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## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

pride, houston, year, gay, people, lesbian, parade, community, week, montrose, switchboard, organization, call, pm, night, sponsored, march, involved, grand marshals, volunteer

## SPEAKERS

Jack Valinski, Brian Keever, Bruce Reeves, Sheri Cohen Darbonne, Deborah Bell

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00:00

[Glory, Glory by Leah Zicari plays]

00:15

in our homes and on street corners. gay men and lesbians are discriminated against in housing and employment. And because how we act is more important than who we are. And if we get harassed, it's our problem. And if we get attacked, we provoked it. And if we raise our voices, we're flaunting ourselves. And if we enjoy sex, perverts, and if we have AIDS, we deserve it. And if we march with pride, over putting children, and if we want, or have children or unfit parents, and if we stand up for our rights, we're overstepping our boundaries. And because we are forced constantly to question our own worth as human beings, and if we don't have a relationship with someone of the opposite sex, we haven't given it a chance. And if we have a relationship with someone at the same sex, it is not recognized. And we are told our love is not real. And if we come out of the closet, we're just going through a phase. And because Lesbian and Gay History is virtually absent from literature, and because homophobia is sanctioned by the Supreme Court, and for lots and lots of other reasons, we are part of the lesbian and gay civil rights movement. This is a special 1992 Gay and Lesbian Pride Week presentation of the one to three program. Thanks for joining us. Our theme this year is pride equals power. And we have to share with you some of the reasons that we feel that is true.

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And I'm Bruce Reeves one of your co anchors today.

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And I'm Deborah Bell.

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And we'd like to thank Kay Harper and Jim Carper for being our engineering team today,

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the rhyming engineering team. And we're going to have music and interviews and lots more so stay tuned.

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And we're back. And this is a festive little neighborhood over in the Montrose area most of the year, but particularly during this time of the year, Houston Lesbian Gay Pride Week was founded in 1979 by a small group of Houston gay and lesbian activists to coordinate a formal program in celebration each year for the gay and lesbian community of Houston. Gay Lesbian Pride week through his many cultural, athletic and educational events seeks to increase understanding of social, racial and sexual minorities into encourage acceptance of intolerance of alternative lifestyles. So that together, the citizens of the city of Houston, in the state of Texas, may work in the spirit of peaceful cooperation to build a better society.

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Now, Deborah, we've got to get this right here, because this is your motion that passed and it's Lesbian Gay Pride Week this year. It's not Gay Lesbian pride.

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Did I read it wrong? Well, it's hard to remember that. I did that make sure the word lesbian got included. And, you know, that was one of the changes that took place as as we grew as a community. And that is true that each year the order of the word lesbian, gay, are reversed. And so next year will will be gay. That's right. But as long as we understand that it is a week to be celebrated by lesbians, gays, transgender girls, bisexual and their allies. Then we've got we've got it all covered. Of course, Pride Week grew out of one of the more volunteer and emotional social movements in the nation's history. When it emerged on a summer night 21 years ago at a ransacked bar in New York City's Greenwich Village at 3am. On June 25 1969, police raided the Stonewall Inn investigating alleged liquor violations until then right regarded as routine harassment of bars catering to homosexuals had met with only token opposition. Within minutes however, more than 400 people had gathered in nearby Sheridan Square and a riot erupted. More disturbances followed the next night. I minority shrouded in mystery fear separation that self deprecation and widespread looting decided it had had enough. It was the Lexington of the gay rights movement, a gathering of forces and the beginning of a tumultuous March and there's a lot of a have different stories that you hear about the Stonewall riots and they're it's been elusive media accounts have been printed. They certainly were biased. And, you

know, we don't really know the total reality. I've talked to some people who say they were there and so they all have their own little perspective about it. The results of that night in New York City can be seen today as the National Gay and Lesbian community grows in both influence and in stature in our society. Jack, you've been involved in Pride Week, almost as the day you first set foot in Houston.

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Yes, I got off that bus and they basically moved me right into that.

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They said there's a queer, let's recruit him to be active. Jack Valinski, of course, is one of the co hosts of the Wilde 'n' Stein program and is one of the co chairs of Lesbian Gay Pride Week 1992. The other co chair is Carol Clark. And so I'm going to welcome both of you to this program. So what what year was that you first arrived in Houston?

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I moved to Houston the day Kathy Whitmire was elected.

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Oh Ha. a momentous occasion. And so that was 81? 82?

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'81. Right? The end of 81. Okay, so

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that was really the first year of the parade. You had missed the parade that year. Right. So your first act, activity was an ad to win the

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ad to I sort of was just watching as a bystander and watching the reviewing stand and saw how it all worked.

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What did you think of the Houston community?

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It was Absolutely - well see, I really didn't know any other community, I really came out at the same time. So it was an incredible experience to see all these gay and lesbian people. Of course, we just said gays back then we didn't say lesbians too much. But it was very incredible to see all these people out there in a parade. And then the rally, I think the rally actually was in 1000, California Street, where the mandatory houses now be at people just got out there on the streets and had a good time. There were some speeches and stuff like that. And then of course, later on the Spotts Park thing happened. And that was just really incredible.

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And Carol, how long have you been involved in Pride Week activities?

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Really, my second year seems like longer tell you how fast things can move in this community. I went to a meeting a year ago, about more, you'll

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never forget, right?

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Never forget. Let's go to this meeting. And so I went to the meeting, and they needed someone to chair the events or logistics committee. So I volunteered and two months later, I became acting co chair. Wow, just the wrong meeting, folks. Your life can change

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forever. But actually, by volunteering, I mean, you must have had an interest in what Pride Week was all about what what was the sort of things that inspired you to become to say, I want to do more than just stand on the sidelines and watch? Oh,

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well, I've been here since '69. So I think I kind of grew with, with the community. And I think it was just part of trying to give a little something back to the community. And I thought that this was a good organization, I was involved in various other organizations. And so I just said, well, let's give this one time, I think you wrote kind of rotate around your energies, you know, sometimes you have a lot of energies, and you go out there and want to save the world the other time you want to hibernate for a while. And so just kind of in my community mode here.

