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SPEAKERS

Jewel Gray, Joan Devlin, Jack Valinski, Jimmy Carper, Bobby

J Jimmy Carper 00:23

Oh yes, you've tuned into after hours queer radio with attitude right here on KPFT Houston 90.1 FM. The crew of after hours is ready to bring you news interviews, dialogue and music geared for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people and their friends. Hear it after hours, we may be diverse, but we have one thing in common. We are all out of the closet and urge everyone to come out of their closets. That means standing up for yourself taking responsibility for your own life and being proud of who you are. Realistically, we know not everyone can do that because of age job or frame of mind. That's okay, we're here for you too. So sit back, relax, and enjoy this week's edition of after hours.

J Jack Valinski 01:30

Well, it's sort of like the nikecourt doing de corte. Exactly. And this is Jack Valinski ,

J Jewel Gray 01:38

and I'm doing Devlin. And I'm jewel and Bobby. Bobby's here.

J Jack Valinski 01:43

And, Jimmy, this is the third week he's had off this year, I think,

J Jewel Gray 01:48

you know, I, I miss him every time he's gone, but I can't remember how many times it's been I know he went to why.

J

Jack Valinski 01:56

Yes, well, that's his January trip. I know that it was gone that when he went to San Diego also for graduation, he went

B

Bobby 02:02

San Diego was for some of a friend of his birthday.

J

Jack Valinski 02:08

I think it was his landlord or landlord or something like that. And now he's in Dallas. Oh, it

B

Bobby 02:13

was a 70th birthday kind of thing. Okay,

J

Jack Valinski 02:15

so this is after hours in case you think it's Monday night. Joan and I are usually doing lesbian and gay voices. But we're gonna play we're gonna skip this week. Because there's a Harvey Milk film playing in the Museum of Fine Arts. It's going to be his 70th birthday on the 22nd, which is just incredible to think that his spirit still lives on. And the movie, they're going to show us the times and lives of Harvey Milk, which is academy award winning documentary, which if you haven't seen it, it's fabulous. It's one of those crying movies. Because it's done so well. And Cleve

J

Joan Devlin 02:50

Jones, who was an associate of Harvey Milk's and whose book stitching revolution. Stitching revolution is about the founding of the names project AIDS Quilt which cleaved John's did. He's going to be on the panel, as is Ray Hill, Ray Ramirez. And our own Jack is going to be moderating and there's going to be a panel discussion after the film.

J

Jack Valinski 03:10

And Cecily went also is going to be on the panel. She's the she works at a nice Parker's office downtown.

J

Joan Devlin 03:16

Wow. So that's a pretty good panel. That's going to be interesting.

J

Jack Valinski 03:18

It ought to be interesting. And hopefully we'll keep on subject. That's your job. But actually, the way after hours is done is there's different segments done each week and Jules here from the rural area of a very rural and were you rolling your boat last night Pretty

J

Jewel Gray 03:34

much yeah, we were out there this morning digging retsina yard draining the water off because it'll take 10 or 12 days for it to finally dry up and then is burned to the yard so we have to run it out of the yard. So it just dries up really quick. So that's what this last weekend was doing this morning at 630.

J

Jack Valinski 03:50

Yeah, and Chuck George was out there this morning early, you know, looking at the water underneath the underpasses there in Dayton. So he certainly got a little excited.

J

Jewel Gray 04:00

He was pretty violent out there. Luckily out there. It was probably West Columbia and toward Angleton area. It was the most violent lightning storm I've ever seen in my life. I went and got my camcorder and taped 15 minutes of it. It was so vile, it looked like bombs going off. I've never seen anything so violent. I was standing there. So aware of how violent was thanking God, it was not on top of us. Yeah, it was that way. Scary.

J

Jack Valinski 04:26

Well, you know, Texas is just this incredible place where the weather changes so much and ugly. Yeah, it's really a magical place and many times but sometimes it does get scary. Yeah.

B

Bobby 04:38

I was out in the weather last night with the for part of the weather last night because I was out celebrating my birthday. And the end there was no stopping that there was no stopping that not not when my friend Scott is involved, but and it was downpouring an hour an hour It's like, okay, any minute now this there's going to be a river where West Alabama used to be. And, you know,

J

Jewel Gray 05:07

as the flooding has gotten worse is it really we're getting that much more rain around here is that we're not getting the right kind of system we should have

that we're not getting the right kind of system we should have.

