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SPEAKERS

Suzanne Anderson, Jack Valinski



00:19

[No Closet by Jamie Anderson plays]



Jack Valinski 00:47

KPFT from Pacifica's KPFT in Houston, this is Lesbian and Gay Voices a show for and about the gay and lesbian community. I'm Jack Valinski and Deborah Bell is off tonight. So I will be doing a solo hosting of the show. But there are plenty of things that we're going to be talking about tonight. We have with us we're going to be talking about Breaking the Code, a show that is going to be playing at theater and is currently playing at Theater Lab. And Gerald [Debeta?] will be here talking about that. Also Michael Garbarino from the Texas Human Rights Foundation. We'll be talking about what's happening with the appeal to the Texas sodomy law in where we go. Now. He was at the Creating Change Conference and talked about the future of Texas after the landslide with Republicans. We will also be talking about or we will be running news wrap from this way out. And we have some a special interview that Juan Palomo did with Edmund White, which is quite lengthy, but I understand it's a very good interview. And of course is playing some music with the outro music as it's called. And a few other things but up first of course is Suzanne Anderson speaking out.



Suzanne Anderson 01:57

Good evening. This is Suzanne Anderson. Frank from the New York Time The Living Art section. As a script in process it could be titled The closet and the conservative ascendancy. Few developments over the last decade have been more startling than the growing visibility, proud and demanding of gay men and lesbians. A few years ago, gay groups are complaining justifiably that they were tired of saying homosexuality for take trade on television. As a problem. Recent programs can affirm considerable changes, hitting the barrier breaking list of courses ABC Roseanne and it's almost weekly use of gay characters played by among others, Martin Mull and Sandra Bernhard. They ignore the entrenched rules of programming game and Roseanne remains one of the most popular shows on television. Elsewhere, foxes Melrose Place

continues to feature a gay man among its regular and on ABC. my so called Life a best friend of a heroine is gay. One of the episodes on NBC friends a series that features a pregnant wife leaving her husband for her lesbian lover, and a recent episode of NBC Freya introduced a new station manager who happened to also be homosexual. And Barbara Walters interview with David Geffen Hollywood billionaire and one of the most powerful voices he showed business, casually discussed his new open homosexuality. And fortunately, the list goes on and on and on.

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Jack Valinski 03:33

It's great. Finally television is opening up. I just wish some other industries were opened up also.

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Suzanne Anderson 03:39

Well, it's a process and it's going to happen and this is really encouraging for gay men and lesbians. The nation's largest gay political organization has reached into the corporate world for an executive director. And that person is Elizabeth Burke. He's a 38 year old chief litigator at applepie tutor, and he has been named the director of the Human Rights Campaign fund. That's an organization that's based in Washington and claims more than 80,000 members. The sun fights discrimination against homosexuals through organizing lobbying and financial support for political candidates. Miss Burke was involved in the battle last year that you probably remember between Apple and William County, a suburban county north of Austin, Texas, and you probably also remember, she won or helped win that battle. She was co chairman or chairwoman of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force from 1992 until this year, it's a very positive move because she's from the corporate world and she's moving over into running a human rights organization for our community. Absolutely amazing. I think it's terrific. out of Washington, the Naval Academy does not have to reinstate a top student who was forced to resign after it you Hitting he was gay. This comes down from a federal appeals court last Tuesday. The 73 ruling by the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, reversed the findings of a three panel judge which had ruled that Joseph seven should be reinstated. Stephen was forced out of the Naval Academy in 1987, just six weeks shy of graduation, after acknowledging that he was homosexual. The following Midshipman who was honored for constant dedication to superior performance for his ouster was never accused of a gay engaging in homosexual acts. But the full court rejected Stephens contention that the Navy could not expel him solely on the basis of his statements about his sexual orientation. The Clinton administration is leaning against the Supreme Court to overturn a court ordered rate reinstating the sailor sailor who publicly declared his homosexuality. The sailor is a navy sonar operator keep mine ho who disclosed on national TV in 1992 that he's gay mine home was discharged under old military regulations that were replaced last year. The administration has sent official who interestingly enough declined to be identified by name also said Solicitor General Gru de who represents the government and the Supreme Court is laying against the Appeals and the handful of other pending cases involving the old policy as well as mine holes case. Instead, the administration would concentrate on defending cases under the new Clinton administration's news. Don't Ask, Don't Tell. Well, a man accused of murdering three gay men in Florida, Georgia, Maryland, confessed to those killings and three more following his arrest Tuesday, the sheriff said in Jacksonville, Florida, Gary Ray Bowles 32 of Clifton 444. Virginia has been added Friday to the FBI 10 most wanted list. Tom Villard 40. An actor who has a PhD, but

