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SPEAKERS

Mike Miesch, Jack Valinski

J Jack Valinski 00:00

The name of the show is Wilde 'N' Stein. Our aim is to bring a better understanding within the gay and lesbian community. This is Jack Valinski, along with Mike. Nice to join us for the next 90 minutes. Well, it's still summer out there, and it's still bright out at 730 as we start the Wilde 'N' Stein show for this Thursday, and we'll have a lot of things to do tonight. So Mike, what are you up to tonight?

M Mike Miesch 00:36

Well, I have left this a mean, I did. Just really Oh, real pleased with last week's program. I have a little rap about that. I just spent some time in production, talking about the show and volunteerism. And we have the calendar, and I'm gonna sit back and engineer while you do an interview with George Greanias,

J Jack Valinski 01:00

and district councilman, position C for Houston and he has not announced that he's going to be running again. So while we'll be able to talk about things before a campaign years up if he does decide to run again, although we may decide to run for mayor who knows. We'll find that out hopefully find that out is right. And so we have a lot of things to talk about and get some news information and next and we'll be talking next week about streetwise starting with the Greenway, which starts will be from tomorrow. So there's a lot of things going on. So why don't we begin with calendar and get started?

o 01:41

All right.

M

Mike Miesch 01:44

You're listening to Wilde 'N' Stein. And on the calendar tonight gay Asians and friends meets at 3pm August the 11th. For more information, you can contact Asians and friends through the gay switchboard. Gay and Lesbian switchboard, my dad at their new name. Five to 93211 Integrity meets at 7:30pm August 12th. At Adri health which is 60 to 65 main. For more information you can call 5282580. The Montrose art alliance will also be meeting on the 12th and for time and location of that meeting, you can call 8689314 Lesbian Gay resource service, University of Houston meets at 2:30pm August 13 Spindletop room University Center University Park and they can be reached by calling the gay switchboard 5293211 Boyfriends concern meets Grace Lutheran Church on August 13 And that 2515 wall drive for time of this meeting, you might call 4531143. And on the Current River of schedule, movies of interest, August 28 and 29th. Double Feature of biographical films Karawang and burrows. car wax shine at 6pm and 9:13pm to evenings and muros at 7:30pm. August 30th. The hunger with David Bowie Catherine de nerve and Susan Sarah Don showing set 530 and 945 an interesting and beautifully photographed film and September 1 la casa for one and two was showing between 3:30pm to 9:30pm. In coming up in October execution of justice by Emily man on the den wide Harvey Milk We will be showing at ally October 10 through November 10. And for more information you can call the Alliott 2285078. Some phone numbers of interest the National Gay Task Force crisis line is 1-800-221-7044 rural coalition or Waller Sen Gi, capital W a ll er dash, capital V A NTHI. Box 60 611 loom Texas 766. To seven prices unlimited can be contacted by Rod and PO Box 70996. That's Houston, Texas. 77270 are contacting them with switchboard and I believe they've started meeting again. Okay fathers meets on Mondays at the dignity center which is 3217 fennan and can be reached through calling 5280111. The gay Hispanic Caucus can be contacted by calling 8685252 and for information on meetings and time so the gay Political Caucus you can call 521 1000. The gay switchboard Of course, it's 5293211 the gay and lesbian switchboard. Houston gay health advocates heated at 730 the first Saturday of the month, and that can be contacted by calling 7909448. If you want information on the KSA its foundation you can write 3317 Montrose box 115 by Houston, Texas. And of course the zip is 77006 Kshs foundation meets at Saturday between 11am and 12:15pm and can be contacted by calling 52434 to seven Montrose clinic is open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday between six and 9pm. They're at 803 Hawthorne and can be contacted by calling five to 85531. The Montrose Counseling Center which is that 900 Love it. Suite 203 can be contacted by calling 5290037 AIDS Victim Support group meets at 730 6:30pm on Mondays with a women's support group at 7pm on Tuesdays. Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays parents flag can be contacted by calling 4646663 They meet at 2pm The third Sunday of the month at Presbyterian center. Party one would like to stress that if you or your organization has any announcements for Wilde 'N' Stein, please write Wilde 'N' Stein care of KPFT 419 Lovett Boulevard, Houston, Texas 77006 Or give us a call and we'll write the information down KPFT at 526 4000. If you have any comments about Wilde 'N' Stein, any feedback or criticism, please do write us KPFT 419 Lovett Boulevard, Houston, Texas 77006 You're listening to Wilde 'N' Stein and this is KPFT Houston



10:18

KPFT looking for Cajun cooking themes for our big Cajun gumbo cook off. That's on Sunday, August 18. Your host of course is Petey from the pure Cajun music show Saturday mornings. Now the teams will be in two categories, seafood and non seafood. There's a small registration fee. The top five teams will receive trophies and the top three get cash prizes to boot.



10:47

Now's the time to register. All you have to do is call us at 526 4000 to get signed up and asked for Jean Palmquist manager of the radio station. But do hurry before all the spaces get filled at five to six 4000 and then get ready for the best food and music you've ever had. Sunday August 18 from 11 till 6pm at Clear Lake Park on NASA road one call 526 4014 Monday through Friday, and of course live on THON relay let those good times roll



11:22

come down. Guess me Hello, guys, I'm back. And Hans move on again.



11:32

If you think locking people in prison and forgetting them makes you safe, you are wrong. If you think executing people for capital crimes reduces capital crime you are wrong again. Over 2 million people in Texas have been or are in prison. Another 500,000 will go to jail or prison in the next 10 years. The only media devoted exclusively to the discussion of these and other criminal justice issues is the prison program on KPFT FM 90 Houston, Sundays three to five in the afternoon. Listen, support and participate.



12:10

I see that you found a new brand.



