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SPEAKERS

Greg Gordon, Jack Valinski, Joan Devlin, Cindy Friedman, Glenn Holt

G Glenn Holt 00:04

Good evening, Joe. This is lesbian and gay voices and we are on.

J Joan Devlin 00:09

That's right. And Jack is out in the lobby. We are doing pledges tonight in case you don't figure that out by now it is fundraiser. Yes, there you are.

J Jack Valinski 00:18

Okay, so I'm out here.

G Glenn Holt 00:19

Okay. You have to talk while I set up the tape. All right.

J Jack Valinski 00:22

Okay. i Well, that's hard for me to do, isn't it as you all know, it is that time of the year, we only do this, you know, three times a year, to a little bit less than two weeks. Actually, you know it after all these years at KPFT. It's really neat, that we our pledge drives have been getting shorter and shorter, because you have been calling in and help supporting the station. And things have been going good. But we got to continue this on. So this station can keep up it's type of programming that we do the mix between the music and the news and the information and the mix between the local and national stuff. I mean, this is a very unique radio station. And we're very lucky. In fact, we just had a call from somebody up in The Woodlands who they don't have that up in Dallas, this type of station. And she was just very pleased to be down here

and be able to listen to this type of mixture here on KPFT. Between the BBC and the world. We have an incredible next year. And then we were able to do local public affairs, and lesbian and gay voices is one of the most unique programs in the country. Not very many radio stations have programming for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people. And if you call us at 713526573871352 6k p f t, we could get rolling on and doing our show. We have a very interesting show tonight. Jean Harrington is going to be with us. He's a professor at tsu, and a longtime activist here in Houston. And besides that, Joan, you have an author. That's right,

J

Joan Devlin 01:47

Beth, and Amy two. They're two women, they've written a book on lesbian parenting. And they're going to talk to us tonight about that book and what prompted them to write it and what their response to it has been.

J

Jack Valinski 01:59

And we also have Mitchell Katyn, who is the male Grand Marshal was here for pride. But Mitchell is also involved with the 2106 case challenging it, which ought to be really interesting. He's been working on that for probably about the last two years. So and then you have a guest also.

G

Glenn Holt 02:18

Yeah, we have one of the performers from a local production of hair, who is going to be on and talk about some of the different artistic impressions that they're doing with hair. Now in 2001. I mean, my first question of course to him was, Are you nude? Because hair yet your question, of course, hair used to used to have some, some new nudity in it when it was originally on Broadway. And he said, No, but we do have some very unique and new artistic interpretations. So we'll be able to talk to him about that.

J

Jack Valinski 02:50

Well, and that's one of my favorite shows. In fact, I only saw it like about a joke we thought about two years ago. So that's the type of variety on lesbian gay voices, which is just a sample the type of variety that's on KPFT. So do call us at 713526573871352 6k PF T. And let's go to news wrap.

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03:18

I'm Donald Herman. And I'm Cindy Friedman with news wrap a summary of some of the news in or affecting the lesbian and gay community for the weekend. He may 12 2001. A gay activist and his partner five years this week became Switzerland's first legally recognized, same gender couple. You've done Mateus and Patrick burger were the first to take advantage of the Canton of Geneva's new registered partnerships, which like those in France are known as packs of civil solidarity or PACs. Geneva is the first of 26 cantons to create packs, but Switzerland's justice

minister is currently drafting similar legislation at the national level. The Geneva PACs are open to heterosexual as well as gay and lesbian couples. They carry rights to hospital visitation, inheritance and joint tenancy, but do not affect health insurance, taxation, Social Security benefits, adoption or fertility treatments.

c

Cindy Friedman 04:13

Check lesbians this week called on their government to enact a partnership bill, the parliament rejected a partnership bill last year. The letter drafted at a celebration of lesbian culture in Prague also called for research into the status of check gay and lesbian families guarantees of the legal status of their children and protection from discrimination to ensure status equal to heterosexuals.

o

04:37

In Australia, the government of the state of Queensland proposed reforming domestic violence laws to cover gay and lesbian families. Provisions include temporary restraining orders and authorizing police to seize weapons. The announcement of the bill was timed for Domestic Violence Prevention Week, although there will be several months for public comment before the bill is introduced in the state parliament

c

Cindy Friedman 04:59

in Kent. At a major professional survey in April found 55% support for full legal marriage rights for gays and lesbians. The Environics Research poll obtained responses from more than 2000 Canadians at least 18 years old. As usual, the level of support varied with the age of respondents, with almost three fourths of those under 30 approving and almost two thirds of those over 60 disapproving gay and lesbian couples in Canada already have essentially the same legal recognition as heterosexual couples. A more surprising result of the poll was a sharp increase in approval of homosexuality. 21% of the respondents said they strongly approved and 23% somewhat approved, compared to similar polls in the past that total of 44% marked a 10 point increase from 9099 and a 22 point increase from 1996.

o

05:55

In the US, a Kansas Appeals Court this week revived a trans woman's lawsuit to inherit her millionaire husband's estate. When the late Marshall Gardner's son contested genomic Gardner's inheritance. A trial court had declared the marriage invalid on the grounds that Janelle was born male, but the appeals court rejected what it called a rigid and simplistic approach. It found unanimously that the marriage may be valid, saying the lower court should determine Chanel's gender at the time of the marriage rather than at birth. The appeals court sent the case back to the trial court for further proceedings, which must recognize that biology is no longer the sole organizing principle involved.

c

Cindv Friedman 06:35

Cindy Friedman 07:00

Protests forced the Home Depot hardware chain to reverse its position this week on including sexual orientation as a category in its equal employment policies. A shareholder group led by the gay support of Unitarian Universalist Church had proposed the category for a vote at the company's annual meeting, but the Board of Directors recommended against it in the annual proxy statement last month, saying there would be no end to additional categories if the policies were expanded beyond the requirements of federal law. A number of Home Depot employees joined gays and lesbians nationwide in protesting the negative recommendation. Now the company has announced it will make the move on its own and the shareholder proposal has been withdrawn.



07:18

A US Federal Court ruled this week that employers cannot require health care workers to be tested for HIV. The case involved a non gay ski patrol medic who had revealed that his wife had HIV when he sought expanded health care benefits for her. His employer and Oregon ski resort asked him to be tested. When he refused, he was assigned to a different job leading to his resignation, rejecting the resort's argument that his HIV status might pose a risk to others. The Federal Court found that a civil liberties were violated.



C Cindy Friedman 07:50

Bills favorable to gays and lesbians were signed into law in three US States this week, Arizona's Republican Governor Jane Haid signed a bill to repeal the state's archaic laws against non procreative sex acts and heterosexual cohabitation. Almost 10,000 People had called and written to the governor about the bill, with repeal opponents outnumbering supporters by about two to one. And a letter to the Speaker of the State House. She called the laws, unenforced and unenforceable and concluded people should not interpret my signature on this bill as a signal that I condone all of the conduct this bill makes lawful, I don't, but I choose not to judge the conduct of others, even when I know others will judge me.



08:35

Texas Governor Rick Perry signed the hate crimes bill, his fellow Republicans had kept off the desk of his predecessor. Now US President George W. Bush. Until now, Texas hate crimes law has not listed specific protected categories, which has made it almost impossible to prosecute. In 1999, Texas Senate Republicans blocked a floor vote on a more specific bill that would have covered homophobic crimes, fearing it would damage the Bush Presidential campaign to take a position on it either way. This week, the State Senate passed the current bill by a vote of 2010 and the State House gave its final approval. Governor Perry's office received several 100 phone calls, with calls for veto running ahead of those for approval by about three to one. Although the original versions of the bill specified sexual orientation and gender as protected categories. The final version refers instead to sexual preference and sex. The National lobby group gender pack fears that language change may serve to exclude hate crimes against transgendered people.



C Cindy Friedman 08:35



Cindy Friedman 09:38

Colorado's Republican Governor Bill Owens signed a bill requiring school districts to develop policies against bullying. Gay and lesbian students are disproportionately targeted for harassment in schools, but the new law was proposed largely in reaction to the 1999 massacre at Columbine High School by non gay bullying victims.



09:58

The Man Who Shot 70 People at a gay friendly bar in Roanoke, Virginia in September, pleaded guilty this week to the first degree murder of gay Danny Overstreet and six counts of malicious wounding. Shooter Ronald Edward gay could face up to four life sentences plus 60 years, prosecutors dropped seven firearms charges in exchange for the plea. Gay had previously complained of a lifetime's humiliation because of his name, but in court he denied that motivated his rampage. He also denied that the shooting was a hate crime, describing his attack on gay and lesbian strangers as a mission. He expressed no remorse. Although gay has a history of mental illness, he told the court if I'm insane, then God is too. He had previously written that he is a Christian soldier working for my Lord, and that Jesus does not want homosexuals in His heaven.



C Cindy Friedman 10:52

In the Netherlands public prosecutors are investigating a Muslim leaders televised anti gay remarks. Rotterdam mm Khaleel I movie called homosexuality a dangerous sickness and said homosexuality does not remain restricted to the people who have this disease. If this disease spreads, everyone could be infected. He also said that Netherlands new legal gay and lesbian marriages could destroy society. Other Muslim leaders made similar statements and newspaper interviews. About 1000 gays and lesbians contacted the magazine to gay cron to express their distress. Should I Mooney be convicted of defamation he could be sentenced to a year in jail. Meanwhile, Netherlands Prime Minister Wim Kok denounced the Imams remarks as an incitement to violence and said that the cabinet would meet with the imams



11:42

in Australia. anti gay George Pels installation is the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Sydney. True protests that resulted in five arrests. 50 To 100 demonstrators organized by a group called the collective action against homophobia countered Catholic choirs with chants of Pelle go to hell, they held banners reading the church kills queers, and laid a coffin at the steps of St. Mary's Cathedral to dramatize their belief that attitudes like Pels contribute to a high rate of suicide among gay and lesbian youth. The demonstration was planned to be peaceful, but the arrests came in a clash with police that saw at least four protesters knocked to the ground and one officer kicked in the groin. Australian Prime Minister John Howard later criticized the media saying that far more publicity was given to their protests than installation.



C Cindy Friedman 12:33

Poland's first gay and lesbian Pride March was held May 1 in Warsaw, the parade of equality set off 200 strong with drag queens in the vanguard from Castle Square to the Copernicus

ON 200 STRONG WITH GAY QUEENS IN THE VANGUARD FROM CASTLE SQUARE TO THE COPERNICUS
monument. There were stops at the presidential palace to demand a partnership law and at the University of Warsaw to denounce anti gay discrimination. Among the marchers were Democratic Union Party leader Robert Biedron and socialist Member of Parliament and former presidential candidate Theodore Econyl Wits, who promised support for legal recognition of gay and lesbian couples.



