate against that bill. And I was the only vote on the House side against that bill. Craig and I both take our responsibilities very seriously. And when we swear and affirm that we will uphold the Constitution, and we know that something is unconstitutional, not only we do not vote for it, we also do everything that we can in our power to stop it. Sometimes that means that we can kill things on points of order. Sometimes that means we can get them assigned to a subcommittee that we chair so that we can kill them single handedly by not holding hearings on them. Other times, it might mean that all we can do is vote against them and immediately help to file a lawsuit to stop them. And I've done that on a number of occasions. And I know that Craig has as well. So one person can make a difference, both in passing things whose time should have already come and gone. But sometimes you just have to move to the next step. And sometimes in killing things. But sometimes that is a lonely or one person fight. Other times, it's a matter of getting as large contingent of people as possible to go along with you.



Jack Valinski 1:06:14

And what's coming up in the next session. I mean, we still have a lot of problems with getting money for AIDS in the States. In some ways, Texas has looked like as a third world country toward concerning health and social issues. And I know you're very much concerned about that.



1:06:27

Absolutely. One of the things that has worked pretty well for us, we got a lot more money, not enough, but a lot more money for AIDS, for example, in his last legislative session, but you can't just rest on that, because we have to have a problem, since we're not capable about spending the problem. For example, I've been working with Glenn, Maxine in the health department, so on so forth, to make sure that we can get the AZT and other early intervention drug money released earlier because of the more recent fundings, but the earlier that people get their diagnosis and get into therapeutic trial treatment and training, the longer they can live with a full quality of life. So it's staying on top of those kinds of issues. And working with the various agencies in the interim being on the Appropriations Committee has been fabulous for me, because they know that not only do I know where every dime is going, or at least I'm supposed to, I do my best to with the limited staff we have. But I know that I'm gonna be there year after year watching that budget, and so that if there is a way to be cost effective, or if there's an issue that they perhaps don't know, as much as they need to, they know where there's a source who's committed to find out the answers, and to work toward getting the money spent as cost effectively as possible. So we can have more people helped with the amount of money that's available.



Jack Valinski 1:07:45

You know, I've heard you have a reputation of being a very hard person to work for, because you're very demanding. And you expect your staff to be very thorough when people call them

up and ask questions, and they get back to you and all that type of stuff. So we certainly appreciate you coming by Being part of the parade today. And talking to us, too, out here on KPFT.



1:08:01

Thanks. Thanks very much, Mike. My staff is wonderful at helping people. So even though you do know that they're ever worked, and it is a tough, tough job. And we consider our constituency to be a lot broader than just the voters in our district. They enjoy being able to help and they enjoy being able to be productive. So don't hesitate to call.



Jack Valinski 1:08:19

Thank you, Deborah, Deborah



Deborah Bell 1:08:20

Dan, for being on Grand Marshal



Jack Valinski 1:08:22

this year. You know, and this type of interviewing doesn't happen at any other radio stations, because usually you just hear a little 32nd bite. But we are able here to Pacific and have the time to be able to go behind the issues and really get involved. And if you like this type of radio, perhaps you should consider contributing some money to keep this type of station going on. Keep this type of public forum that KPFT does have if you'd like to get involved in this radio station, or would you like to help out this radio station, you can call us during business hours at five to six 4000 Or write to us at 419 love it for 19 Robert Houston 77006. And, Deborah, what's happening? Well, we



Deborah Bell 1:09:00

just had Deborah Dannenberg. Now we have another Deb writes a very popular name, such wonderful women habit like Debbie Holmes, who is the co chair of this year's pride parade, and hat now that it's over and done, Deb, what can you say?



1:09:16

That's right, damn, it is over and done. And even though I'm wearing long sleeves and long pants, I say have stayed cool all day. The sun's not out. Really, it's kind of shady. So it could be a lot worse. But I'm just glad that it's over and everything went well. And I'm going to be looking forward to getting more than five hours sleep.



