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SPEAKERS

Brian Nunes, Greg Gordon, Lucy Chappelle, Cindy Friedman, Scott Lewis, Brian Bradley

B

Brian Bradley 00:02

Don't you think if our society was a better one to live in that we wouldn't be sending as many people to prison as we are, and looking at your record on community involvement, it's pretty extensive. And I think it's something that you should be proud of, and everyone should be aware of when they go to cast their ballot November the third, would you like to share some of your past experiences with us, I know that you, you walk the Q patrol on a regular basis, and you're a member of the Houston Area Council on Family Violence, and you were the first felony prosecutor for the domestic violence unit of Harris County's District Attorney's Office, pretty impressive.

W

00:43

I was on the National Board of Directors of now, was very active in the women's rights movement for a long time. And the founding president founding chair, there's kind of Women's Political Caucus, too. So I've been very active in that community. And I think that's part of what qualifies me to be a good judge, because I have so many contacts in the community and so much awareness of the community's needs that you were talking about. If we were a better society, we wouldn't have to send so many people to prison. And you're absolutely correct. About 80% of the people who are in prison came out of homes in which there was violence. And I think if we really want to deal with the problem of violence in our society, we have to deal first of all with violence in the home, because that's probably the biggest producer of violence later. And the second thing that we have to deal with is the incredible problem we have with teenage pregnancy.

B

Brian Bradley 01:44

That is a big problem, especially here in Texas, we have twice the right I believe, than the national average, and somebody somewhere is not doing their job. For those I just want to give this number out before I forget it. For those who are not sure if they're registered to vote, it's too late to register or for those who would like to vote early, or to check on their status or find

out whether precinct is possibly going to be the Carl's Scarlett Smith, the Harris County tax assessor, you can call his opposite two to 419 19. And that will give you voter voting information location, whether you're eligible or not, if you're unsure, and I want to make sure that you go down and vote for the right candidates. It's been very refreshing to listen to people running for office the last several months, who have been able to take a position and stand on their own merit instead of attacking their opponent. So let the record reflect that Poppy has not done that. But it wouldn't be fair. It wouldn't be me if I didn't. The incumbent that Miss Northcutt is running against is someone who's on the bench. And he's quite popular with the Houston Chronicle in the Houston press and Houston Post and they run frequent articles on his lack of judicial scruples. Well, he just seems to favor the favor the criminal he doesn't seem to have a good grasp on just how much violence is carried out against people and how much water What crimes people commit. Poppy, do you want me to tell more about Bill Harmon? Or Would would you like to say to our listening audience why we should vote for you instead of him?



03:35

Well, he



03:35

has received the most negative publicity of any of the criminal court judges down there. According to the Houston Post. I think the biggest problem with Judge Harmon really has been his tendency to to pop off during trials.



Brian Bradley 03:51

He was John good. And Rod the judicial Bancho.



03:54

Well, he he is now to say things I think perhaps without thinking about the effect of them. He tends to say things that you or I might say to each other over a beer at Bennigan's, which is not the kind of thing you ought to say when you're on the bench trying a capital murder case. He got a lot of notoriety for how I handled the bunch and capital murder case where officer police officer Irby was killed. During the trial, he said to the defendant, that he was just there doing God's work getting him executed, and he said that before the jury had been picked, so it he wasn't exactly indulging the defendants presumption of innocence under the Constitution. And as I said, that might be the kind of remark somebody might make over a beer at Bennigan's. But it's not exactly what you ought to say in the middle of a trial. It costs a million dollars to retry capital murder case. So that's a very expensive wisecrack.



Brian Bradley 04:52

So not only did they risk someone who was charged with capital murder getting off, he's cost the taxpayers I could have cost the taxpayers tremendous amount of money to better use for

the taxpayers I could have cost the taxpayers tremendous amount of money to better use for something else. Well,



05:05

then that's only the beginning. Because the the real cost isn't even a monetary cost, the real cost is to the family and friends of the victim, because they have to go through an absolutely agonizing experience of knowing that this case is probably going to be reversed. And they're going to have to see whether or not someone is found guilty of it or not.