13:06

And finally, congratulations are due 18 year old Washington lesbian Crystal Bennett for her election as her high school proms King. When the vote was announced at the Ferndale high prom, most couples clapped and cheered, while others were stunned into silence. Non gay prom queen Carrie Johnson gave Bennett a high five and a hug, but skip their traditional royal dance. Bennett the only outlet has been in the school said she nominated herself to defy the gender basis of the competition. Or as she later explained to her befuddled father, it means I beat the boys dad.



c Cindy Friedman 13:43

That's nice wrap for the week ending May 12 2001. Follow the news in your area. And in forums community is a strong community



13:51

news rap is written by Cindy Friedman, and recorded at the studios of KPFK Los Angeles for this way out. I'm Donald Herman. And



c Cindy Friedman 13:58

I'm Cindy Freeman.



g Glenn Holt 13:59

And you are listening to lesbian and gay voices on the KPFT. And Jack, are you there?



j Jack Valinski 14:06

I am here and it's awfully quiet out here. We want the phones to ring we're asking you have to call us at 7135265738713526 que PFT. And anybody who's a regular listener of KPFT should have those phone numbers memorized, you should have in your speed dial to be able to call us. We're asking you to pledge. You know if you can remember the time when you thought you were the only one where you thought it was totally wrong to be who we are. If you thought that nobody else you know, cared or knew or whatever, all that type of stuff. You've come a long way baby and now it's time to help other people out who may not be in the position right now

to be able to make a pledge or be able to send some money into KPFT because of the type of service we provide. Remember that the airwaves penetrate the closet door and there's probably somebody out there listening today who is in the closet who may not be able to, you know, talk to their parents talk to their friends talk to somebody at school that were providing this service that they can't get anywhere else. So we're asking you to help pay for this type of programming that's only done here on KPFT. In fact, we're lucky here on KPFT that we have two GLP T radio shows we have lesbian and gay voices on Mondays at eight o'clock. And we have after hours, which is on midnight, Saturday night, Sunday morning. And between these two shows, we provide a lot of information, we provide a lot of stuff that you wouldn't get anywhere else, you know, affirming type of stuff. So we're asking you to help support this type of radio station that goes out on a limb to provide this type of programming. So call us at 713526573871352 6k PFT.

J Joan Devlin 15:54

Good evening, I'm Joan Devlin. And I have on the phone with me, Elizabeth O'Connor are actually Dr. Elizabeth O'Connor and she's one of the authors of for lesbian parents, your guide to helping your family grow up happy, healthy and proud. Are you there?

16:09

I am here, Joan. Hello, hello.

J Joan Devlin 16:12

And now your co author, Suzanne M. Johnson. Is she your partner? Yes, he is. So the two of you she's also a PhD. And the two of you what made you decide to write this book?

16:24

Well, we have two little girls ourselves. And I think what made us start thinking about wanting to write this book was from looking into bookstores and buying all the Gay Lesbian parenting books that were out there. And we felt like the kind of book we were looking for, although there are some good ones out there, the kind we were looking for. It didn't seem to be there. And what we were hoping to find was a parenting books specifically about the unique challenges that lesbian moms face that other moms don't. And after a while we thought you know, there isn't one out there. Maybe we should write one?

J Joan Devlin 16:58

Well, I'm really glad you did. Because it's actually I reviewed it. It's in the triangle this week. And what I noticed about it is you hear a lot now about how gay and lesbian people are adopting children are having children. But that's all you hear. You don't ever hear about. Okay, now you have this baby or this young child. Where do you go from there? Right? What are you

going to have to deal with now? Yeah, and the thing is, you know, should we over emphasize the fact that the child is growing up in a non traditional family? Should we under emphasize it? What were the results? What did you find? What we found



17:34

is that certainly there are some, some things that are family space that other families don't, and we tried to cover all of those. Basically, we we, we concluded that it's certainly possible, and even more than possible even it's so easy to raise your children to be proud of, of their family and of parents. And we do face these challenges, but we have ways of overcoming them. And one of the things that we really liked about writing the book was interviewing a number of lesbian moms from all over the country in all different kinds of situations, about their experiences and what they found, worked for them in different circumstances. And although they were in different circumstances and had children of different ages, it seems to be a common theme that it is possible to raise your children to be proud of their family.



J Joan Devlin 18:31

Now, I want you to tell the dollhouse story because I just thought that was the funniest thing.



18:35

We like that story. When our older daughter was I think about three I think it was the Christmas she was three we got her a dollhouse and she had requested and we also got her a little minivan to go with a dollhouse because you have to have a minivan to go with a dollhouse. And both the dollhouse and the minivan came with this little set of family figures that had a little, you know, a female doll, a male doll of Little Girl doll, and a baby doll. We had two sets of these things. So we put all the all the dolls in with the dollhouse. She was very excited when she got it and she was playing with it. And she picked up one of the female dolls and said, Okay, here's a mommy. And she picked up the other female doll and said, Okay, here's the mama. Then she picked up the male doll and kind of looked at it and she said, Mommy, what are these four? And we said, Well, honey, they can be for whatever you want. So she thought about it for a moment and she said, Okay, they're gonna be the long guys put them outside the house.



J Joan Devlin 19:32

Well, that works to mow the lawn. Yeah.



19:35

And then you know, that's, that's for her at that point. That's what a family was mommy mama and the House and the lawn guys can be out and doing the lawn.



J Joan Devlin 19:43



JOAN DEVLIN 19:43

And well, I think this touches on something else too, because you actually had to buy her two sets of families to get her a family that matched hers.



19:51

Yes. And we wanted to do that. We didn't want to just give her this prepackaged family and say this is what a family really is. That was important. That's that's something that we Do talk about it. And on a serious note that you do want to, you know, let your children recognize their family in other ways besides just yourself. So even if you're the only gay family or around, it's important to to give other examples so that your child knows that, you know, we're not the only ones.



Joan Devlin 20:19

I think to what I liked about the book is you made it very clear that you shouldn't push your feelings and things on your child, like you talked about women who had stayed closeted, because they were so convinced that their children's friends would reject them. And then when they finally gave in and came out, the kids and their friends, were kind of like, oh, yeah, we knew, you know, we didn't think it was any big deal. You know, and at the same time you talk to about parents who maybe, you know, something, there's, there's an issue at school, and they immediately assume it's homophobia, and go up, you know, ready to just let everybody have it. And then when push comes to shove, it's really not, it's just, you know, the stereotypical mood just a bad teacher or problems, normal problems that kids face at schools.



21:06

It's true, I think lesbian moms have sort of run the risk of we're looking so hard, we're so worried that our children are going to have problems that we may, you know, say that that problem is must be because of the fact that we're lesbians. And in fact, it's not, you know, your child may be teased at school, because she wears glasses, and it has nothing to do, you know, with who you are. And, and, you know, we sort of need to be a little bit careful about that, and not not jumped to any conclusions to make a, you know, a problem worse.



Joan Devlin 21:34

Right. But you also do give specific advice about what to do if that is a problem?



21:39

Oh, absolutely. Because sometimes it is a problem. And that's really is what's going on, and we need to deal with it.



Joan Devlin 21:46

So would you advise parents, lesbians, or gay men or gay people couple single, would you advise them to try child raising child rearing, if that's something they're interested in,



21:58

I would advise it if it's something that they have thought about for a long time, if they feel like they're ready, emotionally, financially, in every other way. And if they feel like you, they're comfortable with who they are, because one of the things that came up over and over again, and one of the things that we certainly know from our own experience is that no matter how out you think you are, once you have children, you're going to be that much more out in the world, that your children will out you to people you wouldn't even think of. And it's really important that you're comfortable with who you are, because your children will pick up on that attitude.



Joan Devlin 22:36

Right. And the other thing is, and this has been coming up more and more often to how do you handle the issue of say, a couple who adopts children together, and then the relationship doesn't work out.



22:46

And that's another good point. If you're thinking about having children in your in a couple, that what you have to do the two of you have to realize that this is a lifelong commitment to this child, even if your relationship doesn't work out that, that you're still both going to be this child's parents for the child's life. And what we talk about in our book is, is the importance of getting as much legal protection as you can in your state. And if second parent adoption is an option for you, that's great. And if it's not where you are, you need to go to a lawyer to draw whatever papers you can to make sure that this relationship is recognized. So that if you know if it does happen down the line that you to decide to break up that you have something there that that both parties are going to recognize no matter how angry we are with each other, no matter how much we never want to see each other. Again, we're both parents, and we're going to work out some way that we can continue to be parents.



Joan Devlin 23:43

What I liked about your book, too, is you covered everything, you covered everything from choosing a church, to PTA meetings, to soccer practice, the kinds of things that are sort of like, when you when you have a child, you kind of know they're there. But you don't ever think about them in detail until you're suddenly thrust into this situation where, you know, you have to deal with it.



24:06

It's true, that there's a whole new world opening up and and the other thing is that once you're

a parent, it's not like okay, now I'm a parent, I've got it down. Now your child keeps getting older. So things change, you know, the way that you deal with a child in junior high is different from the way you deal with a toddler and there's a whole new set of issues to deal with.

J Joan Devlin 24:26

Right? And just because, you know, kids are gonna go through that awkward teenage stage, no matter who their parents are. That's right. And the other thing too, though, that's rather unique in gay parenting for and you touched on this as well. Women raising male children, men raising female children. How do you answer that charge? You know, I realize both your children are girls but right even so I mean, how do you answer that charge? Well, they have no male,

24:52

no male role model. We do talk about the importance of male role models for both boys and girls. You And there are a number of ways to provide that most of the time, you know, when we talk to lesbian moms, they say, you know, there are a lot of men in their lives. They have, you know, the lesbian moms have relatives, you know, my case, I have brothers, and my father is very involved in our daughter's lives. But they also have teachers and sports coaches, and all these kinds of things. And we do give advice about, about connecting your child up with somebody to be a male role model, if you feel that that's lacking, you know, there are organizations that will provide it with older males to sort of be a buddy. And there are lots of things that you can do to make sure that that's, that that's really there for your child, because that is an important thing. And it's something that that lesbian moms, you know, rightfully are concerned about.

J Joan Devlin 25:42

And the other thing you talk about in the book that I thought was fascinating was the where do i Where did I come from question, because just as there are different options for parenting, there are different options for I don't want to say acquiring that sounds so terrible, but for you can bear children, you know, art through artificial insemination or with a friend, you can adopt children, you can adopt children from other countries. So how do you get around that, you know, when the child gets old enough to start asking, you know, well, how did you get me your two women?

26:16

You know, I think that strangely enough, although it may seem strange at first, I think that that's an advantage that we have, and that we have to talk about these things. So how did you get here, whether it was donor insemination, or an adoption, or as you said, Well, you know, whatever it was, we're going to have to explain this to our child. And I think one of the nice things is that kind of opens the door. Because we've told the child in our case that we use a donor insemination. And we've already started talking to our older daughter about what that means. And we've opened the door on that whole topic area. In other words, this is okay to talk

about these things. I mean, we have to talk about them. And so when she's older, she'll know that she can talk to us about things like sexuality, because we've already we've already opened that door.