Deborah Bell 1:09:36

But from now on for the first time in many months. Yes, yes. We've



1:09:39

been planning this since last September. It takes many months to get everything out coordinated with all the groups that are going to be in the parade with all the organizers with the businesses with the people making the floats and the list goes on and on and on. When somebody goes to watch a parade they stand by the line of cars and everything and stand there and wait About the floats, they have no idea what goes into planning a parade. And I would love for somebody to just, like go through it once.



Jack Valinski 1:10:08

Well, you did a lot more than just the parade, it seemed like you got recruited to do more things like answering the phones, taking messages, helping out with some of the other committees on there. And I'm really proud of how hard you worked and made this a very successful year.



1:10:21

Well, thank you very much Jack, I'm, I am a people person, and I enjoy working. The fact that Ronnie, my lover, is the co chair of Pride Week has nothing to do with me doing all these extra things. I did retrieve all the messages about information for Pride Week, excuse me, my I really got



Deborah Bell 1:10:40

the impression that y'all were working as a team though. And that was really nice. It was kind of a nice touch to see. Couple of partnership that was doing it as a community activist partnership to you both really involved in MCC er, and you're both you're with the band. So you do a lot of things throughout the year. Anyway,



1:11:00


Ronnie and I like to work together, we like to be a role model for other couples, because we think that there's a lot of misconceptions about what couples should and shouldn't do. And I think it's very healthy, healthy for couples to work together. Running, I work well together and we enjoy working together. And it does bring us closer we can share with each other our problems. And everything works really well. We do work together on the on a lot of different things. And we are very active in the church. And we're always touting something, if anybody will lend us an error, we will tell them about the church or gay pride or anything else that happens to come up.

 Jack Valinski 1:11:35


Well, thank you very much. And there is going to be another meeting in July.

 1:11:39


Yes, there is. And this is going to be the meeting where we kind of critique what has happened. And also thank you party for for like, for example, the businesses that that took in our T shirts, and sold Friday T shirts, koozies and buttons, people that advertised in the pride guide. There's just a multitude of people that we'd like to thank and this is we're gonna thank them at this party. And well, this goes

 Deborah Bell 1:12:03

on till 10 o'clock tonight. So people will still have plenty of time to come over and be part of the festivities.

 Jack Valinski 1:12:08

Yes. And we even have a chance to do that because the broadcast is going to end at seven o'clock tonight. Well,


 Deborah Bell 1:12:13

we have a couple of more people to talk to I think before that BRB band gets cranked up here. Thank you so much, Deb. Thank you. Well, now we have with us Linda Morales Linda was speaking while ago while we were talking with Glenn, Maxie and Linda is the lead plaintiff and the case against the state of Texas 2106 or 21 06. She likes to say that's the section number for the Penal Code of the state of Texas that makes certain homosexual conduct illegal. And would you I wanted to talk to you a little bit about that. And then I also want to ask you a little bit about me, God. Okay, so first of all, explain what the case of 2106 is about, hey, in

 1:12:53

April of 1989, the Texas Human Rights Foundation, which is the organization that is acting as of counsel in this litigation, filed a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of section 21 06 of the Texas Penal Code, which criminalizes the consenting of sexual conduct between two adults. We believe that we can overturn this law on the right to privacy issue, as well as equal treatment under the law issue. Personally, I'm very optimistic about the lawsuit. We have Patrick Wiseman out of Austin, who is the attorney in the case, Patrick is very familiar with the civil rights litigation. And so I'm very optimistic about the case where we are at at the moment in the stage as far as a lawsuit. The plaintiffs have been asked to file affidavits and or submit

affidavits. We have sent those affidavits. And if we get a positive opinion from the Attorney General's Office, chances are the plantas will not have to testify. So we are hoping that that Mattox will issue a favorable opinion concerning our challenge to 21 06.

