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SPEAKERS

Suzanne Anderson, Brian Nunes, Deborah Bell, Jack Valinski, Judith Meyer, Cindy Friedman, Juan Palomo



00:00

headlines at the top and bottom of the hour for a quick update on the latest goings on. Stay tuned for monitor radio for national and international news and features all this plus weather traffic column shows and more. World Radio Morning News six to eight weekdays just before BBC on KPFT 90.1 FM



Deborah Bell 00:38

is where I should but I don't belong there. I need like to see much too confining. No air I can't breathe. Well, I can read a map. I know where I'm supposed to be. [No Closet by Jamie Anderson plays]



Jack Valinski 01:28

From Pacifica's KPFT in Houston. This is lesbian gay voices, a show for about the gay and lesbian community on Jack Valinski.



Deborah Bell 01:35

And this is Deborah Bell. She's a lesbian activist and her dad's a big time Republican. She's from Houston. Juan Palomo will have a report on Diane moss Becker, who get will give the luncheon keynote address at the upcoming healing the Heart Conference on hubba Fabia on March 11.



Jack Valinski 01:53

We'll have a report from this way out on the funeral services of author journalist Randy Schultz, who died on February 17, from AIDS,

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Deborah Bell 02:01

who to vote for who to vote for who to vote for Terry Richardson from the gay and lesbian Political Caucus is going to be here to talk about the GRP see endorsements for that election and maybe some things we need to do as a community to be more active.

J

Jack Valinski 02:17

And that means you have to have a pen and pencil because we're going to read down that list and there's a long list. Also our regular features will be music from Mary Helen

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Deborah Bell 02:25

ash tonight she's featuring How did she say let's bold these, which is lesbian old days. Of course news rap from this way out a calendar of events. And Suzanne Anderson will be here speaking out. But first

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Jack Valinski 02:41

first actually, I just wanted to tell you that last night last Thursday, Thursday before went up to Huntsville to visit this damn thing not quite so I've talked to the group up there that there's a game as being group at the college. But first we'd like to wish a lesbian gay voices a happy birthday. We're one year old today.

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Deborah Bell 02:59

Yeah. And so we're going to celebrate by playing mid Christian and Chris Williamson with happy anniversary and that was made Christian and Chris Williamson at live at Carnegie Hall, the 10th birthday celebration of Olivia records, but tonight we're celebrating our one year anniversary here on lesbian and gay voices. And here we have those wild and wooly activists Brian Bradley and Suzanne Anderson speaking out.

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Suzanne Anderson 03:33

Good evening. This is Suzanne Anderson

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03:35

and Pokey Anderson.

 S Suzanne Anderson 03:37

Your not Pokey Anderson your Poker Anderson.

 03:40

I wish.

 S Suzanne Anderson 03:41

We are speaking out tonight for lesbian and gay voices. A gay rights group is calling for a one week boycott of Florida oranges after the Florida citrus commission hired conservative commentator Rush Limbaugh is the products pitchman. Frankly, I don't think one week is enough. And I have tried the Texan orange juice and it's incredible. I like it. I hope I don't I don't know whether I'm paying more for it or not. It doesn't really matter the circumstances apart behind your Lexus. You can afford it right. I'll remember that. They're their boycott is March 12 to the 19th. And it's a result, as I said of them hiring Rush Limbaugh. And if you remember back in 1980, the Sixers commission took off and Anita Bryant because of the boat boycott. So when we scream and yell, sometimes it works.

 04:32

Oh certainly does. But I'm too young to remember all of that. Now actually, I was 15 years old and met a native Brian at the airport in Memphis and said go home, honey, we don't want you to hear nor you tacky juice and she was very frightened. That's probably my first civil rights thing.

 S Suzanne Anderson 04:46

But the wonderful thing is that wasn't the last time though that you talk to her no matter. But we won't talk about how you got on. I think it was an AP or UPI that puts your picture throwing her autograph book an autograph probably Back in her face,

 05:01

it was autographed her. Yeah, it was wonderful. We gave her some California fruit that time we should have give her some Texas where we give her Texas fruit in California in a way. Brian. Oh gosh, there's lots of stuff in the news this week. The Gay and Lesbian Don't Ask Don't Tell don't think don't walk don't breed. Ban started on the second so I'm sure we'll see all the soldiers walking in different way from now. Whatever that may mean, I know this is not really a gay and lesbian thing but I found this in the newspaper and just tickled me to death. There's seems to be a woman in Anchorage, Alaska that has been charged with felony assault for allegedly biting through her boyfriend's penis after she found out that he was cheating on her so I think Lorena Bobbitt has like started a movement. You know, there's body cues and Winnie tosses all over the towns of the country for fundraisers and stuff and the woman just can't be stopped.

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Suzanne Anderson 05:53

It's just addressing the actual problem. That's why I say it. Well, I'm well,

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05:57

yeah. keep forgetting we're on the air.

S

Suzanne Anderson 06:01

And local news you as Representative Craig Washington on Tuesday called on his challenger Sheila Jackson Lee to disavow what he termed as homophobic remarks made by Minister endorsing her in the 18th congressional district care. Among several reasons that way is listed for backing the Council on our Washington's decisions to support a white member of the gay community against a brother owl Callaway. The letter also slams Washington for his effort to equate gay rights with civil rights. Washington said that Lee should disavow the statements. Well, obviously, what came as no surprise to most of us Lee doesn't have the backbone to disavow any statements. One of the problems that I have with Lee is the fact that she is a fence writer, she will come and have lunch with us or dinner and talk to our groups and all but she ain't gonna stand up and make any noise. Her response was, I've already done this. So by suggesting those are harsh words, aren't they? Who I am. And I just want to leave it at that

o

07:08

when she doesn't seem to grasp the fact that we're the one with the major part of the problem, not her. She said that she wouldn't stoop to calling on the black ministers group to apologize or she wouldn't stoop to removing herself from the issue. But folks need to know she filed her candidacy, which I'm glad she did. She has the right to do that, and immediately turned around and stood by the black ministers as they said it. She had an opportunity right then in there to say no, and she didn't. She's a fin setter, like you said, it's very important. Greg Washington is only one of three of our United States Congressman out of 435 that have a 100% voting record. We fight for our own personal lives all the time. I don't care how many kids Craig Washington has by how many women? I don't care what his personal finances are. I do care though, that he has a 100% voting record. And folks have got to get out and vote Tuesday March the eighth if they live in the 18th congressional district for Craig Washington. And there's some statewide races that we're we seem to be ignoring. We have two races, Rene Haas on this Texas State Supreme Court. It's critically important that's where our issues are going to be solved. Papi, North Northcote for the State Court of Criminal Appeals. Those are two very good women that like shared our bone said this week, people that don't know these women are criminally misinformed. So you know, maybe there's not enough time for education, but just go to the ballot box on the second and make sure you vote for Poppy Northcutt. Rene Haase, Greg Washington, among the other people that are endorsed by the HG OPC and otherwise,

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Deborah Bell 08:43

and please note that Thalia Driscoll and Deborah Bell's personal endorsements do not reflect the opinions of the Houston GOP Central Committee.

and please note that that's Brian and Suzanne's personal endorsements, okay, not the opinion necessarily of KPFT.

 S Suzanne Anderson 08:50

We just hope it's the world's opinion or at least the city so that's the way that we'll vote.

 08:54

Does that mean I'm gonna have to pick those big signs down out from the radio antenna now?

 S Suzanne Anderson 08:59

Well, look at that. Did you see Roseanne this week that kiss happened enough of this roll call and made enough noise and it was a wonderful kiss? Brian asked me if I watched it. And I said not once. But three times

 09:12

when Tom is rolling back. I didn't see it. Did the kids make a lot of noise?