kept it private for some time, did come out about a year ago. He said he thought it was important to continue working and not to try to hide his illness, or his homosexuality. He appeared in 12 featured films, including Heartbreak Ridge, and my girl in Washington. Well, this is about gang rage. You know, the news. Homosexuality is an orientation like, listen to this alcoholism, House Speaker to be gainward snoot said in an interview to be published in a gay newspaper, the Republican Party Physician He said to be toleration, I'm just so grateful note. This all came out in an interview from the Washington blade and he was interviewed by Candler Burr, who you may recall was in Houston some time ago. Also coming out in that article was the fact that I guess this has been heard by some of you before that one of his younger sisters is a lesbian, that he called it madness to suggest that families are anything other than heterosexual couple. And among all minority groups, the game that showed the greatest shift in the GOP in 1994. This was interesting. I thought exit polls conducted for the New York Times show that one out of every three gay and lesbian or bisexual voters voted Republican on election day, as opposed to 1992 When one out of every four Republicans in the exit polls voted Republican going back to the news, ask whether or not he thought it was path ology. He said no. But then he compared it to the near side of this story sort of the politics of neediness. I would believe that and he is one main man. Well, like Republicans all the new come incumbents who were reelected some prominent newcomers won the ballot measures that they most strongly oppose. Well, it will find in the news that when it comes to openly gay homosexual officeholders, we have a net gay gang. Even openly gay incumbents were reelected including Democratic Representative Barney Frank Gehry duds of Massachusetts and castling the bowl of the gay lesbian Victory Fund in a telephone interview. This was this came from Washington DC also reelected was Republican Representative Steve Gunderson of Wisconsin who has acknowledged having a male companion but has not acknowledged being gay. Interestingly enough, he's a good friend of the new also like we were 11 newcomers, and that boosts our numbers to 113 It sounds good until you realize that among the people who are elected there were 497,155 that went on to Office. out of New York, a gay man who fathered a child for a lesbian couple through artificial insemination, then sued over visitation and he won paternity rights to the girl. This came from a state appeals court, and by mutual agreement of her biological parents ride the daughter's name, visited with her father from about ages four through nine. Steel, the father said rise to him cards that when steel asked in 1990, to bring right and paid to California for visitation without their mothers. The women objected and cut off all contact. The have ensued for paternity rights. One of the interesting statements his lawyer made was that he felt like we were recognizing alternative family structure and the diversity from Taiwan. I don't I guess until I read this article, I didn't think about how horribly in the clause that many of us have to be even to some point or another. That again, this is out of Bangkok. Nestled in the lush mountains of central Thailand is a luxury town of karaoke bars, cafes, health club, swimming pool and massage parlors, and it's been built for 2000 gay men. It's called the world first all Gay Village. Does that sound like heaven? With 70% of the 800 luxury homes already sold? The \$32 million project is to open next year, and it's to be called Flower town. You want to you want to hear this not a single protest has been logged isn't that amazing? Gays are wildly widely tolerated here. And they're called flowers that was said, because they're considered to be clean, lovely, fresh, beautiful and refined. They make no attempt to hide their feminine mannerisms. The devoutly Buddhist ties believe that people are homosexual, lesbian, transvestites or heterosexual because of their karma. They generally don't judge them for being different, but attribute it to attractions in their past lives. Even with AIDS reaching epidemic proportions and parts of Thailand, there have been no backlash against gay. This is Suzanne Anderson speaking out for lesbian and gay voices.



