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📅 Thu, Aug 03, 2023 12:57PM ⌚ 32:48

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

parade, year, people, houston, march, lesbian, happening, today, day, montrose, community, sylvester, good, rights, lesbian gay, stonewall, vote, standing, pride, jimmy

SPEAKERS

Sylvia Ayres, Ray Hill, Buddy Johnston, Jimmy Carper

B Buddy Johnston 00:02
Hello, hello. How are we are is this working?

R Ray Hill 00:05
It's working, I can tell by the needle dancing.

B Buddy Johnston 00:07
And where are we at?

R Ray Hill 00:08
We are at the Lanier School, which is 150 year old institution fixing to march down the street in an 11 year old institution, Houston gay and lesbian Pride Week parade.

B Buddy Johnston 00:20
And of course, we're talking to none other than Ray Hill. And Ray. I know there's been a lot of controversy this year. But we said it a couple of weeks ago on the show the parades for the people, and the people will be here today. It's a beautiful day in that

R Ray Hill 00:31
it's absolutely wonderful day, I wish that all of our friends could march with this. The rules may prevent someone from marching with us, but they can certainly be there. And they can hang around the television cameras from the general media if they follow my suggestion

around the television cameras from the general media, if they follow my suggestion,

B

Buddy Johnston 00:44

you said something about the rules, all the controversy, is that really going to keep people out of the parade? Do you think



00:50

this is

R

Ray Hill 00:53

the year of the most restrictive rules that I can recall. And the object is to keep people that are considered undesirable in some other people's minds or by some other people's standards out of the parade. Number one, I hope it doesn't work. Number two, it's not going to work as far as a non day people are concerned because the media is going to zero in on what they want to whether it's in the parade or standing and watching it.

B

Buddy Johnston 01:18

It's just about three o'clock and we're getting set up in the parade doesn't start for a couple hours. What have you felt so far today?

R

Ray Hill 01:26

I feel great. It's a wonderful day, there's the caucuses, parade float, I'll be sitting around there right around around the corner,

B

Buddy Johnston 01:34

he's giving directions to the driver for the for the GL PC flow

R

Ray Hill 01:38

and the dlpcf Float is getting ready for the parade and the Fun Fest to follow. We're not gonna have any beer this year at the funfairs. Number one we were denied access to the monies that usually pay that from Pride Week. And number two, we've got the chance of a deluge by then so we just four wins the bankruptcy, bankrupting the caucus, in order to have keep from having beer that we couldn't sell.

B

Buddy Johnston 02:07

What's happening at the Fun Fest?

R

Ray Hill 02:08

Well, the Fun Fest Of course, we're gonna have a stage and politicians and loud noises and horns in the background of the whole nine yards because we do that every year. The Fun Fest is the kind of the community fair where various organizations and groups expose their wares to to the community as a general in general and I think that's going to work very well.

B

Buddy Johnston 02:32

And there's a fee this year for the funfairs

R

Ray Hill 02:35

there always has been



02:36

just 20 bucks and I No no no, I

B

Buddy Johnston 02:37

mean to get in there. There's

R

Ray Hill 02:39

no fee there. We're going to ask for donations just like the roadblocks on the march on Austin in the March on Washington. But anybody that doesn't want to get one can get in anyway. I mean we're not the people to keep people out.

B

Buddy Johnston 02:52

That's it thanks very enjoy the day and you had baby and less. That was a nice kid. Thank you. Thanks Great Day.



03:01

Happy Happy Gay Pride Day.



03:03

How are you?



03:04

I'm wonderful.



Buddy Johnston 03:05

It quit raining look at it. It's gorgeous outside Jimmy and I are standing in front of Lanier Middle School right look at this. Hi guys. Yay. Are you ready for the parade? Yeah, I really what's your friend wearing? What is this game that's been switchboard? Can you describe what you what you look like for the people on their radio listening audience?



03:28

I have switchable a t shirt cut up. Looks really cute with festive. And I have a butterfly tattooed on my chest. I have a lambda symbol on my cheek and also I have a rainbow with a pink triangle. And a pink triangle in my forehead. What's your name? My name is Aaron fontina Aaron is this the first time you've marched in the parade was my second year March in my third parade?



