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SPEAKERS

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

J Jack Valinski 00:07
Welcome to another edition of lesbian and gay voices. This is Jack Valinski.

J Joan Devlin 00:11
And I'm Joan Devlin.

G Glenn Holt 00:12
And I'm Glen Holt.

J Jack Valinski 00:14
And tonight it's the beginning of the month. So we'll have David Elliot up first after our this way out news. He will be talking about national issues from the National ganas main task force.

J Joan Devlin 00:25
And then we're going to have Tristan McKeever Yan. Tristan is an author. And I know it's not unusual for me to interview authors. But Tristan is local. He is our own gay community member. Oh,

J Jack Valinski 00:36
so will he be here? He will be here. Great. And in the nine o'clock hour, we'll be talking to Ray hill where he's going to be talking about Ray, we'll probably talk about whatever he wants to talk about. But I asked what he's supposed to be talking. He's supposed to be talking about the

talk about, but I asked what he's supposed to be talking. He's supposed to be talking about the closure of the Supreme Court for the year and also go over some of the things that happened at in Austin by the Texas legislature. And at 930. We are going to be talking to Cubitron. We hope. I hope he got the email. He got the email because he responded. Okay, so and they're doing a candlelight vigil on July 4, mid Nigel vigil, which is the anniversary date for the Paul bizarre 10 year anniversary date, Paul bizarre murder. So that ought to be interesting. So, and along with all the other stuff that we have coming from this way out. It should be a pretty busy show.

G Glenn Holt 01:24

And of course, we have news on the second hour. Great.

J Jack Valinski 01:27

So let's listen to news wrap from this way out.

 01:36

I'm Cindy Friedman. And

B Brian Nunes 01:37

I'm Bryan Innes

C Cindy Friedman 01:38

news wrap a summary of some of the news in or affecting the lesbian and gay community for the week ending June 30 2001. The Gay and Lesbian pride season picked this week with the anniversary of the 1969 uprising at the Stonewall Inn in New York City. A then routine police raid on the gay lesbian and transgender bar set off three days of rioting. That rebellion is considered to mark the beginning of the contemporary movement for gay and lesbian civil rights. The observance of the anniversary in major US cities has spread both to smaller towns there and around the world. It's also spread beyond the month of June with events scheduled through most of the year. These are just a few of the biggest June pride events.

B Brian Nunes 02:21

New York City's own 32nd Gay Pride parade featured about 200,000 marchers and drew hundreds of 1000s of spectators including all six mayoral hopefuls, three dozen gay and lesbian couples exchanged vows and a demonstration in Central Park for marriage rights

C Cindy Friedman 02:37

in the gay mecca of San Francisco. Organizers estimated the Pride Parade gathered a million people. This year's theme was queer Riffic intended to mark a fully inclusive event

B Brian Nunes 02:49

in Paris. Newly elected openly gay mayor Bertrand delanoé was the city's first mayor to join the Pride March. He led it with a banner reading altogether against discrimination. Estimates ranged from 250,000 to 500,000 marchers, but all agreed it was the biggest Paris pride ever.

C Cindy Friedman 03:07

Berlin's new openly gay mayor Klaus favourite spoke out at the pride rally promising to combat the neo Nazi right. The Berlin crowd was estimated at 1 million and the rainbow flag was flown at City Hall for the first time.

B Brian Nunes 03:22

By contrast, Milan's deputy mayor Ricardo de curato told reporters that the city council did not share the sentiments of this rally, referring to 30,000 people who marched in support of equal rights.

C Cindy Friedman 03:33

1000s also marched in Zurich with a focus on demanding legal recognition for gay and lesbian couples. About 2000 people marched in Edinburgh, in Tel Aviv Mayor Ron Hill de welcomed some 25,000 marchers to their celebration of gay pride days saying that the freedom of all individuals is an integral part of the city of Tel Aviv. A few Palestinians were able to join in marching with their arms linked with Israelis and a call for unity. Jerusalem's month long schedule of pride events also featured outreach to Palestinian gays and lesbians.

B Brian Nunes 04:07

Toronto celebrates pride in a big way this year with a theme love. The annual March drew a crowd estimated at 1 million and was predicted to pump some 60 million Canadian dollars into the local economy. The earlier Toronto Dyke March drew about 25,008 smaller

C Cindy Friedman 04:23

Canadian cities also celebrate Pride. Some 6000 people turned out for Calgary pride in early June, with former Prime Minister Joe Clark becoming the highest ranking politician ever to participate in a Pride March.

B

Brian Nunes 04:37

The seventh Pride march in Sao Paulo, Brazil drew some 200,000 people with Mira Marta, so please he's speaking at the rally.

C

Cindy Friedman 04:44

But as the group gays and lesbians of Zimbabwe gals prepared for its own very private Pride celebrations. There were a series of death threats to its leaders. They included vandalism on the girls offices in Harare, where death threats and anti gay slurs were painted On the walls. gala spokesperson Keith Goddard vowed the group will not give in to intimidation, but the group has removed its membership list from the office as a precaution. There was

B

Brian Nunes 05:11

intense controversy this week at the United Nations historic General Assembly special session on HIV AIDS over the role of gays and lesbians in the global struggle against the disease. A representative of the International gay and lesbian Human Rights Commission Aiko HERC was ultimately allowed to speak at a roundtable discussion after heated debate and three votes. Although the final vote was unanimously in favor, fully two thirds of national delegations were either absent or abstained. It will hurts Karen Kaplan told delegates wherever people are victimized by stigma or singled out for hate, they are vulnerable to HIV, it would be wrong, deadly and disastrous not to put human rights at the heart of our response to AIDS. But religious

C

Cindy Friedman 05:55

conservatives prevailed in deleting any specific mention of sexual minorities from the declaration outlining AIDS prevention strategies for the UN and its member nations. Muslim nations staunchly opposed explicit references to homosexuality and prostitution as representing a tolerance they found offensive. Their protests were supported by the Vatican, more liberal nations ultimately caved in. When it became clear it was necessary if the Muslim nations were to participate at all. The final language of the declaration refers to those at risk due to sexual practice, livelihood and in the case of prisoners institutional location. UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Mary Robinson of Ireland said for many there is a reluctance to recognize groups affected by HIV AIDS including men having sex with men. Much of that reluctance is based on religion and non culture of failure to recognize it means the numbers of those infected can only grow. The final declaration does include one controversial section, referring to the need for human rights protections as essential to reduce vulnerability to HIV AIDS, although Australia's original draft had made a much stronger statement against discrimination.

B

Brian Nunes 07:12

In Egypt, the 52 gay men arrested in a police raid on a riverboat nightclub were formally charged this week with practicing debauchery with men, with two men also charged for contempt of the Islamic religion. They have been incarcerated since early May, and British

based human rights watchdog Amnesty International believes they have been tortured while in custody. Amnesty believes the men were arrested solely because of their sexual orientation and has expressed grave concern for their well being. No trial date has yet been set, and there is no possibility of appeal for verdicts by the State Security court where they will be tried.

C

Cindy Friedman 07:48

one of Australia's most notorious civil lawsuits was decided this week with high profile gay Attorney John Marsden winning damages of 585,000 Australian dollars in his defamation suit against seven network television and a 2500 page ruling. The court found that to seven network programs in the mid 1990s had maliciously and recklessly published false and grave claims that Marston had paid for sex with underage minors. 11 of those alleged rent boys testified against him, but the court found them to lack credibility, describing several as liars and one as a poofter basher. Marston a former president of the New South Wales Law Society said the court had totally vindicated him of the allegations, but added the disrupt notation would be forever tainted by them. Marsten six year legal struggle cost him 6 million Australian dollars, most of which Seven Network was ordered to pay. However, seven announced immediately that it will be filing an appeal. Anthony Schembri of the gay and lesbian rights lobby welcomed the judgment saying what the court has said is that it's possible to have a good reputation a settled reputation as an openly gay person. Too often we hear that being gay or lesbian is to be a bad reputation. And the court has found that that's certainly not the case. He called the ruling a really strong message from the court that there's not necessarily relationship between homosexuality and child mistreatment or pedophilia.

B

Brian Nunes 09:23

Taiwan's government has drafted a bill to extend adoption rights and legal recognition to gay and lesbian couples. The Ministry of Justice said in a statement this week that, in accordance with the draft of basic laws on human rights protection, the government should safeguard the human rights of homosexuals by allowing them to form families and adopt children. However, the ministry emphasized that this was not marriage, which Taiwan law reserves for a relationship between a man and a woman. The bill will require approval by the Parliament, where it has already been sent for review, while a spokesperson for the gay rights group hotline called the move a breakthrough When he wished the bill provided for equal marriage rights and called for urgent government attention to issues of employment discrimination,

C

Cindy Friedman 10:07

US Surgeon General David Satcher this week issued controversial recommendations for sex education. The report includes a call for greater understanding towards gays and lesbians, saying that scientific research indicates that sexual orientation is established early in life and cannot be changed. The report also condemns anti gay violence. It calls for Developing and disseminating educational materials for sex ed classes that cover the full continuum of human sexual development. The report called the Surgeon General's call to action to promote sexual health and responsible behavior was two years in the making. The Bush administration was

quick to note that Satcher is a Clinton appointee whose views are not its own. Satcher, whose term ends in February insisted he was not taking sides on issues but reporting on scientific findings.