 S Suzanne Anderson 09:16

Oh, it was it was just superb. It was what a sexy lady not well, not necessarily Roseanne but anyway, it was it was a very sensuous moment. The two of them together. No. All right. Liberal Austin is poised to become the next national battleground over homosexual rights insurance benefits for domestic partners and just what defines spouse conservative groups Tuesday said that they have 20,000 signatures on petitions to force a May seventh referendum on last fall City Council the station to extend insurance benefits to live in partners of city employees. About 100 employees have signed up for the benefits. They're saying that the Austin That's the partners policy is morally wrong. Well, I

 10:04

thought we had separation of church and state and maybe in Texas we don't know that yet. But it does seem to be in Florida now they're they're getting hold of things I believe it was yesterday, the text of the Florida Supreme Court ruled that all the anti gay ballots that they have on November's ballot were unconstitutional. They found problems with the way the legal brief was written. And they said that it would confuse voters. But more importantly, they issued a judicial opinion that said that the lack of discrimination ordinances protecting gays and lesbians would be a basic fundamental violation of Floridians rights. So other states will perhaps have to take their courage From Colorado's State Supreme Court, Florida Supreme Court, and even Hawaii with the issue of marriage. Understand this weekend, Hawaii, some Christian fundamentalist groups have been meeting with some various folks in saying that, you know, if

you all allow same sex marriages in the state of Hawaii, tourism will bottom out jobs will go and you know, the beaches of Waikiki will just be you know, white and pristine and deserted again, I've lived in Hawaii twice nothing tickles them little blue haired old ladies who are the backbone of the tourism industry than to stop by the queer bars and have a matar within pretty little cute boys, you know, so get over it, folks.

S

Suzanne Anderson 11:22

And on a national level, more than half the members of the House have pledged not to discriminate against homosexuals and filling jobs in their congressional offices. The Human Rights Campaign Fund said 225 of the 435 House members signed anti bias pledges which were returned to the group.

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11:43

As much as we want to, like not agree with what President Clinton has done with the gays in the military and things. Various cabinet members, Henry Cisneros being the first the FBI, the CIA, now, more than half of the US Congressman have instituted protection within their bureaus or their offices. So we're getting there step by step. And we've just got to keep electing the right folks.

S

Suzanne Anderson 12:06

It's gonna happen here, and we're gonna keep sitting here,

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12:09

but I'm gonna be too damn Oh, scared at that, right. But another thing is critically critically important. And this may sound a little bit of a mixed message to folks who have listened to me speak about AZT before, but the NIH this week halted a study that they were doing on pregnant women who are HIV positive half the women, let's say were taking placebo and the other half, were actually taking the AC T at this rate, and about 20 to 30% of the women who give birth, their babies go on to have their own damaged immune system and HIV positive. What early indications show that women that take AZT at the early stages of their pregnancy and a low dose go on to give birth to babies who are not positive. So they stopped the study in the middle of it said it would be inhumane in this compassionate thing to allow it to be continued. And they're now giving it to everyone. So once again, it's critically important to look at the issue that women do not express their diseases the same way that men do. And women don't go to the doctors. But here's one more piece of evidence may not help the woman live longer, but she'll produce a healthy child. And that in turn will probably be a lot less stressful on her and she'll live longer too. So women get to the doctor.

S

Suzanne Anderson 13:24

Hopefully soon we'll segue out of that position that women no longer have AIDS they just die of AIDS

AIDS.

13:31

You know, speaking of AIDS, March the 25th and 26th at the Ramada hotel Astrodome. The sixth annual Houston Conference on AIDS in America is going to be held. A lot of folks like to go to this one as opposed to the international ones because it's this one doesn't cost anything. It's right here in town. It's a lot more relaxed and not harried and busy. But now the time is four again, and if you want to make reservations or have more information, you can dial 9650566. That's the 25th and 26th of March at the Ramada hotel Astrodome in the next days, my birthday, and we'll have a big bird party there. We'll be there bring gifts. Let's let's not forget this this this blew me away. There's a study been done in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, that on an average every four days a homosexual is killed in Brazil. And they broke the numbers down and said 71% of those murdered were male homosexuals. 6% were lesbians and the other 23% were transvestites. So, you know, we do live in a place that's better than than others. That's not to say that we need to accept what it is we put up with but uh, it's unbelievable. Amnesty International. I'm glad is listening. Now they finally added gays and lesbians to their list of folks who are politically persecuted how they go. Killing a queer one every four days is reasonable to look at your political structure.

S Suzanne Anderson 14:56

You've been listening to saving to Suzanne Anderson And Brian broadly speaking out for lesbian and gay voices.

J Jack Valinski 15:03

Well, thank you very much. In our next segment we're having

D Deborah Bell 15:07

an interview between law of non an interview I'm sorry, it's a report by one plomo about Diane loss Becker. She's the Regional Medical chief for mental health in San Mateo County, California. Miss boff Bakker will be speaking Houston on March 11. At the healing the Heart Conference on homophobia sponsored by PFLAG. She recently spoke at the National lesbian and gay Journalists Association Conference in Dallas. Juan Pablo Mo, a columnist for the Houston Post attended the conference and has this report on the moss backer

J Juan Palomo 15:42

be mosbacher is a lesbian and a psychiatrist who is the medical director for mental health in San Mateo County outside San Francisco. If the name mosbacher sounds familiar to most Texans, it should. Moss Bakker is the daughter of Robert masback or the Houston Oil Man who served as Secretary of Commerce in the administration of his close friend and political ally, George Bush. Her brother Rob has run unsuccessfully for Texas US senator and Lieutenant

Governor. Both father and son are conservative Republicans who have never felt any need to distance themselves from the anti homosexual words and tactics of some of the Republican brethren. Yet both men say they have always loved and accepted the most backer even if their political differences strained their relationship at the height of the 1988 presidential campaign. It was during that campaign that the moss backer made a huge splash by talking about her homosexuality in a front page story in the Style section of the Washington Post. Today, the mass backer also says she is once again close to her family. In fact, when she agreed to be the keynote speaker at PFLAG conference on homophobia here. She did so on the condition that it'd be held next weekend so that she could be here for her father's birthday. mosbacher first spoke publicly about her sexuality in 1988, when both she and her father were scheduled to deliver commencement addresses at neighboring California colleges. During a recent Dallas speech to the Texas chapter of the National lesbian gay Journalists Association, she talked about how she approached this subject in her commencement address.



17:24

My father and I had breakfast this morning I said, we read each other's speeches. He would have given mine but he's not a lesbian. I've given him but I'm not a Republican.



J Juan Palomo 17:38

Actually must Becker explains that was her second coming out. Her first coming out took place in 1979 while she was a medical student here in Houston, and she credits a local doctor with pushing her to leave the closet.



17:51

I was 30 years old and starting medical school. In years past, I had been active in the anti war and pro choice movements. I had a bit of paramedic and the Women's Health move as the Women's Health Movement blossomed. Later, as I became aware of I was a lesbian. I joined the struggle for lesbian and gay liberation. But now the 60s were long gone. The seven days were almost over. It was time I thought, to stop my political activism. Go back in the closet, settle down and just study medicine. But after I'd been in medical school for several months, a few things began to make me change my mind. First, there were the homophobic professors whose prejudiced assumptions about homosexuality permeated my medicine and psychiatry courses. I realized that these assumptions were not so materially different from those a number of years past, about people of color or women. Then I witnessed the negative effect of closeted gay administrators and professors. I could see their pain, but their own fear and hatred of themselves, their own internalized homophobia had often mind others, both gay and straight. But third, and most important to me was that there was this one medical student Gary Bruton who, by the way, still practices in Houston. I don't know if any of you from Houston might know him, but I remember him very well. He was a pretty plain guy. He was very farsighted. So as eyes looked huge behind his thick glasses, a soft spoken young Texas gentleman. I must admit when I first saw him, I thought a typical medical school nerd, you know the type, plastic in the pockets, lots of colored pens, neat white lab coats and so on. That was my first tip. on Geary.

Then one day, Gary stood up alone to confront someone's anti gay remark. I was amazed how could he do it by himself with no support. But he did do it. He did it again and again. And soon I realized I could do it too. Gary had made it possible for me to stand up.

J

Juan Palomo 20:26

Her activism led her to produce a slideshow called closets or health hazards, gay and lesbian physicians come out. That slideshow is still being used in medical schools across the country to begin the process of de stigmatizing gay and lesbian sexuality.

