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## SPEAKERS

Glenn Holt, Jack Valinski, Cindy Friedman, Greg Gordon

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J

Jack Valinski 00:18

Welcome to another edition of lesbian and gay voices. This is Jack Wolinsky and you're listening to KPFT Houston Pacifica foundation station. Joan is somewhere caught in an airport in Denver. She was coming back from Vancouver. Although I think maybe she decided to leave town with a little bit of news I'm gonna be giving you soon. I'm not sure where Glen is, but you're still gonna have a show tonight. announced today in the paper, you'll see tomorrow that it looks like the battle for the referendum of same sex benefit begins. It seems like David Wilson willed in several boxes of signatures into the Houston city secretary's office this afternoon, marking an official beginning of the battle between family values and our rights to become who we are. Wilson supposedly delivered 22,600 signatures in favor of a referendum to prevent the city from offering benefits such as health care to domestic partners have employees if the city Secretary finds that at least 20,000 of these signatures are valid. The petition survival legal challenges Houston will vote on a referendum in November. Wilson said the referendum is attempt to stop the assault on our found me values. Opponents counter the effort in the words of political consultant grant Martin, vicious, homophobic and bigoted. Well, we'll be talking about that in a little while. And also coming up on tonight's show. We'll have David Elliott's talking to us from Washington shortly. We also will be talking from the people to the people from the LA theatre about what's coming up there and their new season. And we have a an interview that JD Doyle did with Robin Tyler was a longtime person involved in music, women's music especially. But first before that, we will bring you news from this way out.

o

02:13

I'm Dean Elzinga. And I'm Cindy Friedman with news wrap a summary of some of the news in or affecting the gay and lesbian community for the week ending August 18 2001. For AIDS activists arrested in the Indian city of Lucknow about six weeks ago. We're finally freed on bail this week. The men work for the AIDS groups Naz Foundation International and Barossa trust in the wake of a police sweep in a park that netted two aids outreach workers. Police raided both groups offices on July 7, closed them down and arrested two more key staff. The charges pending against the man include possession of obscene materials and conspiracy to commit sodomy. This week several groups held a sit in at India's capital in New Delhi to demand that

those charges be dropped. And India's Colonial Era sodomy law section 377 be repealed. Last week. 26 organizations demonstrated in Bangalore and further actions are planned in other cities. International human rights groups have also denounced the arrest with eco Herc, the International gay and lesbian Human Rights Commission leading a letter writing campaign.

 Cindy Friedman 03:20

International protest is the only hope human rights groups on five continents agree for 52 men arrested in a May raid on a riverboat club in Egypt. Human rights groups there have stood aside in fear for their own credibility. As a second day of trial was held under heavy police guard in Cairo this week. protest actions were staged in Antwerp, Bucharest, Geneva, London, Manila, Stockholm and for US cities. The Egyptian government was reportedly overwhelmed with phone calls and faxes, and it shut down its email addresses which had been published by Eagle Herc. Also 35 US Congress members led by openly gay Massachusetts Democrat Barney Frank have written to the Egyptian government in protest the 52 arrestees could face up to three years in prison if convicted of practicing debauchery, and there is no appeal from decisions by the National Security court where the trial is being held. This week's hearing was largely devoted to defense requests to reduce the charges to misdemeanors and move the cases to the regular courts. Prosecutors presented nearly 900 photos allegedly showing the defendants engaging in sex trial was adjourned until August 29. When further protests demonstrations are planned



04:41

in the US. 48 people were arrested this week in a civil disobedience action protesting the unequal treatment of gays and lesbians. In the 5 million member Evan Jellicle Lutheran Church in America ELCA was holding its General Assembly in Indianapolis where rather than deciding such hot button issues as blessing same gender relationships, and ordaining non celibate gays and lesbians. That denomination voted by a nine to one margin to spend the next four years studying its gay related policies. While some hailed the study plans as unprecedented, the study was just a delaying action in the eyes of activists, both within the denomination and from the national group soul force. They responded by kneeling on the sidewalk outside the convention center and refusing police orders to move. Each of the 48 was fined \$100 and released. Activist take heart though that by a narrow margin, that denomination elected a very gay supportive leader.



C Cindy Friedman 05:41

Also wrestling with recognition of gay and lesbian couples is the state of Massachusetts. religious conservatives are trying to place before voters that constitutional amendment against same gender marriage is a move which activists and some liberal politicians are seeking to block. Republican Governor Jane Swift has consistently maintained that marriage should be reserved for heterosexual couples. She was publicly criticized for that position this week by her openly gay stepson Brian Hunt, who currently lives in California. Swift denied his charges of hypocrisy, but announced afterwards that her administration had extended a few domestic partner benefits to some of the state's civil servants, and that similar benefits would be extended to other state workers in the course of contract negotiations over the next few years.

The benefits do not include health insurance, which would require a vote by the state legislature but provide for leave in the event of a partner's illness or death and for support for victims of domestic violence.



06:45

A Texas gay man sentenced to death for the 1983 murder of his ex lover won a new chance to live this week. The case of Calvin Burdine one national attention because his court appointed attorney was asleep for portions of the trial. That attorney made no objection to inflammatory use of anti gay slurs by the prosecution. Burdine has admitted to go into his former partners trailer on the night of the murder, but insist that it was another man who went with him who did the stabbing. That man was released after eight years in a plea bargain that included his testifying against Burdine. In 1999 Burdine won a federal trial judge's order to release or retry him. But last year, a panel of the Fifth Circuit US Court of Appeals decided to to one to uphold his conviction and death sentence on the grounds that there was no way to prove that the parts of the trial his attorney slept through had been significant. Burdine then appealed to the full bench of the same Court, which ruled nine to five this week that he had been inadequately represented and overturned his conviction. State prosecutors must now decide whether to appeal to the US Supreme Court hold a new criminal trial for Burdine negotiate a plea bargain with him or release him.



c Cindy Friedman 07:59

The US nationwide manhunt for a suspected spree killer preying on gay men ended with his arrest this week in Reno, Nevada. 19 year old Adam as their ski will be extradited to Florida to be prosecuted for the late July murders of two gay men. They're Irving Fisher and Anthony Mark gelato. He's also suspected of attacking another gay man in San Francisco earlier this week.



08:25

Check police acted quickly this week to arrest and charge two of eight skinhead youth who attacked a gay club in the Bohemian town of liberty check. Although the skinheads failed in their attempt to force their way into the club, they did about 10,000 coronas worth of damage to its door and windows. The two arrestees ages 15 and 18 years are charged with supporting and promoting a movement aim to suppress the rights and freedoms of citizens, which carries a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment.



c Cindy Friedman 08:55

Britain's Scotland Yard this week issued new guidelines for London's Metropolitan Police employees to behave more sensitively towards lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgenders. The new policing diversity handbook a year in the making was welcomed by the lesbian and gay Police Association. It calls on staff to question and challenge wherever possible the myths and stereotypes of LGBT communities most widely reported was the handbook's rejection of the

word homosexual, which it said is a medical term used to criminalize lesbians, gay men and bisexuals in the 19th century. It recommends that the term should generally be avoided, while noting that some older lesbian gay people may describe themselves this way.



09:42

And finally, the flamboyant gay character Jack on NBC's hit gay-led sitcom *Will and Grace* is remarkably self-centered, but not so the actor who's won an Emmy for playing him. Sean B. Hayes stopped to help a man he saw lying on the ground as he drove through Los Angeles. This week, the man had been shot in the leg by two men attempting to rob him outside his home. Hayes took off his own shirt and pressed it to the bleeding wound until an ambulance arrived. Hayes, who's grown increasingly coy about discussing his own sexual orientation since he first drew notice for his starring gay role in the film *Beloved*, believes Hollywood screen kiss has tried to minimize publicity about the incident. So it took about five days for work to get around. That's news



c Cindy Friedman 10:27

wrap for the week ending August 18, 2001. Follow the news in your area and informed community is a strong community



10:35

news wrap is written by Cindy Friedman and recorded at the studio's of KPFK Los Angeles. For this wrap out. I'm Dean Elzinga. And



10:42

I'm Cindy Friedman.



10:43

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11:50

11.00

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G

Glenn Holt 12:18

And you're listening to lesbian and gay voices and Jack, you're looking at unexpectedly like you have something important to say,

J

Jack Valinski 12:25

well, just because the microphones on do you expect me to have something important to say Oh, no. As I said we're Joan was tonight. I was sort of figuring maybe she left town but she was trying to get back to town. I'm not sure what maybe it's snowing in Denver, because it's about that time of the year. I'm David Elliot supposed to call in very shortly. And I know he has some important stuff to talk about, including some of the referendums going on around the country. And I think he has gotten personal announcement also. I didn't do anything this weekend, except all pride stuff. So I don't know if the world existed or not. I know there's a couple of good movies out Hedwig is fabulous. It's very good program, a very good movie to see over at the River Oaks. And it's been written up very well. And there's a bunch of other things going on. I sort of got myself hooked into another one of these mini series on pay TV and it was called Six Feet Under. It's about a family who runs a funeral home strangely and often. There's a there was a very sort of subplot about one of the sons being gay and last week was was the concluding episode and I'm not sure if they're going to renew it or again and the weekend before was a concluding episode of Sex in the City, which is about women in you know, dealing with their mid 30s trying to you know, have relationships or not, but it could very well be written about gay men,

G

Glenn Holt 13:51

pre menopausal women.

J

Jack Valinski 13:54

Now I'm not gonna go there. I'm not gonna go there.

G

Glenn Holt 13:58

Well, I went to something that was rather festive last night, the foam party at Pacific street. That was telling me about it different. Of course, you can imagine dressed for the occasion was as minimal as possible which type of weather and,



Jack Valinski 14:21

you know, I can't imagine and we discussed about we both lived up North in New York, further north than me. But you know, could you imagine living up there and then only been you know, people taking their much of their clothes off just, you know, a month or two out of the year. We're down here. They do it a lot more.



Glenn Holt 14:39

What do you think I move down here?



Jack Valinski 14:40

Okay. We've never discussed this before.



Glenn Holt 14:44

No, that's, that's not the reason but um, yeah, yeah, it's certain. It's, it's nice plus, yes. There was one of the things I was going to mention driving home this evening. NPR had a wonderful piece on it. The beginning of the AIDS crisis I think 20 years ago. Yes.



Jack Valinski 15:03

Yes. It they were talking to, well, apparently they did a story on somebody who died. But this was their this was a person's partner, who was also HIV positive, but pretty much asymptomatic of the symptoms, symptoms, and also about his new lover. And it's very, you know, just typical the way the stuff that's done on on National Public Radio. So I think David is joining us if we are follows buttons pushed correctly. Good evening, Jack, can you hear me? Yes, we can hear you fine, David. And I'm not sure if you know about this, you probably do, because you're probably right on top of it, but it looks like they delivered a bunch of petitions to the city Secretary today.