B Brian Nunes 11:01

And finally, openly bisexual actress Angelina Jolie much honored for her portrayal of the late lesbian supermodel GIA had some interesting thoughts this week about her role as videogame character Lara Croft in the new film Tomb Raider. Julie told the German magazine Amiga that I could really imagine Lauren not having a lot of time for men. Can you imagine that Lara Croft as a lesbian, that would be a shock for the boys playing with their joysticks in their bedrooms around the world. At the end of the day, I really like women. I'd love it if the girls in the cinema watching Laura Croft find me just as hot as their boyfriends do. That snooze

C Cindy Friedman 11:41

wrap for the week ending June 30 2001. Following the news in your area, and informed community is a strong community

B Brian Nunes 11:49

news rap is written by Cindy Friedman and recorded at the studios of KPFK Los Angeles. For this way out. I'm Brian and I'm Cindy Friedman.

 11:59

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G Glenn Holt 13:01

You're listening to lesbian and gay voices.

J Joan Devlin 13:04

Good evening, I'm Joan Devlin. And I believe we do have David Elliot on the line. David is the

Communications Director for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. And he's here to give us our regular monthly update on what's going on in Washington and around the nation. Hi, David. Well, good



13:18

evening, Joan. Well,



Joan Devlin 13:19

I wanted to know if you had any more news, I heard a little brief soundbite about the case in California on the two women that had been denied married student housing. And the court agreed that they had been discriminated against that to not allow them access. It was in a New York case,



13:37

New York. That's correct. Okay. And what that what the court actually ruled today is that the two women have standing under New York Civil Rights Law to proceed with their lawsuit. So that's not a final victory. But today's ruling was a very good step in the right direction.



Joan Devlin 13:55

Great. So that's excellent. Well, that's a good, good way to start the show.



13:59

Yes, good news. There's good news breaking out all over the place today.



Joan Devlin 14:03

And what's some of the other good news? Well,



14:05

we have some local news. It's very exciting for Houston. And we have some national news too. Let me start out with the Houston do something has happened is very, very exciting for the National Gay Lesbian Taskforce. The Board of Directors of the Houston black tie dinner, has selected the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force as the national recipient for this year's dinner. The Houston black tie dinner is held every November and benefits a whole host of local organizations and then every year they also pick one national organization. And we were we were very fortunate at NCLT f to be selected as the national recipient this year. The local groups that are going to benefit are an uncommon legacy. The assistance fund assist her Are

baring Omega Community Services Houston area team coalition of homosexuals Houston lesbian gay community center, lesbian Health Initiative, Montrose clinic, people with AIDS coalition of Houston, PFLAG Houston, I'm running out of breath here. There's so many different groups they benefit. Also the Texas Human Rights Foundation, the Center for AIDS, PFLAG catch youth Scholarship Foundation and the resurrection Metropolitan Community Church. And they usually raised about \$130,000 annually, they've raised about \$1.2 million dollars, since the dinner was launched in 1993. So this is really going to help nglt us out with our presence in Houston. And I'm not sure if your listeners know this, Joan. But Houston is the best city in Texas for in gITF. It seems like Dallas and Austin are, you know, towns? We don't do so well. And you know, maybe the Human Rights Campaign does a little bit better in those cities. But it Houston is very much an nglt of City and we're very proud of that fact.

 Jack Valinski 16:08

Well, you should be and you have a board member here Clarence Bagby and nglt F has I think, an over the years had a very strong tie to Houston. I mean, going back from Virginia Puzo, when she was director, her and Larry Baris, who was one of the you know, he wasn't exactly a founder of the caucus. But he served president for a couple years and also worked on the Pride Parade in the early years. And now Larry resides in New Orleans, and he is working for the mayor in the Civil Rights Office, I believe. Oh,

 16:39

that's just great. That's just great. And of course, I think it was last year that the Texas lesbian conference, if I have the title correctly, held at state convention in Houston, and our own Urvashi. That was the keynote speaker. Now she's since moved on from the task force to the Ford Foundation. But we we've been in Houston a whole

 Joan Devlin 16:59

lot. Well, that's great. And we hope to see you here more.

 17:03

We will be there in November, that's for sure.

 Joan Devlin 17:06

Yeah, you still haven't told us if you're coming? Well,

 17:09

somebody from the task force, we're hoping it's going to be our Executive Director, Laurie I gene will be there. Can't say yet. Who will be there from the task force, but we'll be there.

Okay.

 Jack Valinski 17:20

I want to see you, David. Yeah, not all of us can afford to go to that black tie dinner, which is a great dinner, but it I mean, it's for raising money, and it's expensive to go there. But they do raise a lot of money for a lot of good organizations, which is great. It's nice to hear that taskforce will be the national beneficiary. That's excellent. So, David, what's going on with you in the task force?

 17:41

Well, we've got a lot of breaking national news. I've got a little bit of a news bulletin for you tonight. Minnesota has become the third state this year to back away from its state sodomy law. You might recall that earlier this year, an Arkansas judge ruled Arkansas sodomy law unconstitutional. And also in Arizona, the Arizona Republican Governor signs legislation repealing that state sodomy law. And now in Minnesota, a minister, excuse me, a Minnesota judge has ruled that that state's law is unconstitutional. So we're now down to let's see, 35 states that have removed sodomy laws from the books in only 15 states remain.

 Jack Valinski 18:33

And then Texas is one of those that still remain. Texas is

 18:37

one of those and this might confuse your listeners a little bit because there was an appellate court that initially ruled against Texas as sodomy law. But then the court ruling in the Latin phrases on bonk, which basically means ruling altogether, came back and revisited that ruling and overturned it. So as it stands now, Texas is sodomy law, unfortunately, is very much on the books.

 Jack Valinski 19:04

Yes. And it's also somewhat confusing, because originally, the Texas Human Rights Foundation challenged it in federal court. And it was thrown out in the Dallas court, that it was put back on the books when it went to the appeals court in New Orleans. And then it wasn't even revisited when the when we lost the Bowers case, the Georgia case in the Supreme Court.

 19:26

Exactly the whole spiderweb of different court rulings and different legal proceedings coming out of Texas is really more complicated than that of any of the other 49 states so

 Joan Devlin 19:39
I'm not surprised.

 19:42
It practically takes a lot of creative follow what's happened in Texas and even some lawyers are confused.

 Jack Valinski 19:47
Right. And to me, you know, before we can worry about domestic partnerships, and a lot of these other things, it's really the sodomy law that still considers us criminals in this state.

 19:57
Right. And you know, it needs to be pointed out here. are very few people are prosecuted under this law. Yet the laws very existence damages us as a community as a gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community damages us in so many ways symbolically, because our adversaries on the religious right time and again, they say homosexuality is against the law and they kind of use this law, these antiquated laws as a club, you know, to hammer us over the heads. That's That's why these things are so bad

 Joan Devlin 20:35
and as a justification for denying us civil rights. Right.

 20:39
Exactly. Now, on another bright note, if I could, Jack and Jones, I'd like to talk for a minute about these wonderful census numbers that have been coming out.

 Jack Valinski 20:50
Yeah, you did release a story. Tell us about it?

 20:53
Well, Texas has numbers aren't out yet. But so far, we've had numbers from 15 different states and Washington DC. We're expecting numbers from five more states tomorrow, North Dakota, New Mexico, Oregon, Colorado, and Merrigan and Maryland. And basically, what we're finding is a first time ever, not completely accurate count, but a first time ever good count of same sex

unmarried households. Now, what this is finding is incredible increases in state after state after state. And this is very complicated stuff. But I should offer a caveat in that the first time this question was asked on the Census form in 1990, there was a severe undercount and the numbers that came back weren't good. But we're finally starting to see a better count of where we live. And I'm gonna give you an example of why and how this is so dramatic. What did the states that reported last week with their census figures, and the number of unmarried same sex households was Kansas, Kansas has 105 counties. Now, as you can imagine, some of these counties are extremely rural in nature, for example, Greeley County, and suddenly 1500 residents. What we found last week is that same sex couples live in every single county in Kansas. Now, to you, Jack, and you, Joan and me. That's not really news. Oh, yes, it is. Well, we, you know, we've been saying every year, all the time, we are everywhere. We're in small towns, we're in rural areas, blah, blah, blah, blah, blah. But the general public hasn't picked up on the right. There's been the stereotype that we live only in San Francisco. We live only in Dupont Circle in DC. We live only in Montrose and Houston.

 Jack Valinski 22:57

And you know what the real thing about this is that so many of these elected officials say, Well, I have no gay or lesbian people in my district. Right?

 23:05

Exactly, exactly. And now we can say, Yes, we are, we're in small, turn it we're in small towns, we're in rural churches, we're in your volunteer fire department, we're on the farm. So we're everywhere. And the Texas numbers are going to be coming out soon. It's not known yet whether they're going to be coming out later this month, or in the first half of August, but there'll be out in the next four or five, six weeks. And it's going to be really interesting to be able to look at Texas, and see what those numbers show.

 Jack Valinski 23:37

Absolutely. That's really exciting news.

 23:40

It's a big deal. There, the government is conducting its first count of the 21st century. And we're part of that count. It's very, very exciting news. And, you know, the new numbers, while extraordinarily significant, still reflect a huge undercount. And that's, that's important for me to point out, for one thing, the Simpsons still does not count gay and lesbian people inless. We live with our partner and fill out the form correctly, you know, it doesn't count single people. Many people also may not choose to fill out the form in such a manner that their sexual orientation is revealed, particularly in smaller towns and rural areas. So we know that this is still going to be a huge undercount. And yet, these figures that we're seeing are just incredible. I mean, so far, Delaware, has shown the largest increase, they showed a 781% increase from 99 and the number of same sex couples.