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20:43

Now, if students are not able to stand up in their own class, they can bring the voices and images of 16 Lesbian and Gay physicians and medical students into their school as a way of saying to their heterosexual counterparts, that we are your classmates and colleagues and we want to feel safe enough to tell you that Justice she

J

Juan Palomo 21:05

has made a difference in medical school must Baca believes she is making a difference. Now. She says she thinks that her speaking out contributed to the toning down of the anti gay rhetoric of the Republican Party. However, since the 88 election, the anti gay venom of the religious right has intensified. As she stressed during her data speech,

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21:27

we are confronted with an enormously wealthy, enormously well organized Christian Right? I don't need to tell you that here in Texas.

J

Juan Palomo 21:36

The best way to meet this thread, she said is by coming out.

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21:41

I feel I must liberate that title from Sports Illustrated and use it for us here today. Dare to be great. All of us know it takes courage to get out of the closet and to stay out. You've all shared with me that twinge of fear when you wondered in each new situation, whether to be out or not. Yet, almost all of us have done it anyway. And we keep on doing it. You know, one of the things that I heard at the National Gay and Lesbian March that really impressed me was that Plaza mass movement aspect of the March, the fact that we were a million strong in Washington was very powerful. But what was even more had the potential to be even more powerful was that if every single one of the million plus of us went home, and came out to just one other person that we weren't out to, it would have a tremendous effect.

J

Juan Palomo 22:40

The March on Washington and the proposal to end the military's ban against gay and lesbians led to the production and wide distribution by the right of the gay agenda, and other videos that grossly distort what lesbian and gay life is all about. watching those videos, and the reflectiveness must tackle with move to take action to counter their effect.

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23:06

Other videos that have come out, one in particular that came out right after the Gay Agenda is very, is I think, I think directed more toward the converted and is probably meant to be an organizing tool for those, you know, the gays and lesbians who are going to be out there doing the campaign where this is really meant to, to go through the churches to go to the organizers in the states where anti lesbian and gay initiatives are on the ballot, and to be available to as many people as possible to try to I hope to affect some people's thinking about homosexuality, and about homophobia as well.

J

Juan Palomo 23:49

She said she hopes her video which she has titled straight from the heart reaches the people who could benefit the most.

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23:58

Probably mostly the sort of middle class mostly white Christian folks who are on the fence about this. And I think that's a very large segment of the population, people who just don't, don't quite get it. I mean, they're probably some of our parents. I'm taking this home to show the dad for his birthday next month.

J

Juan Palomo 24:20

It would be interesting to watch your father's reaction to the film for it as a powerful piece of work that should affect the thinking of all but the most closed minded. It is characterized by its calmness and lack of hysteria, or fingerpointing, using the words of a number of Americans from all walks of life, who have been touched in one way or another by homosexuality. Most Bakker said she tried to get a celebrity to narrate the film, but she was unable to find any takers, so he settled for a church leader.

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24:51

Hello, I'm Dr. Robert McAfee Brown. I'm here today to talk about an issue that concerns us growing debate about equal rights for Americans who are gay or lesbian. Opponents claim they're unnecessary and label them as special rights. supporters claim they're essential, and

bring up examples of discrimination and violence. You may have strong opinions about equal rights for homosexuals, or you may be undecided. Whatever you think about the issue, there's a good chance you haven't heard the whole story. You're about a number of Americans from different walks of life. These are thoughtful people to face this issue, as we all will someday at home or at work. They've been able to draw on their religious beliefs and their national heritage to come to a new understanding of homosexuality and of themselves. As Americans, one of our most deeply held values is fairness. The question now is whether our commitment to fairness will stay.

J

Juan Palomo 26:14

The most compelling interviews were those were the parents of gays and lesbians from the Portland Oregon police chief whose lesbian daughter is a police officer to the moment couple in Idaho, whose gay son died of AIDS to the African American mother of two lesbian daughters. But the most moving the most touching words were those of Roscoe thorns the father of a young Navy airman named Tracey Thorn, who was kicked out of the Navy last year for disclosing his homosexuality. You may have read his testimony before the military judges, and before a congressional committee in defense of his son and against the ban on gays in the military. But the written words simply don't have the same power as Roscoe thorns southern drawl, as he compares today's treatments of gays and lesbians, to how he himself was trained as a young boy and a young man to be a part of a system that treated African Americans as inferior to whites. Listen to him related particularly painful story about his involvement in segregation.

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27:20

Given that our government is everything. Didn't think it was good I was because I was taught that. And I remember I was working in a drugstore as a registered pharmacist, I was 25 years old. And the drugs to her where I practice pharmacy, with an older man was just down the street from the Baptist Hospital. And we had a lot of medical personnel coming in and out of the drugstore. And one day I noticed a young nurse with a white uniform, come into our drugstore, sit down and thought about it. And I was told by my boss and pharmacist to go over and chase her while she went to the labs to counter. And so I did that. And I was told I went over and said I'm sorry, you're gonna have to leave, you can't stay here. We don't serve comments here at the soda fountain. And she was a beautiful young person. I guess she was about my age, maybe a year or two younger registered nurse, white uniform, beautiful person. And she cried, and she left

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28:38

some

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28:39

issues on an intellectual level, but also really talking, speaking from the heart. And it's funny, I just was at a function with Mitzi Henderson, who's the president of PFLAG the other night and she actually used the same phrase just as part of her her introductory remarks. So I think it's

she actually used the same phrase just as part of her her introductory remarks. So I think it's something that that is is heartfelt, and that's the the approach that we've taken in this particular video.

J Juan Palomo 29:05

Straight from the heart is available for 3995 by writing to 3145 Geary Boulevard, that's GA ry Boulevard, box 421 San Francisco 94118. This is one Palomo for KPFT

J Jack Valinski 29:24

de mas Baca will give a keynote luncheon address at healing the hurt conference on homophobia, march 11, here in Houston. This conference is an educational conference on homophobia for professionals and the general public, presented by PFLAG parents and friends of gays and lesbians here in Houston. For more

D Deborah Bell 29:43

information or to register for the conference called 86790 to zero we will be having special coverage by Mary Helen and Melody Blake up at the healing got hurt conference, and we'll be having that in the weeks ahead on lesbian and gay for SS. And now we're going to go to Mary Helen for some less bold ease won't worry, Helen, what is that? I'm pretty excited

30:07

about that conference. Really, that's something we're really lucky to be having here in the Houston area. It's, it's, I think one of the first of its kind that I've seen promoted in that it really is aimed at professionals, people in psychology and people in the clergy and, you know, professional education credits are being given for attending the conference. I'm, I'm really excited about getting to go and getting to cover it for lesbian and gay voices. So look forward to hearing much more. You know, from from all different angles as that conference comes around. It'll be March 11. So

D Deborah Bell 30:54

okay, but answer my question. You told me you were going to have less folding, right. So what exactly

30:59

is that lesbian oldies? Oh,

D Deborah Bell 31:03

and those are such as well, like you you're well, this is true. A golden oldie.