Buddy Johnston 03:49

Is it gonna rain? Oh, I hope not. So you're looking forward to it.



03:53

I'm looking forward to the parade. Of course not the rain.



Buddy Johnston 03:55

Okay, have a good day, right or not? I'm still gonna be here. I'm wandering around on the parking lot as you see who I see standing up the world. This isn't this isn't television. I don't do television because you have to look and smile and comb your hair and brush your teeth on TV. But you don't have to do that in a radio for you.



Sylvia Ayres 04:18

My name is Sylvia Ayres

B Buddy Johnston 04:20
like we don't know who you are.

S Sylvia Ayres 04:22
I couldn't disappoint my fans. I wanted to come at the very beginning of it.

B Buddy Johnston 04:26
Is this your first parade?

S Sylvia Ayres 04:27
Oh no, I've been parading since 83

B Buddy Johnston 04:31
What do you see happening today with all the controversy that's been going on this year.


S Sylvia Ayres 04:35
I believe its going to be a wonderful delight for parade like it's been in the past.


B Buddy Johnston 04:40
So is it gonna rain on?


S Sylvia Ayres 04:42
I sure hope not. If it rains we're still be out there walking getting wet.


B Buddy Johnston 04:46
Who's that over there?


S Sylvia Ayres 04:47
Oh, that's Leslie Perez. That's my daughter.


 **Buddy Johnston** 04:49
Would Lesley tell us about Act Up?


 **Sylvia Ayres** 04:51
Oh, I think there has to be glad to tell you about Act Up


 **Buddy Johnston** 04:54
I'm pretty sure Lesley would tell us all about act. Acting Got those are some of Houston's finest and we want to just keep smart. No, I'm kidding. I don't want to talk about the police. We're preparing


 **Ray Hill** 05:06
for the repeal of the 21 06.

 05:07
We're having a gigantic rally in front of the federal building on the day of mourning, which is June the 30th 1989 12:12pm, high noon five or wait Rusk

 **Buddy Johnston** 05:20
by 50. Rosters DC What day is that going to be? Friday? Next Friday, which is? And 2106, of course is the statute that prohibits. But sodomy in the state of Texas

 05:35
makes us all prisoners of our own souls.

 **Buddy Johnston** 05:38
What do you feel about the parade today? Are y'all going to act up? Or are we just gonna have a parade or

 05:43
when I'm gonna be kind of normal for a change? I'm just gonna walk down the street as AIDS coalition unleash Power Act Up Easton.



Buddy Johnston 05:50

Okay, y'all have a good day. Oh, and this is my friend. I have to say something to my dear friend. I got to tell you guys a story about this woman. You can't see her because this is radio. But we go back how far



06:02

all I guess about Wilson's 82



Buddy Johnston 06:06

Back in Omaha, Nebraska. And oh, my god, Nebraska. I know. And one day I was in the disco Kroger store up there on Montrose parading around and bumped into you.



06:15

Yeah. And even didn't remember who I was at first. And then I said, my body there



Buddy Johnston 06:21

you had on those those books look and close that leather coat? No, no, no, no. That we don't want to do that



06:28

they went by the wayside many years ago.



Buddy Johnston 06:32

What do you think about what's happening



06:33

today? Well, there's a lot of our brothers that are in here. And I'm marching not only with active but also with my name's project hat on because I've worked very closely with the names project since 82. With with PWA since 82. And I've lost hundreds and hundreds of friends. And I'm here in memory of them. I just lost one not too terribly long ago, and I'm here for him.



B

Buddy Johnston 06:58

Do you said that a lot of our brothers that aren't here. Do you think the community as a whole show realizes that yet? Just how many people we've lost? Are they really aware of what's going on? Are we still a little bit? You know what I mean? Do we need to do we need to come a little bit further to get that realization of what's really happened to it?