J Jack Valinski 12:24

Good evening. This Jacqueline's key with news of interest for a while and stylishness for August 8 1985. Art and action some people hope will make it unprofitable for adult bookstores to remain in the city. The ordinance was adopted several weeks ago after Councilman den Reyes complained about the qualification of adult bookstores in the city and urged the council to regulate them. Rails has sought an ordinance requiring adult bookstores to be a minimum distance to schools and churches. to lobby the council wanted to see to get tough on pornography. But the ordinance does not attempt to regulate locations or publications largely because of the First Amendment concerns. Instead, it requires operators such business to obtain from the Houston Police Department a license to operate them and establishment standards of operation which is violate will result in suspension of license. The ordinance was first proposed two years ago, but on the advice of the city's legal department. They've never reached the council table. But after latest raise issues, Kathy Whitmire ordered the legal department aside its usual caution and to draft the ordinance city attorney Jerry Smith, but today he could not because the First Amendment protection guarantee bookstores that the adoption ordinance can be upheld in court, where he said the provisions of the city ordinance are similar to those upheld in other states. The county justify its action by citing the public health, safety and welfare dangers, such as establishment code, which typically are used for casual sex encounters. The city also maintains at the arcades and currently exit propose

extreme dangers to avoid the city and state officials estimate 47 adult bookstores with about 1200 coin operated Pete show boots exists within the city limits. Under the terms of the ordinance, operators of adult bookstores must obtain a permit within 30 days and maybe see the 90 day extension to bring it their establishment into compliance. The annual fee is \$75. The ordinance requires that all doors and other barriers be removed from all TV show booths so that managers of the arcade have an obstacle of view of the entire arcade. They also establish minimum lighting standards. Councilman George Green has had delayed adoption of the ordinance last week to give the administration time to write identify the sources of the estimated \$116,000 needed to fund the police department enforcement efforts. City fiscal officers identified several funding sources on the program, including \$50,000 anticipated revenue from the fees required to to oriented Police Chief Lee Brown says he will by six officers to the pornography squad in the vise squad division. Normally when someone is stopped by police for jaywalking, he's simply ticketed, not arrested and taken to jail. But such was not the case last week at Studio 13 1318 Westheimer around 2:40am early Friday morning July 26. Six patrons were arrested for jaywalking leaving the club crossing Westheimer to Wendy's and first person was arrested was L Jean Hooper eight Swain who was told by the officer to go back across the street and cross it the right way. I saw what was happening and knew it was being lured into violation witness mess and Michael told TW T used to news observers add that there is no painted crosswalk that marks the pavement ghost off and indicate the right way to cross the street. Harris County constable Jones and club owner Windows network said that they both witnessed nine patrol cars converge on the scene. This is most of the Montrose police forces that are Caledon one of the mayor's officers believes the first patrol car at the scene world into studio 13 parking lots so fast that nearly hit several customers. A second car rushing to the scene across the street at Wendy's rip part of the exhaust system off near high Styria manner in which the police bed to the scene alarm strata. I saw them throw my patrons against a patrol car searched them and handcuffed them and take them off to jail. They clamped handcuffs on so hard my wrist and almost cut off circulation concern Hooper. They even asked me if I was prostituting because they found money on me when I was searched. Although the six men were taken to the police station, they were never actually jailed because that immediately telephone Sergeant chambers told them that they had no right to lock up people on a Class C misdemeanor. Like jaywalking when the law says that such a minor offense requires only a ticket chamber struck that note, as he would tell his officers not to arrest people across Westheimer at that intersection, chambers dental all six of the arresting men returned to nearby mobile service station, saving them a night in jail. TW T news and Houston was told that they hired attorney Steven Kaiser so that Studios 13 could file on behalf each patron at a civil suit charging police harassment. Clearly my patrons were being singled out because they were both gay and Black can spear an eighth Councilman George greenies. Visit the club over the weekend to get details of the incident. Spiritual stood about that the sergeant from the police department would also be checking the metal personally HTPC race Hills also that investigating the case because the ramifications of plasmid have a minority. Interesting the next night there is no duress arrested any young white straight teenagers includes Westheimer bumper to bumper while drinking underage jaywalking and running in between cars to make their dope deals. rate of increase in AIDS cases appears to have leveled off and used it say health officials and leaders of the Kshs Foundation have used it. But the number of cases continue to climb, straining the ability of social service agencies to deal with Michael Wilson, president of the Kshs foundation society as the number of cases of AIDS continues to grow, there will be continued need for public education about the disease. He said there was also a need to expand the program to help those suffering from AIDS. Dr. Gordon Reed chief dental ologists and City Health Department said that since the middle of 1983, the number of AIDS cases has leveled off to about 30 confirmed cases every three months. But he pointed out that even though the rate of increase is not changing dramatically. The number of cases are growing. Houston is now