J Jack Valinski 05:15

I don't know. I mean, it's impossible to drain all that water. I don't know Texas always has this, you know, strange

J Jewel Gray 05:22

Well, since we're only what? 50? What? 56 inches above the sea level here. We're only like, at some places. It's less than a foot.

J Jack Valinski 05:33

And we were dry the past couple of years too. So gonna be dry this summer. But it will not rain on the parade.

J Joan Devlin 05:38

No, it never rains on the parade.

J Jewel Gray 05:41

It was one race. And usually if it does, if it does, it's a pleasure. But that was a daytime parades when it was sweltering. And when it rained people liked it.

J Jack Valinski 05:52

Yes, exactly. It usually was one where we ended

J Jewel Gray 05:55

up at spots Park and spots park there behind the library.

J Jack Valinski 05:59

Off of wall. Yes, yes. Spots Park. Yes.

J Jewel Gray 06:03

It turned into a big mud fence down there. That was the best time in my life. And I was covered

Madden, so was everybody I saw that

J Jack Valinski 06:10

was in the early 80s. And that was when I first moved here. And those rallies were fabulous. They were great. And it's just unfortunate that that just doesn't work out to do that anymore. Well, the night wasn't safe

J Jewel Gray 06:23

either. When we were doing exactly. And it's really better not to do that. But it was our best.

J Joan Devlin 06:29

Absolutely. get you on the committee. Jack, you realized there was mud wrestling involved?

J Jack Valinski 06:36

Actually, well, there's a lot of reasons why I sort of ended up there. But they were great. And the mayor would show up after the news cameras went, you know, and all that type of stuff. But it just sort of ran its course because the caucus was the one that was actually sponsoring those those rallies and they sort of went in different direction. And but that's another story. Yeah. So jewel. This is basically your connection to the community. Then when you come in here, come

J Jewel Gray 07:02

in, I grabbed the Twitter, grab the voice, I grabbed the triangle. I'm not like picky about one or the other. I grab all of them. I sit them down the twit sits in front of you way up on top, and I flipped through the pages trying to figure out what's going on.

J Jack Valinski 07:14

It was interesting Urvashi that was at the community center today. And she's making her rounds. She's doing a fancier thing this evening, that was a little bit pricey. And then she was doing the Texas lesbian Conference, which is going on this weekend. And she is the former executive director of the National Gay Lesbian Task Force. And she's an Indian woman, and an absolutely fabulous speaker. I

J Jewel Gray 07:36

met her many, many years ago, like maybe 10 years ago when she was here for something else.

J Jack Valinski 07:42

Well, she came here, especially for the Republican convention in 92. That's right. That's what it was. And she talked about it that she was here like clinic defense.

J Jewel Gray 07:49

Clinics, I remember Yeah,

J Joan Devlin 07:52

she got didn't she get arrested and

J Jewel Gray 07:54

yeah. attacked at the dome with all that crowd. That was.

J Jack Valinski 07:58

That's what she was talking about. She says, I remember this and how things have changed here. And now that we have a community center, we didn't back then. And that was an incredible thing because it was organized somewhat by outsiders who didn't really understand Houston. And even though the queer nation and act up was very active then and they knew how to deal with the Houston Police, the outsiders. And also the police wanted to show their force and all this type of stuff. And basically, which is really strange that the march started at Herman circle, or that circle up near the the museum area, and we walk down through the medical center and then all the way to the AstroWorld that anybody who knows Houston, we don't You don't do that. Normally, you just don't do that. Because you know, this is too long of a walk. And you don't just can't grab the subway when you get finished. You know, you because and all that stuff. I sort of chickened out and took a cab back. And it's like, I've never knew you could flag down a cab in Houston. But we were able to do that.

J Joan Devlin 08:57

It was an August, wasn't it? It was really Yes.

J Jewel Gray 08:59

Terrible. Yeah, it was terrible.