07:15

I think so I think we need to be a little bit more clear about this. The only media we have that is on the positive side is in the twin, and then the Montrose voice, everything else is against what's happening with our brothers and sisters with this deadly disease. And, you know, I could hit anybody, not just the gay community, it's hitting the strike community, it's hitting children, it's hitting women. And you know, there are babies right now that are dying in Park Plaza hospital from this disease. And you know, it's got to stop and we have to become more aware, we have to become more vocal and more open about it. Because if we don't, who's going to, we're going to be the ones. And I firmly believe that we're sacred clowns in this in a sacred clowns, we can do something to, to make a difference in this world, because it's hit our community really hard, but it's also going to hit the rest of the world. And, you know, there's gonna be a lot of more people dying, you know, I don't want to wake up and be the only gay lesbian person alive. I've got friends that think they're gonna be the only male alive. And on that's a spooky thought. But the reality is, it could happen.

B

Buddy Johnston 08:23

So what's happening today?



08:25

What's happening today? We're standing proud. 20 years ago today, Stonewall occurred in New York, and I'm very proud to be part of it. For many years. I wasn't part of actively marching in in gay pride parades. And last several years, I've been able to do that and hold my head up high and say I like who I am. I am a lesbian woman. I am a lesbian mother. And I have a 22 year old son that knows who I am.

B

Buddy Johnston 08:52

I love you baby. I love you. I'll give you a proud day. Okay. Hey Brian Keever if you got a minute, Brian keyword works as a receptionist with the TW T What do you say dear no matter where your mother lives, my mom is in Arkansas, where Sylvia is wondering about my mother. She's in a little town and Van Buren are live from Hot Springs Arkansas originally. Really? I drink that hot springs water all the time. I hope it makes you feel good. My mom and I don't get along. We haven't gotten along in years. I'd be your second mama. I'm sure that Brian Have you got a second? Brian keywords with the TW T magazine. If you call it twit during the week you hear this wonderful voice saying good morning. DWT. Can I help you



09:35

really?



Buddy Johnston 09:36

Are you carrying the banner this year?



Ray Hill 09:38

No, I'm not. This is a very first year I have not carried the banner. That's surprising what's going on? I'm going to be running with the executive committee on the horse drawn carriages. You've been



Buddy Johnston 09:48

working with the auditor what is it? I wanted to say media but that's not right with the merchandising area parade this year.



09:57

Right? That's correct. I was merchandising coordinator this year



Buddy Johnston 10:01

and the T shirts this year are just beautiful. Can you describe them for the people that are listening that haven't seen I'm



Ray Hill 10:06

sure. They're teal, which is one of the number one colors for this year. They have the Stonewall 20 logo on there. It's being fold this year for the very first time. So I think we had the best logo we've had in about five, seven years now.



Buddy Johnston 10:19

How many parades this has made you burned?



Ray Hill 10:23

Since 1982, which has been a while. So what do you see happening today? I think this is finally gonna be a wonderful day, the skies are clearing up. We're going to have a wonderful parade

this year.

 Buddy Johnston 10:35

I love you baby. Enjoy the day care. What did you say? I said, How are you? Can't walk up to me without turning the mic on? What's going on?

 10:49

Oh, no much. We're just made it down here. That's it.

 Buddy Johnston 10:52

Talking to Don Sanders president of American Atheists.

 10:57


That's correct, right. Yes, absolutely. So

 Buddy Johnston 10:59

what's going on today?

 11:00


Well, we're trying to get all our people together despite the weather. And we were in Austin yesterday to get a lot of our supplies and get them ready to bring them back. And we have some nice signs and posters and some really special ones. Harvey Milk,

 Buddy Johnston 11:16

do I give us a preview? Well,

 11:18

we're going to have our banner, we're going to have some very nice signs that will that will keep in theme with the march, preserving Stonewall through litigation, education and activism. All three things which we are deeply and heavily involved in.

 Buddy Johnston 11:33

From an atheist perspective. What do you see happening? What have you What do you see that's happened to us over the last 20 years done?



11:41

Well, it's been amazing because basically, I have to look at it this way. homosexual people have been around for centuries and centuries and studying history gives you a clear idea. The reasons why we're why we have been oppressed and that number one oppressor has been and always has been Christianity and organized religion. And with the fact of people coming out of the closet as they did 20 years ago in New York City, and now with 1000s and 1000s of officers across the country marching this day in large cities, demonstrates that we are now no longer going to stand by and be whipped little sheep. And we're going to stand here and we're going to say that we deserve the same equal treatment under the law as is guaranteed by our Constitution as all other people all other minorities, because that's what we are and we deserve our rights. Equally. No special rights just equality.