15:46

Well, I heard about that. From what I believe I read they delivered 22,400 And they need 22. Or they need 20,000 to qualify for the ballot. Am I correct? That's



Jack Valinski 15:57

what the paper said. Yes. And this is not just this is a charter amendment, which is pretty much like a constitutional amendment.



16:06

Right. Jack, let me explain why Houston could be extremely important and extremely pivotal on the national scene this November. Okay. You know that there are a dozen cities in states that face potential anti gay ballot initiatives over the course of the next 1415 months. All in all, something like 23 million Americans live in jurisdictions that face these anti gay ballot measures. That's about one in every 11 Americans Wow. However, the brunt of these ballot initiatives, the overwhelming majority of them would be on the ballot in November 2002. The only ballot initiatives that we've seen up to today that will be on the November ballot, just three months from now are three Michigan towns, Traverse City, Kalamazoo and Huntington Woods. Therefore, if the anti gay ballot measure makes it on to the November ballot in Houston, this year, Houston is going to be ground zero for attacks on our communities. This is going to be a really, really big thing.

J

Jack Valinski 17:27

Absolutely. We're in population of 1.8 million people, right. 1.8. Yeah, that's, that's a lot of people it could affect

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17:34

the national media hasn't really caught on to this yet. Well,

J

Jack Valinski 17:38

they've got plenty of other stories to talk about, like the depression that we're heading into. But it is going to be pretty incredible. And I know that the community is gearing up luckily with PVA progressive voters in action. But it's I mean, they're just gearing up if there's a lot of work to be done.

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17:56

Right. Let me talk about that for a minute. Because that's really, really exciting work. You know, last month, the National Gay Lesbian Task Force announced that it was going to be distributing \$100,000 to communities that are facing these anti gay ballot measures. And we awarded our first two grants, we awarded \$5,000, to the Traverse City campaign against discrimination up in Michigan, and we gave another \$20,000 to basic rights Oregon, which is probably going to be facing yet another anti gay ballot by next year in 2002. We're not giving this money away, willy nilly, we are only giving it to communities, where local activists are doing the incredibly hard and difficult yet necessary work of identifying gay voters and gay friendly voters. And when I say gay friendly voters I shouldn't be saying voters that are friendly to the gay lesbian, bisexual and transgender community because that's what it's all about. It's about being inclusive. And we have been working with PVA progressive voters in action they have done incredible, incredible work. I think their leaders, if I'm not mistaken, mistaken, are Alika Marula.

J

Jack Valinski 19:20

And my friend Alex is the executive director. So he's on staff, and grant Martin grant Martin is sort of the one who envisioned this and worked on it. And I was lucky enough to go to the political training class that grant did two years ago in January along with David Fletcher. And there was about 36 of us. And it was just incredible about how you know and and a lot of it is just real common sense basic stuff. But just like everything else, sometimes you forget that when you start working on a campaign like this,

19:52

well, you know how you win an election. You win an election by knocking on more doors than the other guy.

J Jack Valinski 19:57

Yes. By getting the voters out and getting the ones who are gonna vote, you know, the way your hope they're going to vote out to the polls,

20:03

right? We'll get this progressive voters in action is currently on pace to ID more than 2000 voters each month, who are committed to voting with us, they are going to have that they've already got think identified 40,000 voters, I think they're going to have 50,000, identified by November. And in a city with the electoral demographics of Houston, that's absolutely key. Because when Houston votes is just it's not just the city area, it's also the suburbs. And as you know, better than I, when you add the suburbs into the mix, you really get about a 5050 split between conservative voters and progressive voters. And so it all becomes a game of voter turnout, decide that does the better job of turning out her or his base wins the election? Absolutely. It's sort of like running for student council president back in high school. But on a grander scale. You got to ID your people.

J Jack Valinski 21:08

Yes. Sort of like that movie election? I don't know if you saw that one. Oh, yeah.

21:14

reminded us all of Florida once again.

J Jack Valinski 21:18

But yes, and I think Euston is going to have the new electronic voting machines out by that time,



21:25

I will thank God. Well, but



J Jack Valinski 21:27

you know, there hasn't been a problem here. In that respect. There's a lot of work to be done. And you don't want to make light of it. Progressive voters are working like six days of the week, they have phone banks going every night, they have block walking, going, like twice a week, two, three times a week, and they are moving forward, they're really doing a lot of work. And they've got you know, they're, they're, you know, they it's the neat thing about it is they they've got a plan, and it just, you know, as people walk in the door to volunteer, they're gonna put you to work. So it's like, you're not wasting your time there. So be you know, the, it's a great, great organization, I'm really proud that we have that here in Houston.



22:11

Exactly. And if I could make a little bit of an announcement Jack, okay. Um, Dave Fleischer, who is our person who heads up our electoral training initiative, will be coming in doing a special training in Houston, it's going to be an advanced training, he's going to be bringing a small dedicated group of volunteers with him from across the United States who are going to pay all their own expenses, they're going to pay their own airfare, they're going to pay to rent a car. Hopefully, they'll have a place to sleep at night. And they're going to come down to Houston starting October 24. And working through November 6. And basically, this is a SWAT team that is intended to help progressive voters in action, totally maximize the resources, you know, maximize the phone banks. You know, when we did this in Oregon, last year, we were able to help identify 100,000 Pro GLBT voters, and we ended up winning that election by something like 60,000 votes. So it made a real difference. And I want everybody out there to know that because of this ballot initiative, the Houston community faces a crisis. That's the bad news. The good news is, we know how to win these elections. It's not like the 1970s and the 1980s. And even going into the 1990s. You know, over the course of the past three years, we faced 19 ballot initiatives. We won five, we lost 14, where we won, it wasn't by accident, it was because we knew how to identify voters, communicate with them, honestly, communicate to them the reality of our lives. And once we did that they were with us.



J Jack Valinski 24:12

Well, and certainly we don't want to leave this without letting people know how to get how to get in touch with progressive voters. Their phone number 713-521-7161. That's 5217161 And they have a website is [www.dotvogt.org](http://www.dotvogt.org). And there is a lot of things to be you know, to do volunteering with them, or there's other ways to do it. There's ways to have house parties and help raise some money, which is going to desperately be needed. I know if they have to do TV, it's going to cost probably near a million dollars. And TV is not usually the most efficient way to do advertising on something like this, but you still have to use some of it.



24:56

Yeah, in fact, I'd like to make a point here if I may. A lot of people You know, when when they think about contributing to a cause, they think about contributing money. But a lot of folks in the community, a lot of people listening to this radio show tonight, don't have the money to contribute. That's okay. Because you can contribute your activist hours, in some regards, time is even a more precious commodity than money. And if you're willing to make some phone calls to knock on some doors, to run to the store and pick up doughnuts and coffee for the other volunteers, to do leaflet to do whatever you can, that is just as valuable is making a monetary contribution. And I'd like people to consider that.

J Jack Valinski 25:41

Right in the phone banks run Sunday through Thursday, six to 9pm. Saturday nine to noon, they do block walking Sunday through Thursday, six to 9pm and Saturday, nine to noon, and the office is open 9am to 9pm, Monday through Friday.

G Glenn Holt 25:57

And David just as a sidebar to this. This month. Massachusetts and Indiana both have have passed legislation giving their state employees partner benefits

26:13

on a very limited basis. That's correct. The Massachusetts Bill didn't go nearly as as far as we would like. Now, as regards to Indiana, correct me if I'm wrong. But I believe what Indiana did was actually the governor issued an executive order banning discrimination in the state workplace on the basis of sexual orientation. Yeah, that's right. And that's a really good start. And it's it's significant that that happened in the most conservative Midwestern State, Indiana. Indiana is one of those states that has passed a data collection and enhancement law, but they haven't passed the hate crimes law yet. And so we've got our work cut out for us. But, you know, this, this fits a pattern. We're making progress everywhere. You know, I was called today by a newspaper reporter from Biloxi, Mississippi. this coming Wednesday, US census numbers come out of for the states of Mississippi, Arkansas and Texas on the number of same sex unmarried partner households. And the Biloxi Mississippi reporter was just amazed to learn that there were gay couples living in her hometown.

27:38

Yes, we have their

27:39

new frontier.

J

Jack Valinski 27:40

Yeah, well, and exactly I mean that the whole census figures were just incredible this year, as they've been coming out from state to state.

♂

27:48

Exactly. You know, we're back in 1990, when the question was first asked on the form, approximately 140,000 Same sex couples were identified. Now, the number is already it's around 560,000. It's gonna end up I believe, probably somewhere in the neighborhood of 700,000.

J

Jack Valinski 28:10

So besides this referendum, what else is happening on the National Front?

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28:16

Well, you know, I'm in Washington, DC, and thank God, George W. Bush's is back home at the what do they call it? The West White House?

J

Jack Valinski 28:26

I don't know. It's, it's a ranch in Crawford, Texas, right. Crawford, Texas, near Waco, and which I'm sure the report is just love to be out here with 100 degree temperatures.

♂

28:36

Well, you know, it makes me remember why I got out of journalism. And you know, Congress's recess to Congress is going to be coming back. And there's talk now that this fall, the Senate will be moving on the hate crimes legislation. And there are some moderate Republicans in the House, who have begun to lobby their leadership to let it come to the floor for a vote in the House. Wow. If it came to the floor, it would pass. However, House Speaker Dennis Hastert Majority Leader Dick Armey and House Majority Whip, Tom DeLay, has pledged they're not going to let it come to the floor. So we'll just have to wait and see.

J

Jack Valinski 29:22

Yeah. Yes, our wonderful Texas representatives, and on a personal front, David, anything new?

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29:29

Well, Jack, now that you asked that I do have some sad news that I would like to pass on to you. You know, I've been with the task force a little over two years now.

YOU KNOW, I'VE BEEN WITH THE TASK FORCE A LITTLE OVER TWO YEARS NOW.

J

Jack Valinski 29:42

And that's a lifetime, isn't it? It's a lifetime or

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29:45

it's a life sentence. I'm not sure which you some. Some of your listeners, a few of your listeners perhaps might know that I used to be a reporter with The Austin American Statesman. I worked in the capitol bureau. Bro, I covered state politics state issues covered. Some Governor races down there 1990. And Richards was Clayton Williams 1994, George W. versand. That went didn't come out so well. I also covered the criminal justice system. And I covered the death penalty in Texas, I witnessed an execution. And I reported on a number of stories involving issues like whether it's ethical for doctors to participate in executions, and whether inmates have adequate legal representation during the latter stages of their appeals. You know, I studied to issues regarding race and class and the death penalty in Texas. And it's always been work that I've been very, very interested in, it's always been part of my heart. And I was blessed very recently, to receive a job offer to become the communications coordinator for the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty. And I have given the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force Five weeks notice, and I will be going over to death penalty work in sometime in mid September

J

Jack Valinski 31:12

was certainly that's very important work.