J

Joan Devlin 27:04

And just to repeat, because even though most of our audience is very enlightened, please just get a couple of people that don't agree with us. Explain how likely is it that children raised by gay parents will turn out to be gay themselves?

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27:18

Ah, here's the answer. It's from the data. And there's an awful lot of data that data has been going on for close to 30 years on children of gays and lesbians. The data suggests that they're no more likely to be gay or lesbian than are children of heterosexual parents. There are some interesting data to suggest that when our children are late adolescence or early adulthood, they may start to wonder, like, am I you know, my mom is a lesbian, does that mean that I'm a lesbian, they may sort of wonder about their own sexuality a little more than with children of heterosexual parents. But in the end, ultimately, they decide in the same ratios as any other children that they are heterosexual. And as developmental psychologists, we think that that's actually a good thing to sort of think about who you are, to try to come to terms with that in an active way, is a sign of, of mental health. So that's a good thing that our children are questioning these things instead of just sort of going through life, not questioning anything, just accepting who you are, without giving it much thought.

J

Joan Devlin 28:18

And what kind of statistics are there on? I mean, are children of gay parents more likely to be troubled or problems or

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28:27

they're not there. And there's a lot of evidence to suggest that they're not our children are just as well adjusted psychologically, as other children. They have just as many friends, they're just as close to their friends. They do get teased, but all children get teased and they don't get teased in greater numbers than other children.

J

Joan Devlin 28:46

Well, the teasing is, I mean, I got teased in school. I know a lot of people who got teased in school, but I don't remember anybody ever getting teased about their parents. You got teased about yourself. I got teased for being gay, you know,

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28:58

20:50

so there you go.

J

Joan Devlin 29:00

I don't think anybody really cared whether my parents were straight or

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29:04

never came up Pro. Right?

J

Joan Devlin 29:06

Well, I do appreciate it. I want to thank you so much. And I love this book. I don't have kids, but and I probably won't have any but I thought it was just a wonderful thing to sit there and just read this. And, you know, because it's common sense. And it was something like you said that there just wasn't such a thing in our community. And you can no longer just automatically make the assumption that because a person is gay or lesbian, they're not going to have children are raised children. Absolutely. You know, one of the men at the station 30 years ago, had to raise his sister's children because she was killed in a car accident. And he had the, you know, he was appointed guardian. And I'm sure he wish he would have had, you know, how to book he and his partner did the best they could and they did very well, actually, but he certainly had no no goodbyes at that point in time.

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29:54

Yeah. Yeah. So that's, that's one nice thing that has changed. Yes.

J

Joan Devlin 29:59

So Don't tell us first of all now, how old are your children? And will there be future volumes coming in the future? Oh, goodness,

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30:06

Our older daughter is six and a half. And she's very, very clear that she wants everyone to mention the one half there. And our little one is four. And we haven't ruled out doing future volumes, that would be something that we might like to do with our old daughters get older, we may discover more things that we didn't cover.

J

Joan Devlin 30:25

Lesbian parenting for teenagers. That's right.



30:28

Could be down the road. Well, thank



J Joan Devlin 30:31

you so much. I appreciate you taking the time to talk to us tonight.



30:34

Oh, thank you, Joan. Thank you for having me.



J Joan Devlin 30:36

The book is called for lesbian parents, your guide to helping your family grow up happy, healthy and proud. It is by Suzanne M. Johnson, PhD, and Elizabeth O'Connor, who we've been talking to tonight, and she's also a PhD, and you're listening to lesbian and gay voices. Now Jack, do we have any thing going on out there in the lobby?



G Glenn Holt 30:57

It doesn't sound like



J Joan Devlin 30:58

Jack is Jack is telling war stories. So this is not good. Yes,



J Jack Valinski 31:02

I am telling war stories. But the real story is that the phones aren't ringing. And it is really important that we can prove that this station this show on this station has an audience. And we're asking you not to not the other person. We're asking you to pick up the phone and call us at 7135265738713526 KPFT you are the most important reason why we're doing this show. This show is formed about the gay and lesbian, bisexual, transgendered community. And we're asking you to make a pledge to prove that there is actually a listenership out there. Now the station doesn't necessarily coat late. The phone calls and the money coming in to each particular show, but it is somewhat a sign of who is listening. So we're asking you to call and make a pledge and we have some very nice rewards or bribes to give you if you do call and pledge to us, anywhere from our program guide to coffee cups and T shirts and all those wonderful things. And when you call, we can tell you exactly what the nice things we have for you. You know, this channel eight and KU HF has this wonderful new studio. It's absolutely

fabulous. And we have this old broken down house that leaks here in Montrose, but we like it here because it's part of our community. So we spend the money on the most important things that's programming, keeping the station on the air, call us at 713526573871352 6k PFT



32:40

Visibility is the key to success of the lesbian and gay movements for civil rights protections. Hi, I'm Urvashi VABs inviting you to listen to this way out the international lesbian and gay radio magazine, one of our most visible and articulate voices for our lesbian and gay communities.



32:59

It was 7am in the tiny soundproof room. My interviewer swung the microphone to his mouth, and on the Okay, cue from his producer leaned in Chameli and heard, I love your music. I leaned into my microphone duct tape to the wire hanger is overhead boom and said, you hear a two?



Greg Gordon 33:18

Fortunately, the host in question was not this way out Steve pride, who recently chatted with lesbian humorist Kate Clinton. Though she's not related to the former US president. Kate does have a lot in common with him. Both love politics, waking up next to a strong woman and looking forward to a new president in 2004. But while Bill collects his pension, Kate is on a roll with her monthly columns for the progressive and the advocate continued appearances on ABC TV's politically incorrect and CNN and read these lips. A recent press release touted her conversion to faith based comedy designed to capture the imagination and funding of millions shall no doubt capture your imagination in this conversation with our Steve pride about her 20 years on the road. Her relationship with equally traveled and outspoken spouse activist are Vichy valid and the political agony but comic ecstasy of the next four years with George W. Bush,



34:17

I read that you've been on the road for 20 years. Where are you headed?



34:22

I have actually more frequent flyer miles than the pope god. Yeah. Well, and of course, there you go. Where am I headed? You know, I'm headed into the next year, the 21st year that I've got this bridge to the 21st year, if you know what I mean.



34:35

Let's get the preliminaries out of the way. You are an admitted homosexual, yes. And a self

described humorous.



34:41

It was a typo. All right. I mean, it's a great idea. I am a feminist humorous, but it ran together. I was trying to type it. And I'm not a great typist, because I went to Catholic school, and we really didn't have typewriters. We'd like to start the class with a prayer for typewriters. So I didn't really type well, so I was typing feminist humors and it just ran together fumarate, and it's F u m e. R is tea for me because that's an idea of fuming threatening to burst into flames at any moment.



35:06

Is there a club of other funny feminist or is it a very lonely life?



35:10

No, it's huge. It's huge. We have an annual convention, actually in Houston. It's in the summer so that many of the funerals can wear minx. It's a very Republican idea. It's huge. There's just 1000s and 1000s. Actually, you know, that whole thing about the women's movement didn't have a sense of humor. I think guys felt left out. We were hysterical sliding down refrigerators laughing and they just felt left out. So they said, Oh, the women's movement has no sense of humor, and they just felt left out. So there's there's 1000s of screaming laughing all the time



35:39

on top of feminists and no, that's a bad picture.



35:43

Oh, no, it's quite lovely. If you're top



35:45

besides feminists, you're a member of another group not known for your lesbians. In fact, there was an article in the advocate recently which



35:54

must be true so I had Well, I think it's I think there are lots of funny lesbians or there are lots of lesbians who appreciate other funny lesbians that's me. And they come to the show and they laugh their heads off.



36:05

So not just stereotype dash to the ground crashed.



36:08

So are there any therapists here are all going where do you ask? I never went to therapist actually, I used to go to confession. I probably would still be going to confession if they gave gas a nice little tank of helium outside as you go on. Hi.



36:33

Let me ask you this. Do you think it's alright to lend out your codependency books



36:47

I'm actually writing my own book on codependency who isn't. All I have is a title so far. And it's called Hey, I was just trying to be nice.



37:04

Okay, I'll try my new country western codependent song on you. It's called if you leave me Can I come to



37:16

you leave me. Are there any music therapists here? I don't know what they do. But I liked the idea of it. Near as I configure you go in, explain your problems. And as you're talking, she's going through her record collection. Keep talking to her. I hear a show tunes. I love that idea. I should go to a music therapist. Because I was raised Catholic, pre Vatican two. And so I don't understand the words to songs. I mean, if it's not in Latin, and if it's faster than Gregorian chant, I really can't understand it



37:57

I should go to a music therapist. I hate movie musicals. I mean, they always think it the worst times Yentl almost killed me. Oh, she's gonna sing but it's gonna be to herself but we're going to know about it. Sound of Music made me a little grumpy How many of you are recovering Catholics? Together group they raised their hands Catholics raised their hands were obedient Unitarians will not respond. Unitarians think to themselves? Yes, I'm a Unitarian. I pray to the unit. So what the Jewish people are looking at me going Oh, here she goes with the Catholics. But I believe that Jews are co Catholics



38:49

and Catholics are co Jews. What goes around comes around and where they meet that's Italian.



39:00

Catholics are so weird. Catholics are the worst singers. It's true. We are the worst singers. Catholics are the only people I know who can sing and breathe in at the same time. You can go by a Catholic church going full tilt boogie on a Sunday morning and you cannot hear a thing. They're all in they're gone.



39:24

But what's the thing about this is an organization run by an old guy who wears a Malita filter on his head



39:37

what other things are just sticking in your craw you have a craw I have a crop stuff stick in there.



39:42

Yeah, there's a lot of stick edge in the ground. For exactly is the crawl located. What is sticking in my craw. I guess the fact that that anybody could say Bush is reelected. You know, they were talking about Bush being reelected and for years he wasn't elected in the first place. I have to remind people, I guess what's sticking My craw is the complete glossing over more lies and more lies. And I think part of the job of this particular humorist will be to keep their little toes to the fire and to keep reminding people of the actual truth. I now know what it must have felt like for years to be a Clinton hater, because I mean, I just see one of the bushes on television and I just start screaming. I'm like, I have Bush Tourette Syndrome. It's like streaking, you know, and I was complaining to African American friend when I was like, Oh my I'm so feel so disenfranchised. I feel so powerless and she looked at me like Hello. Welcome to our club. Now you can laugh out loud Don't be stifling this.