Buddy Johnston 12:35

Sounds good. Is it going to rain on it? Absolutely not.



12:37

Even if it does, buddy, even if it does, so what? Water isn't going to dissolve us. So



Buddy Johnston 12:44

have a good day. Thank you. I see city councilman Vince Ryan if we can wait a minute they're yelling at me. Jimmy, what did Jimmy go? Hello, Jimmy. Hello, Jim. Here. This is kind of fun.



13:00

This is I've never done



Buddy Johnston 13:02

this before. It's just the idea of getting organized and wandering around and milling around. And when you're walking around in the square you bump into some of the nicest people You sure do. Lookie



Jimmy Carper 13:12

here who is there? This is Mr. Vince Ryan you they can get a few words from him or I sure hope

50.

B

Buddy Johnston 13:20

City Councilman Vince Ryan is standing here how are you? How are you sir? We're recording our show for next Sunday which is really this Sunday depending on when you're listening?



13:30

Well buddy I think it looks like gonna be good parade if the rain holds off. Hope it does anyway because the floats which were just about ready to judge look like there's some outstanding examples of float ism

B

Buddy Johnston 13:41

you're one of the the official judges this year. Yes.



13:45

Along with Mike Driscoll and and we learned a couple other people

B

Buddy Johnston 13:52

how are you doing, sir?



13:53

We're out here making a statement for the Bill of Rights everybody to be free who they want to beat it on this day.

B

Buddy Johnston 13:59

What do you see happening today?



14:01

Well, I see happening today, people coming together and becoming joyful. I see pennants in the air blowing in the breeze, people in uniforms and hats and special floats. I think underlying all this those statements that people believe in the Bill of Rights and that they're this is a major statement, although in good taste and an air of joyfulness and celebration, but we're here for the Bill of Rights to say that, you know, listen, we're all free and we're facing some tough problems these days. We've got AIDS, we've got drugs, we've we've got a lot of things that

would force a lot of people to want to do away with our Bill of Rights and derive their individual freedoms to solve these problems. And that's not the answer. This country was formed on the basis that it's a land of the free and that's what's brilliant and beautiful about this country. And that's what I see these people that's what we're out I'm here doing today is celebrating our right to be free in our Bill of Rights.

B

Buddy Johnston 15:05

You know, a lot of people take our freedom for, for granted. But when you look what's happened in China, for example, over the last three or four weeks, it really kind of brings it home.

i

15:14

When you can watch and see the students saw that activity going on over live TV. And you can feel it in fact, and just talking to students from China, even today, you can feel that special freedom welling up in their hearts, and it just creates a vibration that's real different. It's it's real precious that we haven't reminded when Benjamin Franklin when they were drawing up what form of government we were going to have, he was leaving the hall one day and a woman stopped him and said, Mr. Franklin, Mr. Franklin, what form of government are we going to have? And he stops and turns to her and says, Well, madam, a republic, if you can keep it. And he meant it to that, that this form of government, we have to continually keep day in day out and, you know, in the fight against crack, particularly, I see eroding our individual rights and knowing the way it needs to be but then on the other hand, our individual rights are so important and shouldn't be eroded on any front. So. So that's all be be aware and be diligent that it's our Bill of Rights and our our freedoms must be fought for at all times.

B

Buddy Johnston 16:24

It's nice to see you down here. Thanks for taking care of when we'll see. Good. Thank you, Councilman Ryan, what do you see happening in District see over the next the next few months coming up? I know you've I hope got a lot well, for my

i

16:37

reelection, actually. But I think district See, we're plugging along a lot of things going to happen on the Lower West timer. The effort now to revitalize lower Westheimer. And Mr. Callaway is buying up a lot of properties. I've already met with those folks several times on what their plans are. I think with the mayor's race heating up, we're going to have a lot of interest in places like Laura Westheimer, to redevelop them and see what we can make. And I think Laura Western, for instance, ought to be a beautiful entryway, both into Montrose and into downtown Houston, revitalize it with restaurants and clubs like it was in the early 1970s. That's probably the biggest thing that's going to happen in Montrose, I think the next six months. Are those plans moving along maybe some political interest in those plans?