♂

31:14

It's very important to me, it's very, very important to me, you know, I, after I witnessed the execution, I felt that that actually it was each of us who were putting the inmate to death, and that if we opposed this, then we had a moral obligation to speak up and, and try to do something about it. Otherwise, we're the ones doing the execution, you know, we can't hide behind the veneer of government. You know, we can't hide on this because the government is us. Right. And, you know, I'd like to say that I've really, truly enjoyed coming on lesbian and gay voices and doing these women.

J

Jack Valinski 31:54

Did you think this isn't easy out?

♂

31:56

Oh, no, no, I'm, I'm still I'm still completely willing to come on. And you know, be your guest on the show. Whenever you want me I. you know. you might want me every month. you might

want me to less frequently. I'm yours. I just might be not quite as tied in

J

Jack Valinski 32:15

to the way certainly certainly. But you would definitely be tied into some very important issues, and especially issues that affect Harris County.

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32:23

Oh, well, definitely. I mean, Harris County, since the death penalty began, again in in the late 70s, with Gary Gilmore, and then with the was a consensual inmate and then with Charles Burke of Texas in the early 80s. Harris County, if it were a state would rank second only to Texas, I believe in the number of people who've been executed, although I shouldn't say that this year. Oklahoma is way out there. But Texas is unfortunately trying to catch up.

J

Jack Valinski 32:57

Unfortunately, yes. Well, certainly, I'm sure. Ray would, you know, you'll be communicating with Ray a bit too, because, you know, Ray works for Ray Hill works on those issues, also very closely.

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33:09

And his is a named, it's very well known in the abolition movement. Sure. And you should know, Jack that a group of going to work for the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty is pretty well known to Houston. It was only about maybe four years ago, that the coalition held its annual National Conference in Houston.

J

Jack Valinski 33:31

Right, yeah. Okay. Okay. Well, you know, certainly I'm sure, and gITF is going to miss you. And I know, you put a lot of work and hard work into that organization. And, you know, I guess things are going pretty good over there.

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33:49

Well, we've got our new Executive Director, Laurie L. Jean, I think is going to be the best executive director the task force has ever had. I think she's gonna raise a lot of money. And she brings with her a very dynamic energy. And it was she's just been a pleasure to work with. And I have to tell you, on a personal note, it was very, very difficult, you know, to tell her about my decision or, but when when I explained to her what was behind it, she understood.

J Jack Valinski 34:22

Well, great, David, we wish you the best of luck. And certainly you're not leaving us. And we'll be talking to you very soon.

♂ 34:31

Jack, you can have me on the air anytime you want me and I just appreciate the show and I appreciate your listeners and all the hard work that people are doing in Houston, Texas.

J Jack Valinski 34:42

Okay. Well, David, thank you. David is communications director for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force still, and he'll be joining us again in a few weeks because we missed him. Two weeks ago when Joan broke the station. She was here when the station went off the air so we have to blame her. And next up we have another segment from this way out

G Greg Gordon 35:13

from Baltimore to Buenos Aires from Tokyo to Tampa, there will be over 100 Gay and Lesbian film festivals around the world this year. The largest of these cinematic celebrations was July is out Fest in Los Angeles. This way out Steve pride was there to get the inside story on some of the films that might well be on their way to a theater near you.

♂ 35:34

Last month out fez boasted 231 films and videos from 23 countries. It took 12 days and covered nine venues. It was even possible to have a great time without seeing a single film. The festival boasted not only seminars and lots of parties this year there was something special.

♂ 35:52

This is Sherif, we loco director of festival programming for art Fest this year. What's different? What am I excited about? There's actually one big new thing. It is a section that will happen every year called platinum oasis. It is a performance based 18 hour durational arts fest. We're taking over the historic coral sands motel and filling all 40 rooms with different performance artists.

♂ 36:17

What's this room all about?



36:18

We are the diaper room, and we're the mommies. We're here so you can find your inner child. And if you need any nurturing any healing, that's what US mommies are here for this is we are about nurturing and caring and loving.



36:31

You never punish your children. Oh no, we



36:34

do have a stern hand now and then a little spank on a little bear buttocks is always good. I am crystal the Angora and we are the Barbie torture Playhouse.



36:44

I noticed this is a kin free zone.



36:46

Well, yeah, it's not the kid isn't allowed to come. It's just that he's hanging out in some of the other play rooms. You know what I mean? You know,



36:55

I think I do.



36:57

Hello, I vaginal dative. And my installation is topping from the bottom room and then a video room up there are my favorite videos of my friends and son of mine. And I'm the hostess tonight. And I love it here at famous world famous. Thank you.



37:19

Hi, I'm Bruce livers. In about 15 minutes, we have a porn model coming and he's going to be posing naked on the bed and I'm going to photograph him and then after that people can pay \$5 and get pose with blood splattered on them on the bed and get a Polaroid taken of themselves.



37:40

What's this insulation about? Who are you? We live here? We've been here for two weeks on our honeymoon My son just showed up and then all these bricks come in.

37:48

My name is divinity fudge and I'm basically doing a funky nail salon. If you want to get your nails done, get a little pampering that's what I'm doing also massage after midnight.

37:57

Do you work at the coral sands? You work here? Is this the most unusual thing that's ever happened here? Used

38:10

to be of course, the real reason to have a film festival is to watch a lot of movies.

38:25

My name is Tom Shepard. And I'm from San Francisco, California originally from Colorado Springs. And the film that I am presenting here at out fest is scouts honor, Scott's honor is about the anti gay policy of the Boy Scouts of America and people who have stepped forward to challenge it. And in particular, a 12 year old boy from Petaluma, California who launched a petition drive back in 1998 in his hometown of Petaluma. And really that movement has grown into a national campaign to overturn the ban on gays in the Boy Scouts of America Petaluma, California is kind of an every town USA, very Norman Rockwell ish, in a certain way. And you know, I read this article three and a half years ago about this 12 year old boy who was launching this petition drive at his local Lucky's grocery store. And as a filmmaker, I was just incredulous what would motivate a 12 year old straight boy and his straight family to take on the this huge monolithic organization and went up and met them and just was really impressed on the spot with their level of conviction. And they led me to Dave Reiss, who is a 70 year old scatter been involved since the 1930s. Mr. Scout, essentially from Petaluma and he had joined forces with the cause of family and and we got our cameras out and started filming. I mean, right around that Time is when the legal cases of Tim Curran and James Dale were really picking up steam. Tim Curran had just lost after 17 years in litigation with the Boy Scouts in the state of California, James Dale had just won first time really against the Boy Scouts in the state of New Jersey. And so it was kind of with that backdrop and context of those legal cases that I began following the story of Steven Koza.

40:26

We work together, God, this is Todd Hughes. I'm the writer and director of a new feature film called The New women, which stars Mary Wuornos, Amy Hill, Jenny Shimizu, Cheryl Jr. and a cast of over 100 women, the new women is basically about women taking over the world. What

we do is set up the sexual politics in a small town where women clearly haven't come along way baby. And then a mysterious rainstorm comes along and literally puts everyone in the entire world to sleep. And slowly but surely, the women start waking up, but the men never do. So women sort of have it upon themselves to rebuild society. The men do get erections every 45 minutes, which add to the complications. But I'm Mary Warner plays this Meek housewife who sort of overcomes her low self esteem and leads a group of women in search of this place called Elysium, which is supposed to be a female Utopia they hear about on the radio, everyone in the film was a friend. People say, who's your casting director, and we say my address book, every part was written pretty much for whoever was going to play it. To me to me, Sue, and I've been friends for about 12 years. She was actually my first film, dingdong. It's funny because we were waiters together. And I called her one day and I said, Hey, Jenny, I need you to fix my car. And someone picked up the phone and said Jenny's gone to New York. So I was like, Well, do you know when she'll be back? And they were like, No. And I went out and picked up US magazine and found out she'd become a supermodel. So



41:58

hi, my name is Richard Shea. I am a filmmaker, the CO writer and director of goatfish, Director of bedrooms and hallways, and most recently, the writer, director, co editor, co producer of the safety of objects.



42:15

Let's start with the old stuff. Go Fish is like the classic lesbian film, you feel like you've made a classic, you feel that old?



42:21

Oh, it makes me feel like a grandma. And I have age issues already. So it's very weird, because I actually do feel like oh my god, I'm a husband like in this way that it marked a moment that no filmmaker could ever anticipate no one can ever make anything to be what Cowfish was, it was out of my control. I didn't set out to do that it happened by itself. It was a moment in time.



42:44

Hi, I'm Paula caucus for the movie circuit and you're listening to this way out the international lesbian gay radio magazine.



42:54

Houston is 90.1 PBfT the sound of Texas is not only getting a reputation around town but around the world. Thanks to the worldwide web at KPFT dot o RG more people are tuning into KPFT than ever before. Yahoo internet Life magazine recently ranked the top 10 net radio stations that no browser should be without of all the stations this planet has to offer. KPFT

came in at number six, another sign that KPFT is growing stronger than ever. If you can't tune us in check us out on the web. And if you're within listening distance count your lucky stars broadcasting to Houston and beyond. Its Houston is 90.1 KPFT the sound of Texas.



43:48

Hi, this is Robin Tyler and you're listening to lesbian and gay voices on KPFT in Houston.



J Jack Valinski 44:00

Well, you're playing with me, Glenn, just because Joe is not here. Well, we have our friends here from the alley and and we all know the alley did survive the flood. Very well. Why don't you all introduce yourselves?



44:14

I'm Travis Mayer. I'm the rock resident dramaturg at the alley and



44:17

I'm Delecia Harvey public relations associate.



J Jack Valinski 44:20

So and it's it's the new season tires.



44:23

Yeah, we actually it's really great. We just announced our new season about a month ago. Yeah, just we've got a full season to play as okay. We all know that. We had a little bit of problem with water over the June 9, Tropical Storm Allison period. And we did lose our small stage but we're rebuilding. And what we're doing is we're switching that arena show that usually happens in the fall to later at the end of the year. Okay, so we're starting off our season actually in about two weeks. Yeah. No, no Friday, our first previous Friday. Oops, I better get to the 29 The Glass Menagerie by Tennessee. Wow. Yes. is sort of the if you if you find a play that really sort of set Tennessee Williams apart as being this great future playwright, it was that play I mean, before he had written not about nine gills, which is one of the plays into the alley, and other plays that he tried to get done. But The Glass Menagerie was sort of his big commercial success in 1944. So we call it you know, Tennessee Williams, great entrance, and we have a great cast behind it. Um, Elizabeth Ashley, who's a renowned actor. Yeah, she's a stage actress and film she was in the film happiness. That's her most recent film. She also is sort of considered one of the preeminent interpreters of Tennessee Williams work, she was in the major 1974 revival of Cat on a Hot Tin Roof. And she's been, she did another play by Tennessee Williams as the New York premiere of one of his later sort of more obscure

place called the Red Devil battery sign. But she's always been very interested in Tennessee Williams, and has always really been a big fan of his work. And we're really lucky to get her this production actually is from the Hartford Stage Company, which is Windows, I'll head by our favorite Michael Wilson, who used to be an ally, associate artist and has brought this production to open our season.