J Joan Devlin 24:43

That's amazing. That's not a very big state either.

o 24:46

No. And you know, what's really interesting about these figures, is that the more conservative more rural states are the states that are reporting the largest increases. I mean, Alabama showed a 615 and increase Kansas showed a 514% increase. Indiana 428% Nevada 711%. At the same time, the states that are more urban in nature, and a little bit more progressive are showing much smaller increases, New York showed a 238 increase. Massachusetts showed a 229% increase. Illinois showed a 268% increase. So when Texas is numbers come out, I think they're gonna be an in between state. I think they're gonna be above 300%, but certainly below 500% because Texas is kind of an urban state and kind of a rural state. It's in between.

J Joan Devlin 25:45

Do you think in the case of the more conservative states this the numbers are coming about? Because people are feeling less afraid?

o 25:52

That's exactly it. Same sex couples existed in Alabama, in Kansas and Nevada and Delaware, in 1990. They just weren't is willing to fill out the forms correctly.

J Joan Devlin 26:06

Right? Well, that's great news, though. That's wonderful news.

o 26:10

You know, people are gonna look back on June and July 2001. And they're going to see this time period, as a historic milestone in our movement for equality. These months will be written up in history books, a lot of people in our community don't understand the significance of these numbers. These numbers are huge for the first time we are being counted.

J Joan Devlin 26:38

Now, do you think these numbers will be significant enough that in the next census, whenever that is 2010? Or whenever there will be a category for GLBT people,

o 26:51

a category for people to mark their sexual orientation? Yes. It kind of depends both on who's elected President and to the Congress in 2004, and 2008. After all, Congress is in charge of determining what questions the census will ask on its forms. Even if Democrats are elected, you know, it remains to be seen how courageous they will be. I mean, we know from past experience that just having Democrats in office doesn't mean that we get what we want with the Clintons eight years in office. So that we can't answer that question yet, Joan, what we do know what we can say is this. Public Policy flows from the US Census. If we are not counted, we lose out on federal funding for research, we lose out on funding for frontline community services such as health care, we also sacrifice important opportunities for more equitable political representation through redistricting Sure, why these numbers are so important.

J Joan Devlin 28:00

So what else do you have to tell us, David?

28:03

Well, you know, that's about it. I mean, we've been following the census numbers. We've received probably 50 or 60. inquiries from the media, right? We've been in, in newspapers, with circulations now totaling in excess of 7 million readers, just in the past three weeks, our phone's been ringing off the hook, you suddenly, you know, middle America is discovering that there are same sex couples living in small towns, and we've even gotten questions. You know, why is it that there have been so many same steps, same sex couples since 1990? And I've been telling folks, well, it's not like we were invented because of Ellen DeGeneres. We've been there all along. Right.

J Joan Devlin 28:47

And when will you have all of the states? And do you think

28:52

all of the states will be reporting by about mid August? We don't know yet. When Texas numbers are coming out. We know, you know, the five states that are coming out tomorrow. And then next week, there are five more states coming out mostly rural.

J Joan Devlin 29:10

Just kind of like those quarters. Hmm. They just come out a little bit at a time.

29:14

Exactly. But the frustration is that with the individual quarters that are coming out, you know, each representing a different state with the state logo on the back. There's actually a publish

each representing a different state with the state logo on the back. There's actually a publish schedule, that with the census numbers, you never know. You only have about a week or two advance notice and Texas hasn't been posted yet. They haven't told us when they're gonna post Texas.

 Jack Valinski 29:37

Well, and of course, this also has to deal with reapportionment, which is it's another big issue in this country about how the districts are rigged, whether will favor Republicans getting reelected or Democrats getting reelected?

 29:49

Well, that's a huge issue. And it's a very important issue in Houston. Because Houston is one of the cities in the United States that has As a sizeable, identifiable GLBT voting bloc that can influence the outcome of a state representative race, if I'm not mistaken, a school board and Houston City Council race, I think I think that he's done a single member districts,

 Jack Valinski 30:18

Mr. Has, it's a five nine plan, we have nine member districts and five at large. And we It looks like we're going to be continued to be in District D, which is a black district, rather than district C, which is sort of the more progressive, where you can possibly elect somebody who is not black. But still, we play an important part in District D. At this point, it looks like Mr. Stay there.

 30:46

And you did check I'd like to make a really important point. And I'd like to encourage everybody who's listening to the show, to keep a really close eye out on the Houston numbers when they come out, and to compare them with what might be prevailing stereotypes. And let me explain exactly what I mean by that. In Washington, DC. It is one been assumed that gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people live in Dumont Dupont Circle, you know, that has a national reputation as being a so called gay neighborhood, right? Well, as it turns out, a very small percentage of the GLBT population in Washington DC, actually lives in Dupont Circle, probably because it's so expensive to live there. There are four or five other neighborhoods that have GLBT populations almost as large as DuPont circles. So when the figures actually come out, and the same thing was found to be true in New York City, and in Boston neighborhoods where people stereotypically assumed GLBT people lived GLBT people didn't actually live there. And his numbers as great as people thought they were more diseased. Well, you're

 Jack Valinski 32:07

absolutely right, David, I mean, those of us who keep a list, you know, databases of people in that community, we know that people live all over the city of Houston, and outside of Yeah, and then we were also doing part and we're not ready to release this, because we just started

getting this stuff back. But we actually did a survey during the parade of people who came in from outside of Houston. And a good percentage of people look like came from outside of Houston to see the parade. So, yeah, that's really, you know, incredible because then we're going to be able to show well, these people come and spend money, they stay overnight, or they stay with friends, and they have dinner and they they do all this type of stuff. So, you know, surveys are really important. And it's always been difficult in our community, because of the anonymity of our people.

 32:55

Right, right. And, Jack, I know we're running out of time here. But there is one other interesting findings that I want to share with you briefly. Okay. The census is finding that to a large percentage, same sex, male male couples, tend to live in urban areas, and same sex, female, female couples are more likely living in suburban areas. And we have speculated that this might have to do with an economic disparity that women earn less on the dollar than men do, and might need to live in the suburbs, because of economic factors. It also could be a safety issue, it could be a safety issue. And it also could be kind of complicated or not, that's not the word I'm looking for. reinforced by the fact that female female couples are about four to five times more likely than male male couples to have children. Yes. So there could be some schooling issues involved, too. But we found that to be a very interesting finding. It's the first time that such a finding has been documented that say, same sex female couples are more likely to live in the suburbs than the same sex male couples.

 Jack Valinski 34:18

Sure. Well, David, thank you for joining us, especially this being a week a week of holiday.

 34:24

Happy, independent state to all of your listeners in blah, blah, blah. You know, it's a bit of state, we're not quite independent yet.

 Jack Valinski 34:32

Right. Right. Well, and it's also sort of interesting to see the Presidential numbers go down his approval rating a bit. And, you know, seeing him have some trouble in you know, not understanding what it is to try to compromise or work with, you know, as much as he talked about compromising. And working with the Democrats. He pretty much said, Oh, I'll work with you as long as you do it my way. But anyway, David Elliot is communications director of the National Gay and Lesbian In Task Force, he joins us the first Monday of every month, whether it's a holiday or not, and we really appreciate it. Thank you, David. Well, thank you, sir. You're listening to lesbian and gay voices

 Greg Gordon 35:10

ried heated up just as news was going into production this week. Musical's first ever

ried neated up just as news wrap was going into production this week. Yugoslavia's first ever Pride event turned into street riots on June 30, the day after 1000s of diehard Serbian nationalists demonstrated against the recent extradition of former President Slobodan Milosevic to the UN war crimes Court in the Hague. Some of those same nationalists joined with skinheads and soccer fans to attack gay and lesbian activists as they gathered in Belgrade's Central Square. Lay Pamela Jen avec of the lesbian group lobbyists told reporters that the thugs were waiting in the square and immediately surrounded and attacked individuals as they arrived. Police fired into the air but were unable to stop the attacks, which continued as small groups of activists attempted to meet at a student Cultural Center. The assailants went on to stone the offices of the Social Democratic Union Party, which has supported both Milosevic extradition and gay rights legislation. Five people including a police officer were reportedly injured. Meanwhile, 1500 marched in Caracas in Venezuela's first Pride march on July 1 without incident, Vienna's June 30 Christopher Street day brought hundreds of 1000s of colorfully costumed participants out to party and pursue equal rights. In London, an estimated 85,000 took part in that city's gay Mardi Gras parade. And in Mexico City, several 100 protested for lesbian and gay rights. Back in the US, some activists are becoming cynical about the ways in which the Stonewall uprising is being commemorated these days. But others are still finding value in networking around the mainstream events. More on those stories as our program continues. Our Gay Pride celebrations becoming too commercial. The answer is yes. According to the organizers of two alternative events in San Francisco's Mission District, gay shame and the traditional bike March, Lisa Detmer reports.



37:18

In response to feeling left out of gay pride queer radicals around the country have created a number of alternative celebrations. San Francisco had its first gay shame event. One of the organizers of San Francisco gay shame met Bernstein Sycamore, aka Matilda,



37:33

while we decided to order organize gay shame because we're ashamed of gay pride. Gay Pride has essentially become nothing more than a giant advertising campaign, a chance for multinational corporations, whether its core as a right wing company owned by bigots who nonetheless want gay dollars, or whether it's Bristol Myers Squibb, who always choose profits over people's lives.



