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SPEAKERS

Jack Valinski, Cindy Friedman, Deborah Bell



00:06

[No Closet by Jamie Anderson plays]



Jack Valinski 00:25

From Pacifica's KPFT in Houston. This is lesbian and gay voices a shelf word about the game lesbian community. This is Jack Valinski.



Deborah Bell 00:42

And I'm Deborah Bell. Tonight on lesbian and gay voices. We will focus on AIDS awareness in honor of AIDS Awareness Day, which was December 1, including the musical portion of the program, which will have Mary Helen playing songs with AIDS is the theme.



Jack Valinski 00:56

Also we're going to talk about those wonderful folks up in Williamson County, and how Apple was bitten.



Deborah Bell 01:02

The big bite of the apple there. Of course, we'll have news way news wrapped from this way out. And a very special broadcast called Give me those moments parents remember there are gay sons who have died of AIDS. We will continue next week with part three of in Jesus's name, the politics of bigotry. And as

J

Jack Valinski 01:21

we head into that holiday season, there's lots of things going on special events and things like that, and Kathy Hubbard's opening up a new business just down the street and

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Deborah Bell 01:29

England is celebrating their fifth birthday boy, we're getting old, we're getting to know and the new voice actually is new again. Sherry door bone is now the editor.

J

Jack Valinski 01:37

I'm so happy for her. I hope it's all working out for her.

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Deborah Bell 01:41

So stay with us and listening to lesbian and gay voices. And as we celebrate in honor world's AIDS Awareness Day.

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Jack Valinski 02:01

From Ricky Lee Jones new album called traffic from paradise. What a strange title. But she's sort of a strange player. In the heat of the political campaign last year, our new President Bill Clinton asserted that when it comes to AIDS, there shouldn't be a Manhattan Project. That's a real powerful image. Exactly. How do you do the same that was done during World War Two. Monitoring radios John Palmer has a story.

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02:29

President Clinton went to the Georgetown Medical Center in Washington yesterday to commemorate National AIDS day and to dramatize his commitment to fight the disease that has taken the lives of 204,000 Americans. Mr. Clinton's appearance came a day after his administration announced the formation of a task force of government, industry and academic leaders to speed the search for new drugs to fight the disease. The President toured an AIDS Ward and talked with several patients, one of them urged him to allocate more money for research. Later, Mr. Clinton spoke to a group of doctors and researchers telling them that he is trying to lead the fight against the deadly disease, the face

W

03:09

of AIDS is no longer the face of the stranger. Millions and millions of us has now stood at the bedside of a dying friend and grieve millions and millions of us now. Now people who have had AIDS and who have died of it who are both gay and heterosexual. The purpose of this day is to

remind us that our attitudes, behavior and passion should be revved up in the other 364 days of the year.



03:48

You're so concerned about it that you promised during your campaign one year, lots of talk no accident, the President stood motionless and listened as an AIDS activist shouted and accused him of failing to live up to His promises on AIDS. After speaking for about a minute and a half the man was escorted from the hall. Mr. Clinton saying it was part of his job to be a lightning rod said that he was not bothered by the outburst. And he said the demonstrator had illustrated the point that he had been trying to make in his speech, that there should be no lessening of the battle against AIDS. No giving up



04:26

I'd rather that man be in here screaming at me and having given up altogether, much rather.



04:32

The most vocal organization that demands more action on the part of the federal government in the battle against AIDS is the group known as ACT UP. Wayne Turner is the organization's Washington director,



04:43

Bill Clinton. postades is entirely smoke and mirrors we've had two national commissions on AIDS and now Bill Clinton is going around to create another task force it's time we had some real action and not just more of these like these, these these empty, symbolic gestures of Brooklyn promises the Manhattan style project and in tensive research initiative to find a cure. We've yet to see any initiative in that direction.



05:04

But other organizations in the battle against AIDS give the Clinton administration credit for doing more than previous ones. Derek CODEL is the director of the AIDS Action Council.



05:15

The AIDS crisis is so overwhelming that the response is never going to be adequate. And certainly the Clinton administration's response has not been adequate. On the other hand, when you compare this administration's response to the last three administrations, the difference is dramatic. Last night,



05:32

the lights of the White House were dimmed as the Clinton family joined people all across the country in marking national AIDS Day and the efforts to battle the disease. The doctors say takes the lives of about 90 Americans every day. For the Christian Science Monitor. I'm John Palmer in Washington. Despite growing



05:53

awareness and education about AIDS, there is still confusion and misunderstanding about the deadly disease. This week in Williamson County, just north of the town commissioners cited their fear of AIDS as one reason they voted to reject tax breaks for a proposed Apple computer service center. The rejection stemmed from Apple's domestic partners policy, which grants health benefits to partners who have both heterosexual and homosexual employees. Wade Goodwyn reports from Austin on the controversial decision to reject Apple computers company policy.