fifth in the nation of number of AIDS cases reported as of July 1, the city health department has confirmed 314 AIDS cases in the Houston standard Metropolitan Statistical Area, which includes houston and harris county. In summary for Penn disorient liberty and Waller counties. Of those 179 AIDS victims have died. included the July report was the area's first child aids victims, a three year old girl who probably contracted AIDS and numerous blood transfusions, which she received at birth, a child died in May, for instance, other children who might have AIDS are being studied for the disease has not been confirmed on them. Also in the July report, was a 32 year old woman who contracted AIDS and sexual contact with a male drug abuser, she is still alive. To draw report off included 282 or 89.9% of the total AIDS cases homosexual or bisexual AIDS cases, eight IV drug abusers, two transfusion related cases one heterosexual transmitted disease case and 21 cases for which no risk group was identified. Wilson noted that the percentage of cases of male homosexual had dropped below 90% Houston for the first time. He said this should indicate that others in the population that they are also at risk in the disease, however, reads a further investigation. We'll probably put some of those with no risk groups that is now in the homosexual group. He predicted that the percentage would again rise to about 90% next month. The risk of divorce The age varies among groups. Although it is primarily a sexually transmitted disease of those who have only one sexual partner in the past five years, the risk of developing AIDS is low as long as the partner has no other sexual contact. So children, social worker who was educated specialist in the Kshs Foundation, many factors that contribute to leveling off the rate of increase of AIDS here, education is a way of avoiding spread of AIDS virus is one of them, and Wilson said it will continue to be important limiting the number of cases in the disease. The KSA Foundation is a major educator in the field. Wilson said the group's effort in the area may be limited, however, by lack of funds. He said that the Kansas AIDS Foundation is deeply involved in providing assistance to people with AIDS, many of whom need help in paying their rent or just buying groceries. In addition, the foundation also runs a house called the maca Dori house for AIDS victims, where people have nowhere else to go. Wilson estimated cost \$300,000 to keep the program going next year, so far requesting help from other local agencies have gone unheeded. A grant request in the United Way was turned down without explanation Wilson said. He said the group will ask United Way for help again next year. And he said he will continue to try to raise money money to find the case AIDS Foundation, the Gulf Coast Regional Blood Center beginning to notify people whose aids blood tests are positive. A screening test shows that about point 2% of the units of blood donated population are positive the virus said Spokesman John jury none of the blood is transfused, however further test cut the finger in half he says In other words, only about point 1% of the blood units actually positive for AIDS virus were tested by more sophisticated techniques. Only those in the blood that positive and further testing are notified by the blood center. They are filming they know we'll get a and a substantial majority believe it is likely disease will become an epidemic for the general population. A poll showed last Sunday and 30 759 adults conducted for Newsweek magazine by the Gallup organization show a 14% are very worried they are someone they know will catch the acquired immune deficiency syndrome that has doubled to 7% who felt the same way in a 1983 poll the magazine said the poll also shows 62% are somewhat likely that age will generally become an epidemic for the public at large. The magazine said a third of those questions 31% said they were not at all worried they were someone they know will contract that is down from 42% who said they were not concerned in July 1983 50% said that they felt that the government was not spending enough money on AIDS research. 26% said that they felt the right amount was being spent and 5% That too much was about how 56% For the top priority for AIDS research should be producing a vaccine to prevent non effective people from getting it 20% of their main priority should be in finding a cure for those who have the disease and 10%. So the main objections we need to develop a better test to find out who has been exposed. The poll also showed that an effort to avoid the disease. 13% of those surveyed said they were avoiding people they know and suspected to be

homosexual 20% said they were avoiding places where homosexuals were known to be and 21% said they were refusing electric service really that require blood transfusions. Those surveyed were almost eventually divided over whether the fear of the disease was causing unfair discrimination against all homosexuals. 46% stated agreed it was and 43% said it was not. The survey was conducted last Thursday and Friday, and the margin of error was plus minus 4%. Other Hollywood stars will join Rock Hudson during the next several months in disclosing that they are affected with AIDS. A member of the Los Angeles aids Task Force said last Thursday, Dr. Ronald Marin, who is also a Hollywood dentist refused to identify anyone with Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome. There will be additional significant announcements in the next several months about actors having AIDS. When that happens, a very personal decision is up to the individuals Luberon set. But he also stated that under any stars who have acquired immune deficiency syndrome, that his statements were based on news reports and his personal belief that it would happen. He emphasized that there is no been no discussion of his views with the task force. Rock Hudson has approved settling setting up a foundation during his name to raise money with helpers his stance for the fight against AIDS the disease which he is battling and well wishes have been asked to stop sending flowers he has been receiving hundreds of okay. And two cent donations instead to the Rock Hudson foundation. care of the AIDS Project Los Angeles 7362 Santa Monica Boulevard, Los Angeles, California nine W oh six nine. Money raised me also go for housing, care of patients and other needs as well as for research publicists. They also said What husband remains in fair condition at UCLA Medical Center and that's the news for August 8 1985. Sources tonight include the Houston Chronicle, the Houston Post USA Today and TW T magazine and for KPFT Pacific a news in Houston and the Wilde 'n' Stein collective I'm Jack Valinski.



Mike Miesch 26:04

Now, I'd like to chat with you for a moment. I had an absolutely wonderful time. Very happy with Wilde 'N' Stein last Thursday, with Bill Scott doing his safe sex workshop on Wilde 'N' Stein. A few things like to comment about that, I thought is just a wonderful positive approach on changing sex habits or your safety and your health. And as well as the really important useful information that we heard last week, the fact that still taking a lot of guilt out of sex that a lot of us grew up with. And that's still very important. And I'm very glad I had a part and Wilde 'N' Stein and KPFT had a part of this funny little thing that was going on was Bill when mentioned not staying at home and knitting well. Few people have commented, uh, how did you feel about that and right, I met except I also do it in public. I mean, like being affectionate towards a friend in public, which is something I enjoy. Also, and wanted to comment a little bit more about the letters have been seeking from different game musicians in hopes of getting together game our production company for Houston to bring some of those familiar voices to Wilde 'N' Stein listeners to Houston for you to see and hear, such as Tom Wilson, Charlie Murphy, Romanovski and Phillips. Elliot Pill Shawn others got a note from Romanovski. That they could not make it in September because travel costs and they're quite aware of someone trying to start out on such a venture as I am with what I like to call breakeven gay productions. Also, I got a wonderful letter from Tom Wilson, including his contract for me to look over and announcing his forthcoming recording. His show can post that review which includes other performers than himself, law lesbian and gay male. And I await the new release of Charlie Murphy's new recording as well. And Elliot pill Shaw will be having one come out soon called gay men are gray and with a title like that and his fine boys, how could he go wrong? Now I'd like to talk a little bit about volunteers and quite often a lot of us who have very little money often get put in there and guilt those that Son because we're unable to donate. But there's something at least in my mind, that is just as important as contributing to different

organizations. And that's contributing your time. My two main focuses KPFT Wilde 'N' Stein, and numerous other programs that I assist with is very important as well as the Texas gay archives. And one of my little pet peeves about the archives is people ask me about needing funds for the archives. And it just seems Draco my nerves can't seem to get across that the main thing the Archives does need is volunteers. Especially in then credible amount of newspaper clippings and publications that need to be clipped, dated, and filed. If you're interested in volunteering for the Texas gay archives, you can leave a message for me at Wilde 'n' Stein Books and that's 5297014 and I would appreciate your help it's very important for you to remember that time is very valuable thing as well as one's finances. And quite often there are those who pay not to do our work. And my opinion, a lot of times are really missing out on the law. And if you'd like information on different organizations, you might donate your time to Mr. Gay switchboard at 5293211. And even there's KPFT it five to six 4001 of the important



32:54

parts of Wilde 'N' Stein is education. And once again, as I mentioned in the announcements if you have any comments any criticism or help for Wilde 'N' Stein, please ride Wilde 'N' Stein KPFT 419 Lovett Boulevard. Houston, Texas 77006. You're listening to Wilde 'N' Stein. This has been Mike Miesch. And still thanks for spending this time with me.