31:08

Yeah. Anyone over 40 You know that that's also a lesbian. I know. But, hey, maybe you're not a lesbian and you still appreciate Lesbos? Please, we hope that you'll enjoy the music that we have for you tonight. We're going to start off this evening on the musical section of lesbian and gay voices, with Alex Dobkin view from a gay head not a gray head but view from a gay head



31:51

Well, this song is really, I think, a very significant song because I don't think a song has ever been written on this particular subject before. And I think it's high time that somebody wrote a song about this woman because this woman has had I think one of the most important roles in the molding of young women's minds of any group of women except maybe the camp counselor let us not discount the importance of the camp counselor



32:34

however, there was one I think that surpasses even that and that is the gym teacher



32:46

Oh, yes. Yes, the gym teacher



33:02

I already know what to say. I hardly know which gym teacher to pick to tell you about. Well, there was one though. There was one who had a very special place in my heart. And she was my eighth grade gym teacher. And then was Miss burger burger. Are you there? Miss burger. It still yet makes my heart go pitter Pat. I think about Miss burger. I was notorious in the school for my adoration from his burger. But it was okay then because I was you know, what are you in eighth grade, you're 1314 it's a phase. And so it's okay. I have to tell you, I have to tell you a story that is a perfect example of my feelings from this burger. And the way everyone reacted to them. Miss burger had to teach hygiene every six weeks, you know, they take you out of you know, off the court and into the classrooms and make you you know, take hygiene and nobody likes it. Miss Berger didn't like it. We didn't like it. But um, she she used to get pretty excited about various aspects of hygiene. She had this baby blue ruler, whenever she got really excited to start cramming on the desk, you know, this ruler. One day, she was getting real worked up about some. And she went off on the desk. And and I was sitting about two rows back. It was as close as I could get in the rush for front row seats. And she went wham and half of that baby blue ruler went flying into the air and landed somewhere a few rows away on the floor. And

without a moment's notice. I leaped up out of my seat and went crawling on arms and knees over to that ruler and everybody's going you Reading and just as I was reaching out to get it Betsy Norfleet snatched it up

D Deborah Bell 35:11

and put it in her pocket book. And she sold it to me the next day for I got it

35:32

You five

35:39

so anyway, here's a song about my gym teacher is call owed to a gym teacher

35:54

mid Christian from her first album, I know, you know, 20 years ago, that's what lesbian music sounded like. The first one that you heard Alex Dobkin view from a gay head. Nowadays, it's more like this

36:24

switch, switch, switch, switch, switch, firm to

36:29

him off their album, woman to woman and something a little bit very actually modern very much on the pop charts. Now, and for several weeks, I believe it's about number 20 or so. Anyway, a little taste of before and after in lesbian music. And we also have going to feature something very new from a woman who will be joining us next week here on lesbian and gay voices on KPFT. The album is from a local woman who has a very loyal and large gay and lesbian following. Her name is pink. And she'll be joining us next week and telling us a little bit about herself. And here's some of her music. I hope that you will stay around for more of lesbian and gay voices and that you'll join us this week and next week and oh, you know, stick around. I mean, it's you don't have to be lesbian or gay to listen to lesbian and gay voices. You just have to want to learn that's all. And that's what that's what we're all about. Thanks for listening. I'm Mary Helen and stick around.

38:01

Acquaintance

D

Deborah Bell 38:12

Hey, wake up. It's Saturday night at midnight, and you thought it was bedtime? We'll just listen to what you've been missing. The snap queens are in the house ladies and gentlemen, snap your fingers for after hours

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38:31

Jodie Jodie Foster.

♂

38:33

Jody, this is Nancy. You know who this is Nancy for? Don't pretend you don't know who I am. And if you're listening, you know you're listening to after hours a continuing tradition here on KPFT Houston 90.1.

D

Deborah Bell 38:53

This is Sarah G with the gang at after hours, saying if you're queer, we're here Saturday night at midnight to 3am on World Radio KPFT Houston. Learning is for life. Would you like to greet the sunrise in a hot air balloon? Want to learn another language? Or how to decorate your home or train your dog interested in career or personal development? Leisure learning has a class for you. Leisure learning Unlimited is a nonprofit educational organization offering hundreds of leisure time classes and activities. Leisure learnings instructors are experts professionals and hobbyist who have skills and knowledge to share. Leisure learning even has two social clubs. So whether it's calligraphy or computer 71981 for a free schedule. Start your lifetime of learning today. Call 877 90 At one and you're listening to lesbian and gay voices right here on March the fourth, we're one year old anniversary for lesbian and gay voices. And it's brings you the lesbian and gay community as close as your radio. Imagine that we have a lot to celebrate. Yes, we do. And coming up, we're going to have a book review with Judith Meyer from Crossroads market. She's going to be talking about two books consider this home by Greg bills, and true love by Jennifer Fulton.

J

Jack Valinski 40:33

And also in this hour, we're going to have this way out the news wrap program of that show. And a couple of other things, including Terry Richardson from the Houston game has been Political Caucus. We'll be talking about the primary coming up March 8, and of course, our calendar events. But first, here's to his Meyer.

J

Judith Meyer 40:52

Good evening. My first book is Greg Bill's first novel consider this home. It's a story about a rite

of passage that we've all gone through the trip back home. The heroine is Kathleen Kathleen and her son Darren had been living for six years in Las Vegas in sort of a self imposed exile. When calf's mother leaves her father calf has pulled home to Sterling, a little Mormon town in southern Utah. There she faces her family and her past she runs into Tom who is Darren's father camp at a high school crush on Tom. And when he returned, surprisingly early from his missionary venture, he started hanging around hanging out around town drinking beer and smoking dope. Tom and Kath began a passionate affair. She was refreshed by his ability to cry after they made love. When Kath became pregnant, she told Tom who confessed his homosexuality. The next day he disappeared, stunned and shamed. Kathy eventually married Merrill, a religious zealot, whose protection restored her to family and her Mormon faith, but whose increasingly religious zeal frightened her into fleeing for Las Vegas. Now that she's back home instead of recriminations or a plea to get back together, Meryl wants a divorce from cat because he wants to marry her younger sister Julie, who's already pregnant. Part of the fun of this novel and the interesting part is Bill's writing. Greg bills is poetically accurate and evoking parent child relationships all of the the distance as we grow old are the small cruelties the curiosity about lives that we really don't know or they are. For instance, when calf goes back home and first sees her mother, her mother says, Kath, you've cut your hair so short. It looks pasted to your head. Kathy responds nice to see to mom. She wonders about the stories of her parents courtship that had become legend. The Apple story in the outhouse story and Bill Bill's even uses initial capitals when he talks about these stories. It's a it's a really interesting chapter. She looks at her father whose wife of 30 or 40 years has left him and sees a man who's only worried about who's going to do the grocery shopping and pay the utility bills. She thinks if there was ever a passion in him, it was melted. It was liquid metal in a thick mold looking for cracks to spurt from but finding none and cooling, hardening into a gray bar of duty that would never flash or bend or throb with a wild keening ring for the sheer hunger and want of love. The parent child portrait works both ways in this book since calf has an 11 year old son. He sees the mother who lives with him buys his food and clothes but really didn't know or she's just a vast invisible field of force bills right in which love anger and need cluster and vibrate. And on her part, Kath hates herself for not knowing what truths to protect him from and what to reveal. And she wonders what her son is going to think of her in 20 years Bill's rights. A woman who has shut herself off like a light switch. acrid smoke sealed in a dark bottle. Another good part of those writing is a female protagonist. Often when you have a male author, it doesn't ring true but it does here he presents her as a sexual being. Her passion is a natural gift of female adolescence and maturity. Another thing that he gets right is the impoverished life she accepts. So when she marries Marilyn, sort of a second best. He writes about this price that women too often pay for bargains and says there are too many pleasures she did not expect to meet again the joy of freedom of sex of limitless choices. But marriage would put things right for her in the world. She would even love him love would come or she would force it. But she couldn't imagine how she would fill the days. The portrait of Tom the homosexual who fathers Darren is equally convincing. He tells his own story about his growing awareness of and struggle with his sexuality in a very hostile religious environment. When he confesses to his minister and his parents, his predilection, they send him to psychiatric treatment. And there's even a story of electroshock aversion therapy that's pretty horrifying. Bills describes both Tom's feelings for his young missionary partner and for calf when he enters a physical relationship with her and makes us understand why both of these are true for this man. Bill sets his family drama in a small religious town that's familiar. Even if you don't know much about Mormonism. They're small details that really give flavor to a small religious town the women have sort of country religious nicknames Kathleen is k th capital L e n all one word and her aunt is purline. There's ju li ju L E. And one was a little bit hard to figure out Renee ra capital na e. Another detail which really hits a small religious town on the mark is the food all the neighbors bring cats father food in his hour of need. Stuff like a potato dish made with tater tots, peas and