08:38

What sort of sort of other things are you active in in the community?

08:42

Well, I was probably the only distinction of being the commissioner of both the men's and women's softball league. Kind of unique situation. So I basically I started with them for a number of years. I went with the men's league for a couple of years and got them started and then moved on to the women's league for Commissioner for a couple of years there. And also just recently elected to the board of the Political Caucus and I actually worked number of years on various political campaigns. So worked on Kathy Wittmeyer is husband's campaign when he ran for city council. So way back when

09:19

and Jack, what other things are you involved with their sides Pride Week?

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Well, of course, was KPFT. I've been involved in KPFT for 10 years now. And it's just so different now. It's sort of like that episode of Night Court where they did a day court session and everybody had different personalities. I wonder, I wonder if our different personalities are gonna show up here because

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mine still asleep.

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We're so used to do a night programming, especially Bruce doing late night programming here on KPFT.

09:48

We've already had a bit of a conversation about some of the music that we might be playing today and that there is a difference in all the senses in late night in and daytime, and that some things might be appropriate in the evening that are not during the day. And, you know, so we don't want to step on any toes or offend anyone by that sort of thing.

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But it's real nice to be able to have this form to talk about Pride week during the day. So that people

but it's real nice to be able to have this forum to talk about Pride week during the day. So that people who are listening in the offices aren't who are in town who are not usually around can listen and about some of the things we talked about,

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right. And we really need to express our appreciation for Cindy Friedman, who's traveling in Europe right now and won't be back until after Pride Week for allowing us to take this time on Wednesday 1 to 3.

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And we'd like to take a short break right now we've sort of been talking about Pride Week and its history for a song called the Gay History Rap. And we're not sure who did this song for us. He's rapping who's rapping it kind of floated down through the airwaves and wound up on a cassette at some point, but it's called the Gay History Rap. And it's a little bit about the history of what happened at Stonewall Inn and I

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see this what this version is.

11:05

[Singing, Now that the nation is swung to the ride, and more and more people have seen the light murders and margins and a lot more price, sex and discuss instead of rights]

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The Gay History rap, and, of course, we're here today at the special one to three program and to talk about the Lesbian Gay Pride Week 1992 with our special guest, Jack velinski, and Carol Clark, and Jack and Carol, maybe I can tell us a little bit about the organization, how it stands now. And the changes that are gonna be coming about and resell. It's very

11:42

easy. We've got tons of people helping us and we just show up once a once a month for a meeting. It's a very grassroots organization, as most of them are in this community. In the years past, Pride week would sort of like as Ray Hill used to say it be a Phoenix, it would spring up in about February, and it started having meetings and then everything would get organized. And it would be over. And as soon as June hit the pride and the pride happen. Everything just sort of like died down again. In the past for four years, five years, I guess it was for a full year, your organization now, as soon as the parade stops, we're starting to plan next year. In fact, we're already thinking about next year at this point, because most of the stuff is in motion now. It's a right now, Pride Week is under the Montrose Activity Center, which is a nonprofit organization. We are a subgroup that basically we just follow the IRS rules and

regulations and we pay them a small fee for lawyers and stuff like that they have for us. And then after that, after this Pride Week, what's going to happen is we're going to become our own organization, we've already got our 5013 C, and Mac wants to concentrate on building a community center. And we're going to concentrate on doing pride.

12:59

And that reminds me that that the Montrose activity center is auctioning off our raffling off rather a truck and a motorcycle at the pride rally this Sunday. And so if anyone would be interested in buying a ticket for that, they'll be selling them at the rally site and so you have a chance to win either a monster truck or is it the motorcycle?

13:23

Right? And if you're so inspired by our wonderful speech today, you want to get in involved. You can do so by coming to the next meeting, which will be July 21.

13:33

I'm not really sure that we're on the air. I'm hearing lots of squeals in my mic, in my phones

13:40

are conducting a test of the Emergency Broadcast System. This is only a test

13:52

Hello, okay. Wow. Every now and then things just get really interesting here and that Kermit the Frog coming on now.

14:01

A forest. You know, forests are home to lots of animals and they give us wood and they keep our water and air clean carbon Fortunately, these days are in trouble. They're being threatened by development and people who don't treat them with respect. Yes test so find out what you try to force Oh, National Wildlife Federation. Washington DC 2036. Remember more than trees?

14:31

Okay. We were not prepared for the test of the emergency broadcast. Yes. I think so. I think we got an F on that one. But he run for the hills. A lot of action in the daytime, all us night folks here. You were you were talking we were talking about Pride week and we were talking about that. It was under the

Montrose activity center. But now it's going to be its own organization and are you and Carol going to be co chairs forever or walking

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away? You're saying here? No, no,

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no, really? How does it happen? Because every year it's different folks that take up positions of responsibility.

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The way it happens is that somewhere around September, on August September so obvious is the general meeting. Yeah, yes, it changes from year to year exactly where it is. But somewhere in the fall, new co chairs are elected from the membership where which basically to me, memories are show up for two meetings in a row, and new persons come and put it on. Well, this year since Carol and myself and Brian Kiefer, are the new board of the new organization. We're going to sit down right after pride, we can talk about how we can make this more of a streamline. But we're always going to keep it open to communities, community criticism and praise or

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whatever, and then put in absolute activity and Pride Week is a

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community. It's not our organization.

16:00

I think basically Jack and I would probably stay on the board for a year but positive consultants, the day to day operation to two new co chairs, right?