40:39

I'll insert laughter later. I don't have a good laugh and I have a laughter that comes in. Oh, okay. Professional. Oh, yeah. Probably. You know. They're a funny people. They're funny. Yes. That Well, George W. Bush would say you're being one of those negative Democrats. Because you know, George is a uniter, not a divider.



40:50

40.57

Well, we've got Dick bush and Colin. It's sort of like a lower GI series, not necessarily a presidential administration. Dick actually surprised me. And he lived through the excitement of the inauguration. But when Jim Lehrer from this news hour on the vice presidential debate asked both Cheney and Lieberman what they thought about civil unions, I thought Jamie actually was kind of positive. Apparently Lieberman was still praying about it. But Cheney said that he was sort of leaning toward it, it was okay with him. That surprised me enormously. But I don't imagine that his lovely wife, Lon Chaney will go for it in a big way. Because although Dick has a gay daughter, apparently his wife doesn't. It's an interesting thing to family value. As a

41:40

former English teacher, it seems like that you'd be a great adviser to this particular President. Well, again,

41:46

the whole Bush one was like just being present at the death of language. So this is I think more of the same will experience wild syntactic rides. But apparently he's doing better now that he'd had to teleprompters actually installed in his retinas. You know, he's a very good reader. And that was, I really think a benefit of his mom's Barbara's program of just spell know,

42:08

your partner is a well known gay activist and you've been together 91 Gay years. How do you make that work? How do you keep the moving bands away from the curls

42:16

that really made us want to live together

42:18

and you should identify our in case people think it might be you know, Rosie O'Donnell or someone right?

42:23

I am with Urvashi. Bad and she is a gay activist. motormouth brilliant. I love being with her because I finally feel like I'm at the right table. You know, like when your places and everybody's having better time with the other table. This has been like being at the right table. She's really smart. And scheduling is our biggest problem, because she travels a lot. I travel a lot. So I guess we really cherish the time that we're together. Oh, no, I don't just guess that I know we do.



42:45

So the secret to a good strong lesbian relationship has just been lots of time away from each



42:50

other. Oh, no, no, no, actually, it's really painful to be away



42:53

so much. And you live in Provincetown.



42:55

We have a house in Provincetown. I bought it in 1990, before everything quadrupled in price, or otherwise, I would never be there. But actually, we're living in New York. Now. We moved there when I started working for the Rosie O'Donnell Show. And we stayed on an herb she formed the policy institute for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, which is a think tank. I designed the think tank tops, which I'm quite proud of. And she is head of propaganda, basically. And they've put out wonderful, wonderful propaganda, her idea is that they would become like the Heritage Institute of the gay movement. And they've really done wonderful, wonderful studies. I mean, they actually study the numbers, you know about gay wealth. And is it true? And they just released a new wonderful study on gay aging, and what it means for our community. So they're really hip to the trip and working, working. Getting older right now.



43:46

And I'm still thinking about the words think tank top.



43:50

They're cute. They're ribbed, and



43:52

everybody, we're in for their pleasure. Yes. Thank



43:54

you very much. Good night. I'll be here all week. Okay.



43:57

You've recently released a brand new exciting six, yes, CD,



44:01

called Read these lips, which I think is perfect for a Bush administration. And it is sort of a record of what I've been doing for the last two years. That is my whole idea of CDs really, it's in you call them CDs. Now you don't call them records. But all my CDs have been sort of a record of what I've been doing so that I can go on to the next and it's fun. I mean, it has my usual themes of politics and papacy and media and the new technologies and people laugh, trick them again,



44:29

because it's timeless, timeless humor. Even those political timeline never changes. You



44:32

know, you can't opposition is good. And let's not forget that the wonderful thing I think it was Sheikh Rivera who said, optimism is the true weapon of the revolutionary and, boy, we have to be optimistic in these next four years. Only four years. People say to me, boy, this is great stuff. This is just so exciting for you. Boy, you must be so happy to have all this but I really find it difficult to watch and the money I'm trying to be more optimistic, I think when as crut was nominated, and just the coalition of people that got together that we've been talking about forever, you know, the gay groups and the ACLU, and now and neighbor Al, and they were all appeared together and actually working together. I thought, Oh, thank God, it's happening. So I cling to those optimistic moments, but I'll tell you, it's worn me out 20 years and then this, but I'll keep doing it.



45:25

This has been a conversation with Kate Clinton. To find out when she's coming to a city near you aim your internet browser to www.kateclinton.com. I'm Steve pride. Thanks for listening.



45:38

Don't be crazy. On me while I used to be even when I was a job as Brisbane Brisbane Brisbane, love to speak. I had talked and talked and talked about trying stand up until my best friend Deirdre got so sick of it. She booked me into a local club and said you are on in a month. We hung up a poster at the club. I wrote the jokes. I contacted 190 of my closest friends and on March 21 1981 performed my first show. It was 33 minutes long. The audience all trusted veteran codependence laughed supportively the next day is I was laid out on the couch supine

for my comic efforts. My partner Trudy would say, I don't know how to tell you this. But you're going to have to do this more than once. I was flabbergasted. I had never thought of performing beyond one time. I just wanted to try it. My partner who in that moment became my manager was as usual way ahead of me. She volunteered to book me for the summer. She booked me for the next five years. I did not go the route of opener middle or headliner sets in the burgeoning comedy club scene. After all, he was talking about being a lesbian. And it was the Reagan years, I could have changed pronouns and talked about Kitties and doggies and peanuts on airplanes. But I didn't. It wasn't a conscious choice. I never gave myself the assignment. today. Let's write about lesbians. I just did it. And there was a lot to talk about coming out stories, dating rituals, softball teams, local law or fashion. We were PC before PC was cool. I had no trouble filling 90 minutes. Once when my dad was visiting, we invited friends over for dinner. And the only conversation rule I laid down ahead of time was no discussion of sex. That was for my benefit. My father sat and listened through dinner conversations of gay politics, game theory, gay gossip. And toward the end of the discussion, I turned to my dad and asked, Well, Mr. Clinton, we have a very formal relationship. What do you think we as gay people can do to make more bridges to straight people? My dad did one of his patented exquisitely timed pauses and replied, keep talking.

G

Greg Gordon 48:13

Thanks for tuning into this way out the international lesbian and gay radio magazine. This week, Cindy Friedman, Donald Herman Chris Ambridge, Gram Underhill, Jason Lynn, Brian Newness Rex Walker and Steve pride contributed program material. You also heard excerpt from Kate Clinton's publishing Mills audio book don't get me started. Gail, dig below perform some of the music you heard and Kim Wilson composed and performed our theme music. Some this way out. Operating expenses are funded by grants from the Kicking Assets Fund of the Tides Foundation and the CPSS Guadalupe Fund from designated contributions by uncommon plug Visa card holders and chosen this way out and through direct charitable donations from our listeners around the world. For audio cassette information or with any questions or comments about this way out. Please email us at TW o radio@aol.com. visit our webpage at this way out.org Or write to us at Post Office Box 38327 Los Angeles California 90038 USA and please be sure to include the call letters of this station. Remember you can also hear this way out anytime online exclusively on planet out. Just point your browser to www dot planet out.com and click first on multimedia then on radio for Leisha, Japan and everyone at this way out. I'm Greg Gordon. Thanks for listening on KK FYI, Kansas City, Missouri, W RPI join New York access radio Wellington, New Zealand and more than 125 other stations around the world, including this community radio station can stay tuned.

G

Glenn Holt 49:41

Okay. This way out is heard every Monday as part of lesbian and gay voices here on KPFT. And listening to this way out every Monday is something that you may take for granted. You turn on your radio and we're here for you every Monday. So make sure that it stays that way, make a phone call right now, you can be certain that we will be here for you next Monday and the Monday after that, if you call and support this radio station 713-526-5738. Please don't take the future of lesbian and gay voices or KPFT for granted. Do what you can today. Call in with your support 713-526-5738. You're just so classy. Thank you.

J

Jack Valinski 50:37

You know, unlike me, I get down on my hands and knees and beg. Well, I guess it takes a rocket scientist, doesn't it? Well, well, and that Kate Clinton piece was absolutely fabulous, though it was really sort of sets the tone. We're talking to Jean Harrington Professor Jean Harrington. And Jean Harrington is a longtime activist, not only in this community, but it actually dates back to the 60s.

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51:08

Yeah. When I was in, I left school and joined the Peace Corps in the 60s. And then came back here and got involved in the Civil Rights movement up north.

J

Jack Valinski 51:21

And in the in the early 60s, where did you go?

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51:27

Let's see. Well, I spent my time in the Peace Corps in West Africa. Uh huh. And then came back and I was in Alabama, then I was in Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA. And there we were doing that actually was integration with the, with the steel companies, which if you think fighting for civil rights, and and you send it a hard job, yeah, trying to integrate the steel companies back in the 60s. And then I got a job here at Tsu at Texas, Southern University and law school. And I've been here for the last 30 years.

J

Jack Valinski 52:17

And I know you've worked on a lot of issues, maybe not in the forefront, but certainly in the back background, sort of pushing the staff and knowing knowing and sometimes a little bit abrasive. Sometimes you got to be that way. Yeah.

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52:33

We the I was early and active with the GLP. Say, with the first referendum gotten very active when the AIDS crisis came about. And just followed the wave along. And was very, very active in local politics. Actually, I still am. One of the advantages and teaching in a predominantly what's called a historically black institution was that the majority of the minorities in the state legislature, were ex students. Okay, that really came in handy when we, when we're lobbying for federal legislation, especially fair aids legislation.

J

Jack Valinski 53:28

Well, that was incredibly tough when it first started because, I mean, traditionally, the

legislature sledge Slater is sort of ruled dominated, and sort of good ol boy and the way things were. And the fact that you'd be talking about AIDS, money for people with AIDS to survive, was just something that was incredibly full. This is a state we're talking where the sodomy law still on the books,



53:52

right, right. And I actually I was, I was one of the ones who worked with them, or lay case to to overturn the sodomy law,



J Jack Valinski 54:05

which he HRF Texas Human Rights Foundation.



54:08

And I can remember one time pointing out that in Texas, it was against the law to have sex with your, your, your partner, but it was not against the law to have sex with your dog. And always wonder where the ASPCA was where we really need them. But getting back to AIDS, it was a really, really hard time. And there really was very little knowledge on the minority community about the impact of AIDS. And I got appointed to the state legislative Task Force on AIDS. I was the only active the only known gay person actually I I thought I was the only known gay person. And then when I indicated that I was gay, the spokesperson for the then Lieutenant Governor told me that I could be thrown off the commission, because you said you were gay. And I said, Well, I guess I could bet. And I said, I can just see the newspaper story tomorrow. And the New York Times, the only openly gay personality Texas aids commission is thrown off when they find out he's gay. So, so having said that, I'm sure we can all work together. And we pushed there were a couple of friendly people on on the commission, and we really, really pushed for educating minorities. And way ahead of the time, way ahead of the time, so we had to push to even have a section on that. And now of course, eight is ravishing that's been already committed. One of the things that only asking for money and one of the things we we attempted to do is to stop them from doing some of the things that they wanted to do. Exactly.