J Jack Valinski 33:54

Interesting subject and I sort of want to put a little addendum onto it. Because, you know, we do supposedly have all this free time because we're not raising kids for the most part, and et cetera, et cetera, et cetera. And also, that we have so much free time that all we do, go and go out and drink. I mean, these are some generalities that haven't been said. And that sometimes we're not happy people because 02111 But if you donate some of that time back to the community, it does an awful lot of good towards you and also does an awful lot of good towards the community. There are so many things that need to be done in this community, and especially after the referendum and, and you know, the feeling of down in the community, the bar business is off. We got this disease going through the community. So there's an awful lot of things going on really need to be stitched together more than spread apart.



M Mike Miesch 34:46

Well, another organization should have mentioned with the AIDS crisis, the Kshs Foundation, they can always use volunteers. You've been kind of bowled over as well. I have by all the covers of the different magazines that have AIDS as a cover story, yet understand a little bit that it's an important thing to be educated on the disease and to help educate what he says. I really haven't snorkeler, there's several magazines that I'm not even mentioned, one of which claimed that they had 56, researchers do the articles on Rock Hudson. And well, that won the National Enquirer in particular. And those articles were so poorly written. So III research, not factual at all near more or less, look, your dad could write those in an hour. And it'd be much better journalism.



J Jack Valinski 35:55

Well, I think they're just looking for more sensational headlines. And they were for actually covering the facts. And it's interesting how since Rock Hudson has been in this disease has made public with Rock Hudson, how many headlines stories, front page articles and, and mid page articles that have been in both the papers nationally and local, that have never been before and the magazines covering things like this, all of a sudden, it seems like it's a legitimate disease. And yet we've know the community has been fighting it for the past three, three and a half years.

 Mike Miesch 36:26

Why do you think about? I mean, what the articles are saying, good thing. They're bringing the awareness to the general public, but are they really doing any education?

 Jack Valinski 36:38

I don't know if they're really doing any education. But they certainly are bringing it to the general public, which maybe has ignored it. The thought in that poll that I covered earlier in that news story, how more people are afraid and aware of what's going on. But yet some people said the government's still spending too much money, of course, you'll always get something like that in reaction. But also that Paul said that some people are afraid to be with gay people or being with gay areas, gay businesses that are owned by gay people. That's not going to solve a problem. The you know, there's an awful lot of research that has to be done with this disease. And the numbers aren't going up as fast as they we thought they would in Houston itself. But it still means there are more people coming down with disease. We need more research, more education. So it's the battles not over this is just something and now we're finally getting people to know about it,

 Mike Miesch 37:34

for those in the general public. And for those who also didn't offend the last week, so I mentioned like there's a distinction between absolute safe sex safe sex Category B, I guess you could call it. Not quite but in a median risk category. And well, in particular, the body fluids, saliva, which would be the most easily transmitted. I think, in reaction to all the trash I've read on the paranoia that Linda Evans dynasty cast is going through, is a little bit over emphasize. And there's just one thing that just keeps coming up and run in my mind and face when I read these articles is the difference between education and Carnoy.

 Jack Valinski 38:46

Councilman George Grenier will be joining us a little bit later in this hour. There's another article today in today's newspaper where Sergeant Chris Daly was the clinician upheld Sergeant's dismissal in case you're not familiar with this gentleman, he was the one that was accused of shooting up the H POA building. He's a member of the Eastern Police Officers Association, which PPU this was the incident where gays were the gay militants were accused of shooting up that building early in that morning when that happened because just a few days before that they sent out a mailer targeted against anti gay sections of the city, reminding

them that Kathy wittmeyer was the person who is so closely associated with a gay community. However, this person admitted Sergeant Daly admitted to be an alcoholic and Su level said last night at TPC meeting that he went to AAA and felt very isolated there that people were more or less against him being there and very ambivalent to him at the at this meetings and Susa as well. Isn't it strange? Sometimes we feel that way because of some of the ignorances What's going on this world? So in fact, he mentioned to her that of all the people that was a GPC that was more sympathetic in this situation, not saying that whatever he did was right or we condone or anything but we do understand that people who suffer from alcoholism, so he is no longer a policeman in the commission of Civil Service Commission has upheld his dismissal to shooting up the police union hall while on duty and in a drunken stupor. So we certainly feel sorry for this gentleman and that he has lost his job over this incident. But things like this it's unfortunate in this world that things like this happen. Bronski beat I feel love. They have a video on MTV. From small town boy, I believe it is. We're pretty good. Very good video, I guess you've seen it some of the bars. Which reminds me of some of the bars stop taking down a video screens. I know J RS has I don't see any more TVs there

M

Mike Miesch 42:01

haven't been a long time, okay.

J

Jack Valinski 42:04

But every week, I get about three or four different letters from national and or local organizations, whether they're gay or game related, or quote, sympathetic. One of the recent ones for us from gay community news. Most of these lay letters all talk about their financial crisis. And the first paragraph of this one goes, as you probably have heard by now, gay community news is in severe financial crisis. The good news is our fundraising campaigns off the ground. And we have been encouraged by the support of the community has shown so far. Our substantive program is gaining strength daily, community groups of calls offer help, and a Jeep GCN board of directors are pursuing new scores grants, with little more money and a little more luck really intend to pull ourselves together this time. It's really a shame that serves we were talking before about the themes of volunteering, that so many of our national organizations are in such poor financial shape. And it's really bad because when you look at some of the other minorities, it's like, while they're poor people, they don't they can't afford to keep the organization's going. But there's no excuse in the gay community. Because we have more disposable income than many, many of the minority groups around. And it's a shame if you're in and we pull all of other news that I cover on the gay community news because they cover the nation so well. If you're interested in helping them out, it's gay community news, 167 10, Mt. r e m o n t Street, Boston 02111. Very good newspaper.