J

Jack Valinski 46:16

When you bring something in like that, I mean, you just don't just they don't just don't show up. I mean, I mean, not all of us know, the certainly I don't know the the behind the scenes of doing something like this. Do they actually get to practice on the stage before?

♂

46:30

Oh, yeah, they can they have a rehearsal period, just like any other. Well, yeah, actually, we we we have a different cast, slightly different cast than the Hartford production. So they, they would have to have a regular rehearsal.

♂

46:41

Yeah, there's actually as a four person play, and two of the cast members are returning from the original Hartford engagement, Elizabeth Ashley and a up and coming Broadway actor named Andrew deck as Laura. And then we have in the role of the gentleman caller. And many of you may recognize you may not recognize his name, but if you see his face, you'll remember him from Melrose Place, Mr. Grant show who played Jake Oh, motorcycle guy is, is going to be playing the gentleman caller. So we're really excited about that. And so he now became legitimate. Well, actually, he was legitimate. He did have a stage back. Yeah, he recently did with off Broadway and Okay, so he's got a stage career as well. And so a really good guy and playing Tom, who is sort of Tennessee Williams Alter Ego the plate is Robert Sela, who's a great actor. He was seen on Ali's stages a few years ago in black coffee, one of our summer chill shows. But he's, you know, he originated one of the roles in the play Sideman, which won a Tony Award for Best Play. And he also played the MC on Broadway and cabaret. So he's got a lot of star power behind him. We're just really excited about this great cast. So they've been here a couple of weeks rehearsing. And they get on stage actually, for the first time tomorrow. And we get before people on Friday, yeah.

J

Jack Valinski 47:58

And how long will it run?

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48:00

What is the date? What's the 22nd? That runs through September 22. Okay, so so you've got four weeks to see it. And it's really amidst Michael Wilson, as you know, is really, he's he has an expressive dedication and at Hartford to producing as many of Tennessee Williams plays as

possible. I mean, when he was at the alley that Streetcar Named Desire, with Annalee, Jeffries and Orpheus descending. So he's really, he's really someone who's really trying to embrace Tennessee Williams and bring him back because for a long time later in Tennessee Williams career before he died, his plays is people that sort of had the Edward Albee syndrome, which Edward Albee has since sort of recovered from where people were saying, oh, you can't write anymore. You don't have your young genius. And so Michael Wilson is hoping to resurrect some some of his earlier work so people can realize and remember how great he is. Okay, that's great. So yeah, we're really excited about that production opener. Yeah, that opens our season. Then we have another play, which is really exciting called Art. Oh, yeah. So a lot of people heard of this was on Broadway, came through Jones Hall, we're doing something a little bit different. We, as you probably know, the Allianz resident company of actors then continue to work all year round. It's sort of one of the only theaters in the country that does that. Well, this year, there are three there three characters in the play, that we're casting six people, six actors to play those three roles. So they'll alternate it'll give I think it'll give Houston audiences a chance to see a lot of different configurations. Excuse Yeah,



49:32

they're gonna basically sort of decide every night who's going to be in the cast that evening, right before they go on. So yeah, they have to be prepared, the actors have to be a lot more, it's gonna be a lot more challenging for them to sort of be able to bounce off different people and



49:44

we may give them five minutes.



Jack Valinski 49:48

Well, I was sort of like tonight when you show up and Glenn wasn't here. Of course, it's easier to play here than it is on stage. What is the basic premise of the play?



49:59

The Play basically begins when one one of the there are three friends, Serge, Yvonne and Mark and, and one of them buys a contemporary painting, which is really basically a white canvas. He spends a lot of money on it. And his friends are a little disturbed by his purchase. So in the nature of what is art, how can you how can you judge? What is art? And how is how is how are friendships affected by things like that? I mean, can you judge a friend's work of art? Is that going to put a damper on the friendship? So it's a comedy. And it's, it's a lot of fun. It's sort of this really smart Boulevard comedy. It's by a French writer named Yasmina Raisa, and she's up and coming and really, really sharp. Well, that's certainly played New York a long time it did it. Did it win the Tony Award?



50:44

 I don't think so. I mean, it won a lot.

 50:48

Yeah, and actually did win the 20. Best in play. It's, it's a hit. It's one of those plays. It's got the word hit written all over it. So not to be too marketing here. But that's October through November. So basically, October 5 through November 3. And then we have a Christmas carol.

 51:04

Why are you wanting to me for that? Because everybody's already heard about it. It's our holiday, or holiday? tradition? Tradition brings people downtown.

 51:15

Yeah. Well, actually, for families, families love it.

 J Jack Valinski 51:19

I mean, a few years ago, that would have been something bringing people downtown people are now down. Yeah,

 51:23

it's true. I mean, even this weekend, I was there and I was amazed at how crowded it was on a on a Sunday.

 J Jack Valinski 51:28

Yeah, I mean, the big difference even now with you know, we know that the smaller theater won't be ready for a while. But what about parking? You know, people? Well, it used to be easy, almost park in front of the theater, you know, years ago, right? At night.

 51:44

Well, luckily, the the parking garage behind the alleys above ground parking. So that's all smart. Yeah, that's fine. It's 15 floors of parking.

 51:51

These performances are in the evening. It's we don't quite have the problem. It's been it's been

less problematic. So far.



51:57

The city Civic Center did lose a lot of parking places. I think it's somewhere along like 500 to 1000 places that were lost, and maybe even more. So there are fewer alternatives. But you know, we had some really big crowds over the summer with our summer chills program. And everyone was seemed to be fine. So it get there a little bit early, and I think you'll be fine.



J Jack Valinski 52:16

Well, not to chase people to your competition. But what else is going on in town? The other theaters are they they moving? They doing? Are things going on there?



52:25

Yeah, basically, this is the time of year where everyone really opens their season. So I know that Joe, cooler weather? Yeah, well, it's cooler weather and everyone. There used to be a thing in theater called on a hiatus in the summer, which usually in July and August, you wouldn't do anything. Right. It was all summer stock. Right? Well, unfortunately. Maybe it's not unfortunate. Sorry. But the alley does sort of run you around. Yeah, yeah, summer chills, and we have our young playwrights festival. So there's really not a break. But traditionally, seasons begin September. And I know that stages is beginning their season with a new play called Elizabeth Brax. There's a play at that little room downstairs called desperate ingredients. IBP is suing Tamela Lea six stages right now. So there's a lot of stuff going on. Everyone's pretty much starting their season. And trying to get the subscribers and, and have a long and prosperous season. Well, usin



J Jack Valinski 53:20

pressures, he does a very good job of letting people know what's going on in these theaters. Radio is not always the best medium to give a whole list of everything that's going on. And it is neat that there are things all around and not just downtown. But these theaters are all around town.



53:36

Yeah, I mean, all every neighborhood in Houston basically has a theater. And they can be small theaters from you know, theater labs, right? Yeah, grocery store. And it's, you know, the size of your living room. And it's great because it's so intimate. And you're really there and you're experiencing some pretty heavy hitting plays in a very close proximity to the actors. So that's always fun. And you know, stages is a great location on Allen Parkway. And there are a lot of smaller theaters just sort of popping up and theater, you know, there. It's not like you build a theater and it stays there forever. I mean, theaters come and go. Exactly, yes. It's kind of fun to see what happens.

J

Jack Valinski 54:12

Well, yeah, but then again, they usually last longer than then sports stadiums. And then, you know, the other thing I guess I noticed found out a few years ago is that you really work in bringing the school kids in during the day for plays and stuff like that, to get them sort of to understand what theater theater is, because they may not have another opportunity. Certainly, you know, when I was growing up, I didn't have that opportunity.

👤

54:36

Yeah, I mean, neither did I. And part of what was the mission of the theater is to have an outreach program that in addition to enriching young children, and their understanding and appreciation of theater, lets us cultivate a new audience. Because we the subscribers, we have you know, eventually we all get old and die. We need new people to come in and replace us right so I think Guess that's a great way of sort of reminding people and young children that theater is here. And it's something that's worth looking at. You know, it's maybe it's an alternative to the movies,

J

Jack Valinski 55:08

or Absolutely, yes. And it's a lot. You know, I mean, so much of that stuff is no longer around that, you know that this is an opportunity for some, you know, to see some great stuff that we need it, especially if you don't travel, you can't go to New York, or where else Los Angeles in some cases. And Houston probably has a lot more than even Dallas, I would guess.

👤

55:30

Yeah, actually, he still has a much, much more to offer and theater than Dallas. I'm sorry, Dallas. But actually, this is a great opportunity this year, because I mean, we're doing The Glass Menagerie, which every kid reads in high school or maybe Junior. Yeah, that's, that's twisting their arm if you get to see it, and see a really good production of it, I think changes the entire experience of having to look at that play or having to examine that it makes it become a living thing thing. And we're also doing Of Mice and Men this year. And that's something everybody reads, And to see it on stage. And to get to experience and talk about it and meet the actors. I think that's such a life changing experience for kids.

J

Jack Valinski 56:07

Absolutely. Absolutely. Well, great. I'm it's great to see that the Ali's doing some wonderful stuff I can. And it's really encouraging now, just in case somebody doesn't know where is the Alley Theater, and how can they get in touch?

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56:21

It's 615 Texas Avenue downtown and the box office number is 713-228-8421.

J

Jack Valinski 56:27

Yeah, do you have can you get tickets online yet? Or is that yes, you

Ω

56:31

can add the website which is www dot allied theatre.org And it's theater with an RA.

J

Jack Valinski 56:36

Right. Okay, well, thank you all for coming by. Thanks for having us. You're listening to lesbian and gay voices.

Ω

56:43

Technology sure has changed over the years first it was records then a tracks, cassettes, CDs and today well we have the internet not just the internet, but kpft.org. When you log on to kpft.org you can listen to 90.1 online you can also find out information about your favorite programs like Mike in the afternoon the World Cafe, Democracy Now spare change the blues, brunch or even the BBC News our kpft.org Today's technology on the web, or yesterday's technology, the radio for over 30 years Houston is 90.1 KPFT, the sound of Texas

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57:23

this is JD Doyle for lesbian and gay voices. I recently interviewed Robin Tyler. Now many of you may know of her as one of our most outspoken activists, especially with her involvement with the last March on Washington. But she has a long list of accomplishments I can mention, she was the first openly gay or lesbian comic in America. She was a member of the steering committees of the national marches on Washington, and 1979 1987 and 1993 and was the original executive producer of the millennium march in 2000. She has produced 25 Women's music and comedy festivals, driving hundreds of 1000s of lesbians to festivals in California and in the south. She was a keynote speaker at the National Organization for women's pro choice rally in Washington DC, which was the largest women's rights rally in history. She's MC the Gay Games in Vancouver, British Columbia, and has received numerous awards and honors, including the Harvey Milk Humanitarian Award. And most recently, she was one of the main forces behind the stop Dr. Laura movement. I want to start the interview by asking her about something most people probably have not heard about her early days as a comic. To give you an example, here's a short clip from her 1978 album, Always a Bridesmaid never a groom, the first openly gay comedy album.