cheese sauce, frozen green beans covered with a layer of bread crumbs, and an eerie bland white chicken casserole. Bill's talent in evoking really familiar situations or relationships is matched by gift for very fresh imagery. He talks about Aunt purline, who has large breasts but whose lower extremities slim down to nothing like a genie from a bottle. Most of the book goes by with the reader just being fascinated by Bill's prose you don't even worry or wonder about where he's going with the plot. Where he does go is a series of events that's reminiscent of Flannery O'Connor, Merrill's religious zealotry Lee's tune in it's foreshadowed by his constant obsession with the story of Abraham and Isaac if you remember that one, when Abraham took Isaac into the hills, but out of this chaos of faith and and family, cap and her son Darren and Tom and his lover already build a real family. That book is considered his home by Greg Bill's next book we want to talk about briefly is Jennifer Fulton's true love. Fulton is the Australian author of two previous night bestsellers, passion Bay and saving grace. This book is pretty good actually. And one of the reasons is that it is not a predictable love story, you know, one of the ones where the character the book ends with the characters making love for the first time, looking forward to a blissful, passionate life monogamous, of course together, all the differences and difficulties of the past 200 pages that kept them apart, have been conveniently forgotten. True love is not a love story. It's about six women friends who meet for dinner every Wednesday night. They talk about their love laws. Now the only two rules I have such have to tell the truth and you can't become romantically involved with each other. Well, of course they all break the rules. Just because this isn't a love story doesn't mean they're in any sex. There's a lot of sex, companionable, cuddling, some fierce role playing and even a lesbian, right? They break the rule about truth to the narrator Rosie wonders what is it about sexual intimacy that engenders this elastic relationship with the truth. Eventually though, the sexual relationships become so tangled that the truth comes out and they all sort of confirm their love and friendship for each other and find out they truly love each other at the end. And now that I think that it is sort of like the love story that ends with the characters making love for the first time and facing a perfect future anyway Fulton writes smoothly she's it's a pleasant read one of the one thing that was sort of left me feeling like I had slipped down a rabbit hole. She describes the efforts of Nicole to attract Julie as including Big hair lycra hot pants and an exotic nipple piercing display by means of a see through blouse. I just that just sort of went over my head. And there's a final chapter about a harrowing event in Rosie's childhood. That seems intrusive. There seems to be some sort of need to gratuitously shove references to child abuse and recovering a lot of novels these days and that just didn't work for me. We have some new books out and some new books out in paperback. You can check the list of these in this week's Houston voice. This is Judith Meyer.

D

Deborah Bell 50:09

And that is over at Crossroads market which Judith is the proprietor. And one of the proprietors are the temperature that she's the manager. And she's the manager, and she can help you with your book selections over there. And thanks a lot. Judith. Are you sure that that second book didn't come out of a group in Houston? I mean, it really sounds like the big Well, no, not just that group and the intertwine relationships and everything. But maybe it's just a lesbian thing. I don't know. monocline

J

Judith Meyer 50:37

Yeah, Mm

D

Deborah Bell 50:38

hmm. So you're listening to lesbian and gay voices. I'm Deborah Bell, and we'll be back in a moment with news wrap.

o

50:49

Rebecca and I went camping, we made camp. We spent some time eating, we were laying down by stream, and all of a sudden there were shots. My arm exploded, Rebecca was hit twice and started to bleed to death. I was tempted to carry her because on successful, the entire walk out of the woods, I believed myself to be hunted. My name is Claudia Brenner. We were identified as lesbians by a stranger with whom we had no connection. He will spend the rest of his life in prison. But Rebecca, who was 28 years old, is gone.

o

51:27

Homophobia can kill. Education is the only lasting weapon against bigotry, which is why the lesbian and gay public awareness project wanted you to hear and think about this message.

o

51:40

For more information write us at Post Office Box 65603 Los Angeles, California 90065.

B

Brian Nunes 51:54

I'm Brian, and I'm Cindy Friedman with news wrap a summary of some of the news in or affecting the lesbian and gay community for the week ending February 26 1994. In Britain, members of parliament voted overwhelmingly February 21 to lower the age of consent for gay male sex from 21 to 18, rejecting a proposal to equalize the age with that of heterosexuals and make it 16. The vote followed hours of heated debate on the amendment which was proposed by conservative party member Edwina Currie to the criminal justice bill.

o

52:34

A young man is old enough at 16 to decide in law to speak with his girlfriend even marry her. And yes, if he is the other way inclined, he is just absolutely incapable of making up his own mind.

o

52:48

What my honourable friend is seeking to do is to get this house to vote to legalize the buggery of adolescent males. If you really think that that's what our constituents are sensitive to do.

 Brian Nunes 52:59

Before Monday night's House of Commons vote of 427 to 162, Britain had the highest age of consent for gay sex on the European continent. The country partially decriminalized gay male sex in 1967, when the current age of consent was determined, and at that time, it was the same for both heterosexual and gay men. Lesbian sex is not specifically mentioned in British law. Since 1967, the age of consent has been lowered to 16 for heterosexuals, while men convicted of violating the age of homosexual consent, can be sentenced to prison for up to five years, Korea's amendment would have changed that

 53:36

my view is not what anybody does in the privacy of their own home business. And it's not for the rest of us to comment and it's particularly not for the rest of us start making them criminal.

 Brian Nunes 53:47

The refusal by Parliament to adopt a common age of consent for both gay and straight men outraged and angered many activists who felt the MPs hadn't gone far enough. 1000s of demonstrators wearing tags Mark 16 converged on Downing Street after the vote, shouting scum and shame on you in front of the House of Commons. They say they are determined to take their case to the European Court of Human Rights. In the meantime, they saved will closely monitor any cases of teenagers being arrested for underage sex.

 54:17

I think this campaign is very important in that is really brought homosexuality into the sphere of most people's lives. Most people say I don't know any gay men in this area, but certainly in a rural area such as mine. It's really helped to change that. Gay men have become visible at

 Cindy Friedman 54:33

the New Zealand Defence Force has opened its ranks to gays and lesbians. A new order from Chief of Defence Staff Vice Admiral somerford deagle has brought the military policy into line with the island nations new Human Rights Commission Act, which prohibits discrimination based on sexual orientation. The New Order outlaws unacceptable sexual behavior, regardless of the genders involved and accept default behavior includes relations between instructors and students or superiors and subordinates, relations conducted openly in communal environments and public flaunting which might damage the reputation of the service. The order states that sexual relations orientation and activities of service personnel are a normal part of adult life and primarily a private matter. And it requires officers to investigate complaints discreetly and with sensitivity and with compassion.

 Brian Nunes 55:22



BRIAN NUNES 55:55

You know, that Mississippi where more than half the town of 400 is actively opposing a lesbian couples effort to set up a feminist retreat center. US Attorney General Janet Reno has sent to federal mediators to intervene. It's a pioneering step because the mandate of the Department of Justice's Community Relations Service does not include issues of sexual orientation, and they have never before responded to such a situation. The Federal Bureau of Investigation had already begun to investigate the situation in ovett, considering it to be within their jurisdiction after the women had received threats in the mail. After intense lobbying by the National Gay and Lesbian taskforce and other gays and lesbians across the nation, Reno wrote, I consider the threat of violence in our vet to be real. I am deeply troubled by the harassment and intimidation of Brenda and Wanda Henson, the lesbian owners of Camp sister spirit, the intolerance and bigotry demonstrated by some of the people in Yvette has no place in this country.



C Cindy Friedman 56:35

The annual court battles about gay and lesbian participation in US St. Patrick's Day parades are over. While Boston gays and lesbians won a permanent injunction requiring that they be treated like any other group and allowed to march. It's a different story in New York City. New York is shelling out \$150,000 As a settlement with its parade organizers, the ancient order of Hibernians after a judge ruled that the Hibernians own the event and that the city had wrongfully interfered to force them to include III go the Irish lesbian and gay organization. They'll go as promised to demonstrate along the parade route, a process which last year led to 200 arrests.



B Brian Nunes 57:21

The physician credited with naming the acquired immune deficiency syndrome has died of it. Openly gay Los Angeles area Dr. Bruce Villar was a leading aids researcher until his death at age 59. On February 22, he selected the term aids as being a more neutral than the earlier term grid, gay related immune disorder. volar was also a founder of a leading US Civil Rights Advocacy Organization, now known as the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, and served as executive director for its first five years.