06:25

It's an unusual position for a High Tech Computer Corporation to find itself. Apple suddenly has become something of a champion for gay and civil rights because of its decision to stand by its domestic partners health policy, the company's progressive health care policy for gay employees was the reason that we in some County Commissioner voted thumbs down on Apple's plan to build its Customer Support Center. They're from their headquarters in California spokesperson Lisa Byrne said Apple was frustrated by the wasted time and money which was already spent on the project. They are concerned about our policies and we clearly have differing perspectives. Apple feels that any of the communities where we're located we we make our name as a very caring well meaning member of the community. Byrne says the company will definitely not change its policy and that unless the commission reverses itself, the relocation plan is finished. The company's policy is similar to the city of Austin's policy for city employees. When the Austin's liberal city council approved the policy last month, it sent the city's religious right into an uproar. It was the same sort of political pressure from the conservative Christians, which won the day in Williamson County. Commissioner Don Hayes, who was the deciding vote against the tax abatement says that he changed his mind after he got phone calls from people all over the country. You know, I



07:45

just felt like that there was a lot of social pressure being put on me that do you do support this lifestyle or do you support traditional family values but if



07:56

Williamson County Commissioners have turned up their noses at Apple, there are many other towns in Texas who would welcome them. According to economic impact studies. Apples facility will provide 4500 jobs and \$300 million to some lucky economy by the year 2000. Glen Maxey

who is Texas is only openly gay legislator says that liberal Austin would be glad to have them



08:18

I would say don't judge the state of Texas by Williamson County. They can move about 15 miles south into a community that is more than willing to accept some this community is very open and values its diversity its employees. Values Apple Computer,



08:42

Apple says that it has made no firm decision about where the company will look next to relocate its New Customer Support Center for the Christian Science Monitor. I'm Wade Goodwyn in Austin.



J Jack Valinski 08:52

It's a terrible image for us to get outside the states Kathy Boehner, Executive Director of the Texas Department of Commerce, which had felt that more than a dozen inquiries from other Texas cities. Well, if it's such a terrible image, why is it happening?



D Deborah Bell 09:05

Well, I understand that the commissioners in Williamson County are reconsidering, but Apple has said we'll never mind because we don't want our people to associate with your kind if you're that big dent in that prejudice.



J Jack Valinski 09:18

When the story was developing, Apple said that we try to hire the best people for the jobs, and we like to make our people feel comfortable. And you know, this is not just for gay employees. This is for unmarried employees, domestic partners, and this is a thing that just Apple is doing for their employees. And all Apple was asking for was tax abatements Just like any other company moving in?



D Deborah Bell 09:44

Well, you know, what amazes me is that they don't understand the traditional family values that many of us have. We have children, we have partners that we are building families. And yeah, I guess maybe we need to do more education but I'm not really planning to on In March in Williamson County,



J Jack Valinski 10:01

Well, the interesting thing is, is we all knew there was lots of bigotry around the state. But the fact of it is that they would give up 700 jobs, and approximately \$80 million that Apple would be putting into the community that they're that bigoted that they would give that up. And there's been rumors that Apple may was looking to move their headquarters. I know, it's all rumors to Texas. And it would be really great if the three big computer companies del compact and Apple were all here in Texas. But when they put this hostile attitude towards them, then why why would they want to move here?

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Deborah Bell 10:32

It's an incredible story. And one of the aspects of it is that as long as we have thought of the law in Texas, that 2106 of the penal code, which makes certain homosexual behavior in the state of Texas, a Class C misdemeanor, that is being used against us, because people are saying, well, it is okay to discriminate on this basis, because there was a law in the state of Texas. So hopefully, the courts are going to overrule that as they did in Travis County. I mean, maybe they should have looked at Travis County to begin with, when they were looking to move,

J

Jack Valinski 11:06

but we really have to applaud Apple for not backing down on his policy.

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Deborah Bell 11:09

That's true. Keep buying those Macintoshes. Well, Kyle Hawkins from KP FTS World Radio Morning News has an interview with Gerald Watty at tsu, who is who is conducting a study for the CDC on how African American males are getting their information about AIDS.

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11:30

He told me, first of all, briefly about the study that you're undergoing right now about the sources of information how kids act on

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at the university, where Texas Southern University, we're researching the actual sources of HIV information for minority males. This includes what radio stations, TV stations, they watch, or listen to what newspapers or printed material they read, or couldn't consult. And then we're looking at what individuals they've talked to friends, relatives, peers, classmates, so forth. And from this information, we're going to determine whether the sources that they're getting the information from has a accurate or good level of knowledge about HIV and its transmission. I know

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12.17

12.11

that you've done a pilot survey on this, to put the cart ahead of the horse. What things are you finding out about, first of all, the level of education about AIDS, how it spread what happens with it, among minority kids, especially African American males, the target of this study



12:33

from the pilot study conducted earlier this month, this month, it's been noted that the level of knowledge is very high. Now, there may be some biases involved, because the pilot study was done on tissues campus. But this is also showing me that the knowledge of love was high, but that knowledge level is not being translated into behavior patterns, which is something we will work on during the educational intervention programs. Why do



13:01

you think that's happening? What kind of theories do you have about the lack of connectedness between knowledge and actual behavior?