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58:43

Last summer I spoke at the gay liberation parade in San Francisco. Now I am not gay. I'm not I'm a lesbian, but I'm bested. Let's face it, guys, we are two different sets of cultures, right? We got to realize the differences. Gay Liberation parade in San Francisco. 250,000 people marched in that parade. Now a lot of folks said hey, they're flaunting. Flaunting is that a funny word? When a heterosexual shows us a picture of their family. It's called sharing. When we show them a picture of our lovers. It's called flaunting. So I felt it was time to share. I stood on the platform and I was actually able to see 100,000 people in front of me and I thought about the woman who was responsible for my being there. No, not my mother. I need a Bryant



59:39

I need a Brian. I need a brand who is to Christianity with paint by numbers is to arch.



59:50

In this interview, you hear Robin Tyler talk about such subjects as comedy being out. Women's music festivals, transgender, Dr. Laura Rap singer Eminem, and the Millennium March. I started out by asking her about her first album. Robin, I've read that the album always a bridesmaid, never a groom was the first openly gay comedy album. How did that album come about?



1:00:16

In the 70s, Pat Harrison and I Harrison and Tyler were female comedy team, we were assigned to ABC, we had come out of being a feminist comedy team. So we played all over colleges, and so forth and so on. And the network picked us up and decided we'd be great replacement for you ready for this done. And we realized that they were looking for a variety show people. So we did four pilots. And we ended up starting on the craft Comedy Hour. And at the same time, I was political, you know, this gay liberation was was happening again, has been the aberration. And at the time, it was gay, then we added lesbian, bisexual, now, transgender and queer. So I had to gain 30 pounds just to put everybody's rights on my T shirt. Anyway, yeah. What happened was, it was interesting. And it's actually if you look at the history of comedy, and the civil rights movements, it's happened to most of the comics that came out during the era of civil rights. We were just beginning to as a movement emerge as reemerge again as we movement. And so here, I was doing a television and all these pilots being very, you know, generically cute. And offstage, I was beginning to talk all over. And I got a call from a guidance. He said, we're having a gay pride celebration, because, say, some gay jokes. And I said, I'm not doing any anti gay jokes. He said, No, no, do some pro gay jokes. And I thought, Well, what a pro gay jokes. I couldn't find it. Uh, you know, it was interesting. So I went to the celebration and, and he said, Get up, get up there and do do something Colgate just make it up. So I got up, and I did this joke about running into a right wing guy. And he said, I think they should take all of your quiz and put you on an island someplace. And I said they did dining, and they call it Manhattan. And that was my first gay joke. And they laughed, and it was an entirely gay audience. And so I just started to make up jokes, where we weren't the object of the humor, where we were the subject of the humor. You know, humor is the razor sharp edge of the truth. Humor is anger. And truth made funny. There's no such thing as just kidding. So when people used to do faggot chokes, comics, or they still do faggot jokes, or even Eminem, you know, tries to make it funny to kill the faggots. There's no such thing as just kidding. For an audience to

laugh at something, they have to believe that the premise is true. And so what happened in the 70s, is I began to go on stage and turn the tables, and do jokes that were pro us. In order to combat all the jokes were anteus. And out of trying to do those jokes and beginning to do those jokes. I was beginning to formulate material. And then you need to Bryant came along. And I'm so grateful for Anita Bryant I am. I'll tell you something odd Bryant and Laura Schlessinger have done more for comedy than you know, I know, really, these are great women. I know a lot of people look at them. And they say, Oh, well, they're not. These are very important women because all of us miss like a wealth of material, you know, so I came out against the need to Brian, I was doing jokes on her. And

1:03:23

there's a great quote on the bridesmaid album that Anita Bryant is to Christianity. What paint by numbers is to art.

1:03:29

Right, right. But I I switched it to sleisenger Laura sisters to Judaism, what paint by numbers is to art. So you know what's great if you hang on to jokes, and nobody hears them for 20 years? Well, a new bigot a new bigot comes along you just have to switch it on my Nixon jokes on Bush, you know, you know Bush who makes Dan Quayle look like an intellect. But so everything gets recycled. So is it interesting, prejudiced never dies? I guess neither does common sense. I came up with an album called them Always a Bridesmaid never groom. And the hardest thing about that first album was revealing myself. I had the same problem that Richard Pryor had when he started coming out. And instead of doing establishment comedy, which he did for many, many years, he started coming out and talking about being black and being raised in the ghetto, and so forth and so on. And the hardest thing when he came on and started revealing himself was that he was attacked by other blacks. They didn't want this they wanted Bill Cosby and they wanted to Flip Wilson who, you know, find comics, but both of them. But when I started coming out and doing humor that was pro gay and lesbian people said to me, gays and lesbian, you're gonna kill your career, even though they were laughing. You're gonna kill your career, you're gonna kill yourself on television, you know, you won't be a star. And I said, Well, you know, I may never be a star, but unless you can tell the truth as a comic, you can never really be funny. And so I didn't care. I just came out. And the day I was on the craft Comedy Hour, it was Patti and I was starring ABC television. You know, Ellen DeGeneres is network If we were to start it at the news carried us and it said about lesbian you couldn't just be a lesbian habit I vowed I'm about lesbians and about lesbian eyebrow, it would they were probably trying to say is out of the closet lesbian. So a valid lesbian Robin Tyler doesn't need to buy jokes. And this was on the national news right after the national broadcast. I'm so glad I came out because when I came out, I got happy and free and funny. You know, and I didn't know I'd get all the bookings. And I didn't know I'd make a whole bunch of out. But I didn't know I'd make history. I just knew that I couldn't lie anymore. You know, when people say Don't Ask, Don't Tell what they're really saying is be a liar. And how can you be an artist and be a liar? I mean, how can you win art when the basis of art is supposed to be your truth? How can you be a liar? So comedy is a very serious business.

1:05:49

How did that album end up on the Olivia label?



1:05:52

I was dating someone at a time boot price. Dating custom nice word. We were lovers and just for a while. Boo at the time was she later became one of the owners of the Michigan Women's music festival. And she was the one that submitted it to Olivia. And Olivia didn't want to do it. They said no, no, we've put out a poetry album it didn't sell. So a comedy album is talking. It's not going to sell. It sold. It sold a lot of albums. And



1:06:20

they were to Harrison entire albums with your early partner Pat Harrison. Yeah.



1:06:25

And to solo solo albums. Did you ever hit the second one? Just kidding. That is the best album. The second one. And the reason it was so controversial and the guts are written about is because they attacked? You know, it's interesting. Everybody thinks Lenny Bruce got attacked for saying the word. I don't know if it said on the air. But you know, the four letter words. Well, he was really prosecuted because the Catholic Church didn't like what he was saying. And in essence, he came up against the Catholic Church. And because people had made duty party albums has got to do with this. My second people have made duty party album, Redd Foxx, who for years and years and years, so all of a sudden, there's Lenny Bousquet prosecuted, because he did two things. One is he put out an album with a black with two women of color, one black woman and one Asian woman in him. And it was an integrated album cover. And that had never happened before. And this made people very angry. And the second thing is he took on the Catholic Church. In my second album, just kidding. My best routine is the birth of the baby Jesus, and I do Jesus as a Jewish family, you know, and a sense I take on the church. And I think that possibly that's the most daring, daring kind of comedy is to take on the most powerful thing you can possibly take on and then reveal it as a lie. So great comedy isn't just coming out as gay or lesbian. I don't consider you know, there's a lot of gay and lesbian comics now. And some of them are very, very good. But great comedy is having the guts to tell the truth. And then knowing how to make it funny.



1:07:53

You can evolve with a large number of women's music festivals. Tell us about the first one.



1:07:58

The first one I went to was the Michigan Women's music festival with the why. And



1:08:05

1:08:05

right, Michigan with why

1:08:07

Michigan with a why. Yeah, a woman born woman, you know, I wasn't sure I sent for my birth certificate. And I think I am but I'm not sure anyway. Yeah. I want to say one thing about transgender, okay, everybody is knocking, changing like transgender. Meanwhile, I live in Hollywood where we all get facelifts, tummy tucks and everything else, you know, we all go to, and we say, you know, the desire to look young or the desire to look younger, they say rested. They don't say young anymore in Hollywood, they say rested, like by 30 years. And yet, you know, if you're transgender, and you want it, like, you know, I don't care, cut off your breasts, but whatever it is, all of a sudden, it's like, because it's got a gender thing attached to it. It's wrong. Yet if it's an age thing, it's right. Isn't that hypocritical? I mean, think about it. I you know, I just had breast reduction surgery. I had it, you know, and how to edit a penis, I would have like, you know, been out of the game movement. I mean, I don't know, you know, I didn't because why add one when you have 12 in a drawer, but and you know what, you know what I'm saying? Anyway, I was it talking about festivals, festivals, okay. I went to the Michigan Women's music festival. I was lobbyist with bu at the time. They made me the emcee, but actually boo beg them and I got up there. And I did very slick material. I was from Hollywood. So I did very, but I walked and said, I'm a butcher, you know, and so forth and so on. I lied. No, I am I try. I've tried I've never seen under a trunk. You know, I don't understand mechanics who athletics but I said I was a butcher. I looked like a bunch of CAD shorthair and I had I rolled and dirt and had dirty blue jeans. And to me I was butcher enough. And I will and I said all these things and I got a lot of laughs and I knocked eating tofu and asked how many of the audience who ate meat and 80% of them put their hand up and I said them why is it vegetarian and I challenged you know, because I'm a comic. And so I afterward, the producer, the owner of the festival, even though it was like, supposed to be a women's collective, it was owned all of them were I on to was a women's business came over and said, You know, I really liked you. But people were really offended. You said you were Butch because it wasn't politically correct, then this is the 78 or nine really way back there. Maybe earlier, the fifth women's music, Michigan Women's music festival. And they started to critique my act politically. Now I'm an artist. And the worst thing you can do, you know, to a child of Hollywood and to an artist is to try to like politically correct, the I hate politically correct, I really do. Politically Correct means I'm, you know, the one more person in the room that's going to tell the rest of the people how to think it's so fascist, I can't stand it. So all of a sudden, you said you were Butch and you shouldn't have and you were too slick. I said, Well, I'm not really slept, I'm really Jewish. And, you know, and all this other stuff. And I couldn't stand the critique. And I thought, you know, and the next year, they had me come back to produce the stage. And I came back another year. And again, but they didn't want me on the stage in case I would say something wrong, because it sounds like McCarthyism in reverse. You know, this is this is it's like McCarthyism, it was the same thing. So I, I produced and then I thought, no, no, I have to start a festival where the artist can say what they want, even if they're wrong, it's okay to be wrong. You know, it's okay to be politically different. It's okay to have different opinions. You know, everybody doesn't have to agree. So I started the West Coast women's music festival. And an interesting thing happened about there was an artist at that festival, the 34th year that was singing a song called Meet me in the woods and a group of women thought she was singing beat me in the woods. And they came up and they wanted to see her and they asked why I didn't censor her and everything. And I said, I'm not censoring this artist. Now I knew she had saying meet me in the woods, but they had heard beat me in the woods. Isn't that funny when you're looking for to hear it?