37:58

The event presented issues such as gentrification in the mission and prison reform as queer issues and opposed reformist issues such as gay marriage, typically a central issue of gay pride. Gay shame was intended to be a free activist artists and performance space where queers could create their own non corporate culture in the spirit of the original Stonewall riots.



38:17

We wanted to create a queer autonomous space for community building, to foster radical, queer, outsider identity and create our own culture rather than just consuming all the rot that's

being sold to us.

 38:35

Another alternative celebration was like March, which had over 10,000 participants kicking off with speakers and music in San Francisco Dolores Park, like March organizer, Lisa Roth,

 38:46

well, like Well, yours, the Dyke March is all women. And that's a big alternative to gay pride. Because one of the reasons we started the Dyke March was because we felt lesbians had always been marginalized in the gay movement. So that's different as it's always been, as you know, we have no corporate sponsors. We have no politicians on stage. We have no men, and we have no charity policy.

 39:09

Among the speakers at the Dyke March was Linda Evans, a political prisoner recently pardoned by President Clinton after serving 16 years, she responded to a question of what queer liberation should be about.

 39:20

I think that it's very important for us not to get bought off by the dream of assimilation, and to realize that we don't want to be assimilated into this society, that this society has nothing to do with the values of liberation, personal liberation, or political liberation that can extend to people all over the world. To me, queer liberation is about fighting against racism and for equality for all people. It's about an end to corporate capitalism, and building a cooperative society. It's about women's liberation and equality and rights for gay, lesbian, transgender and bisexual people. All those things are not included in a Pride March.

 40:05

The date March wound through the streets of the intermission ending up in a street party in the Castro. This year's Dyke March was San Francisco's ninth. This is Lisa Detmer in San Francisco.

 40:20

I'm a little tired of the weary throwaway line that there is no such thing as a gay sensibility. Of course, there is such a thing as a gay sensibility. Of course, gay men and women think in some fundamental ways differently from straight it is not just about what we do in bed, it is about the echoes in the culture of who we are, or who we aren't. Hi, I'm Clive Barker. Listen to this way out the international gay and lesbian news magazine.



Glenn Holt 41:01

You are listening to lesbian and gay voices.



Joan Devlin 41:04

And we're here in the studio, not on the phone, but in the studio suit on to play phone games, with Tristan Mick Avery, who wrote divine intervention and another and as I was telling Tristan, before we went on, that book scared me what kind of a sick mind you were to come up with this? No, actually, the book is wonderful. The review will be out in the Texas triangle this coming Friday, Friday, the sixth. It starts and if you if you look at the back of the book, it's kind of picture of Tristan and it says a street bomb. But now it starts where it says a street bomb finds all the water in his body turned into wine. On the hospital aids Ward, a young man checked at 7pm is found dead an hour later, his body appearing as if it had lain in the sun for three days, a homeless woman accepts a gift of bread and fish from a stranger only to find it multiply inside her exploiting her from within. And what this is, is I'm trying to describe the book without giving away the plot. But it's it's very twisted. Why don't you say because I don't want to give anything away. It's just really exciting.



42:08

Well, basically the since it says mentioned on the back of the of the book that the lead character is an Episcopalian priest. Currently female, yes. And Carolee Maitland and she basically starts finding these bizarre deaths and has to track down somehow has to understand why in the world it is that some thing is suddenly appearing as everyone's favorite stereotypical vision of Jesus and perverting a reversing miracles and destroying by reversing miracles. And the how and why of the demons calling is part of the book, and then how are you going to get rid of it? The interesting thing is that as part of it, as you discover the the, the demon thing has trappings, if you will of Christianity, and therefore it's not affected by ordinary ideas. So what I have is the idea of quote, good versus, quote, evil. And there is no dividing line. It's just which knots Pantheon but which belief set, if you will, which magic power set are you using to call and therefore have to find something opposite of it, to pull back. And that was part of my purpose in the book was to try to destroy that line of the traditional good versus evil concept. It's not that easily drawn anyway. So



Joan Devlin 43:30

Well, the thing I found fascinating too, is, you know, obviously, this is modern America, right? So when you when you're dealing with a demon in modern America, you can't just run down to the local police station and say, you know, I know who's doing these bizarre killings. It's, it's an ancient evil, you know, demonic presence from, you know, the medieval times. And so you have a very diverse group of characters, who for one reason or another, except and believe that it is, in fact, the demon that is doing this not just some twisted, you know, mortal psychopath. And their diversity is one of the things that helps to trap it. You have a Jewish police officer, a Baptist police officer, but female Episcopalian priest and a gypsy, pagan,

essentially, yes. And those, you know, and especially the Jewish police officer, and the Episcopalian priest and the Gypsy pagan are the three main players and tracking this thing down and trying to overcome it.



44:33

Exactly. That was partly because I was looking for as many How can I phrase it? Enlightened is kind of a cliché term. I think I what I was looking for was somebody who they the Episcopalian priest who didn't really want to believe it, but his finding that she sort of has to the Gypsy pagan is part of it from a fun millennial background for it handed down father to son basically for generations. And as a result, he's sort of steeped in it. And it's like, Oh, it's you know, I'm the one that it's now it's time to do something with my Jewish cop Lewisohn is his focus is what is really going on, because everybody else is looking the other way. It's, you know, it's an election here in the town that I that I'm having this this happening. So there simply is no unsolved crime. I mean, you know, after all, we can't admit we don't know what's going on. And Lewisohn won't look the other way. He wants to know what's going on. And the one one comment about a clue leading nowhere and he says, Then show me where nowhere is, and I'll follow it from there. Because then that kind of sums up Lewisohn right there. I wanted people who, for one reason or another wanted to look at what was not what they thought was happening, but it's like, Okay, what's really going on here? Oh, crud, for lack of an earthier term, you know, not supposed to say those things in the radio anyway. And actually face it down, have to face down what's what's really standing there. And that's part of where the book came from, is actually taking a look at what is really there.



Joan Devlin 46:14

What I found fascinating, too, though, is you your your demon, was not this carbon copy demon. And that I think, was what made the demon scary because the demon as you listen to him as you, I guess it was a him as you as you heard what he said as you. I mean, it made perfect sense, why he was able to do the things he did, how he was able to come into the world. This is not some demon conjured up in a black mass when he was originally but when he comes back, he's not conjured up in a black mass, he doesn't even have to work especially hard to be unleashed, he just has to take one weak minded person and play and prey on that person's own external prejudices. And just that one thing, unleashes this force, this dark force on this entire town.



47:11

Exactly. I think that was the point of what I wanted to get with that, I think was the the idea that drumming up evil is not really a big deal. You can do it with words, which is basically what this is about the the calling of the demon, you have to figure out what and how it is that the demon is called because any any demon is supposed to be called as before, it's for it to do a job. And the what I'm pointing out is that this calling isn't even conscious. Right? People who are you know how it comes about? Isn't isn't. The intent is not to call a demon. But the intent is to do something about what they're focusing on what they're believing in. And that's where the

scary part comes in. Right. So that was that was really what I was what I was working towards on this was to show that when you when when you stir up trouble, it will come in and join the party. And that's basically what it was all about.

 Joan Devlin 48:13

It will have effects that are probably more far reaching than you've ever even thought about completely. Now, this book was written over a 13 year period.

 48:23

All totaled? Yes. The the original idea and a preliminary self publication actually came about 92, the original idea was tossed out about 8887 88. And I went through I see at the last tally, I believe it was 14 agents, and six publishers, who did not want to toss to touch it with a 10 foot crucifix. For some reason, and no one ever told me why they just said no, we're not we don't want it. We don't want it. No one said why. And I've wondered whether or not the book is being viewed or was read as being anti Christian. Now, when I wrote it, that was not the purpose. As a matter of fact, without giving too much of the plot away, there is a moment where the the big bad guy, you'll figure that out. As you read the book actually has a moment which if you follow the traditional Christian doctrine, even fundamentalist Christian doctrine has the last last minute the last split second chance to beg forgiveness for what he's done. So I mean, I even gave the bad guy a chance to redeem himself. I didn't give him long. I'm not telling too many tales out of school, you can probably figure that one out without, you know, suspecting that that would happen in the book without really, but the book was not created to be anti Christian. It was created to be anti hate anti evil calling evil creating. And that's the sets the subtle difference. Now how can people get the book, it is published through ex libris, which is called a print on demand publisher. This is a little different from most publishers and the books are printed one or 1000 when they are ordered. So as a result you get if you go to your local bookstore, you can ask for divine intervention by Tristan Mac Avery, that's m AC, by the way, a ve ry, well, people you spell it with MC. And if you tell them that it's from ex libris, or if you simply tell them that when they find the book, place it on backorder that stimulates the print on demand system. You can also order directly online, the simplest is triple w.ex Libris, which is XLIBR i s.com. And you can do a search for the title or the author and order directly online. Those are probably the two simplest ways to go. And the if you look in, for example, not to get a particular group, but if you get one of those bookstores that has that lookup screen that you go to and type in things, that particular bookstore, you can find it there. And it is listed because it does have an ISBN number. And so you can actually print that out and take it out and say I want this and just tell him to put it on backorder. And it's takes several weeks to get through. But I don't know.

 Joan Devlin 51:26

Yeah, one of the things I did. And unfortunately it was it was published too soon, because it takes six months is requested at the library. Because what will happen is after the six month time period is up, they'll either order it or get it from another library and then that way it'll be available to through the Harris County Library.



51:45

Oh, fabulous. I might also mention there is an electronic version available online, that's half price of the of the physical book. So if you have a reader or if you have Adobe Acrobat or something like that on your computer, you can get an electronic version.