13:10

I believe that the HIV and AIDS epidemic is still being viewed in the communities of color, as a disease that is not going to affect them that much, is looked at as a mainstream disease. What we're trying to get is focused educational programs focused on African American males, focus on African American adolescents focused on African American women and teenagers, and so forth. That way, they can see the effects that the epidemic is having on this specific population. And that should assist them in translating the knowledge level that they have into the accurate behavior patterns.



13:48

Obviously, blacks watch the same TV programs or the same networks as whites do or Hispanics do. Why do you think that these messages aren't getting across? Is there something some kind of way they need to be reworked in order to reach deeper into these different diverse communities?



14:05

I think that the parents, the peers, the classmates, the teachers, the people that these adolescents rely on for information need to have the accurate information. Yes, they watch the same TV programs, the same radio stations, and probably read the same newspapers. But that information, won't hit home until someone that that individual adolescent relies on gives them that same information and reinforces what they get from the TV stations and radio stations and printed material.



14:34

Also, it seems like condom use and the other aids messages that are out there. It's a very broad kind of mainstream message. Do you think that there's a disadvantage to that also with different communities of color diverse communities throughout the Houston area?



14:49

The communities of color tend to have a very strong religious base. Religiosity tends to dissuade people from premarital sex and condom use, or it convinces them They should not make that a public issue. With the AIDS epidemic, condom use premarital sex, premature sex, teenage sexuality, all these things have to come to the forefront and be discussed and, and rational, convincing solutions and programs need to be developed to focus on the communities of color.



15:18

We'll go saralee, an AIDS, PSA public service announcement or commercial, will that necessarily say one that is geared to a general white audience? Will that necessarily hit home with a black teen or Hispanic teen or even the gating?



15:37

Not necessarily, it really depends on the wording of the message with that wording is appropriate for that specific group. It depends on the voice and tonality of the person giving the message, it would have to be something that a adolescent teenager of a specific group can relate to. It's a message for African American males, and it needs to be in an African American male voice that thereby gets it gets their attention. They listen. They hopefully will ingest some of the information.



16:12

What really has been the focus so far as you've understood, this aids situation crept up on everybody incredibly quickly, about 10 years ago, how do you feel about the focus of public messages so far as interacts with the white communities, black communities, etc.



16:29

Initially, the entire disease the entire epidemic was seen as a gay white male disease. One thing I've noticed about the literature in the literature is that if we had a different administration, presidential administration at the time, maybe more action would have been taken quicker to let the heterosexual community know that this disease can affect them. Other research I've done on the AIDS epidemic in Africa shows that that population 80% of the cases are from heterosexual contact. The messages that are being sent early in the epidemic were geared toward the gay white male community. Now that we're starting to realize that this

disease affects every segment of the population, those specific messages need to be more specific, specifically for communities of color, adolescents, and so forth. There's a lot of effort going on through the city and the county, to hone in those messages to be more specific. There's plenty of grant money and funding available through many sources to hone in on just that specific group. And the group's get so very specific that they are even African American gay teenager groups that need specific addressing. So the more specific the information, the greater the chance that the reaching the audience is targeted for.

18:00

What are the sources of information for minority kids right now, as you've been able to ascertain, where do they pick up this information?

18:10

For the most part from their friends, and this is a big concern, because the friends may not have the accurate information. As far as public service organizations, the city, the county, the YWCA, the YMCA, the Red Cross, and several other agencies have the information, but there's some hesitancy for the adolescents to go and get that information from them. Because then it would give the message that they are either engaged in premarital sex or HIV infected already or other astigmatism that come along with the disease.

18:47

Obviously, your research is relatively preliminary right now you have the full study still ahead, and all the reports and recommendations and follow that if you had some specific steps to give to broadcasters, public health professionals, etc, based on what you've seen so far, what would those be in order to try and halt the spread of AIDS and the minority communities, especially African American,

19:09

as a community, we need to get beyond the fear of discussing the disease. My mother is 80 years old, and she and I talk about AIDS. It needs to become as commonplace as talking about the weather, because it's that important. And if we start talking about it more and discussing the issues and discussing the ramifications of it, then we will be able to solve some of the problems and in those discussions. That's when education takes place.

19:39

Shrilled Watty he is working with the Centers for Disease Control and Texas Southern University in Houston. In the study about AIDS and its messages and how those are understood by the African American community.

J

Jack Valinski 19:49

About 35 Black clad members of ACT UP Gulf Coast had marched slowly through Harman square towards the steps of Houston City Hall to the loan Pete have a snare drum. Some carry black crosses, or Lily covered wrenches. Others held oversized photographs of acquaintance who had died from AIDS. That's what happened here in Houston among so many other events during World AIDS Day this past Wednesday.