B Brian Bradley 05:26

And it's my understanding the judge Harmon is very fond of giving people probation, especially people that are behind in their child support. I know there was a recent Houston Post article that I read where he gave probation and everyone felt as if he should have given some time and there's an article that goes all the way back to 1987 when this judge led a man off, who was guilty of a massive amount of back child support, and apparently this judge just doesn't feel that deadbeat dad should take care of their their children while they're off living their good life and their former wives or are struggling like my mother did. I'm



06:07

considering recent press accounts that might be a Republican male characteristic.



B Brian Bradley 06:13

Well, I'm beginning to think that he is you know, I'm sure that was a Republican God that he was doing the work for all So Scott, have you got any Republican



S Scott Lewis 06:22

is a Republican is now that does not a Republican.



B Brian Bradley 06:27

For God's own party. Brand. Oh, party.



S Scott Lewis 06:32

I just I just want to say no, because I always try to leave the interviewing to you because you're so much better at it than I am.

B

Brian Bradley 06:37

But when you're finished with your sandwich, I say to

S

Scott Lewis 06:42

you, no, man it that wasn't that wasn't very friendly. Anyway, she's gonna get catty right in front of the judge, you just might have to go up in front of her one of the days when you go interrupts go throw some pen at somebody, interrupt some city council meeting here, or worse,

B

Brian Bradley 07:04

went out. But you know, be professional. Don't be talking about my criminal history.

S

Scott Lewis 07:09

Lord knows we don't have time in a three hour show. Anyway, I just want to say briefly, that, you know, I met Poppy some months ago, and Poppy came and spoke at a rally that I organized, which was a one year Memorial March for the death of Paul Broussard. And when I organized the rally. Somebody approached me and asked me, you know, let Poppy speak at this, and I didn't know who you were, and you weren't an office holder. And let me tell you, Poppy, really turned the crowd on its ear. She was incredible. She was incredible puppies really, really in touch with the issues. And and I guess the only thing more I could really say is that I personally endorse you and I, I will vote for you as

B

Brian Bradley 08:07

loss of votes there. We'll have you back on before the election to get them votes back.

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08:14

D four,

B

Brian Bradley 08:16

D four. But we had early voting. Is this mic on? It's not sounding real good. Scott's talking to technical things tonight. And I have a feeling that Columbia School of broadcast license played out. But early voting started this week in Texas and across America. And I know Poppy was there speaking with a lot of the other candidates and with the Democratic National chairperson Ron Brown. And it was very exciting to get up at five o'clock in the morning and have gene Harrington drag you out of the bed and go down and early vote and are the big

S

Scott Lewis 08:50



SCOTT LEWIS 00:30

sleeping with Jean Harrington. No,

B

Brian Bradley 08:52

not anymore. Just every four years around second Tuesday in November, shut up Scott. But the big thing is to tell everybody to press or punch D for on the ballot in a straight or somewhat straight I shouldn't say Democratic ticket, but I didn't do that I voted individually just for the pleasure of being able to punch Clinton Gore over Bush Quayle and be able to put Northcott over harm and in each one of the persons that I had a particular affinity for I you know, gave him a personal message and so it's fun but if if all else fails and you forget just who it is you're supposed to vote for because it can be a little bit daunting just taking four D four Democrat four and that'll give you a straight Democratic ticket and we can steamroll these Republicans out of office.



09:45

I think that's very important. And I think in in for gays especially and for women, that if they saw any of the Republican National Convention, they should have every incentive in the world to go and push the for or, because I've never seen so much gay bashing and woman bashing in my life. As I saw during that convention, I really couldn't tell much difference between the folks that were up there talking and the Ku Klux Klan, except that the Ku Klux Klan wears plain white sheets, and those people were in Designer threads. It was a very frightening prospect. So I think that we have to send a message to the Republican Party, that women and gays and people who care about issues of equality and human dignity, just will not put up with that.