B

Buddy Johnston 17:24

have you accomplished just about everything that you set out to accomplish in the beginning? Because you've been very you know, when I saw you here in this church, not too many blocks from here, I thought then you would be our city council. And when you were elected, I told you that. And you've been very outspoken over the past few months, have you conference, most of what you set out to do? Or is there still a lot to do?

A

17:44

Well, I think I've kept most of my promises, which is one thing the audit tried to do. I didn't make very many promises in the campaign. But I've tried to keep those promises. But the more I spend time and see Hall, the more I realized needs to be done. I think that's the focus is what needs to be done, not what we may or may not have done to one of the things that I said I was going to do is get involved in the AIDS problem. I certainly haven't accomplished nearly what I had hoped to accomplish that era, though we have made some forward movement in that area, we still have a long way to go the city, the state, the nation. Still we're not doing enough. And that problem and the slowness by which we move at City Hall is a very big frustration that area and all kinds of other areas. district sees a pretty big place. It goes really from the Fourth Ward and Montrose all the way down to Fort Wayne County. And I'm just now finally getting a couple of things done that I've been working on for 1415 months. So everyday just convinces me. There's a lot more to do, rather than the things that we've done. We're glad to have you out here. Thank you. Thank you. I'm looking forward to judging here in just a couple minutes.

B

Buddy Johnston 18:47

Our entry is right over there. Take care, no, we're somewhere. I don't know where we are number. We're not number nine. I don't know if we're even we can't do that. Let's get out of here. Before we get in trouble. Grab the judge the text in the mail. Well, what do you think,

J

Jimmy Carper 19:07

boy? I just can't get over both Mike and then Sarah, Mike talking about all these personal freedoms.

B

Buddy Johnston 19:16

That's Mike Driscoll, right. Yes.

J

Jimmy Carper 19:17

And then talking about more specific issues what's going on? In Houston, lower Westheimer area I think those are really two good men we need to keep in government.



 Buddy Johnston 19:29

I wish that you guys could see what we see now because there are city councilman there are public officials there Pride Week officials there are parade participants milling around it's what time is it Jimmy? It's quarter before the quarter before the parade will start and 45 minutes right?

 19:48


Actually an hour and 15 an hour and 15

 Buddy Johnston 19:51


I just want to get it over with

 Jimmy Carper 19:54

Oh no, no, I want this to last forever. We can edit that out. Yeah, like like Got we're saying this shouldn't be the end of Pride Week. This should be the beginning of life.

 Buddy Johnston 20:04

So as we get ready, we should just kind of what? What should we do now?

 20:12

We need to edit that part.

 Buddy Johnston 20:14

We'll edit that part. Look at that man with oh, that's


 20:18


got to be the Montrose mining company.


 Buddy Johnston 20:21


I'm all for that.

 Jimmy Carper 20:22


 Jimmy Carper 20:22
That's the only time you see a big machine like that coming down the street. What is that?


 Buddy Johnston 20:28
That was a man baby yet. No,


 Jimmy Carper 20:30
no, no, I knew that was a man. But what? What was he driving? What was that? One of those Earthmovers things?


 Buddy Johnston 20:36
It's equipment. Yeah, yeah. Yeah. Look at this look cool. We're standing in front


 Jimmy Carper 20:42
of low lesbians over age 50.

 Buddy Johnston 20:44
Should we go there and talk? Well,

 20:45
I think so.

 Buddy Johnston 20:47
Who should we talk to? We should walk over here. Hi, there. Who are you?

 20:54
My name is Charlotte. I'm a member of low from Houston. Yes, which is long Houston, Houstonian, loafers, galena Park, and loafers SWAT lesbians over age 50 is a social group for our group.

 Buddy Johnston 21:09
There can't be lesbians over 50 Because that means you'd had been lesbians. Several years

ago,



21:14

as I wrote in a letter to my sister, I am a lifelong las bi A N I came out to her the other day, and it was a very freeing experience. I'm proud. What would



Buddy Johnston 21:28

you say to people today that haven't come out yet that are over 50 or 60?