 Deborah Bell 1:14:05

And that is essentially saying that this is an unfair law and should not be on the books of the state of Texas. Right, exactly. Currently, there's

 1:14:13


24 states in the United States that have a sodomy law, as it's called.

 Jack Valinski 1:14:18

Linda, what was your quote in the paper today?

 1:14:21

Well, when I first decided to challenge the lawsuit, it was sort of my it wasn't my first coming out to my mom, but it was like, okay, sit down. I have something to tell you even though you know, and so I said to her, I'm challenging the state of Texas on the homosexual conduct launch. She said, Linda, do you have to tell the whole world who and what you are, and I said No, just the state of Texas. I will start there.

 Deborah Bell 1:14:46

In a way it is about telling the whole world who we are. I think Quinton Crispo was one of the things he advocated. And as far as a makeup, that's one of the organizations that you kind of were the got the A midwife to you you saw it be born, you keep it going you work on activities with it. You guys had a fun event last Sunday for for everyone, but certainly featuring the music and talents of many Latina women. Tell me a little bit about what omega is. And then what are your feelings about that organization.

 1:15:22

Amiga is the acronym for all Morehead is interested in getting active. And we were created as a support group for let's be honest Latinas also to as a means of promoting Hispanic, lesbian, gay pride within our own lesbian gay community as well. Right now we Amiga has been active in the community for about two or three years, we were co sponsors of the second annual Texas lesbian conference, which was very successful. And we're certainly proud of that endeavor we did with woman's space. We're very proud of the fundraiser we had on Friday. I mean, on Sunday, Father's Day, because normally when you think of Hispanic groups be in Texas, we do things Tex Mex style, this one was a little bit different, we reached out to our other sisters and


brothers who are from other Latin American countries, and presented more of what quote unquote, the word Latina music implies, as opposed to Tex Mex music. So it was a little bit different. And I was really glad for that,

 Jack Valinski 1:16:21

you know, that's one of the neat things about living down here in Houston is really getting to know the different cultures here and be able to share some of that, and we're gonna be talking a little bit about the balay shortly. But, you know, and you all coming out into the community and showing us that there is some differences in the community, that we all have different views on things and our culture's are set up differently. And the gay and lesbian community is really a wide spectrum, but let it get a lot of us don't try to know the differences.

 1:16:46

Exactly. And I think during Pride Week, it's really important that that everyone support the different cultures. I know, I was my first year this year to make the gay atheist event and I was really happy that I was able to do that, because I don't know much about the the atheist culture, or their endeavors and what they're trying to do in the community. And so it was really good to see at our fundraiser, a lot of different people there and people that normally don't come out to our events and support Latina culture. So I was really proud and I'm really proud that you're in Lesbian Gay Pride Week, we have an opportunity to show off the differences in culture within the community.


 Deborah Bell 1:17:23


It's kind of like we get a chance to know each other and, and and having done that we are stronger for it and happier for it. And and I know I feel like I grow a lot through my experiences of being an activist. Are there any parting words, I know you've been really busy this week, because you are a spokesperson for the community because of the 2106 issue and your own activism? Well, just


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what I said earlier, when I was talking to said that you're in this lesbian Pride Week, we cannot forget the amidst all the gaiety that as lesbians and gay men, we have not gained equal status in Texas, or for that matter in the United States. And we have a lot of work to do. And through community effort, we can do it. And so I am optimistic that this lawsuit can be overturned, but it is going to take a joint effort. And so we need everyone's support. How can people be supportive they can call the Texas Human Rights Foundation at their office in Austin, that phone number is area code 512479, T, H, R F. And they can just ask, or they may get an answering machine, I don't know. But just ask how they can be part of a persistent action towards lesbian and gay equality. I want to thank you and Jack for doing a lot of work in the community and for really, including in your program, the diversity of the lesbian gay community, and I appreciate all your hard work as well. Thank you, Linda. That

 Jack Valinski 1:18:41
was a paid political by Linda Morales, thank you, Linda

 Deborah Bell 1:18:45
gets a cold drink for that because it is still pretty warm this afternoon. And she's we've got another person to talk to now another person from the Hispanic community.