 Jack Valinski 12:33

Suzanne Anderson's feature is regularly heard here on lesbian and gay voices. And the bumper sticker the week is a big Jesus. And underneath it says, save us from your followers got a lot of live in to do. You're listening to lesbian gay voices. This is Jack Valinski. This is Radio Station KPFT. Houston 90.1. We are an alternative radio station. And luckily, there's some alternative theater around the city. And actually, I think of a past year, there's a lot of new theater companies that sort of opened up smaller that are able to play things that haven't seen in the city before. Gerald Debeta is here from Theater Lab. And you are the producing director. Yeah, that's correct. And theater lab is about a year and a half old. You said

 12:46

yeah, we're about 18 months old. So it's about our 10th production. And we're doing the Houston premiere of Hugh Whitemore's Breaking the Code.

 Jack Valinski 13:40

Okay. And that show is about,

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it's actually based on a real person, Alan Turing, who lived in the was born in 1912, died in 1954. And he was a pivotal person that basically he was a mathematician, he got involved with the breaking of the enigma code, which was a Nazi code that they were using to transport our their secrets, and got involved with that in England during the war, and successfully broke that code, and enabled the British and the allies to basically beat the Nazis. And

 Jack Valinski 14:20

I was watching a computer special on the machine man who made a machine or something like that six part series. And he did spend a lot of time on that the fact that this code was broken, and that the Allies did not let it out that the code was broken and kept letting the Germans thinking that they were winning with without knowing the code and stuff like that, and it really supposedly shortened the war.

 14:43

Oh, yeah. It was very instrumental in the war being ending a lot sooner than it might have. In fact, without Alan turning that on, no, there's a good possibility. The British might not have won.

 Jack Valinski 14:56

It's really interesting. Yes. So what does this Why was there a play about this gentleman besides the book the book the code

besides the back the broke the code.



15:01

Well, he was also the play also deals with his later life where he was actually instrumental and developing the first digital computer. So he was truly a brilliant man very eccentric in his dealings in his work, but in his later life was found out to be a homosexual to some incidences that occurred. And at the time, this is the early 50s. Now, the England had a law, it was disguised as gross indecency, which basically outlawed homosexuality. And the government even got involved when they found out that he was a homosexual, prosecuted him, and even gave him some hormones, treatments to try to, to rid him of his homosexual tendencies. And the by deals with all that, how it came about how the government got involved with finding out who was homosexual, the whole aspect of what happened to him after that point, and it's just a very entertaining and thought provoking piece of theater that has a gay man as its central theme. And he really is a hero for all times.



Jack Valinski 16:18

That's really interesting. Now, this play has played in Austin years ago, why is it finally? But why did it take this long to get to Houston?



16:27

Well, I can't answer that, for sure. I know that almost all this stuff we've done at theater lab, has all been used in premieres, they've been done all over the country, basically, from New York to Chicago, LA Austin. And I'm not quite sure why this play hasn't been done. Perhaps those that might have done it thought it was too provocative. Didn't want to deal with the subject matter, because a large part of it deals with his private life and someone's sexuality, and coming to terms with the government, and that sort of thing. So we're just delighted that we have the opportunity to do it. Yeah, we have a wonderful production of



Jack Valinski 17:07

I said, my understanding, it got very good reviews around the country where it's been playing.



17:11

Yeah, had a very successful run in London. It then had a Broadway run, and it was nominated for lots of Tony's there. Derek Jacoby played the lead in both of those productions. And I don't know what we're certainly glad to be doing it.



Jack Valinski 17:26

How does the small theater put on a play like that? I mean, it must, you have to find a play. You must read tons of scripts. Make a decision on what to do?

must read tons of scripts. Make a decision on what to do:



17:37

Yeah, one of the things we do is this particular play I was familiar with, I had the good fortune, probably in the late 80s When it was actually in London to see it in London with Derek Jacoby and I had always remembered it. And one of the things I do when I set up our season is try to have a nice diversity of themes and topics and characterizations and that sort of thing. So this year, it was the timing was good to do. We hadn't done a true biography play, more or less. So this was the first time we tackled this project. And, and it was interesting to me, because really, another aspect of this play is the betrayal of a country of England here, this guy basically say, saved them all, from the Nazis, and had a brilliant career going on as a as a person developing computers and a lot of state of the art things. And in his later life, he was just basically betrayed by by England because of all things. He was a homosexual. That was against their laws. So they sort of tackled him for state security reasons. A lot of other assorted things. Looking back on it now makes no sense



Jack Valinski 18:52

at all. Yeah, yeah. I guess to a lot of us who really come out after Stonewall probably don't realize some of the things that happened before then how tough it was and how difficult it was in the lives lost. And the you know, I mean, you're, you were caught in a bar, and they published your name in the paper and you lost your job. And you know, what can you do? The blacklisting was also sort of another example of what happened here, very much like that.