21:36

I think each one of us has to make that decision. According to our circumstances. I know it was very rough for me in the workplace. I am now retired. And I feel that this is my life. I am free to choose and live and worship my God as I choose. I am not ashamed. I am very proud. And it's a very freeing experience.



Buddy Johnston 22:03

We're glad to see you here today. These other beautiful lady. really talk to her



22:09

members of our group.



Buddy Johnston 22:10

Hi, what's your name? Right. Come on. It's only radio. If it was TV. I wouldn't be doing it. What's your name? Oh, okay. Hang on.



22:24

Say that again? On some people that still rough to reveal their names? There it is. Yes. It's a lot of pressure. But to come out of the closet as I did I feel like a weight has been lifted from my shoulders.



Buddy Johnston 22:38

Listen, I'm glad to see y'all out here. Are you dying to say something or you just smile at the

J Jimmy Carper 22:44
message that we try to bring every week on our show?

i 22:48
i We have been in this is we're in about 19 months? Oh, we have made contact with almost 100 women. Our first meeting there were six people and I was one of them. Through that experience, I had been alone for eight years, and a growth recovery program. And my god has rewarded me with a beautiful, healthy relationship that I met at that meeting.


B Buddy Johnston 23:20
And that model Yes, that is and I'm sure you can find out what

J Jimmy Carper 23:23
Well I work at the switchboard. Also, I think everybody knows that. And in the material that we have for people, all the different organizations I've seen low but I've I've never known anyone from loaf and well yes,

i 23:38
you did. But you didn't know. Ah. I am used to that the switchboard I am. We have a meeting once a month. At a standard place they all tree house. We get together at members homes. So at least once a month with a covered dish or we have a game tonight. We get together as individuals with our different interests and do different things. Some of us like to go camping, some of us like to go to movies, some of us go to the theater, we just it's being able to be with people of your own kind. in a social situation. It's a safe place. So all of our members, most of 80% of them were closeted. They were isolated, afraid, and they're coming out and enjoying themselves and they are leaving. We're glad

B Buddy Johnston 24:37
you're here. Thank you enjoy the day, baby. And God bless you. Thank you there. This is gonna be a beautiful day and Jimmy has just wandered away and we're gonna walk over here and see if he could turn on music up just a little bit that sounds like a parade.

J Jimmy Carper 24:56
You want to say something about the music that's playing right now. What Isn't this is from Sylvester, do you know who he is? He has our late, great national treasure.

 Buddy Johnston 25:09

There was an article about him and this week in Texas.

 Jimmy Carper 25:11


Yes, absolutely. What does that mean? I just, I just feel like dancing every time I hear his music. He and Pat Grolier Crowley were just gay music, the beginning of gay music. To me Sylvester represents the first openly gay performer and they had a lot of dancers in his lifetime. In fact, it wasn't just one time that that Harvey and his group use Sylvester to come. Calm angry audiences. Got Sylvester up there get everybody dancing. Get the mood out.

 Buddy Johnston 25:57

Hi, Mary. Whoa. I don't think man. Oh, I wish you could get a hold of me kids. Hi, Daddy. Hi, baby. What are you doing? I'm out looking for something are you marching? Are you just watching?

 26:16


I'm just struggling.

 Buddy Johnston 26:19

Kids. I wish this was television. I wish you could see what just walked out what? Whoa. I mean, I don't think he can mark

 26:29

that's a big daddy.

 Buddy Johnston 26:31

He's one of the Lone Star nudist. Oh, I

 Jimmy Carper 26:33

didn't know that. I didn't. I don't know the man. I'd like to never go back. And that while Yeah, is liable to see anything. Okay, let's take a break. Okay.