Brian Bradley 10:37

That's what it all comes down to, you know, it's it's pretty embarrassing when someone comes up to me and says, you know, I'm not gay, but the Republican Convention was just, you know, absolutely mean spirited and evil. Or, you know, I've never, I'm a man and they clearly don't have women's concerns at heart. When someone from the other side of the fence, if you will, pointed out to you that the Republicans in in Houston during the convention were particularly vile this year. That says a lot about our system. And I really wish people would listen to what you just got through saying and exercise their responsibility and make sure that they go out and vote, I have so many people that are registered to vote, who don't exercise that option due to apathy or ignorance or whatever. So if you don't want to make you know, an informed choice, but you want to make the right choice, just go vote, and punch D for Democrat for and we will sweep the incumbents Republicans out of office or put good candidates in there or retain the ones that we do have because we do have some people I admire and love that have been there a long time on the bench that need to be retained. This was a pause. I thought you're gonna get one of them. Why it's interesting that Poppy is so well known to the gay and lesbian community. But to get back to my original point was it's it's all a matter of human rights. It's I don't see Poppy as being a a woman's candidate, or the gay and lesbian candidate or the people of color, the people of choice or whatever. I just see her making the right prudent decisions based on what human beings deserve

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Scott Lewis 12:33

the people's candidate. That's

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Brian Bradley 12:34

something we need to get back to me ask her. Did you know Harry Truman?

S

Scott Lewis 12:41

She's not as old as you are.

∅

12:43

Probably the Republicans are claiming these days that they're running. You know, Harry Truman's candidacy. They seem to Reagan was always adopting FDR. And now Bush is trying to pretend that he's Harry Truman. We have, I don't know, Bill Clinton, but I know lots of good Democrats, we Democrats get to believe in support and contemporaneous Democrats. We don't have to pretend to be something we're not.

B

Brian Bradley 13:08

We don't have to borrow someone from the other. Do you? Do you do know Helen Cassidy though, don't

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13:14

you? Oh, yes.

B

Brian Bradley 13:15

Well, there's nothing good to say about Helen. So

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13:20

that's not true. That's

B

Brian Bradley 13:21

right. He's just a wonderful, wonderful woman up like Alice loanword. Roosevelt said, or Alice Roosevelt loanword. If you've gotten nothing good to say about somebody, come sit and talk to me. We'll do that about Helen later tonight. I know she's listening. She's probably sharpening

ME: WE'll do that about 11:15 later tonight. I know she's listening. She's probably sharpening her nails right now, to get back at me. But uh, probably, what would be the single most important thing that you think that you would be able to accomplish in your first year in office? Or on the bench, I should say? Well, I



13:52

think the most significant change that would be immediately visible would be in terms of who gets appointed to represent people in that court. Because the history in there is very discriminatory. It's almost exclusively white males who are appointed to represent people who are indigent. You could expect it right away people who were not white people who were not male. People who might not have been former prosecutors would get appointed represent people in that court. That would be very visible and very obvious. But the other thing I think you could expect is that I'd have a much lower reversal rate on appeal than the incumbent does, because I have so much more academic experience than he does.



B Brian Bradley 14:37

So it's very important. I know, I know it is for me, it gladdens my heart to see 11 women that are more than likely going to win Senate seats across America. And it makes me feel real good to see symbolically people of color and women and gays and lesbians running for office as and so if for no other value, I think the symbolic value He was very important. It's very empowering, to walk into a course symbolic, well, if it's nothing but I mean, originally walking into a courtroom and and I see something other than a white male, I feel more included, I feel more empowered that my views or, or my case would be looked at as fairly as, as the other side's



15:24

women really do bring more more some values that are not present, and bring them to the fore. The District Attorney's Office, for example, didn't used to have a large number of women prosecutors, when women began to enter the area of prosecution. One of the things that you saw was a lot more emphasis on the prosecution of child abuse. The other thing that you saw was the creation of the domestic