Anyway, I'll tell you who the artist was that I wouldn't let them attack. Melissa Etheridge. And I'm sure those same women were in her audience paying 100 bucks a show or something like that. So I think I think purism, you know, is really, it makes me nauseous. And, and when I went to Michigan, although I loved there was a lot of stuff. So good. The I love blue price. And I think when bluestamp was on Michigan, and her fear was she's the mother of women's music. As far as I'm concerned. She used to manage my Gadem they were lovers and but she essentially, her vision really created it. And she was the one that took Michigan from a very small little festival to a major festival. And she's a very, very dear friend of mine. And so I think the Michigan festival was wonderful, but I wanted to start a festival where you know, if you're in TSM, I'm not going to stop. But if you know, transgender showed up at the gate, I had them digging ditches and coming in because they were transgendered. I don't care if you're done your work shift, you know what I'm saying? I mean, you can have all these rules and regulations for other people. Even though I disagreed with a lot of what happened at the West Coast festival in the you know, I'm not necessarily into a lot of things that happen there. But who am I to say how people should live. And so what happens the festivals are great, you know, the women's music flourished. After I started the west coast and southern women's Music Festival and comedy festival comedy began to flourish. So I think the festivals were the greatest legacy of lesbian history of this of the 70s and 80s and 90s. I also think it's something that we really have to examine, because of the the inbred purism and the ideology that I so much disagreed with in a lot of it. I don't believe because you're a man, you're automatically a sexist and I don't believe I don't believe in name calling. And I don't believe in using victim politics to destroy other people. And so what you saw on stage was his beauty in this fantastic concerts. And you know, Holly near to me is, is the greatest voice of that generation. She's the greatest writer. She's the greatest talent and I don't mean lesbian, or bisexual or whatever. I'm talking about in general show business. I think nobody came out and wrote as many albums as many songs depicting the struggle of that generation as Holly new did and I think she's one of the greatest talents. You know, that didn't come out of women's music. She came out of showbusiness, but but she was great. So you have these great talents, fantastic talents on stage. And then you also had this this simmering of in the name of trying to reach some kind of, you know, beautiful women's world, you had the simmering of very dangerous fundamentalism. And so to me, I saw the stage at odds with the politics, the stage where I was supposed to reflect the politics, but I felt that at times at odds with the politics so So I set up my own festivals and got a tech there.



1:14:54

I understand you have one of the largest collections of women's music. Can you tell us about that?



1:14:59

I started to videotape all the festivals, not just the music, the comedy The speakers, I've got Flo Kennedy. I've got Rita Mae Brown, I've got Melissa, I've got everybody almost every bag, maybe I do have everybody. Maybe not everybody but close to, you know, close everybody we know and a lot of people we don't. And I started to tape it to show my workers that couldn't show up to the concert wasn't for history and had no idea what was historic. I just started to videotape everything so that people that missed the workshops or the concerts, we would show them to the workers later. And so I have hundreds and hundreds of hours. And I guess it's historically probably the most valuable thing you know, other than the albums, but I mean,

from a video point of view and, and documentary, people are calling me and want to use them in everything. And I just I want to let it to I just wrote an email to price. I said, I've got over 300 hours of music, what should we do of all this film? So she's thinking about it, and I just applied for a grant to transfer to digital.

1:15:57

What are your feelings about the controversy around rapper Eminem?

1:16:01

I think Eminem is important to our community because and I wrote an article about him. Because I remember being at the Improv in the 70s. And I was performing and David Brenner was on the bill. And I knew David I liked him was a sweet guy. And David made the mistake and the audiences have gay a lot of gay men had come to see me. And David had made the mistake of doing a faggot joke and they stopped the show right there and said you can't do this. So I don't understand why people would make excuses for Eminem in the name of free speech, you know, in the name of being liberal well, we don't have one civil rights we still don't have we, you know, we've mistaken visibility and the music and everything for civil rights, we still do not have one civil rights in this country. And yet, we will fight to the death some of our community for Eminem's right to say kill the faggot. And so I think it's really important that we grab by self esteem by the balls and and do something about it. It's not alright for him to say it.

1:17:01

What accomplishment of yours? Are you the most proud?

1:17:05

I don't know. You know, because I think life isn't about one thing. I think it's about a body of work. I'm proud that I came out as a comic, I came out when I was starring on ABC I came out knowing that it would end my establishment career. I wasn't naive about it. And yet I came on anyway, because it couldn't help it. So that was good. I called for the first march on Washington. And that was good. I started to joke about it. It's in several books. And we should march on Washington. We know how gay men love camping. And then people I said, we should march on Washington, they'll begin to cheer and I said, Yes, we should Baba Baba and Minneapolis. And that's how the first milestone, you know, and I love what being a co founder of stop, Dr. Laura, that was great. I like doing that. And getting her off of television and doing it on a budget of \$18,000. You know, I love the women's I've done 26 Women's festivals, but there's no one thing. Because you know, you don't do stuff because you know, it'll make history or because you're brave. Sometimes you just jumping because you're stupid. I mean, oh, I think I remember sitting around with a woman and she said, you know, and we're all trying to decide what we should do in the movement, do something. Just you know, I'm gonna write a book, I've written a book, and I'm gonna call it this title. But everybody tells me it's stupid. And I said, you know, call it anything you want. Because what if you never get published again? And you know, the name of that book was Ruby food jungle. And so I never think about what I've done. I just

think about what my challenges are. Like, I just got high off of the Dr. Laura thing, right. I mean, I you know, but I mean, it was pulling, it was invigorating to have a win. But I just don't look back at it all. So I can't single out one thing. And if I had to look back to the single thing, it's probably probably stepping out and being honest in comedy, because it freed me for the rest of my life. And maybe the single greatest act I did when I was 16 years old. Because I came out. I came out of the closet in Canada in 1959 when nobody would talk to me, and I stood on the streets and handed out flyers. And this is in 1959 in Winnipeg. So I think when you're a kid and you're isolated and you do it anyway, because I didn't know people were would be so angry. But after I was 1959 and I was hip, but here's the greatest thing I've derived out of it all the people I've gotten to know the people of substance that I've gotten to meet because I've been an activist. I have been so fortunate Flo Kennedy and Holly near and Chris you know and Boo and activists after activist at the guys I worked with unstoppable Dr. Laura, I get to meet people that are dedicated, or creative or creative and dedicated. I get to meet a you know, they have such passion, that my life has been full of such passion that I've been just really fortunate. You know, everybody says what's it like to you know, be well known? Well, not you don't take it home with you. You animals don't know they just want to be fed on time. So all of that doesn't matter. But when you have your memories as you get older, and I'm older, I'm 59, going at 60, when you have the memories, and you have these fine people that have given so much and done so much, a lot of whom are not famous than that maybe is the greatest gift back.



1:20:14

You've been involved in all the marches on Washington, how have those events changed and evolved.



1:20:19

While this give you the dish about the truth about the last one, I'll take away everything, all the fighting and infighting in the ad hoc committee, which essentially were mostly Native people, although I didn't know it, then the real fight in the last March in Washington, and I called for it the real fight was between the mainstreaming of the gay and lesbian movement. You know, we did a survey of we did a survey, I have the results on my computer and something like, what what are the top eight things you're concerned with? The number one was the right to not to get killed the right none in the violence, the right to work? Number three was marriage. This is 45,000 people answered this. Nobody's ever everybody claims they represent the grassroots, nobody's ever asked them what they wanted. Number four was the right to keep your children. I mean, so in essence, and this wasn't like just by email, people answered by fax and postage and from all over the country in every little podunk town. And so, in essence was, here's here's the difference in the first march, we had five simple demands, you know, don't kill us the right to work keep our children was very, it was five, in the second wage because of AIDS happening. The demands for more AIDS was added on to it and it was slightly more. By the third March, it was a laundry list of progressive politics and politics, some politics that I don't agree with, for instance, they eliminated the age of consent, totally eliminated the age of consent. You know, not everybody, not everybody is going to be liberal, not everybody is going to be progressive or to the left. And the 93. March became a laundry list of everybody else's right. And it's interesting, but when now puts on a march, that's pro choice, it doesn't add every other laundry list is a pro choice March, when somebody puts out a march that's against violence against women, they like now did they have violence against women, and somehow, when the

Gay Lesbian GLBT movement puts out would begin to sound like a sandwich now, right? What's a bacon medicine medo BLT is a we came close to being a sandwich this movement anyway. But when we put on a March, we have to have a laundry list of everything. And to me in 93, what I said that I would never be involved with again, is a march that de facto, they slipped in, and now they deny it to eliminate the age of consent. And I am not here to say that being a pedophile is okay. And so I didn't want that politic mixed up with what I was fighting for. And I think you had in the march in 2000, take away all this stuff, and how terribly it was mismanaged by the board. And mismanaged is the kindest word I can say. And the fact that the FBI had to come in and I was what prison that expose that to the press that the FBI was called in. If you take away everything, and you look at it historically, in 25 years, and maybe in a decade, it will show the splitting of the movement toward the mainstreaming of the movement, you know, and they went back to wanting the same demands as in the first March, the right to work not to get killed very simple demands. And so I think that all of these sort of people that say they represent the grassroots and what the grassroots really want, didn't want to face the fact that the majority of our community is very mainstream. And by mainstream, I don't mean right wing or anything, but I mean, mainstream, they want what everybody else wants, you know, not to get murdered to have kids, if they want, they have the right to have the legal rights of that marriage affords. And so it was the real split in the movement between a few people controlling the or saying they control and speak to for for this country, and the majority of people speaking for themselves. And so I think that's what happened. And that was the difference. And that's historically how it will be looked at.



1:24:13

One last question, Robin, what are your current projects?



1:24:16

Oh, good. What am I doing? I have a toy company, a women's tour company, women with money. And and I'm taking 50 lesbians to Africa to Kenya. I'm leaving September 1.



1:24:30

How many are you bringing back? And yeah, no,



1:24:33

we're only bringing 48 It's like, you know, when people break up, maybe 46. We'll get back and and then next year, we're doing the women's tour to the Gay Games in Australia. And no Gay Games is not when you're breaking up with your lover. And then the next year we're doing the Amazon UK cruise and Machu Picchu in Peru. I have a women's tour company and we do all this sort of international tours and cruises. Do you have a website? Yeah, my web Sid has Australiana at [WWW dot Robin Tyler twist.com](http://WWW dot Robin Tyler twist.com) If you want any information on the tours or cruises, it's [Robin tyler@aol.com](mailto:Robin tyler@aol.com).