C Cindy Friedman 57:54

Actor Raymond Burb, best known for his many years on television portraying attorney Perry Mason, died in September and left his substantial estate to his longtime companion and business partner Robert Bennett VTEs. A niece and nephew of bird have filed a challenge to the will, claiming that benefit is exercised undue influence over Uber. None of birth three previous wills mentioned any of his nieces or nephews, and the attorney for the estate was not aware of any contact between birth and his relatives in the five years preceding the death. It'll be at least two months before a court date is set.



B Brian Nunes 58:34

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences has finally turned a 1940 bequest to its intended

purpose, research into the nature of homosexuality and efforts to reduce prejudice against gays and lesbians. Those were the stipulations when Thorsten Amande, Amundson left his fortune to the academy, but the Academy has used the funds to support other research for more than 50 years. The turnabout came after the Amundson family joined the gay and lesbian activists in urging the academy to follow the benefactors wishes. ILGA the international lesbian and gay Association received 40,000 kronor, or \$5,000 us to advocate for the civil rights of lesbians and gays. Another grant will support study of attitudes toward homosexuality in Hawaii, the largest of the new grants 200,000 kronor or about \$25,000 We'll explore a possible genetic link between homosexuality and creativity. Another scientist received 50,000 kronor or \$6,300 to study a possible genetic basis for homosexual behavior among fruit flies.

 Cindy Friedman 59:42

And finally, speaking of fruit, you may not want to rush to drink that Florida orange juice, at least not during the week beginning March 12. The Florida citrus Commission, which in the late 1970s had as its spokesperson and Anita Bryant, who A major campaign against gay and lesbian rights has now chosen to sponsor the syndicated radio program of arch conservative commentator Rush Limbaugh to the tune of \$1 million over six months. Citrus commission spokesperson Ivy Leventhal reported that over the first two weeks of limbaugh's pitching, the Commission received almost 5000 calls, with 53% opposing advertising with limbo and 47% supporting it. Jonathan Bauer of the Arizona chapter of the new US national grassroots organization, gay and lesbian Americans decided to put the squeeze on the citrus growers with a one week nationwide boycott in his words. While the commission may find it easy to swallow limbo, we as consumers find Florida orange juice leaves a bitter, homophobic unAmerican taste in our mouths.

 Brian Nunes 1:00:58

That's news wrap for the week ending February 26 1994. compiled and written by Cindy Friedman,

 Cindy Friedman 1:01:04

follow the news in your area and informed community is a strong community. For this way out. I'm Cindy Friedman.

 1:01:11

And I'm Brian newness.

 Jack Valinski 1:01:26

Yes, and we're back.



1:01:29

Deborah, what was that music?



D Deborah Bell 1:01:31

That was happy birthday by Meg Christian, and we are celebrating on lesbian and gay voices. This is the first anniversary of this program.



J Jack Valinski 1:01:39

We made it a full year.



D Deborah Bell 1:01:40

Imagine that. Yes,



J Jack Valinski 1:01:42

yes. Well, you weren't here for the beginning. But you're hearing for us now. Thank you. It's nice to have you back. And, you know, we will be in future weeks we will be talking about going to New York for Stonewall because that's coming up. But we got some important things to talk about before then. We have a segment from this way out. That wanted to talk about



D Deborah Bell 1:02:04

Fred Phelps is a fundamentalist minister who I don't even know if ministers the right word to use, but he's a preacher who systematically disrupts the funerals of gay men who have died of AIDS and proclaiming the deceased internal damnation. And he brought about a dozen followers to San Francisco to demonstrate his homophobic evangelism at the memorial service for gay journalist author Randy shields, and since Phelps and friends left rather quickly with egg on their faces. This report focuses on the remarks made by some Schultz friends during the services.



1:02:48

As we reported last week, best selling author and journalist Randy Schultz died from complications of aids on February 17, at the age of 42. Fred Phelps is a Topeka Kansas preacher who systematically disrupts the funerals of gay men who have died from AIDS proclaiming the deceased eternal damnation. Phelps told the press that he and his followers intended to demonstrate at a memorial service held for Shelton San Francisco on February 22. We have reports from Glenn reader and Lisa golden.



1:03:28

Close to 1000 people packed the San Francisco Glide Memorial Church with a police estimate of 3000 supporters and mortars crowded outside the church, saying the respect to brandy shelf, shelf wooden caskets stood front and center of the church faith in the light of the church's blue, green and red stained glass windows. As those who knew him paid their respects. Shields worked as an openly gay reporter for the San Francisco Chronicle since 1981. Is colleague David Perlman, Senior Science editor at the paper described to talk shields gave at the close of an international AIDS conference in 1989. He said



1:04:08

to the scientists, their homemade already made uncomfortable many times. You in science are not getting hundreds of millions of dollars in government money, simply because you look so fabulous in your white coats. Any solution to the HIV infection that comes only after most HIV infected people are dead will not be relevant science.



1:04:29

In addition to being a journalist, Schultz wrote two bestsellers about gay and lesbian history, the mayor of Castro Street the life and times of Harvey Milk, and conduct unbecoming lesbians and gays in the US military, in addition to the bestseller and the band played on later made into a movie, which chronicled the first 10 years of the AIDS epidemic. Dr. Salma drittes, who headed the San Francisco Department of Public Health during the early years of the AIDS epidemic, talked about the resistance shields had to overcome in order to get his eight stories published,



1:05:03

it wasn't easy because he had to convince his editor and that editor has convinced his supervisor and the supervisor all the way on up. And then the top would say, oh, no, that's not the kind of thing our readers would like to read. And even after the band was published, we still had resistance through the last 12 years of the administration, the feds and the state and the private conservative organizations dropped and they prevented funding which would have permitted us to find much sooner and effective prevention and effective treatment and effective vaccine. Were the men, the women and the babies, including Randy maybe, who might be alive today if not for their active opposition. In Randy's name I say they have much to answer for.



1:05:56

Dr. Marcus Conant has one of the largest aides practices in the city. Comment laid much of the blame for shields death at the feet of several institutions. Unfortunately, my friends, it is on the very altars of many churches of this land that the homophobia that plagues us is born. The time has come to say to the pharmaceutical industry, no more glossy perspectives. We're interested in cures nonprofits, and to the medical and scientific community. Enough aids profiteering

enough side is stealing viruses from each other to garner prizes. We are not interested in Nobel Prizes. We are facing a virus that kills every single person in its wake. And finally, we need to say to our elected officials, we're tired of one party using this against another party. We're tired of promises broken. We're tired of being used for political advantage. We want to see action, for funding for prevention, for education for treatment, and a vaccine to end this tariff. Meanwhile, outside the church, the crowd of over 3000 mourners who could not fit inside the church waited to confront the much publicized evangelist, Reverend Fred Phillips of Topeka, Kansas, who had announced that he and his followers would pick up the memorial, with placards saying that gay people deserve to die of AIDS. Policing adulting reports that the incident didn't last long.



1:07:33

People showed up for 15 seconds on the street corner about 15 minutes into the memorial, with signs saying no facts and heavy bags, quilt scam and shelf and how there's less than a dozen of them that got there



1:07:52

the Reverend Sisa Williams who presided over the memorial responded to the attempted disturbance by felts he had said a brandy Randy's gonna burn in hell well, brother fell off. Let me tell you something. There's another hill waiting for you. In San Francisco, this is Glen reader.



D Deborah Bell 1:08:28

was wrong.



J Jack Valinski 1:08:55

You're listening to lesbian gay voices here on KPFT. This is Jack Valinski.



D Deborah Bell 1:08:59

And this is Deborah Bell. And we're going to be talking about the primary elections coming up March the eighth.