B Brian Bradley 15:50

violence unit. Weren't you instrumental in forming that? Yes, I



15:54

was. But it wasn't just me, even if I had been there, that would have happened. The main thing is that as women enter those fields, they bring their values with them, and they bring a new perspective with them and things get attention that wouldn't otherwise get attention. And another example would be that now, something that I was very much involved in, is that whenever Dan Berg was trying to change the rape laws to include spousal rape, I was

contacted and asked to come and testify. And I put a proposal together and presented it to the elected District Attorney John Holmes, and was given approval to go and represent the office in support of this proposal. But the key element is that probably probably only because a woman was there did that happen. And it was very influential to the committee that somebody who was a prosecutor and who was there representing Johnny Holmes came to testify in favor of spousal rape legislation, and may have been the reason that proposal passed. But women bring values to bear that otherwise are overlooked. It's not symbolic. It's very real. We still do not have we have a statute that requires that district court judges have training and domestic violence, the statutes been on the books for a couple of years, they have never been trained. Okay.

 Brian Bradley 17:23

Sounds like HPD, in her case, sensitivity training.

 17:26

Exactly. But the thing is that as long as there are very few women up there, you can expect that that kind of consideration is not going to be very high priority. The more women there are, especially women who care about those issues, the more a scene is going to be created about not doing what they're supposed to do on those issues, is not symbolic to have women it's very, very real. The interests of women into the US Senate is going to have a major impact, I think on women in the military, and may have an impact on gays in the military as well.

 Brian Bradley 18:01

I don't think we're gonna have to look to them to enact legislation, instead of waiting for more gays and lesbians to be elected or for the other side to just wake up and do the right thing. I believe we need to go to a break now

 Scott Lewis 18:13

that we need to take a little break we're going to all this all this talk just makes me think about a

 Brian Bradley 18:20

minute oh man just came to absorb it all. Can I tell

 Scott Lewis 18:22

you, I was thinking what it made me think of this song that we're gonna listen to after we do some station ID by Tracy Chapman. It's called dreaming of a world. It's off her new CD matters of the heart. And it talks about equality and justice and what it's going to take for us to get

there a revolution.



18:39

This is Rita Mae Brown, you're listening to KPFT Houston.



Brian Bradley 18:46

You're on the air. You shouldn't say that word. We're back with papi Northcutt, who is the candidate for the judgeship of district 178, the criminal district court and this is gonna get right to the meat of the matter of poppy and ask you, how is it that you become involved in looking out for gay and lesbian rights so much?



19:08

Well, I was on the National Board of Directors of now the National Organization for Women, way, way, way back in the early 70s. But one of the things that happened when I became involved in now in the early days was that first of all, i i for the first time really dealt with lesbians, where I knew that they were lesbians. Like everyone else. I probably had had many dealings with lesbians, but I wasn't particularly aware because they had been in the closet. So that was a consciousness riser. But then what began to happen in now, all over the country. Was that because women were being feminist and were out advocating non traditional items, we had a lot of gay baiting going on a lot of lesbian banning going on and As a result, we had a lot of debate within the women's movement about how to respond to the gay baiting. And the consensus that we came to was that we did not want to be divided from our lesbian sisters. And we felt that if any of us, those of us who were straight if we were to run around denying that we were gay, that's exactly what would happen is we would be divided. So we instead did the radical thing of becoming the first national organization in the country to come out in favor of gay rights. And therefore, I ended up in the position of becoming a spokesperson for gay rights because I was on the National Board of Directors of now. And we had taken this position.



Brian Bradley 20:45

I guess that was the beginning steps in your becoming feminazis, wasn't it? I suppose. We better probably explain this to everybody. While the Republicans were here in town this summer during the garden country rally, they had a poster with a red circle in the slash through it. No queers, no baby killers and no feminazis. And understand this is Rush Limbaugh coined the phrase for women who decide they don't want to be tied to a stove or to some man's marriage bed there. feminazis. That's



21:16

right. We don't bake cookies were bad.