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Structure and continuity. It's really striking when you attend a Pride week meeting, because you have the leather community, you have the names project, you have Parents and Friends of Lesbians and gays. And so there is this diversity of organizations, people that come and represent themselves as individuals. But then people that also are already involved in the community and whatever particular organization they are interested in. Yeah, I think that's also



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one of our strengths. person, I've met so much wonderful people that I don't think I ever would have had the opportunity to do because you would have to, to go to all these individual organizations to meet them where you can come to Pride Week, and you can meet everybody. And

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it's really you know, we had our parade meeting last week. And the diversity there was just incredible, and everybody was getting along and we're having a good time and rainbow tries to sneak in in his outfit. And of course, he can't do that

17:06

when a man and a blonde wig and a tutu comes in. It's kind of hard to not notice it. Of course rainbow the clown is intrical part of the parade every year usually gets his picture in the paper. We are honoring this year Larry binaries and as a founder the Founders Award and Larry was one of the people that contributed to the early years of Houston's galas, being Pride celebrations. He was among those who established the ongoing traditions and helped guide the planning committee to its vision of becoming a sophisticated year round organization. He lived in Houston for several years before returning to his native New Orleans. And he has been politically active and a frequent contributor to community projects in both cities. And he recently was appointed to the human relations advisory committee by the Mayor of New Orleans. So he'll be here to celebrate with us our

18:06

response that I'm involved in Ray Hill. Yes, Larry.

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Everything's right here.

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Larry was a very much part of both galas, New Political Caucus and the pride Committee. He was the one that got us in spots park into the fireworks and all that wonderful stuff. So we're very proud that he has started this organization got it going on its feet. So we want to honor him. So we're

18:28

gonna fight. Thank you. Thank you, Larry. Yeah, yeah. So what what has been going on So Bruce said he went ice skating last night?

18:36

Yes, I did. I didn't fall down. I made two rounds around the rink in my size 12 skates with my size 13 feet crammed into them. Because every time I've been to this place, they swear to me they own 13 skates but they're always out

18:51

I say and how many other six foot five people are running around?

18:56

Well, but it was I made a couple of rounds before my back started hurting me and my brain convinced my body that it really didn't need to be on the

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ice. Now there is a regular group that goes ice skating there is

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and last night was in addition to being the official Pride event for them was one of their regular events. The the lamda roller skating rink in conjunction with the Houston outdoor group and the chain gang Bicycle Club do this like every other week. And, and they

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also give free skate lessons. So if someone's interested in doing ice skating with other gay and lesbian people, they can contact that group at 5236381.

19:39

And I guess we should just take just a moment here just to clarify that we did have an ABS test a few minutes ago and and while I managed to screw it up in the engineering room, it was just a test. So don't panic.

19:51

The only crisis is that we have like people trying to function as day people on the radio. And so what kind of Things I know you've had to kind of like take the limo out and go from event to event as co chair.

20:07

from one event to another. No, there were some very great events. So one of them. One of the highlights was a town meeting on lesbian, gay and bisexual youth that happened at the First Unitarian church on Saturday. I think basically, these people are going to solve the problems of the world because they had it outlined and they're working on it. And it's really neat to see young people involved in the community and that was sponsored by hatch which is a Houston area teenage Coalition on homosexuality, smile Sexual Minority Youth Alliance league Alliance a boy Thank you system

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flake systems league jacker names we just left as

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hates gay and lesbian switch were abused and I know that one Gaylor, which is the rice group and fine young queers, which is a an infinity group of queer nation. And that was really neat to have all these young people. And then, the first time had been at a PFLAG meeting, which was also the Pride week meeting was wonderful. They had a number of people telling their stories, and that was at the Grace Lutheran Church and they meet every month, PFLAG his parents and friends of gays and lesbians. And there's just a number of neat things that happen all during the week. I went to the

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carnival, which is sponsored by the switchboard and I think they had a lineup for those who wanted to be on the dunking booth because it was about 98 I think Saturday and I think everybody was wanted to get on there so they can get wet. And the grindstone went pretty well. I think always in the morning, it goes well in the afternoon. Again, it was a little hot, but just a little hot, a little hot there. Monday, I also went to the as is play which is sponsored by the gay and lesbians of rice and it was really neat. It was way downtown and this kind of

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Noho was Austin

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I never been down here before you know and it's it's kind of part of it's the little stage area that they've kind of made up in the other part of it's kind of an empty warehouse and then with little place for refreshments areas. And that continues continues it did is was last week factory goes all the way to tonight and Thursday night. We want to remind you there are two things on for this evening. There is at the Montrose Palace, the late lesbian gay rights lobbyists in the AIDS Ecoli league are having an open discussion as it's 7pm to nine. And also one event that did not get on the calendar is an open house by the neighborhood police department here at 808 Westheimer. Please stop by those from one till 9pm tonight and say hello to our neighborhood police personnel. And of course that

22:46

used to be the Wildenstein bookstore. So kind of interesting that it's now it was well, no, no, not in an official way. We do have word that the streets in downtown Houston are closed because there is an emergency situation with a woman with a gun at City Hall who is demanding to see the mayor. And I don't know what that's about. Other than that, maybe you should avoid the downtown area. Certainly don't go to City Hall. I tell you if she's a woman with PMS and a gun, we're in trouble

23:17

and as far as we know it's not coronation. Yeah, so well. I don't think actually speaking of the mayor on Friday night there's an open invitation to the mayor's house, which did not get on the calendar either. It's a sponsored event by the AIDS equity league. And that happens at the corner of River Oaks and San Philippi. And there will be Valley Park

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you just go through the Rose Garden and there is a donation requested to help the AIDS equity league but Elise and Bob have opened their home to the community and invite you to come and have some nerves with them. Well let's let's go to a quick break and then we'll return with more of the calendar for Pride Week.