Joan Devlin 52:01

And that's the way I did it. And it was very simple. It wasn't you know, because people I think sometimes they think, Oh, I don't want to read it online. It'll it'll hurt my eyes. It'll be hard to, you know, figure out and it wasn't it was fine. You know, about got me fired, but I kind of miss my lunch hour a little bit. Oops, went a little over got sort of into it. But I want to thank you very much Tristan Mack Avery said your name wrong. And it's called divine intervention. And it's available through ex libris. And you will see the review in the triangle this coming Friday, July 6, and you're listening to lesbian and gay voices



Jack Valinski 52:47

we're smack dab in the middle of summer. You know, the one song I usually like to play around this time of year is Janis Joplin summertime, you know that song is just meant for her as far as I'm concerned, but actually hasn't been all that hot this summer.



52:59

No, actually, this is a normal summer, it rains every day. Right? It floods often. And at least at this point, the humidity, which is miserable, keeps the temperature down a little bit. So you see it on the television, and it says like 84 degrees, and you say, Well, what does it feel like? 110. And then the next frame is what it actually feels like. And sure enough, it



Jack Valinski 53:21

does feel like 100 and you forgot one little detail. You're gay weatherman. I'm getting tea, but there's so many



53:25

of them. I can't keep up with them, my God. And they come to gay organization. You know, gay people are going to know more about the weather than anybody on the planet because we have all of these gay whether him and Iran, even the older gay whether men's, you know, the ones that are still in the closet? Yes, it causes don't well,



Jack Valinski 53:42

some of the younger ones are in the closet somewhat, too.



53:45

Well, yes. It depends on what circuit you try. Well, exactly.



Jack Valinski 53:48

Well, we'll talk a little bit off the air. But being this time of the year as the Supreme Court is closed down its session finished that session. Well, nobody's retired, as far as we know, Texas Legislature has gone for about a month now. And I sort of wanted ray to recap a little bit in his own way, which of course has only raised way to talk about some of the stuff and where we are.



54:13

Well, let's take the Supreme Spirit Supremes really made a significant change in everything that they've ever done by creating a court appointed president. I've heard of court appointed lawyers and court appointed investigators in court appointed everything was the first time I'd ever heard of a court appointed President of the United States Supreme Court has appointed our current president.



Jack Valinski 54:34

What are you wearing your hat?



54:36

It's a Houston football thing.



Joan Devlin 54:39

Houston Texans Yeah,



54:40

who's the guy that owns them?



Jack Valinski 54:42

Who Prime's you to wear that? No,



54:43

I bribe is what it is. The guy that owns him I forget his I don't know. I don't. But I've got I've got I've got those those pennants with his signature on and I've got the hats. I even got like lapel pins. send other jewelry your sell out. I didn't ask for them. Actually, my sister I think had something



Joan Devlin 55:07

in the bathroom just don't have enough money to pay with.



55:12

I got a white one instead of a black one. Normally I get black ones because I think that y'all to have pride with T shirts in dark colors because women liked them better. Is that true?



Joan Devlin 55:24

Why No, I like them better because I'm fat. But you know,



55:28

that I have, you know, I've got to watch this. I'm trying so hard not to be a sexist. But sometimes I find myself making presumptions about what women want. And women, you know, and all that. And actually, that wasn't, you know, a bad idea because I was planning on growing up to be a lesbian. But I got these teeth and nobody understands what I say. So they said this be and get on the stage. And I said, No, no, that's not me. But that's what,



Jack Valinski 55:52

but you've done that too. I'm sorry. Anyway, you were Supreme Court



55:56

of the United States. It's been it's been on the whole. One of the most remarkable, as you well know. I mean, I don't know if your audience knows. But you know that I'm kind of a court watcher. I'm one of the well, that's why you're here. People around the debate actually won a United States Supreme Court and you'll see our Nina talk followed followed. I wish that Nina coat Totenberg had covered masters when it came down. That's one of the great disappointments in life. But nevertheless, the Supreme Court of the United States I think it was probably on the whole the most compromising session for the Supreme Court of the United States. They compromise their integrity over the Presidential that's the that's gonna last for a good many years. But it's not a Supreme Court. The current court is not long on principle.

Anyway, what they kind of do is they kind of ad hoc, put together combinations of members and votes and deal with the extent case rather than the broad principle. You can take the case about the seatbelt. Yeah, that's an incredible one. And I had the police chief on my show last Friday. She's Daffy Bradford, Clarence Bradford was on my show. And the amazing thing is he not only, you know, came early for the interview and, and didn't mind the interview running a little long. He didn't leave. He stayed here almost until 11 o'clock. Listen, all those telephone calls sit here silently. But he explained that the Supreme Court had in fact decided that a police officer on his own volition at side of the road when he had stopped somebody, were there is nothing else wrong, except the issuance of a citation has the power now to arrest them and carry them to jail, which is just this enormous change?

J

Joan Devlin 58:03

Yeah. And according to this week, Houston press in some cases strip searched them,

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58:07

well, that the strip searching is I mean, that's Fort Bend County and, and other Texas counties where they haven't piped the Constitution or even word that there is one to a lot of these rural areas. The for the court to vote in, not a significant market is sharply divided five, four decision. And even Sandra Day O'Connor, you know, like crawled on top of the table and shouted that this was tantamount to Nazi deterioration of American liberties, to arrest people for what normally would be a citation, double traffic advance, that is in enormous sea change from anything that's ever happened before. And as manufac Souter said, just because the police officers in sob that doesn't necessarily rise to the level of being an unconstitutional thing, so he justified it on that basis. The policy in Houston will, however, be that a police officer can of course according to springboard, United States arrest you for a ticket. However, in Houston, the policy is he must contact he or she must contact the sergeant and get authorization for that to happen. So are you going to is it are you subjugated ready to protect it in Houston? Yes, if you get too nuts lined up in a row, you're gonna get arrested. But the chances of getting too nuts lined up a row or a lot slimmer than one not lined up in a row. So we they don't expect to have love jail business out of this. And they haven't computed a significant change in budget to handle the overload. Sure. Yeah. But that's that's that's big doings. The other things that Supreme Court did was they finally dealt with actually a year ago with a Boy Scout thing. But the interesting thing about that is that state Supreme Courts have noticed the error of that decision. And so state supreme courts are reinstating, Boy Scout leaders that have been ousted because of the really, yeah. And so that is, well, it. The indication is that when the Supreme Court of the United States is so wrong, we go back to Andrew Jackson days. All right, so you've made this decision, I'm not going to enforce it. And that is happening at the state Supreme Court level, we're coming up with their own decisions, which are in conflict with the United States Supreme Court, because they want to then give the next round of appeal, give the Supreme Court a chance to reconsider. Well, I

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Jack Valinski 1:00:55

could work the opposite way too.



1:00:57

But the thing about it is interesting little point of law, that if the state Supreme Court just ignores the Supreme Court opinion, there is no retribution for that. Supreme Court is gonna say, No, you're wrong. No, you're wrong. No, you're wrong. And I have sympathy in court has to revisit that issue, as often the state Supreme Court wish to pass it up, which is kind of an indication of the damage that has been done to the integrity of the United States Supreme Court. Not since Andrew Jackson. When the Supreme Court said the Cherokees are entitled to their land and Andrew Jackson just ignored that and shipped them across the country. Not since then, has the Supreme Court's integrity been so challenged? Okay, what



Jack Valinski 1:01:47

else?



1:01:48

Well, the Texas Legislature is an annual redneck in contests and I buy one every annual biannual every two years. It's a biannual redneck in contest. And of course, the great saving grace is that they only meet five months, every two years.



Jack Valinski 1:02:06

But one of their problems was that they didn't have the money because Bush gave it all back to you.



1:02:10

Yes, Bush Bush, if you did not know that you had a state tax cut. Because no one listening, this program is rich enough to have been affected. But those who are on enormous tracts of land, have had significant reduction in the state property tax. All of Bush's friends and campaign supporters have had tremendous cuts in their state taxes. And you had to pay the same amount of taxes that you always pay, same franchise tax for those of you are in small business, same corporate taxes, those of you who are in business for yourself, all of this is standard stuff. And however, the loss of income to state has been really significant. We don't have state income tax, which is therefore not graduated so that the those with more resources carry a greater burden than the rest of us. We do have a lot of state taxes. We have franchise taxes, we have corporate taxes, and we have property taxes in the state. And those taxes were severely cut during the administration of George Bush, and so we have a real budgetary crunch. And while the Senate Republican majority Senate was easily kind of manipulated by the shrewd legislature, legislate Tor, that Rodney Ellis has become Ronnie had a lot of power in the Senate. And he exercised it across a broad range of legislations, and he got some prison reform stuff. He got the hate crimes bill, which of course everybody else favorite that, but I post it, because I won't get into that later. But the thing about it is, is that a lot of rod knees legislation made it through the maze of a majority Republican Senate. Yes. And it's just good old fashioned horse trading and all that. Most of it was poured out by the governor. The governor then turned

around in vetoed 87 pieces of legislation. And you got to understand that almost half of everything that the legislature did during this session, incredible. So they spent several months a lot of it needed to be undermined. A lot of it that needed to be vetoed, wasn't vetoed. But the fact of the matter is, is that the governor exercised a greater use of the veto power than any governor in recent memory. And so that was kind of kind of a shock. That about the hate crimes legislation. I know. A lot of people who haven't read the legislation have to study the legislation. But among the more egregious aspects of the read legislation is now the Texas legislature has passed a law that says our sexual attraction is a preference, not an orientation. Now, that is extremely ill timed considering we have a pending suit before the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals, who could say if this legislation that was passed with support of a majority of the gay activist in the state, if they say that what they do is a preference, and therefore they can choose to do it or not to do it, then there is little fault in the state criminalizing it. I know, that's kind of around the elbow to get to the nose kind of argument. But the fact of the matter is, that whole legislation was very hastily written, very sloppily written. And then of course transgenders are left out of the legislature on together. The late the transgendered folks did go over there and pass a bill to facilitate some name change and an identity, things of that nature. And I don't know whether the Governor vetoed that or not, but it hadn't. It was not signed by the governor. It may become long and all of that. But the legislature Well, what should have happened in this legislature? Because this is we just got through with a census. Is this redistricting?