B

Brian Bradley 21:19

But now we can talk about Helen.

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21:22

But I do think that something that hasn't been mentioned that people may be wondering about, you keep saying I'm running for a district court and you give the number, okay. People think when they hear that I'm running for a particular district court, the 178. They wonder, Am I living it? Do I live in her district? That's a very deceptive name that we have for our district courts. It sounds like they're all district Id just like you have representative Dannenberg in a district are Scott hockberger. They are not they're all running at large.

B

Brian Bradley 21:54

So anyone in Harris County can vote for you. Exactly. Great. Make sure that they do. Well, it's been very enjoyable to have you here tonight, Poppy, and I'm going to wish you great success. I don't think you're gonna need it because I feel the wind of change right behind you every time you walk by. And I think you're gonna win and I wish you luck. I'm not gonna win again. I don't need to wax poetic about there. It's gonna sound like something bad. But thanks for coming on. Bobby. I know you've been appreciate We appreciate it. And not only do we appreciate you being here tonight, we appreciate the work that you've been doing in the Houston Community for well over 20 years now. And we're gonna help you to continue to do the good work and, and thank you very much. We really appreciate it. Thank you. Francis papi Northcutt for Judge, get down there and vote. If you don't, don't ask us why you're in the trouble that you're in when you go to the court. And it's white and Republican, and straight and anti choice. Thank you.

S

Scott Lewis 22:56

We're gonna go to this way out the National Gay and Lesbian news magazine. We'll be back at 145 Brian and I will be bitching as usual. We'll have some movie passes to give away to the River Oaks and we'll have that new somebody called in last week and wanted to hear some Boy George and we've got the new Boy George Pet Shop Boys single that is just out and cost me a fortune because it's already played the damn thing Okay, get out of here. Go home go to bed they feel they don't have much to

♂

23:38

lose. We find the Marines response to our ads. Silly and best, lethal at worst. Both

♂

23:44

people who realize that they know gay and lesbian people overwhelmingly support our issues. Most people when they don't believe they know anybody gay or lesbian. They overwhelmingly oppose our issues. It's as simple as that.

L

Lucy Chappelle 24:13

Welcome to this way out the international lesbian and gay radio magazine. I'm Lucia Chapelle.

G

Greg Gordon 24:18

And on Greg Gordon, prisoners of AIDS strike for their lives.

L

Lucy Chappelle 24:22

Salt Lake in Fulton County is approved but Indiana still lawless,

G

Greg Gordon 24:26

and 1000s make a day of coming out

L

Lucy Chappelle 24:29

all that and more because you've discovered this way out.

B

Brian Nunes 24:43

I'm Brian Enos and I'm Sidney Friedman with news wrap a summary of some of the news in we're affecting the lesbian and gay community for the week ending October 3 1992. The Salt Lake County Commission has passed the first lesbian and gay rights protections in the state of Utah. Sexual orientation is now included as a protected class for purposes of government employment and receiving government services there. But the ordinances do not affect the private sector. The new laws climax three years of lobbying by the gay and lesbian Utah Democrats, the Salt Lake County measures may be the beginning of a trend. A survey conducted in August by Valley research for the Salt Lake Tribune found 65% support for the statement, gays and lesbians should be protected by laws against housing and job discrimination.

C

Cindy Friedman 25:30

The Fulton County Georgia Board of Commissioners also acted recently to protect gays and lesbians from discrimination. In mid August, the commissioners voted unanimously to add sexual orientation and disability to its equal employment opportunity policy. In addition to protecting employees of the county government, businesses contracting with the county must also adhere to the policy.