19:16

I think one of the things that comes out in the play that it's that's terrific is is that he was well at ease with his homosexuality. And he understood that it wasn't something that you could go around and broadcast but the character is very, at ease with himself, total acceptance of his homosexuality, and yet gets himself into a situation where he basically can't get out of it sort of starts with the ball rolling and doesn't get out of it. And I think one of the things about the play that fascinated me is, is that as a hero's a gay hero, Allen turning is a prime example of a gay person being very comfortable with their career, achieving all those objectives. And he wasn't really led around, or his lifestyle as a gay man wasn't was a part of him. It wasn't who he was. It didn't make him who he was. It was just that he happened to be a brilliant, eccentric genius that happened to be gay. And I think that's, that speaks for a lot of people today.



Jack Valinski 20:28

Yeah, it's really interesting. I mean, some of the early stuff that was written and done gay and lesbian plays and stuff like that was dealing with coming out process and stuff like that. We're starting to see, I guess, a maturing of that, in a sense that that show can have a gay character. It's just another, you know, another person now that first facet



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of his life, it's not the dominant force, and the sky. It's so, so complicated. And it's just nice that, to see that portrayal that, you know, he had his life and his life ambitions and his work and



21:12

the police stations on the corner there, and that's about the 700 block, Eastern Avenue. Okay, let's keep going north down. You scenario 2100. Houston Avenue, you'll come to Alamo Street. Take a left, if you're coming from downtown, and we're just one block up.



Jack Valinski 21:26

And when, when are the performances. We have



21:29

performances this weekend, we're sold out tonight, the eight o'clock show, we have tickets available for tomorrow night at eight. And then it'll play through Sunday, December 18, on Fridays and Saturdays at 8pm. We have two Sunday matinees on Sunday, the 11th and the 18th. And we hope everyone that might find this of interest will give us a call and kind of see it. Okay, and that number is 8687516.



Jack Valinski 21:57

Okay, that's we're talking to Gerald the betta, and it's theater lab. And it's located at 1706 eremo. In for information and or tickets. It's 868 7516. Thank you, Jerry. Great, thanks, sir. Zero patience. That's the sound, sound title track of the album. It's a guess it was originally a play. And now it's a movie. It is, was filmed up in Toronto, I believe. And it's based around studying the first patient zero patient zero, which is sort of a myth more than a reality, and are sort of a drawing point of that of this person's life. And very interesting thing, very sort of strange type of thing. I hope it does come to Houston. We don't always get the movies first here. Like we see the beginning some of the plays nowadays. I forgot to mention that diverse works in theater lamb is going to have a playwrights response to AIDS, which will be happening December 1, which is World AIDS Day this Thursday at 8pm at diverse works. And it's sick short plays by a number of different people. And All proceeds benefit that this is your foundation, which is a foundation that does art for people with AIDS. And if you'd like to get more information or make reservations, the call to divorce works number which is 223 8346. And diverse works is located in Noho, just north of downtown Houston, off of I know this by heart, usually off of Main Street, and nailer. So just north of downtown off Main Street past the University of Houston downtown. In such big city like this, a lot of these things are a little bit hard to find when they're in the sort of smaller streets around the area. But if you haven't been to diverse work, you really need to go out there because they have such wonderful things. And they have a lot of things for gay and lesbian audiences. Recently, I got to attend to the Creating Change Conference in Dallas. And I know Deborah talked about it last week. And we've probably had some features on it. I know she covered the press conference, I Deborah and I sort of went off in different directions