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Deborah Bell 20:19

In Urdu Entertainment Weekly, a weekly entertainment magazine, published pictures and brief bios of 126 people who have died just in this year of 1993 of AIDS. And it reminds us of World AIDS Awareness Day also being the day without art based on the numbers of people in the entertainment and arts industries. They range from the age of 29, to the age of 64, dancers, actors, producers, directors, people in stage design, props, painting is just incredible, the lost. And it's hard to be reminded sometimes of just how great that loss is. We will continue in our celebration and honoring of World AIDS Awareness Day with the music that Mary Helen will be playing tonight. And in our special broadcasts of the documentary, give me those moments, parents remember their gay sons who died of AIDS stay tuned for lesbian and gay voices.

J

Jack Valinski 21:28

We also this past Wednesday or Tuesday, there was on Charlie Rose on PBS, Larry Kramer was on and he was talking about it's really a plague, and that we've lost so many people and not enough things are done. It was really interesting in a recent New York Times Magazine section this past Sunday, where the person who was writing the story had recently passed away was reported for the New York Times, saying that, you know, we're so acclimated to this, that it's lost the agenda place to a lot of gay people, a lot of gay and lesbian people. And it's really sad. But, you know, but there's other things that go on to where there's AIDS is very important. So are so many other things.

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Deborah Bell 22:14

Yeah, I was had mixed feelings about that report because while aids continues to be a crisis in this country, it is not the only issue we're faced with is gay and lesbian people as evidenced by what happened and we Assam County. Another thing having to do with AIDS in art is the play Angels in America. The second part of the two part series, which I think last a total of six hours. The first part was Millennium Approaches. The second part Perestroika has opened on Broadway continues the saga. And it has been described as A Gay Fantasia on American themes. And it's about the how we are affected by AIDS and and individual lives and kind of like uses it as an allegory for a bigger picture.

J

Jack Valinski 23:07

We could spend an entire program talking about that play. I've heard nothing but incredible comments from that. But but we must there

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Deborah Bell 23:14

will be a movie coming out. I believe next year Robert Altman will be producing

J

Jack Valinski 23:20

wonderful. You're listening to lesbian and gay voices. This is Jack Valinski and I'm Deborah Bell and stay tuned. Next familia Helens music

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23:43

you can hear sounds of Texas in the world weekdays on 90.1 FM KPFT Houston. My name is Mary Helen and I do the Tuesday morning sounds of Texas in the world. So it and a lot of times I play music from the lesbian and gay community. So I hope that you'll tune in on Tuesday morning. It's coming up on 630 Here at KPFT World Radio 90.1 FM, you're listening to lesbian and gay voices. And this evening, we'll be playing a musical commentary on the AIDS epidemic and some of the thoughts and feelings that various musicians have about that political and human aspects of that terrible disease. Some of the songs will make you sad, others will make you want to jump into action. I hope so. The first one is from Jennifer Verzon, and her album borderlines. The name of the tune is one and one makes three

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25:03

From Freda, small reminder that for many of our friends and lovers, the time here on earth has run out. And for many, many people who are both gay and straight young and old, who are suffering from the AIDS virus from AIDS, or have the HIV virus, their time is all too short in. But we always have time, all of us have all the time in the world for love, and it's important thing to love each other. So I've just wanted those, you know, little preachy moments here on lesbian and gay voices. My name is Mary Helen, I produce the music portion of lesbian and gay voices. Thanks for being with us tonight. We appreciate it. It's about 640 Here at KPFT World Radio 90.1 FM, we have a lot more music. And a lot more discussion coming tonight in including part three of a continuing saga about the right wing in America, in Jesus's name, very interesting. saga that it is right now, a song from Meg Christian from Meg and Chris's, at Carnegie Hall live album, this one is called the ones who aren't here.

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26:47

My Christian, from an album recorded live at Carnegie Hall. In 1985, I believe, to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Olivia records 15th anniversary, what? Well, one of their anniversaries, I find my glasses on to be able to tell you the 10th anniversary of liberty records. I believe that that song was originally meant to convey the feelings of somebody who is out of the closet, and who is lamenting the fact that that all of our friends aren't out of the closet as lesbian and gay people. But I really can also apply that to, to folks with AIDS, ones who aren't here, and to folks that come out of the closet, about having HIV. And so that that's why I played that tonight with along with our thing. You're listening to lesbian and gay voices on KPFT. And because

Wednesday was a World AIDS Day, we're playing some songs tonight that kind of reflect some of our feelings about those that have have HIV and, and so hope you enjoy it. We don't you know, don't want to be too much of a downer, but because some of them, some of the songs are really quite happy and in pretty entertaining. And here's one right now from the flirtations. This one's called one of us and it talks about who the flirtations are. They're, they're a group of five acapella men and acapella man. As opposed to men with instruments, you know what I mean? These are, they sing acapella. And they're, they're great, guys, and this song will tell you who they are.