 Jack Valinski 1:18:57
Brad is here and last night was an incredibly successful than I guess you're used to this. That was my first experience of being at the ballet. And it was at the downtown height in the Grand Ballroom, the full ballroom, all sections opened up was packed. That's right. And congratulations on that. I

 1:19:13
can't thank you. Well, we just wanted to come out here tonight, today and also be a part of the festivities but same time to let the community know that we are truly grateful for their support for coming out and having a good time with us and celebrating our heritage, our culture and and, and being a part of the community. This is also very proud time for for us. We don't get that many times to come out and be a part of the community culturally and because either being gay or lesbian, and so this for us in the Hispanic community provides us an excellent avenue for that and we, of course are very much a part of the community we had estimates probably a little over 900 people last night. And it was truly at the hi no experience. And we had a really good time. But we wanted to come on here and to to thank all our friends and supporters. Interestingly enough, we had individuals, we had three individuals that flew in from San Jose, California, they had called our information line, which is eight, eight O G. I Hu. And on the recording, it said about the Pride Week in Houston, and they had heard about Pride Week in Houston. And so they decided to, to come out to Pride Week in Houston, and they've been here since Thursday. And they came out Saturday last night to be part of the Beiler. And so we had three individuals flying from San Jose. We had many, many friends from throughout the state from Dallas, from Lubbock, San Antonio, from Austin from Brownsville from Corpus, San Antonio once again, and it was truly united effort in the Hispanic community, and as well as our non Hispanic friends, we are truly grateful to our non Hispanic friends, for being there for supporting us. And it was fun last night.

 Deborah Bell 1:21:12
Well, we thank you so much for all you do in the community, you have another bike coming up in New Years, right?

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That yes, and that's, that's another fundraiser that has become a very popular fundraiser. Last year, we, we took a gamble and had it at the Georgia brown convention center and use part of that facility. And it was very successful. And we're planning on on having it again this year, but possibly in another location. So we'll be talking to the community about that event also.

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Deborah Bell 1:21:43

So if anyone wants to get involved that number, again, is

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it's 880 G L Hu, which is 4548. Also, we'd like to thank both of you for coming out last night it was it was fun seeing all our friends there. And thank you very much for supporting us.

J

Jack Valinski 1:21:58

If you want to learn more about the Hispanic culture in the community and get involved, the number would be sufficient to start.

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1:22:05

Or you could write to GLA to PO Box 70153 Houston, Texas 77270. And you

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Jack Valinski 1:22:14

can get that information from the switchboard. That's correct. Thank you, Brad, thank you very much for coming by. Thank you for having a great event, getting people from all over the state into Houston to see how we work together here as a community. Thank you thank both of you. And Deborah, that means that we're sort of here together again, it is ourselves. Again, we want to thank everybody who was involved in Pride Week this year. And thank the facilities of KPFT Murray allowing us to do this type of broadcast, that we could bring people from all over the state and all over the city who's celebrating Pride Week, how our friends and some of the politicians to that may be our friends who are involved, who's come out here who talked to the community, not afraid to be seen on the press or talk on our microphones, to be part of the game lesbian community to solicit support, and then ask for our support as we ask for their support in helping us get recognition and get some of the civil rights bills passed.

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Deborah Bell 1:23:06

We've had a full 10 days of activities of events from different organizations and sponsorships. We've had phages putting on Torch Song Trilogy, we've had the playing of the movie longtime companion over the Greenway Oh

J Jack Valinski 1:23:19

playing and there was a write up today in The New York Times in the art leisure section talking about it, I didn't get a chance I haven't get a chance to read the paper for three days myself. But I do want to also remind people that in today's Sunday Style section of the Houston post, there's a wonderful article called Pride and Prejudice is that's