24:15

Armstrong, Ellington, Holliday, Parker, and Davis. milestones along the dynamic continuum of jazz. Join me miles Willis as we touch upon these and other points of interest will also keep up with new marks

24:37

will also keep up with new markers being set by today's young practitioners of jazz the straight ahead tradition, like Marlon Jordan, and Roy Hargrove. Listen to milestones every Monday evening from seven to 9pm and let the music take you away on KPFT 90.1 FM

25:36

After hours, a continuing tradition and KPFT reaches out to the gay lesbian community with music, weekly calendar events, news and other items of interest to the community. Hi, my name is Bruce raves. And I invite you to join us every Saturday night from midnight to 4am be a part of the rainbow connection listen to after hours each week here on KPFT 90.1 FM Houston.

26:20

Accused of

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around the next four days yeah, yeah, well, it is our time to shine is a community the Lesbian Gay community of Houston would be the fourth largest lesbian gay community in the United States because we're the fourth largest city and it's estimated that 10% or more slightly more than that, I believe it's at least 15 or more percent of the world's population happens to be gay or lesbian. And this week is about the celebration our of our lives and our commitment to ourselves and our love for one another. And in a lot of ways, we become more of a community and form families of affinity. Through being involved in organizations. We're going to continue talking about the calendar and we were just saying that there is a special performance tonight on channel eight at 10pm 10pm. I

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saw 930. In the in the program guide, check your local

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have the press release from channel eight that says 10pm Wednesday the 24th a gay and lesbian Pride Week event not to be missed. This is a dramatic adaptation of David livets acclaimed novel A father who has lived a lifetime of lies and secrecy about his own homosexuality, yearns for the same openness and freedom in his lifestyle as his gay son is able to experience. This is a moving story of self discovery, and familiar commitment and love. And they do have several more programs coming up during the month of July in August, about issues of concern of gays and lesbians. And it's really exciting that this is taking place. I'm looking right and,

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you know, I've heard good stories about the novel that the story is about tonight. But also I read a review that they did a very good job of following the novel, except they moved it to London, I guess,

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from New York to London. So it does have that bit of a British flavor. But but apparently the author thought that that was fine. It should be a DC production. And they usually do excellent work. So that does the other thing happening tonight is the roundtable discussion that's been sponsored by the Lesbian Gay rights lobby of Texas, which is the lobbying organization for our community. And it's one of only three in the United States. We're one of the only states that has that has a person speaking on our behalf and Glenn Maxi, who was the former executive director and lobbyist has since moved on to became one of them to become a legislator and he's an openly gay legislator in the state of Texas, which is a real victory for us. And Laurie iser Lowe has has succeeded Glenn as the the current lobbyist and Executive Director and she's going to be here as well as folks like Deborah Dannenberg and Garnett Coleman. And I think some city council people might also be attending that so it's a chance for our community to say look, this is what we're concerned about the possibility of 21 06 coming up in the legislature next session, and in the the effort to overturn that is one of the things that we'll probably discuss as well as things that might affect the AIDS community and like that, so what else is going on while

29:52

we move on to the big weekend? Friday, June 26 to tgr a pride night is happening at EJ is at 25. 17 Ralph, starting at 7pm, and that's a Texas gay Rodeo Association. They're having a variety show and a tour of the bars.

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Then we also have a night in Monte Carlo from nine until 2am. For all of our late people here, sponsored by the kingdom Community Church, it is at K Tec XAXTC, which is about 9200 Buffalo Speedway next to the Rance. It's \$4 at the door, which covers your cost for certain casino money for those who like to play little poker.

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And the same night a night in black leather at the venture in 10pm at 2923, sponsored by the National Weather Association and the party they had there last week. They were just packed

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on Saturday and just start your calendar because you can be busy the entire day here you can start off at 10am with some bagels, you need to call for location it's at 5207977

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and then we move on to the parks bike tour at 10am meets at the heaven parking lot Pacifica grant sponsored by the chain gang Bicycle Club, you can call 5224481 For more information,

31:11

and the event that I've been looking forward to is the woman's golf tournament that there's going to be a bad girls golf which is at Hermann Park, and I'm teeing off at 1130. And you're

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gonna play with pink balls. Okay.

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The National Weather association is having a leather symposium between two and 5pm at the Montrose palace 1505 Nevada at Commonwealth sponsored of course by the National Weather Association and their number for info is 5260444

Association and their number for info is 5200444

31:41

and I think this is your event it Jack the bar to bar Fun Run and starting at 6pm. It's going to begin at the BRB for information it's 5220899

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and then we have a concert Lesbian Gay Pride concert 92 at 8pm at Rich's at 2401 San Jacinto featuring the Lone Star and symphonic band and the MCC our choir.

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And then in the evening at nine o'clock at the Sheraton Astrodome at 686. Kirby is the gay and lesbian, Hispanic and does ballet 92.

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Yes, that is usually the largest indoor event of Pride Week.

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And it's it's a really wonderful event. I know, I've been in the last several years and I have already bought my tickets to go Saturday night, right.

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It's been late night, Saturday, we have the leather and erotic art and fantasy nights at the venture in, of course, by a sponsor by the National Weather Association.

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And that moves us on to Sunday, the 28th, which is we just got a note here.

32:45

Not another one, not a gun. So it's

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okav. It's like high school, your high school. We're passing notes here. Sunday the 28th. We start with

the rally, which starts at three o'clock and it's at the marriage parking lot. I'm looking forward to that. The rally

33:00

this year is a little bit scaled down. We're saying that in a positive sense, because it's free. And we have over 20 booths signed up with different information, T shirts and all this wonderful stuff. There's even going to be some refreshments and entertainment entertainment. We have entertainment before the parade and after the parade, and our co chair on that Rob Bridges has done a wonderful job, although I don't think he knows it yet.