M

Mike Miesch 43:35

They also have a real good calendar in the back and they even have volunteer staff and volunteer coordinator that handles them quite well. They have weak, very good newspaper. They also have a real good calendar in the back and they even have volunteer staff and volunteer coordinator that handles them quite well. They have weekend parties to help put together GCN coalition and that sort of thing. They also have lanes as well

J

Jack Valinski 44:10

occasionally has listings for prisoners, prisoners to get

M

Mike Miesch 44:15

one of the better prisoners sections and gay publications. Now the other one, in my opinion being RFD but my great goal of GCN, who's one of their full time people, has done a lot. In fact, he has done a lot of work to get DC and into Texas person.

J

Jack Valinski 44:37

One of the other it's one of the very good newspapers East Coast comes out of Boston. The other paper which I really like is a monthly. It comes out of Toronto called the body politic, and of course as the advocate that comes out of San Francisco, but those are basically the three national newspapers in New York is New York native and there are many places around the country. But it covers it and they did an awful lot of coverage during this recent case with the adopted, not adopted, but gay foster parents in Massachusetts. So if you're interested in news, and if you don't think we cover enough, which we certainly don't agree, we cover enough because we don't have time to do it. But that's a very good source for getting news from this, about this community, and especially national news, unfortunately, on national news and inter gay has sort of fall apart. And so we have to do our best to put it together ourselves here. So that's, we go through it every once in a while, and just and look at many of the different articles and they also have a very good editorial section and letters coming in. And it's rather reasonable price for a weekly newspaper. And of course, we can't mention that out here. But it does cover national subjects. So you can get a hold of them by no inquiry by them locally, at Wilde 'n' Stein Bookstore, but the address the GCN 167 10, my TR E, Mo, and T Street, Boston 02111.

M

Mike Miesch 46:24

It's okay. And that was BlackBerry from his album, BlackBerry finally, and friends.

J

Jack Valinski 46:30

You know, I heard about this and I sort of forgot about it. But liner notes are really interesting, sometimes in the back of albums, and especially when it's Bronski beats. And it said the age of consent laws regulating minimum age for lawful homosexual relations between men. And he goes through a list of different countries to have. Okay, let's go through Scotland legal ages 21. United Kingdom, it's left open there. Greece at 17 Italy, no special legal restriction. Spain homosexual activity is punishable by law, either as a case of public scandal or corruption of minors death not defined as persons under the age of 2323. And at the end of it, it says National Gay taskforce Area code 212-741-5800. And we'll be back and we'll play one more song by Bronski beat and Councilman George Grevious will be joining us just the other day.

M

Mike Miesch 47:36

BlackBerry a normal ticket for the CIO and now will join

J

Jack Valinski 47:42

with us tonight is Councilman George Green? Yes. Who represents District C which not only includes Montrose includes Westbury and Buffalo Bayou's in north end of your district, correct. That's right. And it goes how far does it go towards downtown?

♂

47:54

Let's see it goes all the way to the elevated so if you go to it, here's our Parkway village. For you to downtown in the district. See,

J

Jack Valinski 48:02

okay and South how far down is it go?

♂

48:05

Well, South it runs. I know there's a lot of raggedy boundaries. It's sort of dogleg southwest the further you go but it's got the all of the right neighborhood. Then it goes into the brace heights like Linkwood link Valley timber who knows that? And then Milan Westbury and fonder and southwest. So it goes all the way down into Fort Bend County, all the way west to guess the road.

J

Jack Valinski 48:23

Okay. And there may be some changes in the boundaries?

♂

48:26

Well, that will be a question. The council is required by the city charter to look at the boundaries every two years and to decide whether or not there needs to be any material changes made. They've got some population estimates. Now. I guess it's a source of some pride, maybe not that the district C is now estimated to be the biggest district in the city with 226,000 people. Which means if that we succeeded tomorrow we'd be I think the sixth or seventh largest city in the state of Texas. It's not that not bad at all. But we will be looking at that and whether or not we'll actually do any drawing of redrawing of lines. I think it's an open question. It's kind of late. Yes. With the federal government having to review the lines that we do, we may not be able to do it before the November elections. And it may be the council will just choose not to change the lines this year. I don't know yet. It's it's a little too early to tell.

J

Jack Valinski 49:13

We had a lot of discussion earlier this year about the traffic and Montrose and the problems on Montrose. And there has been a lot of action, but I don't know whether any problems had been solved. Certainly there's a lot more aware, aware this in the community of what's going on. And there are some problems besides the traffic. There's been a lot of fires in the area. And I'm not saying things aren't being done. But it's a difficult situation. Certainly. Let's talk a little bit about that. First of all the traffic, moving the substation into the area.

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49:44

Well, the traffic problem has been going on now for over a year, particularly on Friday and Saturday nights and we get tremendous influx of folks who for some reason have to decide that they want to spend their Saturday night trapped in traffic on Westheimer. Last fall, we started working with community groups in the police department to get Other a trial program to work on diverting the traffic and moving it through the area faster. That program was put into place. So this past spring, and was making some signs of improvement, when suddenly we got reports that suddenly things were getting bad again, we checked with the police department, and we found out that the program had been stopped. And it was stopped. Because the department had run out of money to fund the additional officers, we had 12 additional officers down there 10 and vehicles, or eight to 10 vehicles and the rest on foot. And suddenly, we didn't have those officers anymore. So the trial never really got a full test. We're now talking with the police department in the neighborhood again, and try and decide that if the police officers aren't available to do that kind of work, and it's really manpower intensive, then perhaps we need to look at some other suggestions. near town Association, as I understand is hosting a meeting on the 27th of August, as a town meeting for anybody who wants to come and talk about other alternative solutions. And we're going to be looking, we'd all be at that meeting and and we're looking to see what kind of ideas come out of that. And a variety of things have been suggested everything from going back and trying to petition the administration for more money for police to perhaps closing the street on Friday and Saturday night. A lot of mixed emotions about that. But the important thing is to talk about that and talk about it and try to decide what the area thinks might be the best suggestion. It's not

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Jack Valinski 51:17

really a black and white issue, because there are an awful lot of kids who do come in and spend money and promote some of the businesses such as numbers. So it's not like we just want to see the kids out of the out of the area.