D Deborah Bell 1:23:35

what they call it that they say we have a lifestyle, our lifestyle? Well,

J Jack Valinski 1:23:39

it's a very comprehensive article. And what's really neat, it talks about KPFT in there. That is really neat. And his show, which is called after hours, which is heard every Saturday night, Sunday morning between midnight and four talks about him being an openly gay person at the police department who was a dispatcher and talks about being a little bit risque and how we can't as lesbians and gay people usually talk about our our lives, the people we share our love with and our intimacy with

D Deborah Bell 1:24:09

I love that question when you're getting interviewed, and they say, Well, what do you have to tell everybody? And I know that one way to answer that is to say as an oppressed people that we must continue to stand up for our rights and we must stand up for those that are for whatever reason, not in a position to stand up for their rights.

J Jack Valinski 1:24:29

And because we are people that are can be chameleons that we can easily fit in as most people perceived as not gay and lesbian people. So it's very hard for sometimes to identify each other. And so people don't know who we are.

D Deborah Bell 1:24:42

There's a survey results of an interview of a questionnaire called our attitudes towards homosexuality changing as part of the article, Pride and Prejudice in the Houston Post stole section. This is by Clifford q of the Houston Post staff and I know He's been going around the community talking to a number of people. And it's nice to see coverage in the, in the car, commercial press.

J Jack Valinski 1:25:09

Actually, it's been very good the past the past couple of years, the post has done a lot more to

chronicle starting to come around. And there's been a lot of coverage of the International AIDS Conference in San Francisco, which of course, led up to Pride

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Deborah Bell 1:25:21

Week. And I think part of that is because of things like the march on Austin and the March on Washington where we just got together and said, Here, we are taking our stand as a community as a people. And once again, that celebration of diversity of so many different kinds of people coming together as family, having a family reunion once a year, late in June when it's very hot, and flooring our banners with pink triangles and rainbow colored flags, and saying Here we are, and we are so proud.

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Jack Valinski 1:25:54

And also things like longtime companion Torch Song Trilogy, and the Joe Watts effort in the theater we're

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Deborah Bell 1:26:00

still playing that

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Jack Valinski 1:26:03

helps to bring out what we're about what we're all and longtime companion is really a film that scene in our eyes and in gay man's eyes about what's happened in the past seven or eight years, how the disastrous thing and aids we've lost a lot of the people we've known and love, and the people are no longer with us to be part of that community. It's been a tough, it's been tough. It's been very tough. And I want to more than ever thank the people at Pacifica, who let us do this type of programming. We're very happy that the mainstream media is really starting to take a more serious look at the gay and lesbian community. But it was Pacifica and it was the small Alternative Press like this week in Texas in the Montrose voice. That was really the seed of getting the information out. Yes, Pacifica

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Deborah Bell 1:26:43

was there first and continues to be there for gay and lesbian programming and other alternative styles of programming. And we really are appreciative of that have the opportunity to come to you every Tuesday night at 10pm. And to spend a couple of hours with you, bringing to you what's going on in the community and some commentary, some interviews some, some other folks that can talk about what what this community is about.

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Jack Valinski 1:27:11

It was through Pacific that I brought in my cultural talking about acoustic music, I've become a

big fan of the Erwins, Tuesday and Wednesday morning shows unfortunately, both those hosts are leaving us and but I'm sure they will be replaced by somebody who will be equally as good. It may take a little while to catch on. But that's okay. And because of that I went out to Kerrville two weeks ago, and I had a wonderful time listening to some of this, some of this music. And then of course on Friday morning with breakthrough and women's music. I had no comprehension of women's music eight years ago when I started doing this radio show, and really got to like some of the music we heard tonight. And some of the music that we played out in the loudspeakers before he went on the air represents that stuff that's being played on breakthrough, usually, hokey and cherry combine. I guess we just sort of missed them say,