trying to do different things I one of the things I did get to attend was things about fundraising. And that is such an important elements in our community. Another thing that was really very interesting, was attending some of the digital quieres workshops that they had. And they put out a wonderful booklet about the how to if you never had a computer before, what to buy what to ask for and some of the programs that might be good for you to use some of the software and how to get connected whether you get connected through an online service or you go right to internet very Interesting thing. And if you're interested in some more information on digital queers, and basically their mission is to raise money and computers, get computers, for our organizations and realizing that if we're going to fight the battle, and get anywhere near winning some of the battles, we need to be have the best equipment like the other side does. Digital quieres, their address is 584 Castro Street number 150. In San Francisco, the zip code is 94114, their phone number is 415-252-6282. And if you didn't catch that number, you can call us at us up at five to six KPFT. And Zachary can give you that information. One of the things that was also interesting is that this was a national conference. But we also did. Since this was a good place for us all to get together from Texas. We did sort of have a little Texas workshop about what's going on. And the two of the organizations that are statewide and very active are the Lesbian Gay rights lobby and the Texas Human Rights Foundation. Now one organization sort of focuses more on lobbying and dealing with and educating the legislature which certainly needs a lot of it. And the other organizations of Texas Human Rights Foundation is probably most known for dealing with the Texas sodomy law. And Michael Burton arrows is here as your the temporary. I'm the Acting Executive Director at the Texas practicing homosexual is exactly the interim I suppose at some point, the trustees are going to hire a permanent Executive Director, but they appear to be happy with the way things are going at the moment anyway. How did you get involved in thr I started in thr F as a law student at the University of Texas. I want a fellowship that paid for, for me to work at the foundation over the summer didn't cost foundation any money. So they were happy to have me. I worked there over the summer working on the AIDS Project. It's a statewide project that concentrates mostly on trying to help people with AIDS who have legal problems who live in rural areas of Texas, you know, Houston, Dallas, and Austin all have local programs that provide that kind of assistance. So we try and fill in in those areas where there are no such programs. I worked on that project all summer. And as it turned out at the end of the summer, an opening came up on staff and they they hired me. And I've been there ever since. Last June Susie wagers, the former executive director left to to run water to counseling Counseling Center in Austin, and I've been at the helm since then. The organization I guess was best known or mostly known for dealing with the fight against the sodomy law. And we It seems like we've gone in from federal court to state court and where is that? That's the mirallas case. That was the mirallas case was the last case that was brought in, you know that actually the Texas Human Rights Foundation is best known for that issue. And I think appropriately so it was actually founded in 1978. Here in Houston, here in Houston as the Houston human rights defense fund, with the express purpose of trying to overturn the sodomy statute. We've brought a number of cases and challenges since then, and we have made progress but we're not there yet. The first case was Baker v. Wade, which was brought in federal court and basically made the argument that look, this is a violation of our privacy under the US Constitution. We did when at the trial court level there, but when it was appealed to the Fifth Circuit in New Orleans, they overturn that, shortly after that was the baker, I'm sorry, was the decision out of Georgia, that pretty much foreclosed any possibility of of a federal challenge. So we turned to state court and that was the mirallas case that was brought there pretty much the same argument of privacy argument under the Texas State Constitution. We want at the district level and at the appellate level. And then while the case was being considered by the Texas Supreme Court, another case was brought, which many many of you may have heard of called mica, England versus the city of Dallas. She was a lesbian who applied for a job with the Dallas Police Department and was denied because she admitted to