J Jack Valinski 1:09:07

It seems like election is always in season here in Texas, and you go through one after another after another thought early and often as that's what we say. And in fact, I voted done Tuesday, because you can vote early here in Texas very easily. And they have free parking and all that type stuff. But unfortunately, that ended at seven o'clock this evening. So

D

Deborah Bell 1:09:27

it didn't vote early, but it's too late. It's too late

J

Jack Valinski 1:09:30

to vote early when you have to vote at the real election day, which is coming up this Tuesday

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Deborah Bell 1:09:34

and March 8 is International Women's Day and what I call coincidental every day to make especially if you're a woman, you need to be exercising that right to vote. The polls will be open from 7am to 7pm. The election is to pick nominees of the Democratic and Republican parties for the November general election. Actually, there's two elections, a Democratic primary and a Republican primary with separate polling stations, and in some cases, in cases, different poll locations in each precinct,

J

Jack Valinski 1:10:06

also, there may be run offs for some of these races in the future, if they do not get a particular candidate does not get 50% of the votes. So if you vote in a Democratic primary, you only can then vote in the Democratic runoff. If you vote in the Republican primary, you'll then only vote in the Republican runoff. If you don't vote in the first election, you can vote in either one. So if that isn't complicated enough, we'll make it more complicated.

D

Deborah Bell 1:10:32

The runoff date is Tuesday, April the 12th. And you can vote in any eligible Texan who is registered to vote before February 6. The offices that are up for election is everything from US Senator at the top of the ballot to Justice of the Peace near the bottom, and everything in between races for governor and other statewide offices, all Texas seats in the US Congress and all seats in the Texas Legislature. So it's really going to have a big impact on us here. And it's also a long,

J

Jack Valinski 1:11:01

long ballot. And it's very difficult to try to figure out how to vote for no matter how intelligently you try to do it. Well, the papers did provide a voters guide. I believe the League of Women Voters also do that guide, usually every election time. And there's very lucky

D

Deborah Bell 1:11:18

for us, we have some help to help us make some decisions. And for me some of the best advice

that's coming from the gay and lesbian Political Caucus. And I also look to the information from the League of Women Voters and the Harris County Women's Political Caucus is in the judge races. And that's one reason the ballot is so long the endorsement card is because some of those judge candidates which are in from both parties, but we do have Terry Richardson, who is vice president of the galas been Political Caucus, and she's going to talk to us a little bit about the endorsement procedure of the caucus. Hi,

J Jack Valinski 1:11:58

why should we vote the slate that the caucus has,

1:12:03

because we are members of a disenfranchised cult cultural minority, whose only power on the political process is the power of our vote. And the only way that my one vote can make a difference is to be multiplied by 1000s and 1000s of votes. So the only way that we can really affect any change and move forward with our movement for gay and lesbian civil rights is to elect people who have demonstrated an ability to understand our issues, a willingness to work with us in us coming up with solutions to our problems. And in in to vote in a block in the move as candidates into office.

J Jack Valinski 1:12:46

Let's talk a little bit about how the caucus does endorse candidates. The day

1:12:50

after the filing deadline for candidates. All candidates who have who have paid their money and filed for to be on the ballot in both the Democratic and the Republican election. Get a letter from the caucus inviting them to come screen with us. We generally set up the screening for a couple of weeks down the road from that and screening panels are set up from different members of the caucus, there's a real effort for the for there to be gender parity. parity, as far as political affiliation, Republicans and Democrats are both represented in these screening committees. And there's usually 10 to 12 people per screening committee, each committee screens particular races, for example, one committee might screen all the district court judges so they can get a feel for that we try to have people with some legal knowledge screening those people. And the screening process, the candidate actually has to come in person and meet with with the committee, which is very good, because it not only gives us a chance to talk to them and find out about them. But it may be the only time that any of these candidates actually sit down across the table from you know, 12 lesbian gays in in talk to us.

D Deborah Bell 1:14:04

And they have to be another word they have to be seeking that endorsement. That's



1:14:10

right, we have a rule that they are required to sign a paragraph that states that if they put out a chord listing all of their endorsements, and they are endorsed by the caucus that they will list that endorsement. So we don't we can't run into things where they want to come and use all of our people to put up their yard signs, but they'd rather sort of be in the closet about the fact that we endorsed them. We don't allow that.



J Jack Valinski 1:14:35

Okay, and what are some of the hot races this this time around? Um, well, I mean, they're all important, but there are some real hot race. There



1:14:42

are some real hot ones. I guess the hottest would be the race for district 18. US Congress between Craig Washington and Sheila Jackson Lee, as far as I mean, hot as far as as our issues and a lot of our voters live in district 18.



J Jack Valinski 1:14:58

And what were some of the reasoning to support Craig Washington over Sheila Jackson Lee. There.



1:15:04

There is no good reason not to support Craig Washington. He has been there for us. He has. He has voted. He has 100% voting record by the Human Rights Campaign Fund, which which ranks and rates and puts percentages on all of the members of Congress and issues letters and reports on how they vote. He has a 100% voting record that gave him \$5,000, in fact, correct. Probably about 25% of Craig's money's coming from our community.



D Deborah Bell 1:15:35

Do we have any reason to believe that Sheila Jackson Lee would not have an equal record to Craig Washington if she were to serve in that position?



1:15:47

Sheila has has been a friend of our community for many, many years, and she has demonstrated a willingness to work with us in her years on city council. I think there have been some unfortunate events occur in this campaign that are problematic for me personally, with regard to Sheila. She has sent out a flyer, for example, that had attached to it a cut. She didn't

let me let me clarify that her campaign treasurer, sent this out to members of the Houston Bar Association inviting them to come to a fundraiser. And it attached to that was an article that talked about the black ministers endorsing Sheila. And one of the main reasons listed was because Craig endorsed Jean Harrington, a white gay male in city council, that was a very courageous thing for Craig to do, and he knew it wasn't the politically expedient thing for him to do. I'm a little bothered that she'll has done that she also has the door knocker, the door flyers that she's putting out list that she is in favor of health care for families, children. And I think women it says and there's there's no mention of em HIV or or people with AIDS, or different kinds of families. And that's, that's troubling to when you consider that the 18th District has a very high incidence of HIV.

 J Jack Valinski 1:17:07

What are some of the other races that are really important? Well, the US Senate

 1:17:11

race is a hot race with gymnastics and Fisher Fisher and Mike Andrews, the caucus endorsed gymnastics he's he's a fireball. And you know, he came and screened with us he is absolutely dedicated to equal rights, equal civil rights for all people.

 J Jack Valinski 1:17:31

I also noticed that the 25th district of the US House that Ken Benson was endorsed,

 1:17:36

Ken Benson has not only and he not only answered all the questions right in the endorsement, but Ken Benson showed up for take five fundraisers last fall when we had five openly gay candidates running for Houston city council. He has been a big supporter of our community for many, many years.

 J Jack Valinski 1:17:53

I also noticed that our a couple members of the caucus that are on this card, including Lee Wilson and Bruce Reeves,

 1:17:59

yes. And and Poppy, Northcote is also a member of the caucus, Sam Lee Wilson has been around for a long, long time he he supports caucus fundraisers. He's a member of the caucus. He comes. I mean, he actually comes to caucus meetings. He



Jack Valinski 1:18:13

that should be to know.



1:18:17

Really? Yeah, we're really excited about him running and about being able to have endorsed him this year.



Jack Valinski 1:18:21

So the endorsement card is very, very long, and which is really neat. And there are some Republicans endorsed also on this card. The judge, Judge court criminals appeal place one Steve Mansfield, and Harris County civil court number four, Cynthia crow.



1:18:37

Yeah, I don't think we can, we can stress enough the courage that it takes a Republican candidate to come forward and actually screen with the caucus because they go back to their own precincts and their precinct conventions, and they get a lot of grief for that. That's why we're really encouraging more Republicans to join the caucus, the president of the log cabin, Republicans just did join the caucus recently. And, you know, we've got to get more of our people in into those camps.



Jack Valinski 1:19:04

The other important thing is the down ballot races, the fact that when you go to net that election booth, there are so many people on the ballot, and it's real hard to remember them. And lots of times that people who are elected have nice names like Kennedy or, or something like that. The fact that the caucus does endorse all the way down there. And also there's always been some controversy. Well, can you walk in and take your postcard and do it? My understanding that is if you start voting, you know, you're like, you know, push that Craig Washington first and then open up and brand new your card out of your pocket, there's no way they can stop you.