1:25:09

I want to thank Robin Tyler for the interview and want to end with one of my favorite of her quotes from it. umur is the razor sharp edge of the truth is anger and truth made funny. This is JD Doyle for lesbian and gay voices.



G Glenn Holt 1:25:25

And you are listening to lesbian and gay voices on 90.1 FM KPFT. This is lesbian and gay voices and taking a look now at what's been happening in the news. David Wilson wheeled seven boxes of signatures into the Houston city secretary's office this afternoon, marking an official beginning to the battle between so called family values and gay rights that will come to a head in the November election. Wilson delivered 22,600 signatures in favor of a referendum to prevent the city from ever offering benefits such as health care to domestic partners of employees. If the city Secretary finds that at least 20,000 of the signatures are valid, and the petition survives legal challenges. Houston's Houstonians will vote on the referendum in November. Wilson said the referendum is an attempt to quote stop the assault on family values. Opponents countered that the effort in the words of political consultant grant Martin is quote, vicious, homophobic, and bigoted. Meanwhile, acting Massachusetts Governor James Swift, who was criticized by her gay stepson for opposing same sex marriage, said she is extending some domestic partnership benefits to gay and lesbian state workers in the state of Massachusetts. Swift said Wednesday that her administration had already extended benefits for same sex couples, to government, social workers and other workers who would get the benefits when their contracts are negotiated over the next two years. The move was not made in response to criticism that was published in The Boston Globe on Wednesday, Swift said in an interview with the paper swift steps on Brian Hunt had accused her of hypocrisy. Quote, she wants to get the votes of the gay community but when it comes down to it, she doesn't want to lose votes over it either. Swift reiterated her opposition to gay marriage quote, in my mind the sanctity of marriage requires that it be confined to marriage between a man and a woman she said domestic partner benefits to be extended to the state's 70,000 employees include leave to care for an ill partner bereavement leave if a partner dies, and paid time off for court appearances or counseling for victims of domestic violence. The benefits do not include health insurance, which would require an appropriation from the state legislature. A small number of state workers and senior management already were given some domestic partner benefits by a 1992 executive order by then Governor William weld. Swift, who is a Republican became Acting Governor in April when Paul Cellucci was named US ambassador to Canada. She is the nation's youngest governor, and when she had twins in May, she became the first governor to give birth while in office. Indiana governor Frank O'Bannon has quietly added sexual orientation to the categories protected against discrimination in Indiana's official employment policy. Gay Activists met with the governor back in February and have been lobbying for the change throughout the year. The state employment policy which affects 35,000 state workers is revised on an annual basis and takes effect every August 1. This year's version adds, quote, sexual orientation shall not be a consideration in decisions concerning hiring, development, advancement and termination of civilian employees. Further, we will strive to maintain a working environment free of sexual harassment and intimidation. Oh Benton's press secretary Mary Dieter said that the new wording reflects what has been common practice in the O'Bannon administration. The governor she said believes that employment decisions quote should be based on merit, not on factors with no bearing on an individual's employees individual's ability to perform their duties. Still, the change turns the governors friendly attitude into official policy. It ensures now that some supervisors bias or prejudice can't be an issue in

how an employee is treated, said Steve say enters of the Indiana Human Rights Campaign. One thing that the policy does not do, however, is guarantee equal benefits in terms of insurance leave, or other job perks. 11 states presently banned discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation by both public and private employers. And Maryland's gay civil rights bill will do the same if it survives a repeal attempt. Indiana does not belong to this elite group. But it does join nine other state governments that protect state employees against gay bias in the workplace. In terms of federal law, the employment non Discrimination Act, also known by its acronym ENDA, would protect gay men and lesbians from certain types of job discrimination throughout the country, recently reintroduced in Congress and has a decent chance of passing in the Senate, but enjoys far less promising prospects in the house. A US federal appeals court has ruled that firing a person because of their sexual orientation is legal. The court upheld a 1998 lower court ruling, which throughout a suit by a man who sued the Philadelphia Coca Cola Bottling Company, alleging that he had been subjected to harassment and was fired for being gay. 41 year old John J. Bibi, a lab technician at the Coca Cola plant, said he began having medical problems in 1993, including weight loss, breathing problems, and vomiting of blood. Bibi was told he would be terminated after he was found with his eyes closed, while a machine for which he was responsible malfunction. He was reinstated after filing a grievance. In court papers. Bibi said he was assaulted the day he had returned to work and harassment on the basis of his sexual orientation continued the following month by co workers and managers. Lawyers for the company denied the claims. But the case did not go to trial, because US District Judge Jan E. Dubois dismissed the suit on the grounds that harassment or discrimination based on sexual orientation was not covered by US Civil Rights laws. Is everyone paying attention. This is why we need legislation like ENDA. The third US Court of Appeals upheld that ruling, quote, harassment on the basis of sexual orientation has no place in our society. Congress has not yet seen fit, however, to provide protection against such harassment, because the evidence produced by Bibi and indeed his very claim, indicated only that he was being harassed on the basis of his sexual orientation, rather than because of his sex. The district court properly determined that there was no cause for action. Baby's attorney Arthur B. Jarrett said that he was disappointed by the ruling and might appeal to the US Supreme Court and I certainly hope so. A teenager Wanted by the FBI in the killings of two gay men in Florida was captured on the eve of a gay pride celebration in Reno. 19 year old Adam Rzewski of Atlantic Beach, Florida surrendered to FBI agents Friday without incident in his hotel room, he will be extradited to Florida to face two charges of first degree murder. He was found with another man Troy young of San Francisco, who was arrested on a parole violation. Authorities said the two had driven a rented truck to Reno from San Francisco, where a red Mustang belonging to one of the Florida victims have been found, as their ski is accused of strangling Anthony more Calero a dual resident of New York and Florida at a Fort Lauderdale Hotel on July 26. The FBI also connects Rzewski to the death of Irving Shire, who was found bludgeoned to death a day earlier in Ventura, Florida, as their ski is also accused of attacking a 43 year old San Francisco man Tuesday morning after befriending him and staying at his apartment for two days. That report caused local and federal authorities to patrol gay neighborhoods and to warn residents that a killer could be among them. Police did not identify the San Francisco man who told FBI agents that he awoke when his Hirschi began striking him in the head with a plaster statue. After a struggle, the victim senators Hirschi tried to strangle him before fleeing. Authorities said reserve skis baby faced appearance and unassuming demeanor made it easy for him to befriend others. As our ski story was aired on the TV show. America's Most Wanted last weekend and FBI officials received tips of sightings in the San Francisco area. They did not say what prompted them to look for czarsky in Reno, except for this weekend's Gay Pride event. They're in other news Use condoms significantly reduce the risk of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases, said William S. Gilmer MD, president of the National Gay and Lesbian Medical Association, also known as GLM, a for short. Gilmer said, quote, It is a shame that we

have to reiterate that point, but some public figures have misrepresented a recent report on condoms from the US National Institutes of Health. They are telling the public the report concludes, condoms are ineffective against certain STDs, when in fact, that is not the conclusion of the condom report at all. To engage in the strategy of intentional misinformation is not only cynical and irresponsible, but it is dangerous. And quote, the panel who created the report, quoted in a US Department of Health and Human Services release was clear. They said, the report conclusions did not address transmission of some STDs, quote, because of limitations in the study designs. The panel also said quote, the evidence available should not be interpreted as proof of the adequacy or inadequacy of the condom to reduce the risk of STDs. Quote, we must stop manipulating science to advance political goals. guillemard said, research shows that when used correctly and consistency, it consistently the male latex condom reduces the risk of HIV and other STDs, period.



1:36:48

Imagine this, you're late for a meeting, you're driving your car, the radios turned on and you're really not paying much attention, then a red light. That moment something happens. The story on the radio, the description of the story is so overwhelming, it stopped you right there. The red light did help of course, but the story took you there and taught you something new. That's what KPFT is about taking you there. Whether it's through our news programs like the BBC News, our the world Democracy Now, the Civic and network news or any of our other news and information programs. It's about independent radio ustun is 90.1 KPFT, the sound of Texas.



Glenn Holt 1:37:29

Continuing with news while some lesbians tend to assume that they don't need to worry much about sexually transmitted diseases. A new study suggests that they are more vulnerable than many people think. And a survey of 39 lesbians who never had sex with men. 13% reported that they had suffered from an STD and only four of the Minneapolis area women said they regularly got tested. The risk of having an STD was even higher among bisexuals, and lesbians who had had sex with men in the past. Quote, The perception that sexual relations between women are low risk or even risk free needs to be addressed. Women who have sex with women should be provided with accurate information so that they can make informed decisions regarding their health. That's from the University of Minnesota, Minnesota epidemiologists, Greta Bower and Seth wells report their findings in the August issue of the American Journal of Public Health, researchers interviewed 286 Women who attended the 1997 Twin Cities Gay Pride festival. As is often the case with studies of women who have sex with women. Many reported a wide variety of sexual experiences. Nearly 70% reported sexual relationships with both men and women during their lifetimes. The lesbians who never had sex with men reported STDs including chlamydia, genital warts, and pelvic inflammatory diseases, which can cause vaginal itching and burning. The authors wrote that doctors must pay more attention to STDs among lesbians, and not assume that they are immune to problems because they do not have male partners. Quote, the sign of a good doctor is someone who asks about sexual history is non judgmental, and does the appropriate screening tests. So Dr. Jeffrey Clouser, Director of STD prevention, and control services for the San Francisco Department of Public Health, every doctor should visit us have some discussion about sexuality. If women are not having these discussions with their doctors, they should seek other doctors. He said. New census figures give a fresh estimate of the number of gay and lesbian couples in the United States showing same