being a lesbian after they recruited her after they recruited them. Exactly. And of course, their argument was look, if you if you're going to admit to homosexual conduct, that's a violation of law in Texas and we cannot hire you at to be a police officer. So the challenge was directly against the sodomy laws in that case. And in that case, as in the Morales case, the law was ruled unconstitutional as a violation of our right to privacy. But that case, and in that case, the suit city of Dallas failed to file a timely appeal to the Texas Supreme Court. What that basically means is that the third Court of Appeals is the highest court that can make a ruling on that decision and that their ruling stands is good law. Now, what happened with Morales was once it had been once the Texas Supreme Court sat on it for about a year. And during that year was when the Mike England decision came down. The Texas Supreme Court came back with a decision in which they didn't rule on the statute at all, what they did was, say, Look, you just didn't have proper standing to bring a challenge to the statute here. You know, from a from a person who really doesn't know that much about law. It seemed like that was sort of either was too hot of a political potato, or they just didn't want to deal with it. Let's just hold it up for a while. Well, I think you're exactly right. Jack, you don't have to know a lot about law to see when, when there's a little bit of political power that's going on. And I think that's exactly what happened. It was it was too hot an issue. I think they felt like they were going to be put in a difficult position, if they ruled directly on the statute, whichever way they ruled. And they found they saw within the law, basically a technicality and opportunity to to not rule at all. And that's what they did. So as it stands, we've got just this one appellate court ruling the England case, which says it's unconstitutional. Now, I think that the issue is going to remain controversial, because the right is continuing to insist that it's still good law in Texas, because the law is still on the books. So I mean, it wouldn't surprise me if it's, it would probably take another challenge, another court challenge and a ruling by either the Texas Supreme Court or the Court of Criminal Appeals, both of which are the highest courts in Texas, one rules on criminal matters, the other on civil? Yeah. I mean, all these years, we've been doing this all these years, and we still haven't gotten a real definitive decision on it. Yet. This is what sets the tone of whether we're criminals in the state or not. Absolutely. I mean, I think the reason that the Texas Human Rights Foundation attacked the sodomy statute was because it is the cornerstone of all discrimination against gay men and lesbians in Texas, it is always the law that the opposition uses to justify any actions any discriminatory actions being taken against us. I think that given given the fact that, as a matter of law, it is unconstitutional, it has been ruled unconstitutional, that we no longer need to really be obsessed about that issue. We may bring another challenge, we may not, we're going to look for a proper opportunity to do that. Right. And with this recent election, is the opportunity more or less, not a good opportunity? It may not be as most as most everyone is aware that Texas Supreme Court now has a Republican majority. And that does not necessarily mean that we would lose if we brought the case to that court. There are great many Republicans that are conservative on economic issues, but are more libertarian when it comes to social issues. So I haven't really done a study of of the sitting justices to determine whether or not that would be a good strategy at this point. We may in fact, have an opportunity if we choose to bring another challenge because of what happened at Stephen F. Austin University recently. And what was that? Well, it Stephen F. Austin State University in Nacogdoches. Recently, the Student Government Association convened and voted to revoke the charter and take away the funding of the gay and lesbian student association there. Now, the reason they cited was that, well, you know, these folks are members of a gay and lesbian group, that means that they most likely engage in homosexual conduct and homosexual conduct is illegal in Texas. Since we don't want to endorse anything illegal, we're going to take away their charter. The reasoning is a bit convoluted, but but that is the reasoning that Yeah, yeah, maybe we should take away charters for football teams that cheat too. That's like, taxes, right? I mean, it really is confusing status with conduct. Just because you say that you're gay or lesbian does not necessarily mean that you're sexually active. At any