J Jack Valinski 56:14

And I you know, I always remember Deborah Dannenberg, one of the first things she says, one of the most important thing she does is stop legislation.



56:21

to Texas was the first state. The Texas Department of Health was the first department of health that seriously thought of the idea of quarantining persons with AIDS. Which now seems so absolutely ludicrous. And then it was a major, major fight, and we had to get people from amfAR, the American Foundation for AIDS research, you had to literally pack the the audience in in Austin, to just meet that.

J

Jack Valinski 57:00

You were in against some really incredible odds.

Ω

57:03

Yeah, there were there were a lot of them. A lot of powerful people that were not on the same side that we were on. And a lot of it was doing homework. A lot of that was working with a couple of organizations in Austin, who, who were really helpful in helping us on the ins and outs and the mechanics of, of how legislation is passed and how legislation isn't passed. Senator Rodney Ellis, his office was extremely helpful. And working with a lot of the other legislators that might not have been as, as friendly, but who knew me as a person. So it took a lot of property, it took a lot of using the system. It took a lot of getting Bob Bullock, who was then lieutenant governor to twist arms to just get something stopped sometimes at the very, very last moment. And it was, I had, I had a year off, I had been given a year's sabbatical, which most people use to write books, write books, so just go away and land a beach. And I decided to spend it in, in Austin. And it was probably one of the most interesting years of my life. Well, and

J

Jack Valinski 58:41

it's really interesting, because Ray used to in fact, this is probably the first year he hasn't been up there to, to lobby and Ray was pretty much the lone soldier up there many times. And I used to ask him, you know, the city spends upwards of a million dollars for lobbying, and how could he be effective, basically having almost no money to do it? And he says, sometimes you just gotta sit down and talk to people, which is

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59:02

so true. It's I can remember, I won't mention the legislator, but a legislator that would be known if I did mention his name from Houston who was against allowing doctors to refuse treatment of patients if if they knew that the patient was HIV infected, and he was strenuously in his in his position as just allowing or allowing doctors to decline patients in such a condition. And one day we're at the Capitol and his son, their young son, maybe three, four, start to choke on something. And through pictures and all of the Texas papers of him crashing this Son to the emergency ward of the nearest hospital. And the next day, everything worked out all right. Son's emergency was taken care of. And next I was talking to him in his office, I said, you know, if your son had HIV, that doctor, according to what you want to be law, would have every right in the world for his treatment, and you're someone that died. I just think, bringing that home to him the effect that he could have upon his own life and his own own child was really I think really probably meant a lot more than any debate on the house of the, on the floor of the house. And I would never have gotten that opportunity, except that I knew him personally had been a student of mine. And I think Ray is exactly right, just getting to be able to speak to people one on one, to point out sometimes the unreasonableness of what they want, or the the fact that the harm that they're so afraid of, is really a harm that they're never going to have to

face. Is can make up for a lot of dollars that you don't have in your in your in your in your pocketbook, but it's a it's a long, tedious, I'm sure I would be the first to say, extremely frustrating time to be trying to see some good come out of a legislative system where there is so much money stacked against you in so many areas, be it, be it hate crimes, be it the cost of drugs, the ability to adopt children, be it the ability to live legally, in this state and not the confinement that 2106 is a frustrating job. But you know, I think being right, carries a certain degree of frustration with it. Just by being right.

J

Jack Valinski 1:02:18

Well, and also the fact that we have a lobby Igfl Lesbian Gay rights lobby, even though it's, you know, a very small organization compared to all those that have a lot of money that Dianne Hardy Garcia has done tremendous work up there being able to sit down and talk to these people she has and you are probably there at the formation of this. Yes. Yeah.

♂

1:02:41

Of course, before that, Diana it was, um, it was when Maxey, Glen Maxey, and we are lucky that we've had such extremely dedicated, dedicated and intelligent and presentable people, people that people can sit down with and don't feel threatened by and can feel that they are talking with someone reasonable over a reasonable issue. And

J

Jack Valinski 1:03:16

but we also had a few allies up there like Deborah Dannenberg and Rodney Aldous.

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1:03:21

I mean, there's no doubt about it, that if, if we didn't have the allies that we had, it would have been a rightful cause, but a lost cause. I mean, people like Deborah, who, and right now, Ellis, who you know, term after time after time, is not only willing to put their name on legislation, rightful good legislation, but legislation which they know doesn't stand a great deal of chance of being passed. But they not only will put their name on it, but they'll fight for it, they'll fight for it, and the committee hearings, they'll fight to get advocates to come up there and speak in favor of it. And it's it's not only just putting your name there, it's putting your your energy there. Sure. And it's, it's, we have a lot to be thankful for, although we still have a lot to, to to work for.

J

Jack Valinski 1:04:18

Well, and you know, I'm not a native, you're not a native down here. But this sort of is a strange land in many ways. In many ways. It's good in many ways. It's bad, but we have made an impact and in progress. It's amazing.



1:04:31

When we look around us and see where we are today versus where we are when we first came here. It was an amazing amount of progress and not just in the question of gay and lesbian rights, but in the progress in human rights to progress in racial integration. to project the progress women have made in our society. We certainly are a much different society than we were when I came here 30 years ago, but it's a society that still needs a long way to go,



J Jack Valinski 1:05:16

Well, we still have executions, and we still have, you know, incredible things that go on 2106 is still on the books. And hopefully, the younger generation thinks that we didn't do enough and moves forward faster.



1:05:31

I mean, that I hopefully that that is true. I mean, hopefully, the same impatience, the same lack of acceptance of the status quo, hopefully, that is still embedded in the generations that have come after us. And as long as they feel that they that we should have done more, that they can do more, we are in a very good position. It's, it's only when we get to the position that we're satisfied with where we are, when we know we're really in trouble.



J Jack Valinski 1:06:11

Yet, I'm sure you know, we've both lost and you probably more than me have lost a lot of people in the struggle. And, you know, Ray used to say he's the lost more people from violence. But certainly, I think maybe the, the numbers have changed, and we've lost more people from this dreaded disease that that came upon our community,



1:06:31

right? Yeah, I'm approximately 60 years old. And to be very honest with you, I'd say the vast majority of my friends are, are no longer here. And that's a sad thing to say, in a personal way, I mean, to be at 60, where you think you were not going to be until you're a five. But the impact has had on our community, we have lost a whole generation of, of gay men, a whole generation of activists came in, and while not only mourning for them, but taking the fight to ensure that they had dignity and they had treatment, etc. That also took such a fantastic degree of energy away from our battles on on human rights. I often think that the women in our community really have so much to be to be proud of, because for a decade, a decade and a half, gay rights really became a male issue, a male issue of HIV, HIV prevention, HIV medication, and for a woman to see the the double dignities that society has imposed upon her one because she is a woman, and two, because she is a lesbian, and then to see her fight, get pushed to the background. In a male dominated society, for the males within her subculture, who are sick and needy, I think it had to take a great degree of person perseverance and self worth,

J

Jack Valinski 1:08:21

and in many cases, getting down and doing service work, donating blood, you know, giving money when they made less money than most male males did. I mean, and I have been so much enriched by some of the most incredible women in this community.

1:08:39

Yeah, it there's an irony there that I, I think that if, if the age tragedy had not come along, our community, to a great extent, would have continued to exist as a parallel group of men and women with some traits together. And I think aids certainly has, in many ways, broken that down. And we have managed to share across lines of gender caring, understanding. And it's, it has been, to me a lot, just like you said, a very, very, very meaningful experience to, to meet and to know and to accept from people that within my community, I probably would not have if, if it wasn't for the HIV virus.

J

Jack Valinski 1:09:35

You're listening to lesbian and gay voices. And we're talking to Jean Harrington, and I guess we got into this vein about talking really serious, but Jean, you're also very incredibly funny person. I mean, you always were able to come up with a line at one point or the other. And I do remember the day that Wildenstein was canceled, and you were out here in the lobby, and the board was saying we're conducting a board meeting and you yelled out and we're board and among many, many other times that you've been able to give a speech and always just put in a certain line that always just sort of changed the tone of what was going on.

1:10:08

Sometimes it's maybe it's just a God given gift to be able to, to take the moment and levy it with a joke or something. But one of the most quoted statements which just popped off the top of my head, which I didn't even mean to be, to be humorous was a debate we were having before city council about why the city of Houston was not doing more for AIDS and why it appeared that the county was fulfilling its particular obligation on AIDS and the city wasn't. And I said, Well, it's very, very simple. I said that the the county commissioner and the mayor had sat down and had a meeting and this is true. And the mayor gave the county commission of drugs and she took AIDS. And it says roar in the room. And I didn't realize until after I had said it that it was it was it was probably and still is one of the most quoted lines and but sometimes out of the mouths of fools. Truth comes forward.

J

Jack Valinski 1:11:31

Well, and the year that you and Linda Morales for grand marshals in the parade, you dressed up as the as the





1:11:39

as the groom is as the



J Jack Valinski 1:11:41

you know you why then she was the groom, right. And then I think that picture, the pride guide, you had your baby picture. Well, it



1:11:53

wasn't my it was my first communion, which I think they took back. Yeah, you have to tell if a lot in order to to be able to stay sane, I think.



J Jack Valinski 1:12:06

Absolutely. Absolutely. Well, I really thank you for coming by tonight. And this is long overdue.



1:12:12

Well, Jack, thank you so much for having me here. And you. I'd like I'm happy to say that you're really one of my heroes. I'm I'm glad I'm with you tonight, and I'm really looking forward to it. Excellent, excellent. Pride Week. I know you have well we



J Jack Valinski 1:12:26

it's no longer a week. It's a month, a month. Well, we've expanded we will be a year. I don't know if we can do a year. We're talking to Jean Harrington, who has been a longtime activist, not only this community, but basically a number of communities. You're listening to lesbian gay voices. And we do need you to pick up the phone and call us at 713526 KPFT. And I believe Joan is out of the lobby. Joan is out in the lobby, but as usual, she's probably talking to somebody else. Well, we will take a little break and we'll be back with more lesbian and gay voices.



G Glenn Holt 1:13:05

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1:14:05

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G Glenn Holt 1:14:51

and you're listening to lesbian and gay voices.



J Joan Devlin 1:14:55

Good evening, I'm Joan Devlin, and I have Michel Katyn here who, as noted As the attorney who successfully argued the 2106 case, which unfortunately got overturned and a higher court, but he is also the male Grand Marshal for this year's Pride Parade. So are you excited, this is your first Pride Parade? Well, as a grand marshal,



1:15:17

as a grand marshal, I'm, I've never missed a gay pride parade since 1982. When I moved here, and I'm very excited about the parade. It's something I really love. And it's going to be fun to see all my friends and new friends and just say hello to everybody. So I'm very excited about that, and especially also the festival and AstroWorld and all the activities that are coming up.