B

Brian Nunes 25:55

The city council of Lafayette Indiana took a strange twist in considering protections against discrimination for lesbians and gays. An amendment adding sexual orientation to a proposed human rights bill succeeded. But then the bill itself was narrowly defeated. Councilmember Jerry led better who has witnessed discrimination against his gay son Greg sponsored the lesbian and gay rights amendment and says he will keep on working for it. To date, no city in Indiana has enacted legal protections from discrimination based on sexual orientation. West Lafayette Indiana is most notable resident Purdue University is the only member of the big 10 splits conference without a policy on sexual orientation. But the University Senate will be discussing discrimination protections this month.

C

Cindy Friedman 26:41

The Boy Scouts of America has terminated the volunteer services of a gay police officer in the San Diego suburb of El Kahan, California. Police Officer Chuck Marino had been leader of an explorer Scout post for five years before a letter from the scouts rejected him at the end of August. The scouts move may have serious consequences. The city of San Diego is threatening to break a lease agreement with the scouts and the ELCA Han Police Department will disband its explorer program altogether if Marino is not reinstated.

B

Brian Nunes 27:15

Two young gay refugees described their persecution in the Ukraine to Bulgaria's Flamingo magazine, using the names Sasha and Romane. The men claims that police in the Ukraine maintain extensive files on gays and routinely called them in for venereal disease checkups. That means spending two weeks locked up in hospital crowded with convicted criminals who aren't restrained from bashing gays. before they're released from the hospital. Gays are usually tattooed with a black dot under the eye. This makes them clearly identify targets not only for the police, but also for God sneaky gangs of young men who attack gays and others in order to clean up society.

C

Cindy Friedman 27:54

About 35 People spent the last week of August at Rosa Globe's second gay and lesbian pink camp in and Koran Slovenia. The camp featured workshops on social political and aids issues and music and arts events. The Ljubljana based Rosa Kluber also produces a bi weekly radio program.

B

Brian Nunes 28:15

Paris's 24 hour day radio station free kosgei has survived the French government's reorganization of FM frequency assignments. Initially, frequence gay was expected to share its 98.2 megahertz frequency with another broadcaster. Ironically, a frequency opened up when the Catholic Publishing Group withdrew its application.

C

Cindy Friedman 28:36

The outlook is not so rosy for France's leading gay publication gay pa Abdo. Director Gerard van der Rohe says that financial problems require the 13 year old weekly to shut down after October. Some of the staff believe the debt is small enough that they can save the APA if that burrow will turn control of the paper over to them.

B

Brian Nunes 29:00

The health agency for the United Nations has found no basis for the belief that a new virus causes AIDS like symptoms. Tony Chuka reports from Geneva,

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29:09

the World Health Organization countered reason suggestions by several scientists that a new virus could be causing age like illnesses. Who aids chief Dr. Michael Merson said there's no evidence of a fresh epidemic in the making. AIDS experts convened by who agreed that most of the seemingly mysterious cases were linked to known ailments that attacked the body's immune system, like cancer or tuberculosis. Merson said there was no common thread and some 100 Such cases over the last six years, noting that in a few cases, there was no conclusive finding the experts did urge further study. Tony TwitchCon Geneva,

C

Cindy Friedman 29:44

a drug use to combat AIDS was approved for expanded use this week by the US Food and Drug Administration. DDI has been found to prolong the life of individuals who had previously used only AC T. The drug was approved by the FDA in 1990. One only for use by children or adults who either could not tolerate AZT or who were not responding to it. marketed under the brand name vytex DDI can now be sold to people who have used AZT for a prolonged period of time.

B

Brian Nunes 30:16

A homophobic aids phobic father has lost his court bid to rewrite the epitaph of his activist son, George Lawrence, a gay man with AIDS had made elaborate plans for his own memorial, which has stood in Forest Lawn Memorial Park in Glendale, California since his death last year. The inscription reads, I give thanks for my beloved spouse, Gus, my friends, my mother, mira, my dogs and the beauty of living. AIDS is a heart disease to die from, but I rejoice in knowing that my friends will carry on against AIDS and gay oppression. George's Father Alexander Lawrence objected to the headstones message on two counts. He wanted the references to AIDS deleted, and he wanted to be mentioned himself, deluded with letters from George's friends and acquaintances. A judge quickly ruled that the marker should be left intact. Clearly it expresses George's wishes. One note he left behind reads, someday this tombstone tablet will be considered a historic relic of a time long ago, when AIDS and hate against us was truly a thing of the past.