J

JACK VALINSKI 09:01

And Irva she was talking about how she was she and some of the other people she was with were beaten by the cops. But she was just absolutely fabulous the way she was talking, and she was talking about, you know, us moving the agenda. And, you know, she says, of course, I'm going to tell you to register and go out and vote and do all that type of stuff. But she also talked about some of the other stuff we do, the cultural stuff that we do, and that, you know, I think is also moving the agenda in this in this country. And also that we need to not only be in our ghettos, but we need to be outside of our ghettos. And, you know, I understand that you live pretty much an open life out there.

J

Jewel Gray 09:37

Yeah, I'm a little town it's I think on the street sign it says there 2800 of them in this town. So yeah, yeah. And my lover and I have foster children. We wander around all over the little town because I feel like I should put my money in where I live rather than drive to another city but my num and Rosenberg is only 10 miles away, but this is my town. And you know you go to the door bookstore, you go to the stop and go, you go, you know, to the Karachi place, you go to the things on the side of the road and, and, you know, everybody knows us, you know, people I have no I've never seen before knows who we are, they don't know our names, but they know of us. And when they see us, they compliment us and tell us that we're doing a great thing. They like the idea that we've got mentally retarded foster children, and are very interested in what we're doing and ask us to be involved. You know, I got somebody asked me the other day to become this part of this. And I'm really sorry, to anybody who knows what this is. But the SPJ Tec group or something out there. I haven't even know what the it stands for. But it's one big like a lodge out there that they have in this little dinky town. Not quite the Chamber of Commerce more like street folk, rather than than Trent Chamber of Commerce. But I was really impressed with that. And it's, I've never lived in such a small town. I've lived in small towns, but you don't. To me, it's small towns. 50,000 people, right, right. 100 people, it's a small, small town. And, uh, you know, when we go somewhere, and my lover, my lover, I've remembered retarded foster children, and one of them put too much toilet paper down the toilet. And last night, we didn't have a plunger, so she ran down to buy one at the local stop and go, Well, they didn't have one. So they lent her there. And just said, bring it back when you know, when we were through, we thought that was the best thing. You know, it was just, that's just something you'd never get in Houston, in a big town, people are afraid of each other, then they are suspicious, they know you're not, you know, they don't want to take a chance out there. They, they, they're not as cynical. They're not as in they tend to be very innocent about their behavior. Now, there are always those who are. But you know, after 45 years, and I've been out all my life, I've, I've got a good sense of character, when I see people, and I've not seen anybody look at me with that look that I see daily in town. You know, when you interact, somebody's going to give you that look like faggot, you know, and, and I never see that anymore. And it really makes my life a lot more pleasant not seeing it. I'm really noticeably pleasant.

J

Jack Valinski 12:17

And I grew up in small town about 1500. And I always had this thing about, you know, that everybody knows what you're doing. And they know your family. And they know, you know, your father and your grandfather and all this type of stuff. And I wanted to escape that. And

you know, that's why I moved to a big city. And I think a lot of us have done that. And but I think the younger people aren't necessarily doing that.

J Joan Devlin 12:41

Well, I think that's the popular image. Because, you know, in the books I review and stuff that's a common thread is the, you know, the gay person in the small suburban town that's longing to get out. But gay people, you know, Michelangelo Signorelli, said this himself on the show gay people, like straight people, they get married, they have kids, they moved to the suburbs. See you now. I mean, it's the same thing. You know, you want to a place that's got better schools for your kids, or, you know, now that you're in a committed relationship, the bar thing isn't as much fun anymore. You want to own something. I mean, there's the same

J Jewel Gray 13:18

reason I want to know something. You know, my mother when I was a teenager and went around this country, like, in those days that were wild and free. My mother used to tell me I remember this put down roots girl put down roots. Well, I finally put down roots for 20 years were here, but never owned anything. It wasn't really roots. So I wanted to buy something. I wanted some land, I wanted some space. And I didn't realize how much I would miss Montrose once I got out. But the payoff is really good. Life is very pleasant. I have no, I don't find myself watching. Who's behind me. And not that I do that in a, you know, conscious kind of way. But I think we all do we, you know, the older gay and lesbian people, because that's the way we grew up. You know, and I still kind of do it when I'm in town, but I don't do it when I'm out of town. Are there other people out there? Oh, yes, there really are. And it surprises me sometimes. But, you know, I was telling me earlier, you know, I'm kind of the classic, stereotypical lesbian, you know, heavy heavy blonde, you know, Lankan kind of lesbian, you know, and I, I realized out there that all the women you know, the farmers want she's got to be beefy, she can't, you know, she can't be she might have to go in and deliver a cow, you know, they really are a lot more like me. So it's kind of like it's kind of like a kind of a I'm drawn to that area because I fit I fit in, you know, it's not like in town where, you know, all my lesbian friends are, you know, 80% of them are lipstick lesbians, and I Just never fit into that group. I've never been, you know, the kind of, you know, put lipstick on and out there, you find the farmer's wives are the same way. Those are, you know, conveniences they don't they don't need to hear to you being from a small town you know what I'm talking about, live a simpler life, they don't adorn themselves like women in a town, you know, I don't know,