♂ 28:45

One of us was a US Army MP. One of us came out of the closet at 37.

♂ 28:52

One of us went to his high school prom, but with his boyfriend.

♂ 28:57

One of us was a high school cross country champion, and one of us was a high school crossdresser and it wasn't me. One of us coached high school wrestling

♂ 29:16

as teenagers two of us attempted suicide,

♂ 29:20

all except one of us are single, and available.

♂ 29:25

And bitter. And desperate. I only date pro feminist men so it kind of you know, narrows it down.

♂ 29:37

That's why you're so long. No. One of us believes that size matters.

♂ 29:47

And four of them are lying.



29:58

One of us ran away from home with the After 14,



30:01

two of us have been repeatedly arrested for civil disobedience.



30:05

One of us had a former girlfriend who died of AIDS as a result of a blood transfusion. One of us is a survivor of childhood sexual abuse. One of us was fact bashed with a two by four.



30:17

One of us has been living with AIDS for 10 years, and he's tired of it.



30:58

Lin lavner doing her song, such fine young men. And that's it for the music portion of Kp FTS lesbian and gay voices. We're going to be joined now by Jack and Deborah here in the studios, and it's about, oh, what is it eight minutes until seven o'clock. I hope that you'll stay with us for more lesbian and gay voices.



D Deborah Bell 31:23

Thanks, Mary. Helen. We will be we will be continuing our World AIDS Awareness Day honoring with the special Give me those moments. Parents remember their gay sons who have died of AIDS. So stay tuned for that later in lesbian and gay voices. You know, something happened this week that almost passed us by because it was done rather quietly. President Clinton signed the bill into law that eases it says eases half a century of discrimination against gay G eyes. The action was announced by the White House in a one paragraph statement late on Tuesday, more than six hours after the President had staged an elaborate signing ceremony for legislation imposing a five day waiting period on prospective purchasers of handguns. So this is the new law, the so called Don't Ask, Don't Tell don't pursue whether it actually makes things better for gays and lesbians that are in the military or want to be it remains to be seen. There's some court cases which might change things because that's been ruled unconstitutional. And that's just kind of like, wasn't made a big deal out of after all the hype we've had about it.



J Jack Valinski 32:44

Speaking of something that hasn't been made a big deal about tomorrow is election day. December 4, the polls are open from 7am to 7pm. Your local polling places it was published in

the paper today. If you don't know, two to 490 19 I'm not sure if there'll be somebody at that phone tomorrow. But the Gay Lesbian Political Caucus has asked that the following people be voted for at large position to Eleanor Tinsley the opponent's overtones Lee is a straight Slater at large position three Cynthia Gore Schinsky and then in the district races, Elizabeth, Liz Laura district ah, Martha won district C. And Michael Yarborough District B. Those are the people who they recommend that you vote for

 Deborah Bell 33:28

and the important thing is to go out and vote it's the only weapon we truly have that and being involved in our community. Theatre Lab Houston will be presenting the Houston premiere of *T* *foo* and her friends a gathering of eight women reveals their views of the world around them as they questioned the pain conference in Fred Kielty of their lives. This is the winner of six Obie Awards. The play will be at 8pm at theater lab, Houston. Just off the 2100 block of Houston Avenue, 1706 Alamo. There is a charge for tickets and the number for reservations is 8687516.

 Jack Valinski 34:09

Film TV with musical group fam to film interview and performances will be on the following dates on Thursday, December 9 at 9pm. Sunday, December 12 3pm. Friday, December 17. At 7pm. That's on your public access channel PAC. If you received a voter registration type form from your cable television system, Warner sent them out in stores about TCI I guess it's called now we'll be sending them out. Remember to vote to keep public access television. That's the that's sort of the type of television that KPFT would be if there was television, yet it still has a lot to be desired. But it is our only access to television where we can actually go do shows locally.

 Deborah Bell 34:53

And that's a very important thing just like having local radio is very important. Inklings as an alternative bookshop that was founded by a former volunteer at KPFT bogey Anderson and these Parker community activists will be having his fifth anniversary celebration this weekend. You might want to go by and tell the folks over there and Inklings Hello and happy birthday and they are starting their holiday extended hours. They are also having a book signing. Dallas photographer CeCe Cox and Lisa means will be on hand to sign their brand new book, 1 million strong the 1993 march on Washington, published by Allison publications. The book is a photographic remembrance of one of the largest demonstrations for anything in the history of this nation. And that Saturday, December 11, at 2pm. They also have the three different video versions of the march including the official one that was what sanctioned by the Executive Committee for the March

 Jack Valinski 35:56

also next Saturday, not tomorrow, but a week from Saturday, the gay man's course that's the gay man's course, is going to be having a concert at the welcome center downtown starting at 7pm. They're also going to be featuring a heart song tapestry from Austin and a New Orleans

Gay Men's course. It's so nice to have that in the name. I just like saying that. Tickets are available at two to seven arts or at the box office downtown. And tickets are priced from 10 to \$20. It is a wonderful if you saw the concert during Pride Week. It's something absolutely wonderful to go.