 Buddy Johnston 26:40

 Buddy Johnston 28:43

This is fun. It's like walking through your high school yearbook. Hi, darlin. How you doing? Oh, who's this? British raves? What is it? Say on GT shirt? Electric City Council District G for the city of Houston for the city of Houston. That's a big job. Well, it's a big job, buddy. But somebody's got to do it. You're right. Are you ready? I'm ready. elections in November. It's a long road to hoe but we're gonna do it and we're gonna do a good job. What do you see happening today? Baby? You were the What were you last year? Last year I was co chair this organization. You can't say that. That's one of the seven dirty words to edit that out. But anyway, we, we both are real upset about Well, nevermind. Let's not get into that. We'll edit that out later to what do you see happening today, Bruce? Ah, I see us having a good time. But it looks like the weather's gonna hold off for us. And we're just going to have a big party and show the world that we are proud of who we are. And it's great to be gay and lesbian people and out today showing our pride. What do we need to do to get to the City Hall? Oh, lots of things. But vote for me it start read just get everybody registered to vote everyone you know to vote. You know, give us a call and or get buddy a call and he can send you in my direction and we tell you how to get get some get us some help and get us started. Sounds good. All right. I'll see later on right now, I don't know where Jimmy went. I'm just kind of like lost. He's standing over there with Judy. We're gonna get in trouble.

 28:33

We're always in trouble. Just

 Buddy Johnston 28:34

thank God. It's not television. We're honored today to be talking to Glen Maxey all the way from Austin. What's going on in Austin, Mr. Glenn?

 28:45

Well, we just ended probably the most exciting session for the Lesbian Gay community in the most horrifying session. Good things happened and a lot of bad things happened. I'm real pleased with the visibility of our community in the last six months, the Texas Legislature think even the march on Austin would love to get rights Lobby Day with over 20 pieces of legislation that we filed, some which was successful and some of which we didn't get through. We made an auspicious beginning that that we've made a real strong statement that we're going to be there in the political process for a long time to come and in the legislature is as taking notice. We had the first vote in the legislature this session on the lesbian gay issue. It was something that we lost but it was exclusion of gay people from protections under the Fair Housing Act. It's not like they took any way for any protections we already had. They just said that we didn't have any. But we had 54 House members that voted with us. The last time we had a vote on a gay or lesbian issue in the Texas legislature was 1975 Have, we had 17 people vote with us. So that's I'm very proud of that vote. It's sort of a benchmark for our community and session to come of, of how many people support our community. And we have to continue to build on that certainly points the way to, to what legislators we're going to be looking at in the 9090 elections, and some statewide elected officials that we have to deal with, to let some good people in place to move forward. real pleased to be here at the Houston gay pride parade. This is a real busy time for me, I had to make it around the state and we were in razzle dazzle in

Dallas last night until three in the morning and here in Houston today and be doing things throughout the week. The community across the state, in my opinion is really coming together politically and as far as the lobby and the Texas Human Rights Foundation. And of course, we're in the courts now. The state is taking a challenge 2106 The sodomy statute through the state courts challenge against constitutionality and with the work the Lesbian Gay rights lobby is doing the legislature and the F is doing in the courts. And all the people such as are here for the parade today in Houston doing the local level. I think that we can all look back over 20 years of pride since the Stonewall riots in New York City and say that, that even though we've got a long, long way to come we've come a long way.

B

Buddy Johnston 31:22

What can we do all of us that are not in Austin to help you as you struggle and fight for us, Glenn? What? What can we do here at home to help other than registering to vote?

U

31:31

Well, that's the first step voting. But I think more important than that is we have to take the next step, we need to know who our legislators are, know who our friends are, and know who our enemies are, and meet them. So they know who we are. I think that was the clearest thing that happened this session, those legislators who talked to gay and lesbian constituents sort of flip flop back and forth on votes, you could see those who should have been voting with us that never did, because nobody was there to talk to them. So we've got to take that visibility, you know, take that visibility from that voting booth into that legislators office and talk about the issues of concern to us. So it's it's working in the campaigns 9090. And once those people are elected, or even now, getting the record votes for the session and talking to people who support us and thank them, talk to the people who voted against us and say that that's not good enough. Active, visible. That's that's the message from Stonewall 20 years ago and that's the message from this parade today. And that's the message from lesbian gay rights lobby active invisible.

B

Buddy Johnston 32:40

We're honored to have you here in Houston with us today. Thank you. Thanks, baby.