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51:29

I don't think that's the case. But I do I have a feeling that the vast majority of those people are coming in, I think most people who are merchants on the street, we agree on probably not spending money in their businesses. And most of the merchants, I would guess see them as a detriment to the area. Certainly the vandalism that takes place late at night on Friday and

Saturday is a difficulty. But obviously, that's the problem you've got. Anytime you try to solve one problem, you may create two or three others. And it's kind of like being a doctor, when you're trying to deal with things like this, you see the symptoms, and you try to diagnose what the problem is you apply some medicine, it may generate some reactions and have to go back and moderate the medicine or change the treatment. So what we're doing is we're trying to work through to a solution that will truly solve the problem. In doing that we're

J Jack Valinski 52:10

probably going to make some mistakes, probably go down some blind alleys. But the important thing is to keep trying. Well, that's sort of with the game room. Also, the game of closing didn't solve all the problems of the kids hanging out there they go hang out at other places. What, you know, is there an answer to that?

52:25

Well, I think that the game, the closing the game room did make some positive steps. For one thing, I think it's a symbolic thing. The fact is, as long as businesses which encourage the kind of stuff that we don't really want going on and street art exist, then it's going to continue to exist and the symbolism of the business will reinforce the image that it's taking place. The fact that the game enclosed landlord took a second thought about whether they want that kind of business their speaks to the fact that that Lord's landlord, I hope has decided that they want a better future for Westheimer Road, then the reputation of the game room had is similarly when the police storefront operation opens sometime in the next two or three months, since we just today started breaking ground for the work on that, that is gonna have a strong symbolic effect. And symbols turn into reality, the fact that they'll be a police presence there, and I think it's gonna be interesting police presence because for one thing, it's going to be the best storefront operation in the city. Thanks not to what the city is doing what the neighborhood's doing tremendous amount of contributions are being made for that. I think it's going to affect the police department's attitude. And those officers who work in the Montrose area thinks gonna affect their attitude. They see Montrose, I think is a transient area, as an area of folks who don't really care about their neighborhood of people they're not familiar with and uncomfortable with a Saturday. Matter of fact, I think that this community service center is going to make mark a major change in police neighborhood relations in Montrose. And that's why I'm looking forward to it. Again, it's a symbol that also has a very practical and very real value. So yeah, you don't again, closing the game doesn't solve all the problems, you dispersed the kids, but you've removed the symbolic statement about what Westheimer road is. And then you have to deal with the follow up problems, but it's not something that gets solved overnight came from a community group that's got problems and, and the frustration they're feeling is, isn't there one magic pill we can take that will solve all our problems in 24 hours and no such thing exists.

J Jack Valinski 54:15

Well, that's the thing about the community groups. There are a number of community groups in the area. The Newtown Association, Avondale Association, Audubon Association, Business Alliance, Newtown Business Alliance, any number of groups and all these groups are interested

in preserving and building the community. And yet the some ways maybe the police department doesn't understand that there is a lot of involvement down here in this area and that we do want some things done positively to the community.



54:41

I think that under Chief Brown in the last two or three years, the department has come to understand that better in part because the department has changed his own focus, and has come to rely on neighborhoods more heavily for support in the policing effort. I think to that things like this project, the Westheimer traffic problem. There was So a lot of kinship, I think, built between some of the officers and the neighbors and trying to work out that problem. The construction of the storefront operation, I think will mark another step. So I think that between the change that was marked by Chief Brown coming into office, the activity, the neighborhood, and the progress, we're making uncertain, specific policing programs, we're encouraging that closer cooperation. So I'm hoping that we can we have come a fair way in breaking those attitudes down and we can go a fair way more.



J Jack Valinski 55:25

I'm certainly sure you'd like to see your akin spear doing more than just seeing what's going on at night and watching the traffic at on the weekends and director kit



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would rather do something else than his career? Yes.



J Jack Valinski 55:36

Well, we have that situation. The police department in this city, I don't know if it's just in this city. But we have a lot of speaking of traffic, we have a lot of people who drive really strange in this city. But yet the police are somewhat of the people who set the example. But yet, when you follow a cop right now as being either speeding or he's going through life, they're approaching red, and yet this attitude somehow has to change. And I don't know whether it's happening slowly or not. And they have to follow the law as an example. And then the rest of citizens can follow the law.



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It is a bit of a problem with every police department in the country, that there's always a certain element within the department that feel that somehow wearing a badge exempts them from the very laws they're trying to enforce. It's been my experience over the last three and a half years. And comparing that to the department. I knew when I was out before I got into office and my days as a student in Houston, that the department's attitude on that subject has changed considerably. And that a greater percentage of the officers today than ever before, feel a need to be seen as people who are worth the respect that they want the record of the

police officer, and they realize they got to earn that I see less, you know, talking about cars, I see less drag racing of police cars than I used to. Certainly when we see it, we report it. You know, there are times obviously when a police car needs to be speeding to the scene. There are times when it's questionable, I've seen race across parking lots. Those are reported. by large I think, again, that's an improvement. The goal I think is it's the same thing is on what time road to draw an analogy, what we're trying to do on Westheimer is to create pockets of stability, which will spread in together so that we have a fabric of a neighborhood again, what we're trying to do in the police department is to create groups within that department who feel a stronger sense of duty towards their professional responsibility than anything else, their union groups or anything else personal preferences, and knit that together into a really professional department. And I think that Chief Brown is is really done a pretty remarkable job of fostering that. Through his through his leadership and through I think the strict standards that he's holding the officers accountable to, you know, this week, just earlier this week on Monday, the Civil Service Commission upheld the firing of this officer and then sent wired into the H POA headquarters. It's a very sad situation. But I think that the personal considerations apart, both the chief and the Commission did exactly the right thing. We cannot get our communities to support and respect our police department. If we somehow make up a special set of exemptions. For officers who violate the law, it came down to the horse in this guy, but I think that overall for the department and for the community was the wisest decision.