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And it's just my envelope. When he gave me the information. He says Carol, you owe me Clark.

33:37

Hercules Wolinski. And I'm still not sure what that means. But he's worked very hard in putting the program together, getting everything set, making sure that we have the boots and the people at the boots. And

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we're looking forward to that. And yeah, and I understand the folks over at Mary have been really wonderful and supportive of this and they're going to have their annual party on the roof, which I think you had to have special tickets to, to get to but Bruce and I will be there doing the live color commentary on the parade. Thankfully, on n k Harper, she's, she's been there. She's wondering if

34:15

there's gonna be lots of people helping us. And I think Jim Vaughn will be here, the engineers for us, we're gonna be here from four to eight o'clock on Sunday. So we'll be giving you full coverage of the parade, which starts at five and we'll talk about that in just a minute. But we'll also be touching on the rally a little bit and having some tapes from our past. So be sure to tune in. If you go into the pride take your radio with you so you can hear what's going on. And you know, if you can't make the parade or don't feel like you're able to make the parade we'll be sure to tune in and listen to us.

34:44

And the parade starts at 5pm promptly at the corner of Woodhead and Westheimer. And we'll move down past Montrose and it's one of the best parades in Houston we'll have bands, bands, floats and fun And, and we'll be doing the broadcast starting at 4pm and going to 8pm. So we'll not only have the



parade, but lots of other things going on as well. And then there is also an event taking place after the parade over on Pacific Street, which is sponsored by the bars on Pacific Street and the National leather Association. Actually, there's probably lots of other things

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going on that are like private parties. You know, just too many things we could mention. But all these things that we talked about are open to everybody.

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Like you were telling me the other day that the the gay and lesbian parades like the second largest parade that Houston has, it might be

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the first time. Every time we talked about co chairs, it keeps getting larger and larger.

35:45

How big is the biggest one?

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It's either the we believe it's either the Thanksgiving Day Foley's parade, or the rodeo parade, okay, and we're, of course, the largest one outside the downtown area, right. And it's just really exciting all the different floats that are going to be there professional, and sometimes the non professional are just as good because they have an add, add to our and you know, we had a bar decorating contest. And so the spirits are really up there.

36:14

And if someone wants to be in the parade, and does, you know, they might not have already signed up or whatever, they can go down to those the lineup and check what organization they might like to march with them in coordination, or the pet patrol or are now is having a Thelma and Louise leading off for the March on Washington or possibly

36:35

even our executive car. That's the whole thing is that so many of our executive committee are involved in other organizations.

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I know. When I was talking about getting the signs done for the car, I said, Well, who's gonna be in the car for that committee? Because definitely easy.

36:53

Yeah. Right. And there's a few that won't be there for some reason. But you know, it's like, well,

36:59

it's great, because that's really the the point is that we're people who are involved in anything. So of course, in an event that's already taken place was the three plays that were produced by the group Theater Workshop unit, unity in the community. And Joe Watsa is the director. And this is going to be taking place July 9, through the 19th at divorce works Thursday through Saturday nights at 8pm and Sundays at five. And there's a very recent bowl ticket cost. And if you would like more information about the place, call 5222204. And Joe stopped by the other night and left with some poetry that was read by different cast members. And I listened to it last night. I'm very impressed. And we're going to use that on Sunday with the parade broadcast, I think you'll enjoy it very much. And is there any other message that you want to leave us with as co chairs of Pride week,

38:00

we talked so much about all the different events, but that's the whole spirit of the celebration. And we're talking here mostly about parties and parties and parties? Well, Pride Week has a lot more to do than just parties. The whole idea is that goes back to 1969 when people were not free, I mean, the fact that you can go into a radio station like this and do a do a show even even as radicals Pacifica was back then, that still wasn't possible. Even to go to a bar, you could be arrested. And in fact, you could even have a license to sell booze to gay or lesbian people. It was against the law to say same sex people to dance together. And so all that stuff was fought, people got tired of it, they started a riot. And we've made tremendous progress. I mean, the fact of the matter is, is now like the paper like the Houston press is on our side over the Randalls issue, that they won't let that paper in there because of the G word as they were saying. And of course, they're trying to cover this something else. And

38:58

the press also ran a calendar for this week coming out

39:01

tomorrow the Houston press is doing a cover issue on Pride Week, which will be their second annual, and you know, it's institutions like that where we couldn't even afford to buy the type of coverage they're giving us and KPFT who's doing you know, doing all this programming of our issues. It's really important to be able to talk to those people who don't feel comfortable with don't know about other people like that if you have those feelings, so you know we're there and if you can't be there, you can listen to us on the radio.

39:31

Okay, well taken care of we'd like to thank you for coming and being with us today. We're gonna be here until three o'clock we have Chris doorman from the again lesbian switchboard of Houston is going to be joining us next and then we'll be talking to the the grand marshals of the parade. For right now we're gonna take a short musical break and listen to Jamie Anderson singing no closet

40:13

Oh, and of course that was Tom Robinson with glad to be gay and we certainly are here during the middle of Pride Week 1992 Lesbian and Gay Pride Week. This is a special one to three program in honor of Pride Week, along with some of the gay and lesbian programmers from KPFT. The I'm Debra Bell from Wildenstein numbers range from after hours and we also have some other after hours, folks Kay Harper and Jim Carper, helping us engineer and we're going to also be on Sunday from four to 8pm doing live coverage of the parade as well as some other special programming in honor of our pride equals power. 1992 as being Gay Pride Week.