rate, this action uh, we we actually hired a lawyer and and threatened to sue the university and the administration reversed the decision of the Student Government Association in response to to the fact that they knew they were going to lose in court. Basically, the issue of funding is still controversial because they have not restored the student groups funding. It appears that if we choose, we may be able to bring a challenge to the sodomy statute, because this student group can actually show that they've been harmed because of the existence of the statute. They can point to these monies that they are no longer receiving, which was the problem we had in the Morales case. And the Morales case, the court dishonestly said, Well, look, you haven't proven that these people have been harmed by this statute. So we had look for an opportunity where we can really show a concrete harm, rather than just I guess, the invidious discrimination that we all experience from time to time. So, what else do we what else does th f what else is involved in? Well, of course, we also do legal assistance for gay men and lesbians and people with HIV statewide, and we have a network of well, it's grown. It's over 200 attorneys now, and it's growing every day. Not all of these attorneys are necessarily gay or lesbian, but they're all friendly to our issues. So an individual can call our 800 number if they have a legal problem. And we refer them to someone who's close to them, and then we follow up to make sure that they've been helped. Of course, we also look for other cases, that could have a difference on our rights. One case that we're studying right now is a a lesbian, who lives in North Texas, who their custody of her son was taken away and given to her ex husband, even though her ex husband has a history of child abuse. But because she's lesbian, and because this judge was a extremely conservative, radical, right judge, he took took custody of the child way. So we're looking at handling that appeal. So, you know, we, our activism is in the courts. We are tax exempt organization, and we're not allowed to lobby, we do work with the Lesbian Gay rights lobby, and I work with Diane Hardy Garcia regularly, because we can assist in interpreting statutes interpreting laws, helping to understand what's going on and during the legislative sessions, and of course, we'll be we will be doing that, but we cannot actively engage in the political process. Right. But I understand there's a march coming up in the next year. Absolutely. There is very exciting. We're going to have another statewide march on Austin, I believe the last one was in 91. So 91, right, because 93 went to Washington, right? So so it's time, and especially given that we're going to have a Republican governor in office. The March I believe is going to take place on April 9, I'm not mistaken. And the day before the March, we're going to have a statewide bash, just a huge party. And we want to we want to try and get as many people as possible to attend. Because all of the money raised at that party is going to stay in Texas, to assist Texas organizations with activism. Matter of fact, some 65% of it is going to go back to the local lesbian gay alliances and caucuses to help them to do that important work on the grassroots level that has to be done. I understand that there's going to be a real emphasis on trying to help establish or getting some advice to some of the other smaller areas that don't have established game as being Political Caucus type organizations. Yes, absolutely. Diane Hardy Garcia has done an outstanding job of trying to organize rural Texas, because you know, of course, the Houston game in the legislature is more rural base than it is urban base. Absolutely. Even if we had the support of all of the representatives who are from urban areas of Texas, we couldn't win on a bill, we've got to have the support of at least a certain percentage of the rural representatives in order for our issues to be protected in the legislature. And that's usually an excuse for a lot of the rural legislators because they don't have anybody in their district who's gay what they say. That's what they say. But of course, they'll find out differently during this legislative session. So that's, that's great. The marches has tried to get people from all over. I mean, it's usually pretty easy to get people from Houston and Dallas and Austin and San Antonio, that's wrong. And even though we are an urban state, the fact that there's this large mass of area in West Texas, that there really isn't a visible gay lesbian community. Yeah, well, you know, it's, it's a fact of life that gay men and lesbians who live in rural areas have to be much more closeted in order to protect themselves. But when

Diane Hardy Garcia sponsored a statewide meeting of alliances and caucuses and asked them whether or not they wanted to have a march in early 1995, and in fact, it was those individuals from rural areas who were most in support of having another March because it's a very empowering experience for them. And it allows them to learn from the activists who have a lot more experience in the larger cities. Great, right. So how does one get in touch with attention Human Rights Foundation? Well, it's very easy. You can call our one 800 number that's 1-800-828-6417. It's answered 24 hours a day. They can give you a mailing address if you'd like to send in a donation or if you have a legal question. We will return your call or if you call during business hours, someone should be there to answer your question right away. Great. So anything else going on in Austin right now? Is it that it gets a little bit quiet before the first of the year? It's a little bit quiet. I think we're a little bit relieved. It's a little bit quiet because we're going to have to prepare for a very difficult legislative session. Diane Hardy Garcia is working very hard in that regard, we should all be very proud of her. We're hoping that things quiet down, at least for a short while, because we're going to have to work very hard during the legislative session to protect our rights. Great. Well, we are looking forward to the March and I know it's gonna be a lot of fun. They've had a great time in 89, and 91. And just seeing the 1000s of people coming from all over Texas. And the fact that is as much as we say, the fact that we're lucky to have Texas you might foundation in the lesbian, gay rights lobby, one of the few states that actually have such statewide organizations, still, the organizations can use a lot more help from people around the state to make a stronger organization. Michael, thank you very much for coming down during the holiday season and talking to us about lesbian gay voices. Thank you, Jack. It was my pleasure. And coming up next we have an interview with Edmund Mike White from that was done by a lot of political Houston posts, so let's give that a



41:04

listen. This is Juan Palomo for lesbian and gay voices. Today we're privileged to have with us novelist, essayist, journalist, biographer, teacher, and perpetual observer and analyst Edmund White. Why doesn't Houston to promote his latest book titled The burning library, except for several new pieces the burning library is an extraordinary collection of previously published essays, book reviews, speeches and interviews. His previous book was a biography of the French writer who challenged in a which one in the National Book Critics Circle Award as well as almost universal acclaim. It is now out in paperback. White has written five novels, including a boy's own story and the beautiful room is empty. He's also famous for states of desire, published in 1980, which is sort of a travel guide of gay America. And with Charles Silverstein, the joy of gay sex. We are pleased that you would make the time to be with us today. And I'd like to welcome you. I'm happy to be here. You have strong Texas connections