J Jack Valinski 15:20

I there's sort of a parallel type of thing is, when I used to go home, I used to fly into this airport, Scranton Wilkes Barre airport, I don't do that anymore. Because it's, it's easier to fly into Philadelphia in New York. But when you go to that airport, you would see the women with the curlers in their hair. And, you know, it was like the mothers coming to pick up their sons. If you fly to LA or you fly to some other one, you see all you know, young people there and they don't, they're just like, in and out of the airport, Nobody waits for each other. Or if they do, you know, they're much younger type of thing. And that was sort of an interest I saw that is strange. I saw that in my hometown, and in Minneapolis, for some reason.

B

Bobby 15:59

I grew up on Long Island, New York, and I grew up in a very Italian Republican town, and I grew up and at the age of 14, knowing that I was gay, I, from that point on, I was never comfortable in my hometown, and it is essentially a small town. You know, it's, that section is essentially a small town, where everybody knows who everybody is. And that's why I didn't feel comfortable there because everybody did know somebody. And who was going to tell who what somebody said, you know, and I am much happier living in this small town known as Montrose, you know, and I, regardless of what you call the town, this Montrose is a town to me, it's a neighborhood, it's, you know, it's home. I've lived here, eight of the last 10 years that I've lived in, and it's home to me more than the 22 years I spent in New York.

J

Jack Valinski 17:07

Well, I agree with you. I mean, it's people know what you're doing now. But sometimes it's good when people know what's going on, you know, but, but it's like you don't worry about them knowing back there, and you did worry about them. And it's right. I mean, Montrose is like a small town, it's sort of like we got our own radio station here. You know, we used to have the old Liberty Bank, which is no longer but there are certain things that are in this area of town that

J

Jewel Gray 17:30

barely, it's nothing like it used to be, you know, I was telling a friend today, I have several friends out there, who are, you know, been have been out there their whole lives and never, never really migrated towards the city were met each other out there, you know, get together out there and have been longtime relationships. And, you know, I was telling somebody the other day, you know, you don't know what it was like, and, and when you look around now, at least, it's really calm and sedate compared to what it was. And it's been in it's passed. And I was a little disappointed because it some things didn't have to go by the by way. I think the community has gotten a little more quiet a little more. Yeah, I don't know, maybe older. Maybe that's what it is. Maybe we've gotten older, the community I mean, not that they're young people out there aren't numerous, but I think somehow the field has gotten older, more mature.

J

Jack Valinski 18:26

Well, we're also looking at from our eyes, and we're older.

J

Joan Devlin 18:30

Battles changed a little bit, too.

J

Jewel Gray 18:32

Yeah, I think so. And I think that that's something that we need to constantly home, you know, that we need to constantly remind people is about the you know, where it was before, because people tend to take for granted where it is now. Well,

J Jack Valinski 18:46

yes, and no, yes. And no, I mean, yes, we do need to remind people, but also, some of the younger people just wouldn't put up with some of the things that we did, because they know that the envelopes already moved,

J Jewel Gray 18:57

but they wouldn't be able to put up with it, it wouldn't be a matter of them putting up with it, if we hadn't gone through it first. Sure. They had the opportunity not to put up with it. And and I don't mean, we as in the you know, myself, but I mean, we as a community had gone through things, that I think that the things that I still think are really underrated and are not an are taken for granted. things, you know that, you know, you had to have a foundation of these things laid down before these kids could even think I mean, what would they run into down on one of the spontaneous protests that they have, you know, occasionally, you know, they would have run into a wall police. And that would have been, you know, very quickly handled. And I don't think that would happen now. I don't think that would happen then. What would be more diplomatic? I think there'd be more, you know, try to talk this out before that. But back then, it would have been almost automatic.