1:19:37

Now then the push card is is designed in such a way that it's easy to fold. It's easy to walk in in the palm of your hand. You go to your booth, there's not going to be somebody standing over their shoulder watching if there isn't needs to be reported to the election judge



Deborah Bell 1:19:48

and you need to be aware that if this person is not running in your district, then of course

you're not going to have the opportunity to vote for them. One of the races I think this is covers it's one of Those gerrymandered districts but Senate, State Senate District Six and Yolanda Navarro Flores is the endorsed candidate and that race. I think that's who I'm gonna get to vote for. One of the things about the endorsement card is that it sent out melt wise to

 Jack Valinski 1:20:20

11,000 Jackson.

 Deborah Bell 1:20:23

So at least 11,000 Houstonians have this cart. How? How about how do you obtain one? If you're not? Have you haven't already gotten it in the mail is available around town?

 1:20:34

Yeah, it's my understanding that it's being put out tonight in a lot of the lesbian and gay businesses, a lot of the Munch was restaurants will certainly have it, you know, by the end of the weekend. And if anyone wants one and doesn't know how to get one or can't find one they can call 521 1000. That's the caucus phone number, and we'll be we'll make sure that they get on my

 Deborah Bell 1:20:57

publications.

 1:20:59

There it was published in the voice a couple of weeks ago.

 Jack Valinski 1:21:03

Okay. And also, during election day, although I wouldn't say wait till that time, there will be people pushing cards in front of the some of the precincts in Montrose, which includes 34, which is just down the street here at the love it in its 500 Block

 1:21:17

largest precinct in Montrose. You're listening

 Deborah Bell 1:21:19

to lesbian and gay voices. This is Deborah Bell along with Jack Valinski. And we're talking to Terry Richardson of the gay and lesbian Political Caucus about this upcoming primary election on March 8. Let's talk a little bit about the precinct convention. This is usually something that's really hot during the time of the presidential election, and we have the representatives that get voted out of the precinct conventions that then go to the Senate and state levels and possibly even to the national level. How does one get involved in that process? And why should they?

1:21:58

It's very important. And a lot of people don't know about this. But if you hang around after the polls close, or if you go back to the polls at seven o'clock, they they close everything down, get organized, and at 715. The Election Judge calls the precinct Convention to order. This is a time where the delegates and alternate delegates for the state convention are selected in many of the policies that we've been able to get in front of the state legislature have come out of our voices, you know, speaking out in those little precinct conventions around the city.

D Deborah Bell 1:22:34

And of course, the Democratic Party and the Republican Party will each hold separate precinct conventions. And it's very important, maybe even more so in Republican primary conventions, that you go and be involved in this. Another really good reason is that a lot of people won't be doing this people who normally go and vote they don't participate in this, especially during this what they call off your election because it's not a presidential race. And just by virtue of showing up, you pretty much can be guaranteed a slot to the next level. And at that next level, you have an opportunity to get involved in some of the real party politics, such as bringing forth such ideas as a noun, I don't want to use the word quota. But gay and lesbian representation in delegate selection are making sure that the party supports the overturn of 21 06 and other issues such as funding for AIDS etc,

1:23:35

right. And just like the down the ballot races, we can, we can really have the best chance to affect change, because a lot of people don't go that far down the ballot. So if we get 12,000 of our voters to vote for the same candidate down the ballot, we can we can make all the difference in the world in that race at the county at the precinct conventions. The Republicans in Mantrose which have very small Republican turnout in their precinct can, you know, almost be guaranteed, you know, the gay and lesbian Republicans here can really have a voice likewise, there are so many lesbians living out in the sort of the outer limits of the county that that which is very high Republican vote. So you know, Democrat lesbians out there can can have a lot a big voice. Yeah, sometimes

D Deborah Bell 1:24:20

it's scary to go out there and vote. One time I went to vote and I had this person who was pushing straight slate cards and I just looked at her really indignantly and I said, I'm a lesbian. I felt so powerful that she didn't come over dead. But anyway. So what what else is going on

with this primary election? Is some of this setting up for what's going to happen like with the governor's race?



1:24:48

Yeah, the the top vote getter in each of these primary elections will then go on and be on the ballot in November. The governor is on the ballot in November. Of course, everything that the President and one of our senator are the city, right, right, or municipal elections, they're all up for election. So it's a real important time.



D Deborah Bell 1:25:11

And the people that get elected from the primary elected election very often are the people that will hold the seat because that is either a Republican or Democratic stronghold, right?



1:25:24

District 18 is a good example. Whichever Craig or Sheila comes out of there will probably, you know, almost definitely be in Washington.



D Deborah Bell 1:25:33

And I don't think we're totally lost with whoever from that race. Of course, that's the Barbara Jordan seat in the Mickey Leland Seton Hall's, it's very near and dear to our hearts. If you're at your precinct convention, you have to be there promptly at seven o'clock. And the election judge does not call it to order, you can be empowered or another person who has voted that they can be empowered to call that elect that meeting to order. So it pays to be a little bit knowledgeable about Robert's Rules and party rules and you can get that information from the party of your choice. And they gala has been Political Caucus also can help you out there number is five to one 1000. And I imagine that you won't just get a machine during this upcoming week that hopefully there'll be someone there on hand or that they can return your call to give you a call to be returned very gambling. I don't have the numbers for the various parties, other libertarians and independents involved in the gay and lesbian Political Caucus and



1:26:38

I think the caucus runs the gamut. We haven't endorsed any libertarians or lay independents this this time. But I bet they have in the past I don't know. Yes.



D Deborah Bell 1:26:48

And and is the LaRouche people especially now that he's out of prison is that a factor that we should be looking out for?



1:26:55

You've always gotta look out for the loose people especially down in the in what you were talking about the conventions, because that's where they can come in and in almost in a stealth like manner, you know, turn things around. You have to you have to watch out



D Deborah Bell 1:27:07

for them. If you don't know about the precinct convention process, be paying attention now and think about getting involved in the galas been political call for gay and lesbian Political Caucus or one of the other organizations in the community so that we can gear up for the next presidential election.



J Jack Valinski 1:27:26

Well, there's always always elections going on. Terry, thanks very much for joining us, this evenings, perhaps go out and vote even if you don't agree with what was said here. It is important because you can't complain if you don't participate. And let's take a little musical break here. You're listening to lesbian and gay voices. And



D Deborah Bell 1:27:59

diversity is important. We really believe in that here on lesbian and gay voices.



J Jack Valinski 1:28:05

Really important. The election is Tuesday, go out and vote between 7am and 7pm. A lot of stuff going on this week. Please. No excuses, right. The Stonewall group is starting to meet on a weekly basis. And they meet every Wednesday 7pm at 3223. Smith, suite 100. You can call 27206562720656 for more information.



D Deborah Bell 1:28:33

Yeah, that's the local group that's helping in the planning for all the activities that are going to be going on and New York's



J Jack Valinski 1:28:39

and Jeffrey is still playing it stages go and see it.



D Deborah Bell 1:29:42

 Deborah Bell 1:28:42

And word from Randy Joe is that it will not be extended because of commitments of some of the actors and it is excellent. So don't miss it. This is your chance to see some of the best theater we've had in Houston in a long time.

 Jack Valinski 1:28:57

So, you know, the groups meet at the regular times regular places and stuff like that almost.

 Deborah Bell 1:29:04

Lesbian and Gay voices can be heard every Friday from six to 8pm right here in Houston, Texas on KPFT.

 Jack Valinski 1:29:11

It's been fun being here tonight. Again,

 Deborah Bell 1:29:12

if our comments or suggestions our voicemail number is 289 2700 that works if you want to volunteer to

 Jack Valinski 1:29:21

and also if you want to send fan mail that's for 19 Lovett KPFT lesbian and gay voices.

 Deborah Bell 1:29:26

We want to thank all our contributors to tonight's program are too numerous to mention. Stay tuned for off the clock with nursery nursery and esoteric adventures with those wacky Jim Jim squared guys,

 Jack Valinski 1:29:39

but we do have to thank our producer Donna. Yes, we certainly do. You're listening to KPFA audience KPFT ustun This is Jack Valinski And this is Deborah Bell and we'll see you next week with another exciting show.

 1:29:59

Hello