 Deborah Bell 36:31

And that's called a season for us all 1993 and something we look forward to in this holiday season.

 Jack Valinski 36:38

You're listening to KPFT Houston and we have some more calendar items we'll be talking about later in the program. Please stay tuned. We'll be back

 36:55

Albert King once said everybody's got the blues. I know I have. You will have a terrific tune into KPFT every Friday night for the off the clock blues show from eight to 10pm Whether you like BB King, Eric Clapton, Albert King, Elmore James Stevie Ray Vaughan are local talent. This is a show for you. In addition to music, we feature interviews with local, regional and national artists as well as specialists in some of the blues greats. Remember this every Friday night at 8pm for two hours of down and dirty blues here on World Radio 90 points on FM KPFT history.

 37:58

Okay, Latino, Latin American focus is where you can find the exotic music of Latin America, portrait commentary, weekly news from Central and South America interviews with musicians, artists, human rights activists, and much more.

 38:22

Pocket like you're on avocado comes to you every Thursday from eight to 10pm here on World Radio KPFT 9.1 FM.

 Jack Valinski 38:31

From Pacifica's KPFT in Houston. This is lesbian gay voices, a show formed about the gay and lesbian community. This is Jack Valinski. And this is Deborah Bell. And in this hour, we have a very special broadcast

 Deborah Bell 38:53

called Give me those moments. A parent's remember their gay sons who died of AIDS It was broadcast on WX PN in Philadelphia on October 17, the day after their local AIDS Walk, and we're going to have it here for you. We have a few more

J Jack Valinski 39:09

announcements. But most importantly, up next is news wrap from this way out.

c Cindy Friedman 39:20

compiled and written by Cindy Friedman, follow the news in your area. And informed community is a strong community for this way out. I'm Cindy Friedman. And I'm Alonso rowdy.

J Jack Valinski 39:31

Yeah, and that's the news as of Monday, that's when we get the feed from this way out off the satellite, which is produced at KPFK in Los Angeles.

D Deborah Bell 39:40

And I certainly hope those folks enjoyed their lollipops,

J Jack Valinski 39:44

talking about high tech things. If you want to send us a message, you can do it high tech like oh, you can and how you do that is if you're on American online, you can send us an email. Why pride hate your u TX? That's PR ID E h o u TX. And if you're an internet, it's pride you text@aol.com

D Deborah Bell 40:05

And that will come to lesbian and gay voices and to BFT. Yes, by me, there's other ways folks should get in touch with us if they have the old fashioned way

J Jack Valinski 40:15

the snail mail way, as they call it. You can do that by writing to us at 419. Love it. Houston, Texas 77006.

D Deborah Bell 40:23

And that's your ideas, suggestion, comments on the show. Our if you have something that

you're involved in, that you'd like to promote, we'd love to hear from you. Because we need to know what's going on in the community. And it's hard for Jack and I to keep up with it all. So we can also pick

J Jack Valinski 40:38

up the phone and call us at five to six KPFT. But we cannot take calendar items over the phone.

D Deborah Bell 40:44

Yes. And do we still have our voicemail? Yes, we do, I believe and do you remember the number to seven 920 800. Okay, that's a better number for people. Nine

J Jack Valinski 40:56

729 289.

D Deborah Bell 40:58

We will research it and make sure you have that number because it's really hard to answer calls during the show. Well, we will be having the special documentary Give me those moments parents remember their gay sons who died of AIDS produced by Bert Weiland at WX, pn and Philadelphia, this half hour of radio listeners will be able to identify through a series of moving interviews with parents who have lost their gay sons to AIDS and to save these men and their families as victims of a dread disease who lived and loved as human beings are returning through a series of moving interviews with parents who have lost their gay sons to AIDS and to see these men and their families as victims of a dread disease who lived in loved as human beings. All recall finding out that their sons were gay and had AIDS how they coped with the disease. What some of them do now is AIDS activist to carry on the memories of their beloved deceased and how they deal with their ongoing grief. This captures the true loss of the human family in the wake of AIDS. So stay tuned for that on lesbian and gay voices.

J Jack Valinski 42:03

The rice Media Center is offering the new queer cinema this Saturday and Sunday, Saturday, December 4 at 730 and 930. Sunday December 5 at 7:30pm. It's drawn from US, Canada, Australia, England, six films that make a boy shorts are compelling sampler of gay cinemas next wave sounds really interesting. I hope you get to see that. Also on Monday is the deadline for the Houston Lesbian Gay Pride Week logo entries, you need to deliver them to Printex plus at 1617, West Alabama, and the information numbers 5296979 5pm is the deadline.