J Joan Devlin 19:48

Your name would get published in the paper that's right. rested, and then your job was gone. Your livelihood, your house, you know,

J Jewel Gray 19:57

and I don't think that happens as much anymore. Not that the name doesn't get out. But I think when the name does get out, it's not such a big deal.

J Jack Valinski 20:03

Well, there I have a very good example of doing the Pride Parade. Back when it first started in 79, a person named Larry binaries who who's one of the founders of the parade? Yeah. When he went down there to try to get the parade permit. Some one of the police officers said to him, what's a nice self respecting Mexican, like you're getting involved with a group like this? And Friday, we had the meeting with the police, with our police liaison, and with the traffic and transportation people, and it's like, what can we do for you, you know, what do you want? You know, and as long as it's within reason, they were just incredibly open. And you know, things

go, well, they don't have any real problems. And even the protesters, I mean, that's their right to protest, but the police keep them separated from our community, and we try to educate our people to ignore them. And that pretty much works. And, you know, that is a major, major step.

J Jewel Gray 20:58

I mean, we still got all the credit, but I mean, the civil rights, those anybody who worked for civil rights, and you know, in the many years past have laid down a foundation that, you know, yes, these kids wouldn't have taken it, they but they would have run into a brick wall and, and hurt. And, you know, we ran into those brick walls and stop people from hurting. So you know, now that they have that ability, they go and do it. And I sit back and say, All right, because that's what I was out there for. Because, you know, even as a youngster, I didn't see this being as something that would be solved in my lifetime. But I saw myself as a youngster being able to help lay a foundation that it would be resolved. Now I still hope and I still, you know, whatever I can do, I put into it, that it will be done taking care of all people. You know, my favorite. My philosophy is I wish we were all gray. You know, not because my name is gray, but because that how could if we were all gray, I just I can't wait for us to intermix so much that you can't tell one from the other. You know, and that's what the these Aryan people are afraid of is that intermingling. And that's what I'm, I can't wait for it. Because at that point, it'll be over. You'll have to fix you'll have to figure out something else to hate people over because it won't be the color of their skin.

J Joan Devlin 22:15

Yeah, but the bad thing is they will figure out

J Jewel Gray 22:21

oh, sure. A pattern or something,

B Bobby 22:24

you know, I was only a year old when the whole Stonewall thing hit. And, and yet, I see it seems to me that even I have more of a sense of the history than a lot of the younger than a lot of the gay younger gay kids that I've seen out nowadays, they don't really realize what that time frame was like, for, for gay people in comparison to now. I mean, places like crossroads where people can sit out and, and just be there, you know, and just be part of a community, you know? And then and then people who know something of the history know there was a time when sitting out there could get you get the crud beaten out of you by cops,

J Jewel Gray 23:19

let's see I see is a culture just like you have cultures around the world I really do see is that way that we have our uniqueness as well as our communists with everybody? And that the uniqueness is our I really think is our sexuality. The rest of everything about us is common with

everybody else. And that, that in I'm losing my train of thought here, what was I gonna say? That that uniqueness is what we need to enhance as much as we can. But without losing the fact that we're calm. And I don't mean just our Coke culture, I mean, any culture, every culture, we need to recognize that that uniqueness is not better, nor worse, just unique,

J Joan Devlin 24:01

right, and to show people that we're different, not dangerous, right? Different,

J Jewel Gray 24:05

not dangerous. And I think that's what you know, the people in mind. And I really think, and you'll find, if you listen to this particular show, is that we do a lot of that I you know, some people tell me, you know, do you spend too much time reminiscing? I said, No, that's not reminiscing, that's history. Think about this. This is history. And I'm afraid that those nuances of our culture are being forgotten. Those that essence that was there. Yeah. Here's the facts. Boeing, Boeing, Boeing, the, you know, the AIDS quilt was laid out here. This day, it was brought here in Houston in this day. We had the March this day to Austin. Those things are very easy to remember. It's like reading a history book, but the nuances I think we're losing, and I think it's those nuances that gave us as much strength as the I think the nuances is what gives us our strength today, those nuances from those days. The things that we