J Joan Devlin 1:15:43

So you're looking forward to doing the whole circuit



1:15:45

basically. That's right. That's right, starting June 1. Were you



J Joan Devlin 1:15:48

surprised even to be nominated? Or did it come as a shock?



1:15:52

It was, it was an honor, it was a surprise, Brandon wolf nominated both myself and Dahlia, the female Grand Marshal. And that was a very nice thing. He's involved with hand net, the computer email system. And so he asked me if I would do it. And I said I would. And lo and behold, you know, when you're nominated, and a whole bunch of other friends are nominated to be grand marshals like Rob flasher and Kevin Davidson and Ray Hill and those that group of people, it's it's an honor to be nominated with everybody. But it's, it's more fun. We really just are having a good time. So.

J

Joan Devlin 1:16:35

So what were you doing? We'll ask you the John Lennon question. Okay. What, what was your reaction when you found out you won? What were you doing?

O

1:16:43

Well, we were at a reception at the art gallery over here on Montrose and Westheimer. And it was a pride function. And they asked all the nominees to come. And I was there and I really going in, I thought that I had not won, I thought that some of the other candidates, were going to get more votes. And it was it was actually, in my mind, like the Academy Awards a little bit. I heard my name and my partner was there, and we just went up. And it was fun. It was just really exciting.

J

Joan Devlin 1:17:17

And I know for a fact, because I was one of these people, but the response has been very enthusiastic to your being the Grand Marshal. Oh, really? Yes. Oh, it's exciting to know that you're excited. And I wanted to talk to you too, about kind of what you know, I don't want to say like your high profile case, because you've been out and about and helping the gay community for many, many years. But 2106 came up this year and kind of brought you into the limelight a bit. So can you tell us a little bit about that? Sure. Well,

O

1:17:44

actually remember, my clients, John Lawrence and Tyrone Garner were arrested in 1998. So that's when it actually all started. And and when it happened, I really didn't believe it was real. I didn't believe that the police would actually arrest two people in the privacy of their home and take them to jail in the middle of the night. And if you recall, back, during that time, people were saying, you know, when I'm home with my partner in bed, and I hear some noise outside, I wonder is that the police coming to get me? Because we now know it can really happen. But it has it was real. It did happen. It could happen again. And at first, you know, about a month ago, I testified before the criminal justice committee in the legislature about possibly overturning this legislatively through Deborah Dan Berg's bill. I don't think that there's any more time left for the bill to actually get repealed this year. But it got further this year than any other time where it got voted out of committee and onto the calendars committee. And that that was historic. And I really do think that this case, and the public's reaction. Remember the Houston Chronicle has had two editorials now calling for the repeal of the homosexual conduct statute.

And lots of straight people, Republican people consider conservative people think that adult
cute adult citizens should have the right to do what they want sexually in the privacy of their
home as long as they're doing it with another an adult, and it's not for commercial purposes.

G

Glenn Holt 1:19:23

And you know, Arizona, just this past week, did away with their version of 2106. Really? I didn't
know that. Yeah. And if the Texas Legislature would just wake up, but they could save a whole
lot of money on lawsuits like yours.

J

Joan Devlin 1:19:38

Well, I guess my question to is, you know, why do people even want this law to stay on the
books because it's such a ridiculous law? Well,

Q

1:19:47

because I think it's it's a tool that can be used to classify gay and lesbian people as criminals.
And it is a classy misdemeanor, but it's still a criminal law and you You know, I had a friend who
did sensitivity training for the police department who was they'd have bring in gay people to
sensitize the police. And during one of the breaks that police officer walked up to the person
who was leading the sensitivity training and say how can we respect you when the conduct you
engage in makes you a criminal? And so that is the mentality that a lot of people have is that
being gay or lesbian, ie Kuwait's with being a criminal, and therefore we can justifiably take
away some of your rights or treat you worse or deny you housing? You know, I was a
commissioner on the Texas Real Estate Commission for six years, nominated by the gay and
lesbian lobby and appointed by Governor Richards. And as part of the interview process,
Governor Richards asks you and I presume all the governor's asked candidates, have you ever
been arrested? And do you commit a crime? And how do you answer that question, depending
on your sexual activity at the time, you're filling out the application. But you know, these are
these are times where you consider yourself to be a law abiding citizen, a good contributor, yet,
yet, you're a criminal.

J

Joan Devlin 1:21:15

We'll just the thought, you know, as you said earlier, you're home in bed asleep or not asleep,
and you hear something outside. And instead of just you know, as most people do a set a cat,
what's that you suddenly go into a state of panic, you know, is my door going to be broken
down? Am I going to be handcuffed? Am I going to be dragged off to jail? Am I going to have to
call people at two o'clock in the morning to come bail me out, because I got caught in bed,
making love to my partner in in our bedroom in our house that we own.

Q

1:21:46

Remember, John Lawrence, it was his apartment, and a third person had called in a report of a
~~man with a gun which gave the police the chance to go in and see what was going on. It was an~~

man with a gun, which gave the police the cause to go in and see what was going on. It was an emergency. That could happen to anybody. Who would they call police. Now the person who did report it got a week in jail for calling in a false police report. So that is a serious crime. But it still could happen. And it's just something to keep in mind. And I'm I was hopeful and Lambda Legal Defense helped out in preparing the materials for the testimony before the legislature, because he even if it got repealed, our case could continue. Because it's not retroactive and are aren't, we would still have to vindicate our clients and help get them found not guilty or acquitted. Would you like to know where we are in the case? Right? Yes, please. About 35 days ago, we filed our appeal to the highest criminal court in Texas called the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals. It looks like the state is not going to file anything in response or objection or anything, because I haven't gotten it and it's overdue at this point. So now we're going to wait for the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals to decide whether they're going to take this case or not. If they decide not to take the case, then we will file our appeal to the United States Supreme Court in Washington DC. If they do decide to take the case, then we're probably going to be stuck in the Texas court system for maybe two more years, where they decided if if they do decide in our favor and repeal the whole statute or find it unconstitutional, that would apply over the entire state of Texas. And that would be the end of the case. We would not go any higher. It's only if they either don't take the case or they decide it's constitutional and uphold it. Do we then get our last bite at the apple and go all the way to the United States Supreme Court?

J

Joan Devlin 1:23:43

Now what makes this case different from Bowers versus Hardwick,

o

1:23:48

Bowers versus Hardwick was based only on privacy. And in order for us to win on privacy, the Supreme Court will either have to distinguish this case, or overturn Bowers V. Hardwick. And you know Bowers V. Hardwick, which said that courts can make their own privacy rules, has been criticized heavily. And we have a case that has the chance of overturning powers be Hardwick of saying the court says, Now is the time where, yes, we're going to protect your privacy. But the real distinction is, although privacy is one of our grounds, our main ground is equal protection, that this law says For those of you listening who aren't clear about this, the law says that the same act, and that's oral and anal sex is illegal, only if you're of the difference of the same sexes. But if you're of an opposite sex a man and a woman, the same act suddenly becomes legal. And we think that that and actually, some of the justices were where we won the first time said, That violates the equal protection acts And the it's the Equal Protection Act is the is a state law, we don't have an equal protection act in federal law. That's where you make a distinction based upon sex, but you do have equal protection under the law. And that's where you can't single out a group and make them and penalize them or treat them differently unless you have a strong, compelling reason. And the prosecutor in the oral argument said, it's not compelling, but it's rational. Their rational basis is that it promotes family values and morality. That is the only two grounds that they want this law upheld. And the something that was so interesting, in the in the dissenting opinion of this case is where Judge Anderson said, how can the state say that this law promotes family values or morality when opposite sex people who engage in anal intercourse or oral sex, do not make any babies, you can't have any children this way. And it's legal for people who are not married to do this as long as you're of the opposite sex. So traditionally, from a conservative morality perspective, where it's for

procreation, and it's for only married people, this law doesn't serve those purposes. And that was really interesting. I really didn't realize that until this judge wrote that in his dissenting opinion. So in other words, morality and family values really aren't upheld by the law, because of the type of sex it is. And because they don't limit it to married people. It's very interesting.

J Joan Devlin 1:26:47

That's great. Well, you have to keep us posted, because this is fascinating. This could have, you know,

1:26:52

we country, free the entire United States

J Jack Valinski 1:26:54

have these terrible laws.

G Glenn Holt 1:26:57

Mitchell, I had a question for you. You mentioned privacy. No, I've heard the argument that there is no constitutional guarantee of privacy. Is that true?

1:27:07

No, that's not true. You do have certain zones of privacy. You have that's what the whole abortion laws are based upon privacy. But what Bowers V. Hardwick says is that states can make their own decisions as far as what they're going to protect privacy wise and what they're not in Texas does have a privacy law in its constitution, not expressly written but implied. But exactly how that applies is left up to the judges. And it's it's it's it used to be stronger than it is it's a matter of interpretation by the judges.

G Glenn Holt 1:27:43

And if they use common law, in that interpretation, would the common law privacy, go back to the old idea of your house as your castle?

1:27:51

Yeah, I think that that is part of the idea that your house is your castle. And that's part of our argument is that this is a privacy issue in your closed bedroom. And we may we may overturn Bowers, we heard with on that with that argument.

J

Joan Devlin 1:28:05

I hope you do. I can already hear myself telling my friends. I know the attorney.

o

1:28:11

Well, you know, last year on June 8, is when the original decision having 2106 declared unconstitutional came out just in time for pride. Right. So maybe something will happen before the 23rd I think it is whether or 26 of the parade,

J

Joan Devlin 1:28:29

right? Yeah. And Jack the the parade expert is out in the lobby. So are you going to have like a 2106 theme on your grand marshal car?

o

1:28:38

Oh, I haven't thought about that. No, just gonna be just gonna be there and waving and saying hello to everybody.

J

Joan Devlin 1:28:47

Well, that's great. Well, I look forward to seeing you in the parade and astral world and astral world. Village People.

o

1:28:52

That's right. Gloria Gaynor and there's one other woman not Aretha Franklin. There's Gloria Gaynor. And wish Jack could could help me.

J

Joan Devlin 1:29:03

Let's get check. Hey, Jack. Are you listening, listening? Now he's out there talking.

J

Jack Valinski 1:29:09

I'm out here.

J

Joan Devlin 1:29:09

You're out here. Grace. So how's it going?

J Jack Valinski 1:29:13

It is slow out here. We're talking politics out here.

J Joan Devlin 1:29:17

And talking politics will tell us who the third singer and AstroWorld is going to be?

J Jack Valinski 1:29:21

It's going to be the YMCA singers. That's village people. Its people. Yes, among others. Okay.

J Joan Devlin 1:29:34

So, so we don't have any call.