41:01

Of course, this might be a good time. Just to mention too that if you're not familiar with again, lesbian programming on KPFT, we do have three shows. The Wildenstein show which Jack and Deborah are the CO anchors for is on Monday night

41:13

and my sweetheart Donna Garni is the engineer and

41:17

on Friday mornings from nine until noon, Pokey and her crew do the breakthrough show. And then

41:24

we have to remember all the names Laura Branham and Suzanne Anderson are the other two folks say it took two women to replace cheery Wolf.

41:32

That's right. And then, of course, myself and Kay Harper, and Diane Williamson, and Joe gray and Judy Reeves. I'll help do the after our show on Saturday nights from

-- --

41:45

surrounded by women, Archie Bruce, I know.

41:50

It's just so much fun.

41:52

But it's really wonderful that we do have this forum on KPFT to talk about our issues. And you know, as I listened to the station, I learned more and more about the diversity of people around the world. And Anna, it's something I'm really thankful for that we have and I'm thankful that we have listeners that support us during marathon in pledge to our station and of course, we really thank them a lot more when they pay those pledges. But that's what it's all about. Is this community in Houston, Texas are sponsored radio. That's right. And that's our announcement, our commercial announcement for the day. We have with us a very special person who is representing a very special organization and Bruce, you. You said you would go with this. Oh here.

42:42

The honorary grand marshals for this US Houston Pride Parade are the gay and lesbian switchboard of Houston. And joining us now is Chris Dolan. Doorman doorman knew I knew I was going to do their own doorman with as the president of that organization. No,

42:59

no, no, it's the title. Right?

43:01

What is your Public Relations Officer relations

43:03

officer?

43:07

Is because he's the public relations.

43:10

So Chris, welcome. I thank you.

43:13

This is the first time an organization has been honored as Grand Marshal. And why don't you suppose that has happened? Well, I think

43:22

that after so many years of service to a community that an organization is deserving of such an award, and after maturity of our organization, people are recognizing us for what we have been doing in the past and what we do today. And I won't be surprised to see other organizations honored in the future. But we're really thrilled that, you know, we set a precedent and that we are the honorary Grand Marshal this year.

43:51

I know when the nomination was made. One of the things that struck me about it is the reality that a lot of the most of the switchboard volunteers are behind the scenes, they're not people that have faces visible in the community in their role as being a switchboard volunteer, they might be active in other organizations, etc. But what they do for the switchboard is, is pretty autonomous, and that this was a way for people to actually be in the parade and say, Yes, this is who we are, and this is what we're doing. And that that was really nice that that could take place. The what, what, first of all, how long has this switchboard been around? Well, we are starting

44:34

our 11th year of operation. We've been in business since early 1982 1982. So

44:40

10 years, going into the 10th year and the gay and lesbian switchboard Houston has about how many volunteers actively working with it now,

44:51

including our substitute staff about 100.

44:55

And what what do what does one do as a volunteer

44:59

as a volunteer Your our basic phone shift volunteers will work a three hour shift once a week for about three months. And then as a new training class comes on, we all fill out our scheduling requests. And we will opt to keep the same shift up to choose another shift or if we want to go on, go on substitute staff so that we may fill in for someone. If we have some other commitments going on, you know, we can opt not to take a shift and not have a regular weekly shift

45:31

three hours once a week, that's the time commitment plus the training time, which is an intensive training, but it needs to be for the type of work. So why don't you tell us a little bit about what the training involves and when the next one is coming up.

45:47

Okay, very intensive training. And it's a very, very good awakening experience for for the person that's going through training, not only for benefit of the switchboard, but for the benefit of that person as well. We're having our next training in early August. What it consists of is Friday night is an evening have two hours kind of a GET TO KNOW you type thing. And let's hear here's what's going to happen for the next two weekends. And then Saturdays and Sunday of that weekend 10am to 6pm and then Saturday and Sunday of the next weekend 10am to 6pm very intensive training, going through different things, preparing the volunteers for what they will be going through. And like I said it it really opens up your mind to a lot of things you you learn a lot of things about yourself and other people that

46:59

that you don't you wouldn't otherwise think about you wouldn't otherwise be real cognizant of someone that needs to say something unless you prompt them to say something so it really is good for for you as a person and for you as a switchboard volunteer.

47:17

You're gonna get a lot of different kinds of phone calls right I mean, I guess a lot of your calls are just about bars and that kind of stuff right but well

47:23

the calls run the gamut you can get a lot of bar calls. A lot of our evening type calls are people looking for club what type of club you know.

47:35

Okay, and we need to do our official ID you want to do it for

47:39

us. Sure. And then we will we're gonna break I think for short promo but you are listening to the one to three program here on KPFT 90.1 FM Houston,

47:48

we hear the sounds of the waves brushed up against the sand where he has written both of your names with a heart around

47:53

you we're looking at the sky burning red with the sunset. Quickly a car drives up alongside of you, you stop for red light. Suddenly the car is surrounded they circle your blanket coming in closer bottles are thrown out of car windows, the sound of glass breaking baseball bats against metal hand grabs your hair glass at your feet in your face in your eyes, a fist across your face again and again. Die queer tell them

48:25

homophobia can kill. Education is the only lasting weapon against bigotry. Which is why as a lesbian and gay public awareness project wanted you to hear and think about this message. For more information write us at Post Office Box 65603 Los Angeles, California 90065.

48:55

I know not home right now.

48:57

It's three o'clock Monday morning. And I'm at the KPFT doing my radio show esoteric adventures where I feature oddities and highlights from the recorded universe. So hang up, tune into 90.1 And don't call back you will wake up my fish. Don't forget that's esoteric adventures with your flight attendant Jim. Mondays three a m KP f t Houston

49:32

Is anybody home?

49:36

Of course, that was Jim Brian and Jim is going to be engineering for us on Sunday so they can play some pretty books.