 Jack Valinski 1:06:31

Yes, but they didn't do that. And they have to do it. By next year. They

 1:06:35

have to do it by next year election. A committee dig of Republicans. And Pete Laney, the only Democrat on the committee, will redistrict the state of Texas for Senate seats, House of Representative seats, and United States House of Representatives. tremendous job, enormous job. Now the city of Houston gets to redistrict its own city council members. And the Harris County Commissioners Court gets redistrict their own Commissioner court thing. They also the county will also redistrict the Jaypee districts and therefore the constable district because with every JP comes a district constable. But the state legislature has got to re design the whole collection of districts for Texas representatives, Texas senators in United States representatives. And if there are like five Republicans in one Democrat on that committee, guess where those lands are going to be drawn?

 Jack Valinski 1:07:49

And Texas is going to get two seats or one us two seats right for United State Representatives. And they said that it probably won't affect Houston that much it probably affect the valley and some of the solar the population

 1:08:00

has grown. Yeah, more rapidly than but in Houston growth rate is not unremarkable. Musement

has grown. Yeah, more rapidly than but in Houston growth rate is not unremarkable. Houston growth rate is rather significant. Yes, yeah. But but this time, we'll we'll probably catch will prop some of the the Houston district will probably used territory but maintain same number of

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Jack Valinski 1:08:22

Yeah, well, it's pretty. And then the court case against the prisons has finally Oh,



1:08:30

well, actually, you know, that's where to where I live is of course, yes. And that sort of thing. And the rules case, which is the longest pending federal legislation in the history of US courts is wow. So it was well overripe to be retired out and basically judge justice, who is the federal judge who has spent most of his career over half of the years that he has been judges been judge of that case. Now, his background is that they carried to him the saga of Texas prisons for children. The old Texas youth prison system, and he tore that up back in the 60s. And so this has been going on since the 60s. What Yes, yes, the release case. David Ruiz was in prison, actually, before I was I went to prison in 1970 and David Ruiz and the other red writers, mostly Hispanics, and Texas prison system. And, and it really interesting the history of how that came about. I wrote I wrote an essay about that nobody will ever read it but wrote an essay about that. If whenever I went to prison, Hispanics were of course, there were a lot of Hispanics in prison, but none of them had positions like building tenders or A turn keys are bookkeepers like I was a bookkeeper. bookkeepers were almost all white. Yeah, these days, turn keys and building tenders in white and or Hispanic wings. Were all white turnkeys in black wings and building tenders in black residential units were all black. So the building tenders, kind of brutalized the Hispanics and Hispanics didn't have any upward mobility available to them. So the first thing they did is they formed gangs. Mexican Mafia, Texas syndicate were Hispanic gangs, and that only got them killed. And so finally, in frustration, a group of them decided that they would read the law and actually there was a woman attorney Francis Gillette, married Hispanic inmate and started filing writs and cases, but then they would get together in the back of the wing and study how to file cases and David Ruiz filed literally filed a case on toilet paper and a brown fragments of brown paper sack credible. And Judge justice got that in the case in Palestine other friends of mine left him Antonia and a bunch others filed cases too. But all of them had like what lefty said, those long gas motezuma names. Accept Ruiz are you lazy, was the shortest name and so they named the major case. Ruiz that all versus takes a department criminal justice and, and that's how David Ruiz and David had been a guest on the prison show when you get Steve out of prison. He didn't stamp very long when he gets out. But that's been a saga. That case for all reasons and purposes had been dead. It was not being complied with. And what was the discovery is that when people were in contempt of court, there was no punishment, really. So the court session, Fifth Circuit has upheld everything that was to be upheld, it's all good law. It's all actually very cautious, longer term and safe side of the fence. So we have gone through a very interesting year and this year of 2001. The court Supreme Court session is over the legislature's over half of what everybody did is meaningless. It's kind of a sign of the times you do and it didn't mean anything, which is happening in a lot of people's lives and a lot of reality. The guy that's going to be on the show after me is Chris, and I don't want to spill anything stealing his thunder for Chris. But I can't help but noting that it's very important to me that in the last decade, we have tried to address some of the problems of hate crimes. Violence. And that is a very dear issue and thing to me because I've lost two companions to violence. In Ray Hill and love, I told the story of, of Dale sweat who was

murdered in his apartment by burglar and Fred pies, he was assassinated by a police officer. And but even not counting people that I have been personally and emotionally tied to. There have been hundreds of people over the years that I have known are roads acquainted with, that died as a result of violence matter if it was the mid 80s before I lost his many friends to AIDS as I had previously lost a moment. This is a very important issue. And I'm afraid that that we're taking it as a community far too lightly. Listen very carefully to what Chris has got to say about an upcoming event. But more importantly, the Broussard case is the first time that I've been able to get the elements together to do kind of an anatomy of violence.

 Jack Valinski 1:14:31

Well, you know, there's sort of an interesting parallel because I was just I can't believe I never thought about this before, but Stonewall was sort of this mark. But the reality was, if there wasn't activists in 1970, who remembered Stonewall, it would have been forgotten. And the same thing with Paul bizarre, you know, there was other murders in this community, but the fact that the community got its act together, well, you know, yeah, rally the one.

 1:14:57

What's really interesting is none of that was spontaneous. All of that was very deliberate. Oh, well, there's Yeah. And the

 Jack Valinski 1:15:03

show got on the air because we did some deliberate stuff.

 1:15:06

But here's the thing. The thing the thing about about the the Palm Resort thing is that I made the scene when Paul was before wrote shortly after Paul was transported to blood was still wet on Grant and I got there. And I you wouldn't believe the detectives they sent us Qantas. I don't let it know Houston still had detectives with oversized belt buckles and guns on their hips and, and badges and that I mean, a couple of cowboy yokels I mean, I thought these people are going to try to investigate homicide in this community.

 Jack Valinski 1:15:38

I mean, it was the overnight shift. And holiday,

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you know, they gave us then the next day. Well, two days later, actually, I visited with the police chief and I got Baccharis and Abby on the case and back your time to do the best bloodhounds they got. And so Abby called me and Abby's job was cold cases. I mean, after

somebody had been murdered 10 years later, Abby would get the case and solve the case. So he was he was the best. And he said, Well, Mr. Hale, I don't think we're gonna go anywhere with this. And so I said, why? And he said, well, people that kill people usually know them. In these cases, we had anonymous people. And so so it was in that conversation. And subsequent that conversation I called Brian Bradley and said, How many people can you get together? And coordination was just beginning? Yeah, yes. And so we we put that crowd at the corner Westheimer in pump pros, at exactly that hour, so that we could walk into middle road and block traffic, and it go live on all three television networks. And you and Ben had a Pride Week business know the importance of having something going when it's done. Yes. On the air, especially on a slowness night on slow news night, right. And so we made all the stations that night. And then of course, the Chronicle had to play makeup. And so we went back to the front page of the Chronicle, and then all of that ran for a week. And then we were just crazy. We were thinking of ideas to do. And it was me and Baccharis and Abby and Bradley, sit around and plot and plan. And so the vice versa thing you're going to cover Yes, coming down and pretending to be gay was a media gimmick, but I had no idea that it was going to work as well as

 Jack Valinski 1:17:19

right. In fact, there was an editorial in New York Times, you know, saying Houston, Texas did something right with the police department

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and not not Tom Brokaw, but but the guys that does Nightline? You know, yes, Nightline guy send a camera down here. And I'm in front of the Montrose man feeding that camera and talking to that when the cops have just been assaulted in the last block, and they chase the guy down and literally the camera tech all he has to do is turn and lower the camera while the cops are handcuffing him, and they record on tape aligned like I didn't know y'all was caught by by just one of those blankety blank queers. You know. It's incredible. I mean, the things that you could not possibly have set up. I happen. And so that's where all the media comes from now, years later. There's a lot of have a lot of people talking about that incident. I guess it's kind of like Stonewall, Stonewall had about 200 people totally involved. Total. God. 200 people were involved in Stormont. And 25 years later, they have reunion and 2500 people show up.

 Jack Valinski 1:18:37

Well, yeah, it's like everybody that was at Stonewall or Woodstock. Yeah. Well, Ray, we need to move on.

 1:18:43

I know. Thank you very much for the opportunity to come in and visit with your audience. Listen to me on the prison show on Friday nights at nine, not from nine until 11.



Jack Valinski 1:18:54

You're listening to lesbian gay voices.



Glenn Holt 1:18:56

We have Chris Aronson here in the studio. Hello, my name is Glen Holt, and we're going to talk about Q patrol. Because there is an event coming up to commemorate this actually the 10th anniversary of the Paul Broussard murder, which kind of got the whole Q patrol thing rolling.