J Jack Valinski 1:29:36

No, it is very quiet out here. We do have a few people to thank from previous calls, if you just hold on a second. We had some earlier callers that we do have to thank and one of them is Tom who gave us a nice, very generous pledge. And actually that was at the beginning of the show. So I think that was really for the show before us but We have a we have, we have Helen, and we're not sure we can say the other person's name. But we do have some pledges. But it's a long way from our goal of \$700. And, you know, we're three quarters of the way the show now. And we really need you to pick up the phone and call us at 71352657387135 to six KPFT and make that pledge, make that pledge to help continue the tradition here of more than 30 years of Pacifica radio being here in Houston. You know, all the odds were against us to keep the station on the air over the years, between the transmitters, you know, getting too hot, because the air conditioner is not working out, where are transmitters away out there, from the early days when the transmitter was bombed off the air by the Klan, twice. In fact, from all those odds that a station of progressive voice here in Houston would ever last. We've lasted those 30 years, but we want to continue on, we want to move on. And the fact that the station has moved on to bring you stuff like the BBC in the morning, and the world at 7pm. And the fact that we're still doing local public affairs programming that there still shows for gay and lesbian people here on this station, gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered people here on this station. And the fact that we're here every Monday, the fact that we only take six weeks out of the year to ask that the rest of time we're able to just go on and do programming, the fact that we're able to decide what guests we want on our show, without interference from anybody to be able to talk about things. I mean, look at what we did tonight, we're able to talk to Jean Harrington, you had an author on earlier, we have Mitchell Contine right now, and the fact that we're able to do everything from politics, to arts to even religion, sometimes we talk about books, movies, we really try to bring you what's going on in the community, both culturally,

diversity, politics, all those different themes that we're able to reach every week, because you support this radio station. So we're asking you to call us at 7135 to 65738713526 KPFT. If just to get me to keep quiet.

G

Glenn Holt 1:32:14

Thank you, Jack. This is lesbian and gay voices and taking a look now at what's been happening in the news. The Bush administration's first proposals regarding us contributions to the International AIDS Fund or made public Wednesday, the White House intends to contribute \$200 million to a global AIDS Fund proposed by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, who appealed on Wednesday to the Bush administration to join a worldwide battle against the disease. US sources closely involved in discussion said the United States would contribute \$200 million this year, and was considering a further \$500 million in 2002. The news emerged after anon traveled to Washington to meet Tommy Thompson, the US health and human services secretary and Colin Powell, the Secretary of State who led President Bush's Task Force on AIDS. Both Thompson and Powell are considering trips to Africa to see the devastation that HIV has inflicted on that continent. Of the 36 million people infected with HIV worldwide 70% of them live in Sub Saharan Africa. Thompson spoke about developing a Marshall like plan, in order to come away come up with a way to prevent the disease from spreading throughout Africa. Its purpose the United Nations said is to pull together all of the AIDS initiatives into one clear proposal. And this fund is to have five goals prevention, combating transmission from mother to child care and treatment within everyone's reach. Research for a cure for AIDS and special care for more than 13 million AIDS orphans. Although the new Texas James Byrd hate crimes bill was signed into law this past week by the governor, it wasn't without pressure from his conservative cronies. As you might guess, Christian conservatives mounted an 11th hour attack on the hate crimes bill by trying to pressure Governor Rick Perry to veto it over concerns that a recent change would expose Texas schoolchildren to what they called quote, immoral and unhealthy teachings about homosexuality. What the conservative hate mongers objected to is an amendment added to the bill Monday by Senator Rodney Ellis that develops a hate crimes education program for children through the state attorney general's office and the Texas Education Agency. Named for an America African American man murdered by three white men in Jasper in 1998. The James Byrd Jr. Hate Crimes Act allows for the enhancement of penalties if crimes were motivated by prejudice against someone because of sexual orient Patient, race, religion color, gender disabilities, age or national origin. The school amendment was part of a compromise proposal offered to a Senate committee by Republican senator Todd staples whose district includes Jasper. A handful of Senate amendments added before it's Monday passage have been described as progressive by Bill supporters. Ellis, a Houston Democrat who has worked for tougher hate crimes laws since the early 1990s. Also added several other minor changes the education program the training of prosecutors and district attorneys on the identification and prosecution of hate crimes, and aid from the Attorney General to counties that need help pursuing costly hate crimes cases. Arlington State Representative Toby Goodman, one of 10 House Republicans who voted for the bill last month, said he believed the amendments slightly improved the bill and thought they might even draw a few more GOP supporters. But Kathy Adams, president of the conservative Texas Eagle Forum, said her group pressured for a veto in light of the school amendment, Adams said she was joined in her campaign by other conservative groups, such as the Texas free market Foundation, and the Texas Christian coalition. Perry said in a January news report that he opposed any hate crimes bill that included gay and lesbian citizens. And he reiterated that in his main concern in recent comments, Democratic leaders called on Perry to ignore partisan pressure and sign the legislation anyway, saying that he should respect the will of the legislature and the message

that the bill sends, quote, it would be a travesty for the governor to silence that message in order to earn partisan political points with the Republican right wing, said Molly Beth Malcolm, Chairwoman of the Texas Democratic Party. In other news out of Austin, the state senate has given preliminary approval to a bill that would deny recognition of same sex marriages or civil unions performed in states other than Texas. Senator Chris Harris says that without such a new Texas law, homosexuals might get a civil union in Vermont, for example, and demand the rights of marriage in Texas. Indications are that this bill is probably dead on arrival in the Texas House, where similar legislation died in committee during the last two sessions. Calling the statutes unenforced and unenforceable. Arizona's governor signed a bill repealing that state's ban on cohabitation, oral sex and sodomy last week, in spite of heavy lobbying by conservative groups asking Governor Jane Hall to veto the measure, she said, quote, at the end of the day, I returned to one of my most basic beliefs about government. It does not belong in our private lives. Her comments come in a letter explaining her decision to the Speaker of the Arizona House of Representatives. Quote, the laws that are repealed by House Bill 2016 are unenforced and unenforceable. Keeping archaic laws on the books does not promote high moral standards. Instead, it teaches the lesson that laws are made to be broken. Conservatives are considering a move to take the measure to the polls and a referendum. But doing so would require gathering 80,000 signatures in 90 days at an estimated cost of \$150,000. Any legislator moving to reinstate the law would be laughed out of office said Representative Steve May the repeal bills sponsor and a gay Republican, quote, let them go to the ballot and we'll watch them waste all of their money. According to the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force 17 states still have sodomy laws on the books. And wouldn't it be so much easier and less expensive for the state of Texas, if our legislature would just repeal the Texas sodomy statute rather than waging this ongoing court battle over its constitutionality. Meanwhile, a majority of Canucks support gay and lesbian marriages and the number who approve of homosexuality is rapidly increasing. According to the latest national survey, the new survey shows a dramatic leap in Canadians approval of homosexuality and support for same sex marriage over the past five years. According to the National Post, a survey conducted last month found that 55% of Canadians back extending marriage rights to gay and lesbian couples. Additionally, the percentage who approve of homosexuality has doubled to 44%. Since 1996. Quote, what this is telling us is that for a long time, there was this idea that somehow marriage was the final taboo for gays and lesbians, that the public would never go along with the idea of same sex couples marrying because marriage has all the symbolism to it, but it is obviously not true. So Derek Lee Bosch, a senior associate with the Environics group who conducted the study, support was strongest among Gen X and Gen Y folks with 73% backing gay marriages support dip to only 35%. Among respondents over the age of 60. Dr. Mark Janus, former founder rather of the Calgary based National Foundation for Family Research and Education, told the post that fewer Canadians would support same sex marriages. If a debate were held about the purpose of the institution. Marriage has traditionally been between a man and a woman for a specific purpose, and that is to raise the next generation of society. One may want to say that is just an outdated view. But it's worthwhile to ask that question. genus said the Post reports that women, the young, the well educated and those with higher incomes, were the most likely to approve of homosexuality. Well, if you think back a long time ago, 1969 sort of the musical hair was on Broadway and the musical hair is going to be playing here in Houston. And a friend of mine, Eric Donahoe is in this production. And he joins me in the studio this evening, Eric, move closer to the mic and say hi to the nice people.



1:41:18

Hello to the nice people.

G

Glenn Holt 1:41:19

There you go. So hair at when it first opened on Broadway for its time, was kind of racy, kind of different. Ad some nudity, gasp shock. And that's now kind of passe. So what do you guys doing different?

Ω

1:41:40

Well, number one, it is a big nostalgia piece. And a lot of people love to go see it for that we have a lot of the older patrons of the theater, the country Playhouse that have come to see the show that we didn't think they would because it is still such a racy show. The old ideas about different sexual partners and and the prolific drug use that were so, so shocking back then are still I think, still pretty taboo today. I mean, even though it's done, I still think it's pretty taboo.

G

Glenn Holt 1:42:14

How was it done in this performance?

Ω

1:42:17

What there is a lot of pot smoking in the show, really? Well not real pot, okay. It really smells like it though. There's a great mix of tobacco, oregano, and sage that smells just like pot. And it's amazing. Our crew came up with that idea.

G

Glenn Holt 1:42:34

So and everybody wears patchouli oil, and

Ω

1:42:37

thank God no. While there is no nudity in the show, sorry to disappoint anybody

Ω

1:42:46

you thought there was but nudity we were discussing earlier, it was just, you know, another just a shock value thing, right. And basically, the the, the idea for the musical was just to Well, there's two themes running through the musical that I saw, I think, pretty prevalent. Number one was just to introduce the world to the hippie movement, and to make it sort of more palatable, you know, things are more easily digestible. If it's an you know, song. Yeah. And the other one was, it's a strong anti war play, there's a strong anti war sentiment going into the whole play. And that's what we mostly focused on in this production was to have it be a strong anti war statement.

G

Glenn Holt 1:43:34

Okay, well, that was easy to do in 1969, because there was the big Vietnam focus on the Huey helicopters on napalm in the morning. But what war are you against today?

∅

1:43:45

I think just, there's just a general call for peace. And how just God, let's see, how do I sound smart saying this?

G

Glenn Holt 1:43:57

There's no way around it, Eric. No.

∅

1:44:00

I know, there is no war that we're fighting against now, but just in general,

G

Glenn Holt 1:44:03

okay. I think, Okay. How many people involved in this

∅

1:44:08

last 22 cast members? Ranging from ages 16 to 35, I think is the oldest and he's a principal.

G

Glenn Holt 1:44:18

Oh, okay. And your part in all of this,

∅

1:44:21

I am a chorus member. And I wanted to be in the chorus I asked the director specifically if I could be in the chorus. Because chorus has more fun than the principal's we get to dance around and play around more than the principal's do.

G

Glenn Holt 1:44:35

And in college, of course, you were a dance major. So



1:44:39

minor dance.