49:47

I hope you're getting their sleep.

49:49

But Chris, we were talking about the kinds of phone calls that y'all get at the switchboard and right

49:53

I guess we need to explain what the switchboard is is a service where people can call and they can ask questions. sense of concern to gay and lesbian people. And for a lot of people, it's their first contact with the community. And sometimes it's up persons who are going through crisis periods in their life, maybe a gun person who's just trying to come out or someone else who maybe had just had a breakup in a relationship and, you know, they they're reaching out this way. So what, what are some of the types of things that the switchboard for provides?

50:28

Well, we're there to respond to just about any type of situation, as I said, the calls will run the gamut. Anything from it's 6pm. And I want to go out tonight, but I don't know where to go. Because I've just moved here two weeks ago, to I'm just now figuring out that I'm gay. And people are there to listen to share to respond to those people that have those concerns and issues, we have a lot of information about the community, we're pretty much a clearinghouse for local information, what goes on that particular day, that week, what goes on on a continuous basis, we have an extensive referral system where we have the businesses, the bars, the individuals that are listed with us, so that someone can call up and say, Hey, I need such and such. And we can likely provide them with a name or an avenue to approach that particular situation.

51:30

And then sometimes you're just an understanding list neuron, the other end of the phone line, which can be something that someone needs more than anything else, what were the hours of operation,

51:42

there from 3pm to midnight, seven days a week.

51:45

But if you had more people willing to staff but other hours, you might want to expand those hours, we



51:51

would we wouldn't do the next thing that we would add would be a 12 to three shift on the weekends. And yeah, we'd love to have more volunteers.

52:00

What do you look for in a volunteer?

52:03

Well, they go through an interview process over the telephone. And what we're looking for is someone that is willing to commit themselves to a three hour shift once a week for at least six months, someone that can learn and use basic active listening skills, to learn to be a good ear to be objective, and not to be judgmental with our callers. Because when someone calls and they have a problem, you certainly don't want to say, now you should be doing such and such and such. Now, the correct mode is to sit there and say Yes, I understand what you're saying, you know, I'm, you know, I feel I understand not to say, well, this is what I think you should do.

52:48

What's the hardest thing for a volunteer to deal with on the switchboard? Would you say? Well,

52:55

suicide calls are probably one of the most difficult ones to deal with. Because you're talking about someone whose situation is so critical, they are seriously considering taking their life. They're feeling a sense of hopelessness and worthlessness. And the object there is to get the caller to identify with why they're feeling so hopeless, and why are they feeling so worthless, and make them realize that what they're going through is simply going to be it's going to be resolved?

53:28

What's a funny situation?

53:34

People that call us for things that we don't provide, like people that call us for dates, uh huh. People to call us and think that we're going to come out and meet them. You know, since we're the gay and lesbian switchboard, well, we should just have a whole string of people that will come out and just, you know, visit them.

53:50

53:50

We sometimes get the radio station. Yeah. You know, people

53:53

will call the oddest places and say, Oh, well, let's, let's see if you all can come out and meet with me, you know? Well, no.

53:59

And they during the after our show, we probably have, we always try to have telephone people here answering the phones because unfortunately, the gay and lesbian switchboard usually open from about four ish to midnight ish. And so from midnight to 3am on Saturday night, we get a lot of those phone calls.

54:16

We need to shift open just

54:17

just forever. Yes, we do. Though, there's a thought.

54:23

And even forward the phone to the stage. And watch, I'll come up here and staff.

54:30

Now you've actually worked on the phones. Do you still do that? Oh, yes. I've

54:34

worked on the phones for about eight years. Okay. So

54:37

you've been around a while with organization? Yeah, just a little while. I remember you saying earlier you had served on just about every committee, the organization hands

54:45

54:45

most of the committee's. I've been representative for from the telephone staff to the Board of Directors. I've been on the board of directors. And currently I'm secretary to the board of directors and I'm the Public Relations Officer

55:00

Hmm. And the switchboard recently started doing something new. They added another phone line for a special reason which kind of came out of the events of last summer with the killing of Paul Broussard and made this community and I guess the city of Houston in general, much more aware of the issue of hate crimes. Talk a little bit about the hate crimes hotline,

55:23

okay, well, we started it in early January. And it's a number that people can call and unlike the switchboard number that's only open from three to midnight, we are available 24 hours a day for that, if there's no person there to take the call in person, we have an answering machine that they can leave their message on, and we will get back with them and retrieve that information. What we will do is to compile the information that they give us, talk to them, listen to them, and make the appropriate referrals if they need to, for legal assistance from medical assistants. Basically, you know, to be there for someone to lean on for a shoulder, and also to get those facts down so that we can report those statistics to the FBI to the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force so that we can lobby Congress for more awareness of hate crimes committed against gay and lesbian. And

56:28

oh, gosh, I forgot what the question was. I was gonna ask about that when we

56:33

come into the phone numbers for the switchboard again, or five to 930 to 11. That's the main number, right? And the crimes hotline, numbers 5299 615-529-3211 and 5299615.

56:47

Thank you, Chris, for being with us. And congratulations on the honor of being honorary Grand Marshal for Lesbian Gay Pride Week 1992. For the switchboard, right.

56:56

And we're gonna take a short musical break here, and we're going to be listening to your girlfriends, we won't be silent

57:01

my girlfriend. Thanks again, Chris.

57:03

Damn, whoa,

57:11

we won't back down.

57:13

We won't back down. In fact, we'll just come out and just be stronger than ever, because we really believe that pride equals power. And we're not just talking about political power or power over anything, just the empowerment for self and our power in a community and what it means to be a community. And we have with us now two people that are being honored as grand marshals for this year's Pride Week. And will be waving to us from the convertibles in the parade there. Brian's got his queen wave down. Yes, yes, yes. His big tent now Brian has led, Brian Keever is one of the grand marshals. And every year that I remember of the parade, Brian has been at the front of the parade carrying the opening banner. And so this will be his first time to actually be in the parade in a vehicle. Is that correct?