D Deborah Bell 42:42

I had lunch today at Pecos mix Max, which is right off the Kirby and highway 59. And they're

one of the restaurants around town that's participating in the Red Ribbon project, which means that they have a red ribbon and placed in a lovely plexiglass opolis which is on a table. And if you request that table or whoever is sitting at that table 10% of their meal cough that day go or at that time goes to various aids organizations around town. So it's a really nice way to help support what's going on mercy, which is a cafe in bar in Houston, at 2900 Westheimer, just off of Kirby is having a special 12 Days of Christmas where they're going to double the normal amount to 20%. And this benefits body positive Houston. And this the 12 days of Christmas. They're collecting non perishable food items to benefit stone soup. So great, great way to go out and have fun and help the community.

J Jack Valinski 43:48

Well, you know, one of the nice things we get to do here, spin some records, let's spend some records. Not the way

D Deborah Bell 44:04

you're listening to lesbian and gay voices. And we're honoring and celebrating World AIDS Awareness Day, which was of course on Wednesday, December 1. I understand you went and picked up your postage stamps today yesterday after

J Jack Valinski 44:16

waiting a long time at the post office. Actually I waited longer to put in money for the Bulk Rate account. Getting the stamps was rather easy. And I says well how long will they have these stamps? naces well, they print so many and so many until they run out. But that'd be a nice thing to put on your Christmas card

D Deborah Bell 44:31

was a red ribbon, AIDS awareness stamp.

J Jack Valinski 44:34

I want to thank us we hunting the rock. It was a beautiful song.

D Deborah Bell 44:37

Really. It's amazing the art that has come out of the AIDS crisis. Some folks that have been there for us for a long time in the Houston Community is the gay and lesbian switchboard and they are holding your fifth annual auction. The donations are needed so that they can continue to serve our community as they have done for the past 12 years when you support the switchboard your donation Go towards the supportive lesbian and gay people who live work and travel here as well as businesses in the area. The volunteers answer more than 10,000

calls annually. They provide referrals to businesses, bars, doctors, attorneys, clinics and organizations, AIDS information and referral, crisis intervention and telephone peer counseling, and a hate crimes hotline. Please watch local publications like the one for the time and date of the show and benefit auction for further information call Evelyn at 8719726 are 5299615 Please donate your wonderful stuff.

 J Jack Valinski 45:41

The auction is on the 11th at the Brazos River bottom between five and 9pm. And if you'd like information on that it's 867 9020. And Deborah, you know where the switchboard is located? Don't you know? Oh, okay.

 D Deborah Bell 45:55

I just we know the phone number.

 45:58

Oh, what is that?

 D Deborah Bell 45:58

That's five to 999 32. I'm always getting numbers wrong. Say it right,

 J Jack Valinski 46:04

five to 930 to 1130 to 11. And

 D Deborah Bell 46:07

they're there from I think three in the afternoon till about midnight, all week long board and midnight, I think. Yeah. And they always need more volunteers and they always need help, because it's an important community service. Well, we are going to be going into our special documentary about parents remembering their gay sons who have died of AIDS. Our focus tonight has been mainly on gay men who have died of AIDS. But we know that AIDS isn't no one's immune from it. Not women, not lesbians, not children, not anyone. And especially if I want to send out this message in the holiday season when a lot of us are celebrating and having parties and things that if you play make sure you play safe. Next week, we're going to talk to the kids or the young men and women from hat, the Houston area teen coalition of homosexuals, and also a special report about how AIDS is affecting the teen community. So join us next week on us being gay voices for that and stay tuned to hear about the memories of what it's like

J

Jack Valinski 47:06

also, we're gonna be talking to people from the game ends course. So that's next week but first was like a little break here on KPFT Houston.

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47:22

KPFT sounds attractive in the world every weekday between 9am and three in the afternoon and you're liable to hear some folk music some country country folk Western beacon junto music and artania bluegrass, newgrass Juju steelband Jenga, Columbia perhaps the show tune or two gay music, women's music, several kinds of blues, Cajun zydeco jazz Latin jazz Dixieland, and who knows maybe an acapella vocally sometime. Above all, you can expect to hear music that transcends categories from your radio station without boundaries, listener sponsored World Radio KPFT that's the sounds of Texas in the world, Monday through Friday between 9am and 3pm on KPFT, Houston.

D

Deborah Bell 48:00

Now on lesbian and gay voices, a new half hour documentary from [Bert Weiland?], producer of the award winning Unfriendly Fire: Lesbians and Gays in the Military, Bert does a program called gay dreams on WXPN in Philadelphia, and this documentary was aired on October 17, the day after the Philadelphia AIDS Walk. It's an extremely moving account of love loss and understanding. Give Me Those Moments: parents remember their gay sons who have died of AIDS.

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48:44

Who ever wanted to go I never thought we were going it's definitely expanded our horizons past any point that we want it sometimes

∅

48:52

I think when I speak to people about it now but it was just this past year maybe when someone would say to me, how did your son die? I'm sorry. I now I now say AIDS, and every time I do that, I think maybe he sees me. Maybe yours me and maybe saying I'm so proud of you.