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Deborah Bell 1:27:54

well, pokies probably busy over the Inklings booth, because I think she was letting a nice have her day as Grand Marshal. And since they're co owners, one of them has to kind of be responsible somewhere while the other one that's pretty difficult when two activists are in business together. And, of course, it's really nice to know that part of the KPFT community you notice, we saw a number of people that we know from KPFT around today, either as supporters are who are actually part of the community. And that's really nice. That makes us feel good once again, that since the family is there, there's still so many things going on. It's been an incredible week. You know, I

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Jack Valinski 1:28:34

usually say that KPFT is like a human that works. That's true. That's true. We want to thank everybody who helped this broadcast together. Deborah, I want to thank you for stepping in, because Mary Helen was supposed to do the show, but she got called out on business to go to a Florida for a Pacific radio. And we understand that her duties as being station managers, carries her sometimes things that she'd like to do. She was here on stage yesterday, but Heartsong and so she is on her way, I guess to Florida right now as we speak, covering some meeting for Pacifica, which means that Mary Helen was probably a very important person at Pacifica now, as she fills Jean Palmquist shoes, who has done a wonderful job to choose to fill and want to thank garland Ganter who is taking his Sunday, usually his off Sunday, not only helped run this show on the board, but he helped to the run the show from Pacifica in San Francisco with the sixth International AIDS Conference which Pacific it has done excellent coverage on that.

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Deborah Bell 1:29:35

And of course, we had our after hours delegation in the parade itself. Once again, buddy Johnston and his crew of loonies. Were out representing KPFT and their show and that was nice to see in the parade as well. Just we're winding up there with just a few more minutes. The BRB band is getting tuned up here. So we may be out of here just in time really As we know, they're gonna crank it out worked out a lot better than we had even

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Jack Valinski 1:30:02

plan we have gotten back behind the stage. And we've been able to hear people on the stage and talk to them behind stage. And it was iust reallv luckv because we don't always have the

fancy equipment to do the real, serious remotes that some of the other radio stations do. But sometimes we do it better because we've got very committed people and people who help out doing these things. And then we have a community that really appreciates KPFT

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Deborah Bell 1:30:24

I think that we've served ourselves well this week during Pride Week. 1990 Lesbian Gay Pride week course next year, it'll be gay lesbian Pride Week, because we like to remind people that it is a diverse community of men and women that come together each year, this time of the year, to be visible and to show our pride in ourselves as a community and to celebrate and that's really what it's about. It's a celebration.

J

Jack Valinski 1:30:48

And we're in our closing minute now we just want to remind people that we're on Tuesday nights at 10pm. Coming up this Tuesday, we have David Fowler, who is going to be talking about cure AIDS now. Next week, we have people from the other economic summit toes and you also have sunshine scheduled,

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Deborah Bell 1:31:03

yes, Sunny. So she calls herself Houston sunshine, and she's got a whole agenda of things coming up including self defense workshops for women. So we're gonna be talking about that.

J

Jack Valinski 1:31:13

And we also have Bart Lozier scheduled a week after that to talk about safer sex. And we're hearing a little bit about gay man relapsing how to safer sex. So I think that's a very important thing to, to listen to on our show. But thank you very much for everybody who joined us today. If you want to find out more information about the community you can call the game has been switchboard at five to 930 to 11. If you'd like to get more information about KPFT, you can call us at 526 4000 during normal business hours Monday through Friday. Thank you. You're listening to Kpf T in Houston and this is Jack Valinski , along with Deborah Bell saying goodbye.

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1:31:50

Reflections, black on black.

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1:31:56

The political philosophy

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1:31:58

of black nationalism only means that the black man should control the politics and the politician in your own community.



1:32:07

As you know, psychiatrists always want to understand the why of behavior. Patient comes to my office and says, why Dr. Wilson, am I doing this money that



1:32:17

attracts you? You're not thinking about death to your people. You don't have a social consciousness. You're thinking about them big. Tell him that.



1:32:28

They can't listen to people.



1:32:29

Jesus had your scope. He put it down he said you know God, you won't come in the kingdom and you got to date more than anywhere else. And



1:32:41

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