1:19:19

Yeah. And I'm really glad Ray was touching on that and you weren't stealing any thunder over here. I I'm glad to let some of that come off of Ray. Yeah, the 10 years ago, the week of July 4, was a lot of tumultuous in the neighborhood here. Paul Broussard was beaten and bloodied and left to die in a field and on our nation's birthday, and he was left left to die and couldn't the EMS wouldn't even help him out at beginning and there was other assaults that happened that week and In, I believe another murder or a couple other attempted murders. And this community rallied. It really is, as it's often referred to, it's the Houston version of Stonewall. This is when the community stood up and said, that's enough. And it was our Stonewall. It was our Matthew Shepard, our Billy Jagannath, your or Brandon Tina. And it was something that galvanized the community. And one of the great things that came out of it was the fact that queer nation and act up, put together a group of people that we need to watch out for ourselves, we need to keep an eye on our fellow citizen or fellow members of the community. And what came out of that was systems patrol group called Q patrol. And we were there's a lot of benefits that came out of that. We have a police substation, because they didn't realize that there was that kind of violence going on in this community. And we're still around after 10 years, with trying to keep out there on the streets and keeping the neighborhood safe. And an area that community communities, citizens on patrol groups, usually lasts six months to a year if they're lucky they last a year. And we've tried to stay continual operation for 10. Now 10 Plus, I believe,



Glenn Holt 1:21:21

you know, 1010 years, and I think we're probably the only citizens watch patrol that's incorporated.



1:21:28

Yeah, it's a rare thing. We are. We are citizens on patrol group, but we are extremely rare in Houston. We're a 501 C three nonprofit corporation. I currently am chairman of the board we we try and resemble an actual organization occasionally here.



Glenn Holt 1:21:49

bonafide organization.



1:21:51

But we have different we do things a little differently than what you have with your traditional citizens patrol. Based on the fact we have 10 years experience out there



Glenn Holt 1:22:03

and HPD gives new patrol the latitude to be a little bit different. Yeah,



1:22:08

we we currently have a radio system now that we shown to some HPD officers, and they kind of get jealous. We have a system where we can actually have someone out in the woodlands or somewhere out in Copperfield where I live or even down in Clear Lake and they can listen in on our special frequency, they have one of our radios. So we have city wide coverage. Yeah, more than city wide coverage. Well, yeah, we're not worried about CV interference. Because these are good radios, we can put out a walking unit and not be afraid that we're gonna lose contact with them. We can take and not just patrol, what we call the Magic Kingdom, the the Montrose area here, we can send a patrol out and do the downtown bars and the and the bath houses and the clubs there. We can go out and do the ones in green bar if we wanted to, we could even run all the way up there to the bar by the airport and still have coverage.



Glenn Holt 1:23:08

And then on top of that cube patrol can provide can use that system and provide communications coverage for things like all walks of life.



1:23:14

Yes, we're, we're very excited when we help out with that organization. I mean, it was a lot of fun going out there and just helping people and just just to be able to communicate back and forth. Because, I mean, they went out and got a radio system that they could talk to with their people. But it wasn't that great. And so we were able to help overlay and bring in some more help and get some more assistance in and kind of keep the chatter down on some of the other things of getting water out to where it was needed and ice as needed. And it's a great tool that we have. And unfortunately, it's a great tool. But every great tool has its downside.



Glenn Holt 1:23:54

Right. And I think that cube Patrol's biggest problem is that it's a victim of its own success.





1:24:00

Yeah. Until last week, I could have said that we were really major crime free in the Montrose area for years. It's been reported to us that we had an attack on on a US citizen after pride. I mean, we're only talking now we are to we're not we're just what eight days away from when we had our pride parade. We have had an attack on a person leaving South Beach and going over towards Katz's Deli. And they were attacked and robbed and beaten. And they were fortunately able to get over to the police substation and get some help and to be able to get away from their attackers eventually. And this is something you hear a lot about the acceptance the community has now I mean, you know, willing grace can win all these Emmys and queers folk can break All this ground and we can have the film festival, we can do a pride parade. We can sit and write legislation day in and day out for hate crimes legislation on the state on the local and a national level. But we're still going to get someone who's going to come in and think, who cares, I can beat up a fag, I can take their money, they're not going to report, they're not going to fight back, they're just going to take it give me they're gonna give me their money. And it's done with. And the only thing that they hope for is that they don't get blood on it because they figure all of us are infected. But that's not happening. I mean, we have this all acceptance in there, we still have people who are going to come in, and they're going to attack us, they're going to make comments. Even Even the people in the neighborhood who live here. Some of the homeless people even going through on patrol, I'll hear comments from them, that aren't happy that this is the the gay neighborhood this is what this is what this part of the town is. And it's it's a shame that we're talking about something like this in 2001, that we're, we're talking about someone who was beaten and attacked within three days of a pride parade.



Joan Devlin 1:26:19

I was gonna jump in here, I was going to ask the question that, don't you think the fact that there is more acceptance now could trigger some people because they're frustrated on a daily basis. We can't be legislated against anymore. We you know, this, that and the other thing. So to them, the only way they can fight the Menace is to come out here and beat some people up,



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I don't think is based off of the legislative process because the people who are upset at what legislatures and councils have done. Those were the the 12 people with the Freddie felt signs sitting out in front of the toilet fixture place in front of the for the parade started. Those are the people who really look at the legislative issue and have a problem with it. These are people some of them may be questioning some of them who may just get in part of a gang mentality. Whether it's an official gang or one that just kind of spur the moment.



1:27:15

You know, Chris, I I kind of know something about the phenomena having come out in Galena Park, Texas in 1958. I used to ride with the gay bashers downtown so I could go to the gay bars and they could go do whatever it was they doing? We'd get together and go back to Galena park. There was that I mean that you take the long look at at actually who does this there are basically two classes of people. The one that I think best exemplifies one of the classes is a

young man was left for dead out at Hermann Park know Memorial Park. And we traced back and found out that a church of Christ Sunday school teacher, and a group of boys from his his Sunday school class, had come gay bashing, and they picked somebody up and carried him out the park and left for dead. So you have those people that are directly related to the Religious Right. And that kind of mentality. And what Ed Young will say about this city ordinance will amount to hate speech from the pulpit of Second Baptist Church. That's real clear. And we're gonna get a lot of that when our ordinance passes. And if there's going to be a referendum, we'll get even more. But we're going to get less of it than we did in 85 when we had a lot the other source of potential violence against gay people, or those gay people. I like to call it the the Dan White syndrome are those gay people who are struggling for their own identity, and trying to reject through their guilt, their own gayness and take that out on others, without realizing that the queer that's causing them the problem is the one that lives within their breast as opposed to the one that lives or they can encounter on the street. It's called those action, a big burden. It's called projection. Sure, yeah. And I think that that the Broussard case now that, that I've had enough time, to put together a researcher to analyze that, and of course, when he was working on his doctoral thesis, a fella by the name of John Astin from Texas a&m university education professor, he wound up studying the permissive atmosphere and Makoa high school because access to the perpetrators was just absolutely forbidden by the Texas prison system, because they didn't want John to go in there and find out how homophobic the prison system was. So we're beginning to get a few of them out. And they're beginning to work with the research. So this research is ongoing, and it's going to be better developed. But the point about it is, is that, that there are whole permissive societies, churches, some high schools, some neighborhoods like redneck areas and peckerwood areas, where it's not just homophobia, but it's inherently sexism, and racism in in in combination. And in those societies, there are gay people who are trying to prove who they are, in comparison to their peers, and in opposition to the rest of us. And actually, I am not at liberty to give out names or goods is very embarrassing, but a lot of people that we know, in the leadership circle, had participated in early efforts. Fortunately, none of them claimed that they heard anybody going down and rolling the queries and all that trying to find their own identity. And now they're among us as leadership and activist.

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Glenn Holt 1:31:11

Well, one of the things about to patrol is, of course, the good is not a militia group. It's, it's just a visible deterrent.



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Yeah, we always refer to ourselves as a walking billboard, really, for what we do is just to get out there and show the logo. It is quite distinctive, it's quite distinct. Yeah. It's, it's not as distinctive as the the snake that they use up in Seattle for a similar type group. But it is a distinctive logo, people know it, they recognize it. And know that we're going to contact the police. If something is going down our our philosophy is, it's better to be a conscious witness than an unconscious victim, we're not going to go jump in and kick tail and drag people apart. We let the police do that. We'll call the police and say, Hey, he was doing this, that was that person beating up the other person. And we'll take it as far as it needs to go. But we're not going to jump in and we're not going to try and hurt someone.

 Joan Devlin 1:32:10

Wouldn't you say to though, if if, like, I know, if I was beating someone up and I saw a group of people walking up, I would probably be compelled to stop what I was doing and get out of there. Even if those people were not necessarily. Like you said jumping in

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the last incident we had during a patrol that someone was being attacked, was probably about three years ago. And at that time, we had a rollerblade unit out on patrol. The Rollerblade unit came across the scene. And once the attackers looked up and saw people there on rollerblades in the queue patrol shirts, one of the attackers said let's get out of here. It's cute patrol. By the time I got over there in my mobile unit, the attackers had left. We're taking care of one person was taking care of the victim. The other rollerblader got in the car and we tried to locate them.

 1:33:06

Am I still wired? Yeah, the the, you know, the dynamic. Robbers in Montrose lurk in bushes and jump out on a single victim. Gay bashers roam around? Oh, yeah. And if they see cute patrol is out. It has almost it's time to go back to Deer Park effect on them because one of the ones that we never really know how much violence we're preventing by being there.