∅

50:00

You know his

∅

50:17

aids Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, a modern day plague that has killed over two and a half million people and infected an estimated 14 million around the world. At its dawning,

AIDS seemed only to infect gay men. Scientists baffled by mysterious symptoms and unable to find any known agents of infection linked the disease to sexual orientation and named it gay Related Immune Deficiency or grid. As the Jews were blamed for the spread of bubonic plague in the Middle Ages, so gay men were blamed for the spread of AIDS. anti gay religious extremist called AIDS God's retribution for homosexuality, encouraging further torment rather than compassion for the sick and the dying. People with aids were fired from their jobs and evicted from their homes. In some towns, homes occupied by people with AIDS were firebombed. Even in the gay community lovers left lovers, friends deserted friend's parents abandoned their gay sons. But the plague years have also brought accounts from families affected by AIDS have great courage and enduring love. These are some of those stories.



52:16

Before aids, many gay men chose not to share the intimate details of their lives with their families. In many cases, gay sons moved to faraway cities, so that parents inquiring minds wouldn't learn of their secret lives. For many aids meant not only dealing with devastating disease, but also facing the shame that some parents would inevitably feel upon learning of their sons homosexuality. Ruth and Sanford Levy's son Ken lived his adult life in New York City, about 90 miles from his southern New Jersey Home. Ken's success in life, especially his financial success, brought his parents a great deal of pride. The Levy's believed they had a perfectly honest relationship with their son, but can never told them that he was gay. Sanford sometimes wondered about his son's sexuality, but never questioned him.



53:09

I really was not sure. I had suspicions. But I wasn't really sure. Because, you know, there are a number of gay people in their manner of speech, many times, you can kind of, well, you shouldn't prejudge somebody, but you get an inkling. Now, Ken did not have that type of an affliction. He didn't have feminine ways about him. He was like one of the boys. And the only suspicion I had to be very frank with you was that he had a lot of girlfriends say an awful lot of girlfriends. Oh, and some of them were really the most beautiful girls. I mean, I just I'd look at him and I, I say God's easy. marry that girl. Boy, we're gonna have a beautiful daughter. Look,



54:09

Mark Frank never really left home. He had a loving relationship with both his parents, Ken and Sandy. And he lived with him all his life, except for a brief time when he lived in an apartment some 25 miles away from home. After college, he built a successful career in radio. Both Ken and Sandy asked Mark whether or not he was gay, long before he broke the news that he had AIDS. Despite a trusting and straightforward relationship, Mark couldn't bring himself to share his sexuality with his parents. Even when they asked him point blank.



54:42

We had sort of suspected, although, I mean, you know, just normally we had suspected



54:51

I think Excuse me. I had discovered some books that I really think he left Exactly. He knew I would find them because it was in his closed drawer. And I always put away his clothes when I had laundered them. And I had once asked him if he was gay, and he said no.



55:12

As had I, I had once asked him, I guess about five years before this or four years before this, I remember exactly where we were what we were doing. We were going to a hardware store to look for a piece of something to fix something. And April, he wasn't dating. He was in his mid 20s. Anyhow, and I said Morgana, I guess, I said, Are you gay? And he said, No. And it's funny because Mark, I won't say he never lied. But he couldn't lie.



55:45

Ruth Gland's. sunrice came out to her as gay when he was still a teenager, Ruth was absorbed with her own marital problems at that time, she's still berates herself for not being what she thinks Russ needed when he was struggling with his sexuality. But the two became best friends. Ruth had grown up in pre feminist times. As Russ grew older, he nurtured his mother's sense of confidence and self sufficiency, and helped her through a painful divorce. Far from having misgivings about her son's homosexuality. Ruth became a part of Ross's social circle, often escorting him to gay social events.



56:22

He told wonderful jokes, and he was the life of the party sometimes. And many times he would tell the same jokes over and over, because he told them well, and many times it would be people at parties who hadn't heard them. And of course, I knew what was coming. And they were always funny to me, although I think I must have been his best audience.



56:46

Hunter Muir died of AIDS at the age of 25, in late summer of 1991. Hunters mother, [Octavia?] like Ruth Gland, had no trouble accepting her son's homosexuality, but for quite another reason.



56:59

I'm a lesbian mother and, and Hunter and I used to joke about, we were going to be the first lesbian mother and gay son comedy act. Because we were both very active and he had been very active in the gay youth movement in Philadelphia and quite a number of different things. And I was very proud of him. And he was the kind of man that I think men should be in this society, sensitive and caring as well as, as a exasperating person he was also



57:39

everything making such an effort now to keep



58:02

let me know he used



58:10

to say surround yourself with them me of you



58:23

can't believe he was 33 years old when he broke the news to his parents in November of 1988 that he had AIDS. For Ruth and Sanford. This meant also dealing with the fact that their son was gay. Acceptance of his sexuality was one thing. The reality of Ken's probable death due to the disease was quite another. Stanford in particular held on to his denial, even chasing a preacher from Ken's