J Jack Valinski 24:58

the flavor, tolerated the Ever of the things that went on and, you know, certainly Ray Hill was reminisced a lot about the way things were in earlier days. And certainly we've seen a lot of things change here. And the attitude like I was talking about just dealing with the city or the cops. I mean, the cops were just, you know, these to raid the bars a lot. And, you know, we were also a smaller community back then, too, so we knew each other better. And it's good that we're, you know, bigger and there are many things going on, you know, from Bowling to movies to all this type of stuff. And, you know, doing Wildenstein in the earlier days, it's like if a play Torch Song Trilogy came through town, and we talked about it for weeks, because you know, nothing else. And there was nothing out. Right, right. And now, you know, there are like 92 pride events this year, which includes the film festival, and we were late getting that all together. But it's just amazing that all this stuff is going on. And still not everything is being listed because people still have their, their normal meetings and stuff like that. And it's incredible. In fact, a lot of cities are calling it their pride parade and their cultural festival, which is great. Yeah,

J Jewel Gray 26:13

I agree. I agree. Well, I see us as a culture.

J Joan Devlin 26:16

Well look at the people here in the band. If that music comes out today, as many people would

Well look at the movie boys in the band. If that movie came out today, so many people would hate it. But when it came out all the gay people to this day, it's like this big deal to them, not because it was a great movie, because its message about gay people was that great. But because it was the first movie that actually had portrayed Yeah, portrayed gay people. You know, it was negative.

J Jewel Gray 26:41

My favorite first movie was the Children's Hour. Oh, yeah, that left a place in my heart. From the day from first day I saw it. And first time I saw it. I was way way child. Maybe 710 years old. First time I saw it. And that was brilliant. Oh, yeah. And that was my first liquid. Did you see the Miriam Hopkins one? Yes. And then I saw the one with Shirley MacLaine. And what's your name? Tempe Nana, Tippi Hepburn, whatever names anyway, you know, whatever name was.

J Jack Valinski 27:11

Let's take a little break here. It's amazing how fast this first half hour went by and I'm not falling asleep yet. You're listening to after hours here on KPFT. Houston, a Pacifica foundation station, and we're gonna listen to a little bit of music here. Just five minutes.

∅ 27:36

Welcome back to the new gospel revival hour.

∅ 27:46

Celebrating Life in the hardest. Now I'm handing it over to the collective to see what they do with it.

J Jack Valinski 27:53

And what are we going to do with it?

J Jewel Gray 27:56

Well, I'm missing too much. I always do that when I get down here. But you know, I just think it's very important that, you know, Michael Crawford and I have some various issues that we brought up on the air down here. You know, he thought I was establishment. And I, you know, he was the first youngster that called me his staff. took offense, you know what I mean? I didn't, I really hadn't looked in the mirror and realize that I had grown in from him into what I was. And, you know, I tried to point that out, we would sit here and I would debate with him about, you know, the young and the old views, and, you know, he would talk about his anger and his passions. And, you know, I admired that immensely. You know, and I remembered, and it was like stroking, you know, it was it was like stroking a memory, to remember by what

sitting next to him discussing the issues that we disagreed with him, not the basic broad issues, but the way that he wanted to deal with the issues we disagreed with, and still managed to walk away. And I have great fondness for Michael, and his passion and his his commitment. But, you know, I think it's important that we recognize that while the youth is about to, you know, move on to the young people are about to move upon their future and our future to that. We were there to make the future that they're about to make possible.

J

Jack Valinski 29:37

Well, it was interesting, he called after hours once after a pride parade and just said or right before it, I think he just said, Well, there's nothing to celebrate. I'm not going out in here. You know, I'm sweating to put this thing on with many other people trying to do and I was just like, so angry at him. But at the same time, he did have some interesting things to say. I mean, you know, it is more it's got to be more than just a party. Yeah, pride. And I that's why

J

Jewel Gray 30:04

I like what's happened to the parade. And that's one of the things I admire most about you, Jack, is that you've taken it away from the old disco parties, you know, and gay people. Yeah, exactly. It was, it was, you know, I was a lot of places. That's what it is. Here. It's more like a cultural festival, which I when you said that a while ago, I thought that would be great. I'd love that, to tag that on the end of our pride parade and cultural festival, because you said tonight, you've got 92 events connected with it. I mean, that is a festival.