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Yeah. Now one of the things you can tell them, they're going to be able to roam around and walk because I'll be honest with you. I saw the attackers and the victim 20 minutes before the attack occurred. I saw three people walking down the street and they looked like they were in a friendly conversation. The next time I saw one of those persons, he was on the ground, beaten. You can't tell sometimes everything looked fine. But that's what we try and do is keep an eye on it. They got him down to Avondale and that's where the attack occurred at Avondale and Hopkins. Avondale may be a lovely street. You may want to have a home there sometimes it's a door to dark spots on Avenue it is the darkest place they have wonderful overhanging trees. But unfortunately they don't cut them down because they want that natural beauty well blocks this traffic lights. The sidewalks throughout the Montrose area are horrible to walk. There

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are no sidewalks boundaries are not those. I mean, I'm a handicapped person. So I know all about sidewalks and macros.

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Well on cue patrol, we walk in the street. And whenever we come across a sidewalk that is actually walkable. We move on to the sidewalk just for the just for the privilege of walking on a Houston city of Houston sidewalk.

 1:34:59

Well, you're Chris, I don't want to interrupt, find Interviewer But but one of the things that we want to get across here is that you can go out to the bars this weekend, you have a wonderful time and go home empty handed and frustrated and anxious. But if you want to cruise productively, get a t shirt, oh, and go through a training and walk with Montrose patrol, because that is the most productive cruising, that will happen in Montrose this weekend or any weekend,

 1:35:30

I refer to it as you go to San Francisco, you're going to pay at least \$50 for a three hour tour, the Castro will give you that tour for free. And we will show we'll show you what happens there. And you can see the people that are out there, and you can you can get the dynamic for it. There's a lot of people out there who walk the streets, who work the streets and just visit the bars. And I'll be honest with you they know my car is familiar enough to them, probably more often than a police cruiser coming through there.

 1:36:05

Would you know if Montrose patrol, which was founded by erstwhile KPFT volunteer Fred pious had remained in force and active. Paul, beside would be able to come do this radio program with this. Oh, yeah. I'm convinced of that, because that was the peak hour, the bars were just closing, that's when the patrol would have been very active in the exact area where Paul Broussard was brutally murdered. And that's why they're being there would have prevented that from happening. I hope that there are not so many people in this community so complacent about their own safety and about the safety of others, that they can't find time to come down and spend some time with cube patrol. It is one of the most vital organizational efforts in the community Pride Week is wonderful, it makes us all feel good. But that feel good does not work if you're laying flat in your bag in an emergency board, or waiting triage after a brutal attack. And it is very, very important that some men women, I mean, it's literally gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, or maybe even straight. If you've got the time come down and join us for the public. So if you've got some great volunteers,

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we she unfortunately, due to medical reasons, was unable to continue. We had a straight member of our board and I kept looking at it going what in the world are you that the term

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hetero phobic does not apply anywhere in this community? You're welcome. We're glad to have you. And and and don't wait till it's too late. Don't wait until you have to go to the emergency room to care for a friend, a gay friend or a lesbian friend or a transgendered friend who has

befallen bad times, or even a down and prevent that,



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or even one of the straight people to come down to our neighborhoods. Oh, there's



1:37:56

no due process on the street corner. They're straight victims to anti gay violence.



1:38:01

Yeah, we we kind of changed our mission statement around a bit that rather than trying to put in that laundry list, we changed it to actual and perceived sexual orientation and gender identity. Because I remember back when the former pro wrestler, was out walking his little dog in front of riches, and he got fagged, mashed. And so I can we're here for the neighborhood, my brother and his girlfriend. there for the longest time. We're coming to Jr's more often than I was. So I we try and help out everyone is there. We're not going to sit there we go. Okay. Can you produce? Can you name three Judy Garland tunes. We're going to help whoever's out.



1:38:43

Chris, before I get off here, because I need to get out of you. When I just complete I wanted to thank you for your loyalty to the cause of cube patrol. Thank goes you have stuck through it. And I want to thank the erstwhile engineer in there with you for his commitment to keep your job because you haven't been president of it. But the event Wednesday, yes, fine place.



1:39:09

It's going to be we're starting up. We're doing a special patrol for the Fourth of July 930. We're leaving at the community center at 803. Hawthorne at Stanford. Around midnight, we're going to be gathering at the intersection there of Montrose and West Drew, which is referred to in cute patrol lingo as per SARS corner. It's that law office, their next directors law



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perspective, okay. And Spectre is I mean, the ticket fixer king of all times. So those of you who have not paid your traffic tickets, know where that building is already. So, but I used to be the twit building.



1:39:47

Yeah, that's what Jimmy was saying. There was like I had to explain, okay, you mean to twit

buildings ago? Because when I first started coming out to the bars, I parked at the twit building when it was across the street from the police substation. Sure. And that's that's how I used to go out to the bars is park in the free parking walk next to the police station and walk down Crocker with keys in hand

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now that's cats parking so you better be careful. Yeah, but nevertheless I plan to be there on Wednesday night because I have revisited that corner so many times you have no idea tickets. Well no Spectre Spectre night actually don't get along very well. But, but then corner still haunts me. That incident is an indelible part of my life. I have learned more about the dynamic of hate crimes as a result of Paul resorts dead Of course, no matter what I've learned, it wasn't worth the loss of that fine young man.

 1:40:48

Oh, yeah. Every every time we have a new member, during their first patrol, they are taken to pass or SARS corner. And we point out the parking lot there. And we say that's why we're here. And that's where we're gathering at midnight. And a candlelight procession, then down to the bar district have to let people know and remember that, yeah, we're celebrating America's anniversary of birth, but we're celebrating a tragic anniversary in our community and one that we should not forget.

 Glenn Holt 1:41:22

Okay, and if somebody wants to join in the patrol, but just can't make it out for this thing. Wednesday night at midnight.

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If you want to join the patrol or get more information on us, you can contact us at 713528 Safe at 7233. Or you can email us at Q patrol i n c@aol.com. And we need people we need money and even if you just want to call center you can't afford anything you can't afford the time just call us up and let us know we're still needed. That helps a lot to

 Glenn Holt 1:41:55

Chris Aronson from Q patrol, the Chairman of the Board of Q patrol, Inc. Thank you very much.

 1:42:00

Thank you for inviting me.

 Glenn Holt 1:42:02
You're listening to lesbian and gay voices.

 Greg Gordon 1:42:23
Especially in Western countries, many people think of Islam as an extremely strict and homophobic religion. Nonetheless, there are gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender Muslims who are trying to reconcile their sexual and religious identities. That was the theme of a first of its kind conference that coincided with Pride weekend in San Francisco. Larry Roberts has the story.

 1:42:45
The El Fabia foundation organized the conference for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Muslims. The group grew out of an internet mailing list started in 1997. And the foundation was formed in 1998. Faisal aalam started the initial email list when he discovered a lack of resources for gay Muslims. He is now director of the Alpha Tia Foundation.

 1:43:07
The goals of the conference are very similar to the goals of the organization, which is mainly to create a supportive network and a safe space for gay and lesbian Muslims to discuss the issues concerning their lives and sexuality and sex itself is extremely taboo in Muslim communities and mainstream Muslim communities. So the fact that we're talking about Islam and homosexuality is even much more of a controversial topic.

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The conference included workshops and such topics as interpretation of Scripture coming out human rights in Islamic countries, HIV AIDS and the Islamic community, immigration and asylum, transgender issues and women's issues. Surprisingly, among those speaking at the conference, were ministers from predominantly Gay Christian denominations, Faisal aalam,

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they have already laid the precedent for the faith based community. I mean, a lot of the not only techniques but sort of the process of even liberation theology, if you will, has come from Christianity and Judaism. So, so and also just have, you know, Reverend Troy Perry, for example, who's the founder of the Metropolitan Community churches, which now has more than 45,000 members and 300 churches. You know, he started off with 12 people in 1968. So he can also provide us a vision of where a fatherhood might be in the next 25 years,

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all of a search that Islam is currently the most homophobic religion, pointing out that there are six predominantly Muslim countries that have the death penalty for homosexuality. Some Islamic clergy members have made seemingly contradictory statements that there should not be violence against gay people, but they still support the death penalty for homosexual acts. Betty Shabazz is a pseudonym used by a Muslim woman who lives in London and helps run the British chapter of Al Fatah. She says clergy who are actually supportive are still rare.



1:45:01

The only person that I can remember is an imam who gave a talk at the conference in London last year, who, who didn't say outright that Islam condones homosexuality, which none of us will say ever. But what he would say was that God makes different kinds of people, and we need to learn to live together. And that coming from an Islamic point of view is a huge big step.



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There are movements within Islam, which the members of Al Fatah hope they can work with. Faisal Allah,



1:45:32

there's a rising progressive movement that's coming out of Egypt, Indonesia, South Africa, where, you know, Islam is not monolithic. So these are places that are fairly liberal that have, you know, feminist theologies that are coming out in the forefront, which is very similar to what happened with Christianity and Judaism 2530 years ago, so it's Islam's turn now. So I think for us to get onto the tail end of that progressive movement is what we're trying to accomplish.



1:45:58

About 100 people participated in the conference. In addition, a community reception was held, which was open to the general public, followed by a candlelight vigil, and a contingent from alpha to marched in San Francisco's Pride Parade. For this way out in San Francisco, I'm Larry Roberts.