C

Cindy Friedman 31:20

Openly gay Australian Member of Parliament, Paul O'Grady has filed a complaint with the New South Wales anti discrimination board. Although the government pays for the married and unmarried partners of heterosexual Members of Parliament to accompany them on business trips. It has so far refused to cover travel for O'Grady's lover,

B

Brian Nunes 31:41

President Mary Robinson of Ireland will be hosting a reception at her official residence for 34 representatives of lesbian and gay organizations from all over the country. The December 12 Get together will feature a tour of the presidential palace formal introductions brief address by the President and an hour of informal talk over drinks. In 1977. Mary Robinson was the barrister acting for a gay man who challenged Ireland's sodomy law.

C

Cindy Friedman 32:07

The new gay center of Madrid was forced to close when the city councilor for its district refused to license it on Hello Matan. So based just rejection on a number of bureaucratic details that the Center's staff the Colectivo gay de Madrid believes they have already complied with the Colectivo believes counselor Matan says homophobia is the problem. And Elga the international lesbian and gay association is joining with them and calling for letters asking the mayor of Madrid to intervene.

B

Brian Nunes 32:39

And finally, we've been had, you may recall a recent story about the body of a stone age man discovered in the Italian Alps who showed irrefutable evidence of sexual contact with another man. While some doubts about the validity of the find itself have surfaced. The part about the gay sex has definitely been revealed as a hoax. The story was perpetrated by a homosexual initiative Vienna in his magazine lambda knock cretin, where it was intended as a humorous commentary on the media's frenzied response to the body known as Otzi. The human was so subtle that it escaped not only the gay and lesbian press, but at least two mainstream Austrian publications and a Swiss paper as well. And of course, us

C

Cindy Friedman 33:25

that's us wrap for the week ending October 3 1990. To follow the news in your area and informed community is a strong community

B

Brian Nunes 33:34

news wrap is compiled and written by Cindy Friedman. For this way out. I'm Brian Nunez



33:38

and I'm Cindy Friedman.



L Lucy Chappelle 33:42

Inmates with HIV and AIDS in California's Vacaville state prison are taking their medical care and possibly their lives into their own hands. Vicki Voss has the story.



34:03

These folks more than 100 inmates at Vacaville are refusing to take their medication to protest what they say is inadequate medical care. Prisoners decided to take this drastic action after two inmates died, they say of neglect and poor care. One prisoner reportedly died alone in his cell a second died just after he was taken to the hospital. Lawrence Wilson spent 14 months in Vacaville HIV unit. He was released just after the two inmates died. He describes conditions in the unit as demoralizing at best and charges. Doctors there have no experience with HIV and no compassion for those inmates who have contracted it. There are no lack of examples Wilson says beginning with his own story when doctors decided to take him off the familiar drug AZT and put him on the newer drug DDI.



35:02

I got no instructions on how to take this. And then I found out by doing some research that you should take it on an empty stomach, because if you take it on a full stomach, you lose up to half of its effectiveness. And I was taking a pill called dapsone, which is a prophylactic for Pneumocystis pneumonia. And you should not take it within two hours of that. And here I was three times a week, taking my dapsone right on top of the DDI and therefore totally eliminating its effectiveness. A fella died there, as I understand right after I left him Stephen Woody. Steven could not eat solid food for two and a half three months before his death. But the institution kept bringing him the same meals that everybody else got nothing soft, nothing pureed, just brought the trays in and took them out totally uneaten. And that's the kind of negligent treatment that we saw a great deal out there.