J

Jack Valinski 30:37

Absolutely. And what is interesting is the parade sort of reflects the city. It and actually each gay community, gay and lesbian community does reflect the different city. I mean, you know, you take Dallas. And you know, of course, we all love to put Dallas down. But Dallas has done many good things in their community. I mean, they have, they seem to have more money in the community to do things with it. But Houston is a lot more relaxed blue collar. And I say that positively, because I love this, this city and the fact that, you know, you can go to somebody's party, and the help is dressed up in tuxedos, and the guests are coming in jeans. But getting back to the prime thing is that, you know, it is not just a party, it is a celebration of the diversity. And what is interesting is we've really strived to make this an open event, and that the meetings are open, we've had the meetings at the same location for the past 10 years. It's a city building, it's accessible, it's guarded, we have to be out of there by nine, which is good. But you know, the more we open it up, the less people less we have people coming to our meetings, and it's like, are we on autopilot? Are they happy with everything we do, which I hope they never are, I hope they're always pushing the envelope a little bit that we do do things a little bit better in the same time, you know, we have compact is going to be in it again, compact Employees Group, southwestern bells Employees Group, and we don't want this to become a corporate parade, you know, it is in and I think people in this city are happy to see some of these corporations, because we've never seen it.

J

Jewel Gray 32:10

Yeah, I was happy to see some of those corporations, especially the

J Jack Valinski 32:13
oil company. Yeah.

B Bobby 32:16

There was a, we were talking about the cultural aspect of this. And one of the things that really brought that home for me, particularly last year, in last year's event was, and this one group will stick in my head for all eternity, I think the there was the gay Asian group there that they were all dressed up in the ceremonial robes, and the hair was all done up and everything. And I'm sitting there and I had never and i i only been to a few other parades in my time. But that struck me. I mean, that was really saying, we we have all these separate cultures who are part of this, you know,

J Jewel Gray 33:01

and you know, I remember when it was really, uh, you know, the, the, not this one, particularly, but generally the pride parades were really a 50% drag show, you know, and, and, and the people around the streets were, you know, pretty body. People on the streets during that time was pretty body. But I've been to some gay pride parades and other states and other cities. And they were, they were pretty much about celebrating our sexuality and what we gained. As far as our freedoms with that, and you know, every one of my felt like there was something missing. And that was the fact that that that's only minuscule part of my life. It's the most minuscule part of my life is my sexuality, and that everything else about my life is gay. No matter where I go, you know, I've got my stickers on my van, my car says family car after, you know, Needville and everything about my life is gay. And people say, Well, you know, you don't even talking about gay stuff on the radio, I said. Everything I say is about gay because it's about me. And you know, not that I want to be just a gay person. But that's it's something that's more than just like I used to say about Montrose. It's more than a zip code. It's a state of mind, right? Something that's what it is. It's a state of mind that I have about my life and the way I live my life that everything about it is gay.

J Jack Valinski 34:41

Well, and some people accused us especially, you know, we're all sort of activists in our own way. And we're out there and we're, you know, we're pushing the envelope a little bit, that other people will say, Oh, that's just a small part of my life and I don't need to deal with it. But you know, that's what hurts us. The fact that if you're not out about then it doesn't mean you know, flying thing that, you know, doesn't mean just going out there and just announcing everybody you're gay, it's like, or lesbian or transgendered or bisexual. But it's like when the subject comes up, you know, when there's an opportunity to talk about it because it's part of your life, whether it's a boyfriend or girlfriend or stuff like that, you know, you should be able to openly talk about it. And if you don't, then you're you know,

J

Jewel Gray 35:19

I stopped in on the way home last night it was after dark, it just barely started sprinkling at what they call the country peddler at the Fort Bend County Fairgrounds, the country panel, male and went inside and we're looking around and all these crafts you noticed, wouldn't birdcage birdhouses and you know, stuff, just too much country. I don't know anybody who's into that kind of country. But they had some, you know, places where you could get salts and a couple of things were worthy of seeing, and of course, that that ever pocket with turkey leg that I had to have. But I was standing over some popery that I like scents and aromas around me. And I was standing next to some popery. And the lady came up and she started talking to me. And my partner came up next to me, we were talking about, well, how would this smell and where would we put it? And you know, we've made a policy that we don't hide the fact we don't didn't, we twee act like we would