G Glenn Holt 1:44:41

Excuse me, excuse me a dance minor or major. Okay, so all that stuff at coffee on Tuesday nights, all that dancing and prancing around in front of Lobo. That was just your minor,



1:44:50

right? Okay. No.



G Glenn Holt 1:44:54

All right. We're talking about hair the musical and it's playing at the country play I was on hand it's going to be running for what you have the calendar in front of you. It looks like a month almost a month of Sundays.



1:45:06

Most nuts on this weekend, Friday and Saturday, starting on the 18th till June the second and then one Sunday matinee on the 20th.



G Glenn Holt 1:45:18

Okay. And admission price is



1:45:21

\$19 There's a \$2 discount for seniors and students and there's also a discount for groups of 10 or more.



G Glenn Holt 1:45:29

Okay, and the country Playhouse is located



1:45:34

corner of beltway eight and I tend to try behind the mall with JC Penney used to be but they
~~about down~~

SHUT DOWN.

 Glenn Holt 1:45:39

So the Town and Country mall, okay. And the phone number for more information is 713-467-4497. To get more information about hair, the musical being performed by the country Playhouse players is that is the name of the troopers you just generic. Bunch of people got together decided to do it,

 1:46:02

basically. Okay? No core troupe. It's a community theater. And we got we've, we have a whole bunch of new faces for this show. A lot of people have never ever seen before. And there's a one girl from who flew in from New York, was visiting family decided, hey, I want to do this for a while. And so another guy from Oklahoma that flew in for the summer and decided that he just wanted to do the show, too. So.

 Glenn Holt 1:46:29

Okay, well, that's an interesting way to do it. Eric Dano on the chorus of hair, the musical thank you for joining us and giving us a plug for this production.

 1:46:40

Absolutely. It's a fun fun show. I mean, there's there's some parts where people have walked out. Mostly the older people like things that they weren't expecting to happen that happened. And I can't say him, because.

 Glenn Holt 1:46:53

Okay, so. So so it is a bit racy. It is it does have some spice to it.

 1:46:58

Oh, yeah, that's nice. I probably back in the day would have probably gotten us arrested.

 Glenn Holt 1:47:06

Okay, well, 713-467-4497, if you want more information about hair, the musical, if you are listening to lesbian and gay voices on KPFT, this is our fundraising time, and we need for you to go to the phone and call to support not only this radio station, but also lesbian and gay voices. Our phone number is 71352657387135265738. And Jack, what are things like out there in the lobby, where the telephones are,

J

Jack Valinski 1:47:42

things are quiet as usual, you know, I wander off and do other things because it gets quiet, the phones are not ringing. And the phones actually ring out here and your old fashioned type ringer phones, if they're any older, they'd actually have crank Sama, this is KPFT KPFT is a grassroots radio station KPFT need your support, because we don't get those big government funds. Or we don't get those big corporate checks for advertising, we get hopefully money from you all because you feel that the type of programming on here is very special. That type of programming is not obtained anywhere else. It's only obtain here at 90.1. Remember, we're between jazz and Jesus on the dial, a very special radio station that tries to serve the community and doing stuff that nobody else gives you. We give you locally produced programming. This case, it's lesbian, gay voices, which is for the GLBT community. There are other shows here that serve other communities. And it's not just for that particular community. It's basically a dialogue, the fact that we talk about issues that are not only important for the GLBT community, but many times important to the entire community here. So we're asking you to call 7135265738713526 KPFT. And we're only going to be on for a few more minutes tonight. And we'll have next week, and then we'll go back to regular programming for four months. So please call us now. Make your pledge. Keep this radio station alive. And well.

G

Glenn Holt 1:49:15

I know that if I don't go out to the lobby here and check in with Jack and Joan know Johnson here in the studio. Jack, are you out there listening in the lobby? You're paying attention?

J

Jack Valinski 1:49:25

Yes, I'm out here. Oh, there you are. But there's a lot of stuff going on here. But unfortunately, none of it is the phone's ringing at this point. We had two calls come in just recently. And we certainly appreciate everybody who's calling up and pledging to us because it does make a difference. It does make a difference. And unlike some other stations that do seems to do pledge drives all the time. We have Ryan who called up which gave us a very generous pledge, and we're making our way up to our goal of \$700 but we're not quite Air yet, we're asking you to call up and call us at 7135265738713526 KPFT. And if you know the station at all, if you've been listening for a while, you know, this is the most original station, and that anybody who does sort of professional programming would say it's not going to work. The fact that you mix the news and the Public Affairs and the music in one station, that's not done anywhere else. But we think it's important, we think it's important because the music, which is the singer, songwriter type of music that come that's very special here, and the fact that we are intelligent, the way we talk to our audience, the fact that we try to, you know, bring out the facts and, and have discussion. And it's not just one sided. We are a very original radio station, we hope you feel that way. And the fact that there isn't 15, or 17 or 20 minutes, an hour worth of commercials, and giveaways, and all that type of stuff that goes on to those other stations if you'd like that fine. But this is a very special radio station. And we hope you appreciate it. And you appreciate it enough to pledge to us so that we can continue on. And we have all types of nice little bribes or gifts to give you if you're interested. But the important thing is, is that you're a member of this station that is part of your community, part of your family.

G

Glenn Holt 1:51:21

And continuing with looking at our look at the news from the past week, a group of Rhode Island doctors has agreed that denying gay youth access to organizations like the Boy Scouts increases the risk that they will become depressed or kill themselves. The Rhode Island Medical Society, which has 1600 members has adopted a resolution saying the ban on gays in the scouts sends the wrong message to gay youth. The society is also lobbying the American Medical Association to pass a similar resolution directed at all youth groups. The society noted that suicide rates among teen males are lower in states that have anti discrimination laws. The society took up the issue at the urging of Alan M. Denison, a doctor who leads Boy Scout troop 28 in Providence, Rhode Island. The troop and a Cub Scout pack sponsored by Providence church vowed in November to defy the ban on gays. So far, the narron Gasset Council of Boy Scouts has not made any moves to revoke their charters. Dennison strongly believes in the link between discrimination in gay suicides and depression. Quote, I was struck by the nature of the process of developing an identity and how difficult it is to do that. Given the sanctions of society against becoming homosexuality, homosexual Dennis said it related news the Boy Scouts national council is considering whether to challenge a new Iowa City Iowa school district policy prohibiting the boy scouts from distributing information in its schools. The organization contends the policy is a violation of the First Amendment. The Iowa City School Board approved a new policy Tuesday night prohibiting groups that do not follow in the district's equity equality statement from distributing information in the schools. Facing pressure from shareholders and employees Home Depot said Friday that it will add sexual orientation to the protected categories in its employment non discrimination policy. As we reported last week, Home Depot was publicly resisting, adding a clause for gay employees into its non discrimination policy. And its annual proxy statement filed last month a group of shareholders proposed that the company specifically guarantee equal treatment for gay and lesbian employees. Home Depot asked iStockphoto stockholders to vote against the proposal, citing the company's inclusive environment. But after a backlash from some employees and gay and lesbian activists, Home Depot reversed that position. Quote, we believed that we had a culture of non discrimination and respect and that we didn't have to be explicit regarding sexual orientation. And the past month though there has been some confusion among our associates. And we wanted to make it clear, said Susan Apple Vice President of Community Affairs, Apple said the decision to change the policy was inspired mostly by feedback from longtime employees. Oh, here we go again, By now you've probably heard about another feeble attempt to show scientific support for ex gay therapies. As news of the studies spread through the press on the GLBT community, the American Psychiatric Association sent out a press release distancing itself from the study. Quote, The American Psychiatric Association maintains that there is no published scientific evidence supporting the efficacy of reparative therapy as a treatment to change one's sexual orientation. So the APA is Medical Director Dr. Steven Morin. In a press release. Berlin's statement comes in response to a new study by Columbia University psychiatrist Robert Spitzer, who presented his findings at the APA annual meeting in New Orleans on Wednesday. Spencer's study purports to show that a significant percentage of a study group of 200 men and women who underwent reparative therapy managed to achieve, quote, good heterosexual functioning, and that highly motivated gay men and lesbians can indeed make, quote, substantial change and multiple indicators of sexual orientation. Yeah, like switching from pumps to high heels. MYRIN sought to clarify the APA position by adding several points to the APA press release, called from the organization's previous position statements on homosexuality, including the APA is opposition to conversion therapy, and the association's concern that quote, the potential risks of reparative therapy are great and may reinforce self hatred already experienced by the patient. Of course, conservative pundits loudly proclaims

but there's findings, writing columns, loving Spitzer's study and defending him from attacks by GLBT activists, charging the mainstream media and GLBT activists with a bias motivated by political correctness. In a CNN debate on the study Wednesday night, religious conservative Jerry Falwell faced Elizabeth birch, Executive Director of the Human Rights Campaign, a major US gay and lesbian political group. Falwell argued that homosexuality is, quote, wicked in the eyes of God, and that it is, quote, chosen behavior, all human behavior in the moral realm is chosen later. That's his words. By the way, the same source that Falwell uses for his authority and saying that homosexual con Canuck is wicked, also says that wearing a cotton polyester blend is wicked, and so is shaving or even trimming your beard. So does Jerry Falwell have a beard? No, sorry, Jerry. That's wicked. Critics of the GLBT community and among mental health professionals lined up to challenge Spitzer his findings, with many questioning his methodology and motivation. And HRC statement argued, quote, the validity of the study is questionable, because of the author's anti gay views, close ties to right wing political groups, and lack of objective data. And, Joan, I guess it looks like we are out of time. Yeah.

J

Jack Valinski 1:57:10

Well, Jack, we have some people to thank, though don't wait. Yes, we do. We have Marian for thank with a very generous play. equipment we have out here without missing a beat. It really is just falling off. Actually, I'm going to hold it as I thank all these people. Then we also have Tom to thank who pledged earlier and Ryan, Christopher and Helen wonderful pledges here to KPFT lesbian and gay voices. We thank you very much. And we will be back next week for another edition of lesbian and gay voices. Well, actually, when you can say it better than I can.

G

Glenn Holt 1:57:51

Okay, you're listening to lesbian and gay voices heard each Monday at 8pm. Here on KPFT, publicly funded Pacifica network station, lesbian and gay voices is produced live in Houston with recorded segments from this way out which is produced at KPFK in Los Angeles, lesbian and gay voices executive producer is Jack Valinski. On Air voices are Joan Devlin Glen Holt and Jack Valinski. You can write to us at PO Box 66071 Houston, Texas 77266 or email to LGBTnews@aol.com. Be sure to listen to KPFT every Saturday night at midnight for after hours with Jimmy Carter. It's queer music with attitude. This is the sound of Texas 90.1 FM KPFT in Houston for lesbian and gay voices I'm Glenn Holt.

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1:58:49

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