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Jack Valinski 58:14

And speaking about drag races. This is one of the few sections in town where people walk more than probably other parts of town. Houston is a very mobile, very car orientated city, more like Los Angeles than it is New York where people walk, and they use public transportation more and more. But maybe we're seeing a little bit more because the public transportation has improved. And I'm not just saying that because you're here I've I've written on Metro and seeing how much nicer it is than it was three years ago. But Montrose is a community where people walk more, they walk up and down the strip, and they walk from their grocery store back home, or they walk to a bar from their home. But with the traffic being so bad, maybe maybe there's no choice but to walk. But also, if people are speeding across the streets, and creating a lot of disturbances, it's makes it difficult to walk up and down the community. And that walking brings it more of a life to the city, you know, and other parts of the city where people just drive all the time. You don't see any life on a city. It's like a dead city, like sometimes downtown where the city rolls up the sidewalks, which is unfortunate, because there's a lot the city has to offer downtown. We're working

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hard. My hope is that, although it's I think it's a ways away that eventually Westheimer will be a place where people want to walk. That's why I'm a little bit interested class. And this idea of closing the street on Friday, Saturday night. We are already trying to we're already seeing some of that develop on Montrose Boulevard, where you now have a small collection of restaurants and shops. And there'll be more of that coming in and condominiums which creates a neighborhood area that people have places to walk to and from the museums. And I think that we're starting to see more of that. Now what that means is you want to provide a fair amount of safety. You want people to feel secure about walking, which means we need to have

good street lighting. You want to make sure there's good police presence. And you want to make sure there are activities that are worth walking to. So those are all three focuses that our office works on constantly trying to encourage all three of those things. A Place

J Jack Valinski 1:00:01

Montrose is many people looked at just as the gay area but yet, when you probably look at population figures if they can all be accurate, there's probably only 20% of the population of Montrose is gay GPCs mailing list is probably about two thirds outside the Montrose area. Yet, as you represent the district, and especially after the referendum going down so badly, what is the general feeling about the Montrose area? What do you think?

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It is very hard to read, I think that I'm not sure that there's a general feeling and I'm groping for because I'm really trying to think this through as you ask the question, I think most people when they think of Montrose, think of it out of ignorance. So to say they don't have any real basis of fact, they haven't been down here, they don't know where many people live in the area, or they very seldom come here for any reasons to go to restaurants, and so on so forth. Those people tend to think of it as kind of like, oh, that's the gay part of town. And that's, that's the end of it. That's the end of the discussion. It is usually pretty surprising to them to find out that, you know, substantial number of folks here have whatever their sexual orientation or homeowners, their business people, that the list of their concerns, their top concerns generally run to be about the same as most other places in the city. And that, you know, they've got the same handles and the same goal. The folks who come into the area on a regular basis, maybe just to go to the restaurant have a somewhat different feel for it, because they've at least seen the physical layout of it. They realize that there are neighborhoods behind streets like West Ham, it's a big shock. Let's think shocked that people who come to Houston for the first time, they find out how green the city is with Yeah, so we're not all sagebrush and Prairie. The fact that there are neighborhoods here, very nice neighborhoods, well maintained neighborhoods, and that there are a lot of very interesting businesses and then it's becoming a rather upscale place. I mean, I keep joking events and we get priced out of my neighborhood. But that's the kind of thing so you got the vast majority of city has a knee jerk reaction, a Montrose jokes, a vamp? You know, you make a joke about Montrose. And you can get a laugh out of I suppose. But that comes out of generally a lack of information and lack of knowledge, in the same way that that most people feel most of the guys in Houston must live in Montrose, when in fact, just as you pointed out, the gay community is well integrated into the city as a whole, and is functioning all parts of the city making its contribution just like everybody else. Well, if you look at the city, it's just so big inland area that your district council is probably that your district is probably bigger than some random areas of certain cities have a major city. So yeah, it's just spread out because of the annexation that the city is able to do. And in some ways, it's probably very, very beneficial is that there isn't so much white flight because as people move in and out, the city just keeps annexing one of the real benefits. And I'm, I hope we don't lose this. The annexations that we have never really thought about because vacations got a very bad name in the 60s in the 70s. Because they were done thoughtlessly. They were done when the city couldn't really provide the services and they got a reputation that was very bad. In the last three years, we have slowed down considerably. And we've only taken in areas when we can really deal with them effectively. I hope that we can overcome that image that annexation

as a policy has because Houston salvation has been the fact that we can annex the territory just outside our borders. If we couldn't do that, if tomorrow, they told us that C was as big as it was ever going to get. I am convinced that as far as it would, is to drive death in 1960. A lot of people who currently live in the city, and who feel there's no sense to move out because the city will just catch them in the next annexation would move out of the city. And we would face the same problems as a number of other major American cities. And I just do not want to see us have that. So I think we're a strong but prudent annexation policy to assure that we all stay one community.