35:58

This is outrageous. Judy Greenspan is former aids Information Coordinator with the ACLU is Prison Project. She says this organized strike by inmates is the first of its kind in California and in her words, is fully justified. We have heard from prisoners of Vacaville, that any staff that attempts to help the prisoners are discouraged from doing so they're told all these prisoners, why waste your time? Why waste the taxpayers money, they're going to die anyway. And that seems to be sort of the pervasive attitude and that's what the prisoners are reacting to. I mean, they're putting their lives on the line by refusing to take the medication. It's very serious to stop taking your medication, but they feel they don't have much to lose. This is not the first time the issue has been raised. Nearly two years ago, following a lawsuit prison officials were forced to hire doctors familiar with HIV. But those doctors resigned last March, saying they were

not given the authority or the resources to do their job, leaving inmates to sort themselves out as best they can. outside the prison members of act up or the AIDS coalition to unleash power are setting up picket lines in support of the inmates echoing prisoners demands. First of all, I would like the Department of Corrections to stop ignoring the problem again, Judy Greenspan and to begin to recruit HIV and AIDS specialists. That's very much what's needed. I also think they need to involve the prisoners, both in their treatment and in the AIDS education process. These reforms should be carried out in Vacaville Greenspan says similar changes might then be made in other prisons across the country. In the meantime, prison officials at Vacaville are not commenting on the strike prisoners, many who are now getting sicker vowed to continue their action indefinitely. former inmate Lawrence Wilson only hopes his former cellmates will not have died in vain. I'm Vicki vos.

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Greg Gordon 38:10

AIDS education campaigns all too often tend to draw complaints from conservative quarters, especially because the subject matter must deal with the issues of homosexuality, safe sex and the use of condoms. But now one of the latest safe sex campaigns has called out the Marines. Mike Alka Lai files this report. October

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38:28

is AIDS Awareness Month, a time to try out those new photo ad campaigns that can help people become more aware of the disease. But this year the San Francisco AIDS Foundation is finding that its newspaper campaign is threatening a lawsuit from the Marine Corps. The safe sex ed shows several straight and gay couples in an embrace. For the Marines. This is all fine, except for the tattoo on the right shoulder of one of the gay men. It's the Marines 200 year old emblem of a globe and anchor. They say the emblem belongs to them and their legal experts say they want it back. The Marines want to stop the ad because they say quote, it could create the inference that the Marine Corps is partially responsible for the spread of AIDS and could be viewed as its tacit approval of homosexuality.

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39:16

Contrary to the wishes of the Department of the Navy, the San Francisco AIDS Foundation has no intention of destroying this ad.

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39:23

Kristen, the head of San Francisco's leading AIDS organization says the ad was produced with lots of input from AIDS educators and the Age community. We believe

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39:32

it is a good ad. If the Department of the Navy feels compelled to refer this matter to the Attorney General of the United States. So be it. We are certainly prepared to go to court to defend our right to create and place this ad. The point being is that the ~~According~~

defend our right to create and place this ad. The next move is theirs. According



39:48

to Kristin. The irony of the marine action is that it will only help spread the word about safe sex and getting the AIDS antibody test.



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I think it's perfectly fair to say that had the Marines not sent this letter that this ad would have appeared like many ads, but it certainly would not have received this kind of attention. And indeed, we're going to see it receiving national attention national awareness. I'm very excited about that, of course, because I think it increases dialogue around the issue. I think it encourages people to think about getting tested to think about seeking treatment, and to really think about being responsible if they're sexually active. We have an epidemic to fight. We find the Marines response to our ad, silly and best, lethal at worst,



40:30

that's pet Christian or the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, and in San Francisco, this is Mike Allen Calais.



Lucy Chappelle 40:45

The names project quilt with its 1000s of memorial panels for people who have died from AIDS returns to Washington DC on October 9. The 3d showing includes the unveiling of a quilt inspired song by Geoffrey Moline.