sex households flourishing Everywhere from big city centers to small towns and even remote, remote rural regions, the 2000 figures released last week by the US Census Bureau are the most comprehensive count of same sex couples in US history and reflect a change in polling questions that allowed gay and lesbian couples to identify themselves clearly to demographers. Quote, these numbers show us that gay and lesbian couples exist in virtually every county in the United States, said Gary Gates, a research associate with the Urban Institute in Washington, who specializes in gay and lesbian population studies. The new data show a major jump in self identified gay and lesbian pairings, rising to more than 472,000 last year from just 121,000 in 1990. And while 10 years ago, gay couples were reported in only about half of us counties. The latest numbers show them in 99.2% of the counties that have been reported so far. California continues to lead the pack with more than 92,000 Same sex couples around the state, up threefold from 1990 and double the number reported in the runner upstate New York. But while well known gay and lesbian destinations, such as the San Francisco Bay Area, continue to boast the highest percentage of same sex couples, more than 7% of all couples both married and unmarried. In the case of San Francisco, other regions of the country are also experiencing a boom in gay and lesbian pairings. After the Bay Area, the second highest percentage of same sex couples was reported in Santa Fe, New Mexico, while the third was Portland, Maine, included in the top 20 metropolitan areas where same sex couples were such Heartland locations as Bloomington, Indiana, Iowa City, Iowa, and Asheville, North Carolina. Quote, these are not cities that are historically thought of as terribly gay or lesbian cities Gates said. But when we look at these rankings, it shows that we have dramatically underestimated the presence of gay and lesbian families in the cities. Even suburbs and rural areas are reporting rising numbers of gay and lesbian pairs. California has tiny Alpine County, in a remote mountain area near the Nevada border reported to same sex couples, while major concentrations of gay households are found in places such as suburban, Akron, Ohio, and of course, Atlanta's eastern suburbs. Same sex couples really are everywhere. And this helps to dispel the myth that gay people all live in the cities, said Kim Mills, education director of the Human Rights Campaign, while heartened by rising numbers of openly gay and lesbian couples, activists said the data still represented a serious undercount of the nation's gay population, noting that it left out gays and lesbians who are single, or do not live with their partners. Mills said, quote, more people are living their lives openly and honestly, despite the lack of protection because of cultural changes. But many are still afraid to answer those questions. Honestly, we could lose our jobs, we could lose our homes, and we could lose our children because the laws do not treat us the same. A world renowned Roman Catholic scholar says he has found evidence that the Catholic Church sanctioned and blast same sex relationships from the Middle Ages to the 19th century. Alan Bray, an ecclesiastical historian and research fellow at Birkbeck College in London, says the proof was staring church leaders in their faces all along. It's in the churches themselves, Bray said. All you have to do is look at memorials dating from the 14th to the 19th centuries, brace had evidence on a tomb markers commemorating passionate friendships, and often the partners were buried together. Although there is no indication that all those commemorated and memorials were involved in sexual relationships. It is clear that some were and that the church has turned a blind eye according to Bray. Some of the memorials are striking in their intimacy, and Merton college chapel in Oxford, a brass plaque dating from the 14th century records the burial together of John Bloxom and John whiton, showing two figures standing side by side, holding hands in prayer. Another dating from 1684 in Christ's College chapel Cambridge, celebrates the canoe Briam or marriage of John Fitch and Thomas Paine's illustrated by a knotted cloth in Gonville and Caius College chapel, a memorial of 1619 shows Thomas leggy and John Goslin with a Heart in flames uplifted by two hands with a Latin inscription which translates as love join them living So may the earth join them in their burial. A leggy Gosling's heart you have with us still. Sir William Neville and Sir John Klein vow both knights were buried in the same tomb after dying in Constantinople in

1391. They have a monument depicting their heroic shields and paled as if they were married, and their helmets in a stylized kiss. And then there was the 17th century Bishop of Herford, Herbert Croft, and the cathedral Dean George Benson. They were buried together within the communion rails of the cathedral, with the inscription in life united in death, not divided. The chapel of St. John the Baptist in Westminster Abbey has the tomb of Mary Kendall dating from 1710 with an inscription recording, quote, that close union and friendship in which she lived with the Lady Catherine Jones, and in testimony of which she desired that even their ashes after death might not be divided. The recently discovered Diary of Anne Lister mistress of Shipton Hall in Yorkshire, who had a lesbian relationship with Ann Walker describes how they had their marriage solemnized at Holy Trinity Church, good Ramsgate, York in 1834. Even Cardinal John Henry Newman, one of English Catholicism, most revered figures from the 19th century, insisted that he be buried with his closest friend, Newman wrote after the death of Ambrose St. John, in 1875, quote, I have never thought so. No bereavement was equal to that of a husband or wife's, but I feel it difficult to believe that any can be greater or anyone's sorrow greater than mine. The Vatican for its part has not commented on brace findings. Bill Giancarlo, the governor of South Dakota, is considering how to end his state's participation in the Adopt a Highway program, rather than face a lawsuit from the American Civil Liberties Union over his reluctance to allow a gay group to participate fully in the program. The ACLU has threatened litigation after the South Dakota Department of Transportation told the Sioux Empire gay and lesbian coalition, that while they were free to clean up a stretch of highway 38 outside of Sioux Falls, they could not post an official Adopt a Highway sign with their name on it. By way of explanation, the department told the coalition about an unwritten policy against allowing, quote, advocacy groups to have signs. Well, according to the Sioux Falls Argus leader, the department made its final decision late last month, triggering an outcry from gay activists and a warning from the ACLU lawyers. On August 2, Giancarlo weighed in on the subject accusing the ACLU of chasing constitutional ambulances. In truth, the legal issue is neither new nor inconsequential. As a national government sponsored program, Adopt a Highway managers cannot engage in viewpoint discrimination throughout the country, advocacy groups including political clubs, churches, and a gay and lesbian organizations do participate in the Adopt a Highway program. And last year, the ACLU won a victory from the US Supreme Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit, forcing the state of Missouri to allow the Klu Klux Klan to adopt a stretch of Interstate 55. The white supremacists were subsequently dropped from the Adopt a Highway program since they never actually cleaned up any of the trash. But the First Amendment point was made. Over the last week, several editorial writers and others across the state have accused Giancarlo of overreacting. Quote, the Adopt a Highway program doesn't seem like the place to set social policy, said Republican state senator Dick Hanke of Sioux Falls, and even conservative Reverend Jesse Moore parted ways with the governor saying, quote, I may not agree with the homosexual lifestyle. But when it comes to a constitutional issue such as this, they have the same rights as everyone else. And Jack, I think that's probably about all of the news that my voice is going to allow us to do. Having a tough time tonight. It's the allergies of of the time of year.

J

Jack Valinski 1:49:42

It's always that time of year in Houston. I know. Well, as we're getting close to the edge of this show next week, JD Doyle is going to be doing his music feature in the second hour. And we have a couple of things other things coming up which is going to be a surprise



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G

Glenn Holt 1:49:59

and To me to supposedly we're going to have a Joan.

J

Jack Valinski 1:50:03

Yes. Joan should be back next week. Okay, but I won't be around to kick around. Go. Okay.

G

Glenn Holt 1:50:10

I'm going to be hopefully on the beach in P town, Provincetown. Oh, the

J

Jack Valinski 1:50:18

last part of the season. Yeah,

G

Glenn Holt 1:50:20

I saw a really cute I guess it was a greeting card. And it had a cartoon on the front of it. Of to two or three gay guys. And these were young guys in this cartoon. And one of them was holding on desperately to a driftwood built fence looking thing on a on a beach and the sunglasses were laying on the ground next to him while his friends were sort of pulling him away. And he was saying no, no, now the season can't be over yet.

J

Jack Valinski 1:50:54

Well, it is I mean, school started.

G

Glenn Holt 1:50:56

That's right. And I think last Splash is coming up.

J

Jack Valinski 1:51:00

Next weekend. Yeah,

G

Glenn Holt 1:51:02

yeah. The Labor Day weekend. Exactly. So it's probably a good time to go. I know. My friends up there. Have been telling me you gotta get your act together. You gotta get up here. Because you know, the season isn't as long appear as it is down there. Exactly. It's gonna get cold soon. And, you know, it's kind

J

Jack Valinski 1:51:18

of Yeah, up there. I mean, after Labor Day is like nobody's that those beaches. Right,

G

Glenn Holt 1:51:22

right. I know. Not for good reason. Yeah, something about snow on the beach. You know,

J

Jack Valinski 1:51:28

sometimes even around Labor Day, there's a cold front that will hit up there. Oh, yeah. Yeah. Sometimes it doesn't last longer.

G

Glenn Holt 1:51:36

Well, there was one sort of final item in the news here if my voice will hold together for it that I really thought was important, because this is just another fine example of the institutional, the institutionalization of bigotry at its best. Ireland has calls for new legislation to regulate surrogate births and adoption. After a gay couple there had triplets. 42 year old Dublin businessman John McMahon, and 37 year old Gerald Whelan are reported to have paid a substantial sum, which was believed to be about 100,000 British pounds to an agency in California to have the babies through a surrogate mother. They are the first gay couple in Ireland to have children this way. There is currently no law in Ireland governing surrogate parenthood by either heterosexual or homosexual couples. The triplets Tom max and a girl named Connie are understood to have been born in California in June. And it is believed that the biological father is Gerald Whelan, and that the babies were conceived using IVF treatment. Senator Mary Henry called for a change in Irish law saying, quote, you have to be concerned about this. People might be very adequate parents, but it should still be required that prospective parents should be properly vetted. One has to be concerned at the trends internationally, where children are being produced very much to complete the lifestyles of couples. Technology has galloped ahead of both ethics and legislation. She told the Irish Independent isn't that kind of disturbing? Well, exactly. Here we go. Trying to legislate ethics and morality again, huh?

J

Jack Valinski 1:53:20

Well, yeah, it's usually the ones who say that it doesn't, you know, it shouldn't be there. Right. They shouldn't be doing it should be estates. Right? Or, you know, it the hypocrisy is just incredible. And we're going

G

Glenn Holt 1:53:31

to vet parents now. Not not vet as an animal husbandry, but that as him the next best thing to selling.

J

Jack Valinski 1:53:38

Incredible. Well, I think we're just about out of time tonight, aren't we?

G

Glenn Holt 1:53:42

We have one more minute. Okay. We have to pull an Art Bell here and fill a minute. Okay,

J

Jack Valinski 1:53:48

well, we have any commercials? Oh, no, we don't play commercials. Well, that's right. But we do need to say that our fundraising as US season, our week or two weeks, I guess we do about two weeks is coming up shortly. And it does find the station to keep us going. And we're very privileged to be able to do a radio show like this. And after hours that appear here on KPFT. Next week, of course, JD Dora will be playing, we'll be playing his music, which is always a great segment here on lesbian and gay voices.

G

Glenn Holt 1:54:18

And as always, if you would like to participate in queue patrol, and this is sort of a high season for gay bashing. It's a very important thing to do. We always need more people, no special skills required. It's a very simple thing to do. Just call 713528 safe, and you can come out and participate one night a month. And if you can't even do that, then you can at least call up and say that you will support the patrol financially. It's a 501 C three organization. And if you can't even do that, then at least call up and say thumbs up. We appreciate your being there. You've been listening to lesbian and gay voices heard each Monday at 8pm here on K APFT publicly funded Pacifica network station. Lesbian and Gay voices is produced live in Houston with recorded segments from this way out, which is produced at KPFK. In Los Angeles, lesbian and gay voices executive producer is Jack Wolinsky. On their voices are normally Joan Devlin Glenn Holt and Jack Valinski. You can write to us at PO Box 66071, Houston, Texas 77266 or email to [LGV news@aol.com](mailto:LGVnews@aol.com). Be sure to listen to KPFT every Saturday night at midnight for after hours with Jimmy Carper is queer radio with attitude? This is the sound of Texas 90.1 FM KPFT in Houston for lesbian and gay voices I'm Glenn Holt

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1:55:54

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