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Jack Valinski 1:03:39

That's pretty interesting. What do you see the city in the future? We've had some economic problems in this city. Are these problems going to be solved? Did this did this slow down, give the city a chance to breathe a little bit and catch up with its growth that it's been growing so fast in the past decade? Well, there

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are really two questions there. One is about the the economic future of the city. And the second thing is about whether or not we have improved our ability to deal with the needs of the big city, especially if we grow some more. With regard to the economic future the city, it's difficult to get a handle on that there's so many economic indicators you can look at and they don't all move in unison, some will move up while others are moving down. I think overall, we have to be realistic that our economic difficulties are not gone, that they are likely to be with us for another 18 to 24 months. For several reasons. One is that there's just a lot of office space that needs to be absorbed, a lot of houses need to be sold. But also many of the economic development efforts that are being undertaken by the Economic Development Council will take at least a couple of years to bear significant fruit. We also need to be working on other ways to improve the economy, calling on the business community to make a more direct involvement with the city government in terms of attracting new businesses to the city and funding new businesses that may be coming out of people here in town. So I think our economic future by the end of the decade is going to be very good. I think the National Planning Association was perhaps a little more optimistic, but not much to say that we were going to go very rapidly in the last decade 1990s. And we had like 3 million in some people by the year 2000. Now, that takes us to the question that was will we be able to cope with that growth? Have we taken advantage of this slowdown to modernize the operation enough that we can deal with that growth when it starts taking place? In some respects, we have, we've made some some good changes, I think in city government. But there are a tremendous number of areas where our ability to deliver services is still not where it needs to be for the city as it is right now. Much less what it's going to be 10 years from now, for example, we've talked about police a lot. So we'll put that one to the side. Dangerous buildings, which is a subject of great interest in the Montrose area, because you have a lot of dangerous, vacant, abandoned buildings. City's responsibility is to if the owner refuses to fix the property up to take the building down. We have every year, despite the city's efforts, or because maybe because of the number of dangerous buildings has grown, and it's now up to about 11,000. We can't afford to see that grow, we need to increase our capacity to bring down dangerous buildings at a good rate, deed restriction enforcement even in Montrose, we have some deed restricted neighborhoods. So he needs to make sure that we have a strong deed restriction enforcement program to help

neighborhoods that are trying to preserve themselves. Those are two small examples, that you go through the list and we need to improve in almost every area. The great danger is if we don't do that, if we don't modernize our operation in the next two and a half, three years, then come the end of the decade, when I think the economy will start turning around for us. Will the Good News will be the growth will be taking place. And the bad news will be that we can't cope with it could be enough like a city like New Orleans, which is so much based on the past well Houston is based on the future and the present. We also had a lot of Firebug problem here in the city in this part of town, it's been pretty bad with a lot of buildings going down recently, the happy Buddha restaurant and a number of other things. I guess it also has a lot to do with police enforcement actually has Sunday with police but even more with the fire department because arson is a is a function of the fire department. They're very concerned with that. And the investigations are ongoing. I can no I can't go into all the details. But I can tell you that we are in constant conversation with both police and fire department about these issues. And that I feel comfortable that at this point they are they're putting good effort into trying to figure out what is going on. This is not the first arson situation that we faced in District C the in 8283. When I first got into office, Westbury had a very bad arson problem, they had a number of houses torched. And between community efforts and the efforts of police and fire departments, the person was tracked down, it took a little while. But they were able to track the person down and and the crimes are more difficult to hide than some others. So I feel confident that if the same energy continues to be poured into this problem, we'll eventually deal with it. But you know, it is not the kind of urban renewal program that I envision. I thought he was joking. You're calling it the Montrose urban renewal program Merp. But it's awfully funny how these condominiums sort of jump up after some of these buildings have been burned down. Well, without without worrying about that, I guess that the only my only concern is that it's not the most appropriate way to develop the Montrose area and, or to take care of the urban renewal leads. And so I'm hoping that in the near term, we can get some solutions to some of these problems, because that's can't be allowed to go on. But the whole idea about planning is it's a function of the city council and the mayor system where they're elected every two years, that long range planning can go on in this city, it is more tablished is more difficult not because not because you're only there for two years, because most of us, you know who are elected to the political reality is that your job becomes if you do a reasonably good job, you can stay there for quite a while. The point though, is that under the every two year election system, you have about 18 months out every 24 in which you can get something done. The last six months of every odd numbered year are spent in this craziness, we call elections, apart from the time you got to spend in going around and campaigning, which is an important and proper function. It also affects people crazily on their voting, and it makes it more difficult to get good throw programs through council. So you lose that six months. And then you gotta get reorganized for the next two years. So my feeling is that if we were to look seriously at four year terms, and some other changes, to make citiguard make sure that we don't lose any of the responsiveness to city government, we could probably get more done. Because we'd have more time to devote to the job that people we hope elect us to do. Yellow softly amazing, because when you're going through the election process, many times people look at just one issue such as the referendum. And there's certainly you spent a lot more time in your office, you're having more problems than just what you did over the referendum. You have so many more areas of concern. But I think that in this case, I'm rather glad that since we had the referendum in January that we're having an election in the fall Because city elections, municipal elections, focus on so many issues, it's very difficult. I can't think of one in the last 10 years that has revolved around a single issue or a single, you know, feature. It's a good time for people to focus on a variety of things and, and ditches away from the single issue kind of contest. It is true that people just, you know, I think everybody goes to polls and has one issue on their mind. But the point is, though, that everybody goes in has a different issue on their mind. So

that in firm, what does decide is kind of a composite view of what's on people's minds, not just one issue in everybody's head when they go into the voting booth. But I can tell you that, you know, I think if I'm pushing cards at a polling place, everybody comes in, they've got one thing that's uppermost in their mind, that's not the same as their neighbors. And that's the value of the election process and give them the chance to vote on what they're thinking of. And that's healthy as long as he's not just working on one problem because certainly got umpteen billion problems to deal with. Welcome some ingredients. I certainly am glad you joined us here tonight on Wilde 'N' Stein as we're coming close to our hour here.

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Jack Valinski 1:11:04

Listen to Wilde 'N' Stein show here on KPFT. Pacific Houston. Next week, right he'll be joining us to talk a little bit about the businesses, the sexual orientated businesses. And Mike What do you have scheduled for next I have

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Mike Miesch 1:11:17

an interview with John Preston writer and editor of a new book called Hot living