58:14

Well. I've been on the executive committee for a few years. And we did some horse drawn buggies a couple of years ago, where we all were in the buggy. But why take it back last year, I was actually in a car but I was sitting down helping in the car as opposed to being the celebrity in the car. I see.

58:36

And so now you're a celebrity. Anyway, yeah, right. Brian is the office manager at this week in Texas, which is a publication in the community fondly referred to as twit and he's just been involved in lots of other things. It amazes me it's kind of like, you know, you EBS dust as it goes from one thing to another. What are some of the things you've been involved with in the community, Brian?

59:07

Well, currently, I'm still on the board of directors for Houston's lesbian and gay Political Caucus. I'm involved with National Weather Association Houston, Pride Week. A member and one of the head officers at MCC our church, which is Metropolitan Community Church, the resurrection I just got off of about a bunch of boards because I've been trying to figure out what it's like to not have a meeting every night of the week or two or three you know that would be nice you know so that I'm not renting an apartment just for cats.

59:42

Those cats so it was just they have such a life you know

59:46

they have the apartment I just come there and change clay allow you

59:48

to leave your clothes there so that you can come in and change every now

59:52

and I've been working for the magazine for TWT six ish years. More around six years. Yeah. So and I've worked on the March on Washington. Working on the 93. I worked on 87. And then when I lived in North Carolina I worked on the 79 March so I'm worked on each one of the march on Washington's

1:00:11

Yeah, so you're not originally from Houston what what your? Did you make your debut in our fair city in 1980?

1:00:17

Came here to visit and went, oh boy, hey, this is

1:00:22

it. Look at these cowboys.

1:00:25

I finally found man Hey, and moved here.

1:00:28

And so did you get involved in the community right away and organizations.

I got involved in 81 working on Kathie Whitmite's campaign and became a member of for GPC which was what it was called then. And because I always enjoyed politics, and still do, and I'm also the precinct chair for precinct 39, which is the Greek Orthodox Church of on yo come for the Democratic Party. And I've been very active in party platforms and policies and everything for many years in the Democratic Party. So I've, I've kind of stretched his bone as far as you can stretch it, something that I guess it's kind of a compliment. I was at an event recently, and they were announcing different people that was here. And I guess this is a compliment. They would like to announce the fact that the Carolyn Farbe of Montrose is here to see -- and i said, oh hi

spare me, you said spare me, didn't you?

I guess that's a compliment. I've known Carolyn for a couple of years. She's real nice. There's a lot of work in the community and the other community. So in a way, I guess that was a very nice compliment. They were paying me saying that. Well, here he is, again.

Well, yeah, recognizing your contribution to the community. How do you feel about being honored as one of the grand marshals this year?

Oh, goodness. It's so hard to describe because I've always been doing the work and been helping out, organizing and doing things like that for the community, as opposed to just sitting there and just being being the person in the car. So for me, it's going to be quite a rush. And I'm very honored. You know, this is my 10 year anniversary for being with Pride Week.

So you've been with it from the beginning?

Well, not really. It's been around since 79. Okay, but I have 1982 binary said, Here, hold this. So we started carrying,

11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20. 21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30. 31. 32. 33. 34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 39. 40. 41. 42. 43. 44. 45. 46. 47. 48. 49. 50. 51. 52. 53. 54. 55. 56. 57. 58. 59. 60. 61. 62. 63. 64. 65. 66. 67. 68. 69. 70. 71. 72. 73. 74. 75. 76. 77. 78. 79. 80. 81. 82. 83. 84. 85. 86. 87. 88. 89. 90. 91. 92. 93. 94. 95. 96. 97. 98. 99. 100. 101. 102. 103. 104. 105. 106. 107. 108. 109. 110. 111. 112. 113. 114. 115. 116. 117. 118. 119. 120. 121. 122. 123. 124. 125. 126. 127. 128. 129. 130. 131. 132. 133. 134. 135. 136. 137. 138. 139. 140. 141. 142. 143. 144. 145. 146. 147. 148. 149. 150. 151. 152. 153. 154. 155. 156. 157. 158. 159. 160. 161. 162. 163. 164. 165. 166. 167. 168. 169. 170. 171. 172. 173. 174. 175. 176. 177. 178. 179. 180. 181. 182. 183. 184. 185. 186. 187. 188. 189. 190. 191. 192. 193. 194. 195. 196. 197. 198. 199. 200. 201. 202. 203. 204. 205. 206. 207. 208. 209. 210. 211. 212. 213. 214. 215. 216. 217. 218. 219. 220. 221. 222. 223. 224. 225. 226. 227. 228. 229. 230. 231. 232. 233. 234. 235. 236. 237. 238. 239. 240. 241. 242. 243. 244. 245. 246. 247. 248. 249. 250. 251. 252. 253. 254. 255. 256. 257. 258. 259. 260. 261. 262. 263. 264. 265. 266. 267. 268. 269. 270. 271. 272. 273. 274. 275. 276. 277. 278. 279. 280. 281. 282. 283. 284. 285. 286. 287. 288. 289. 290. 291. 292. 293. 294. 295. 296. 297. 298. 299. 300. 301. 302. 303. 304. 305. 306. 307. 308. 309. 310. 311. 312. 313. 314. 315. 316. 317. 318. 319. 320. 321. 322. 323. 324. 325. 326. 327. 328. 329. 330. 331. 332. 333. 334. 335. 336. 337. 338. 339. 340. 341. 342. 343. 344. 345. 346. 347. 348. 349. 350. 351. 352. 353. 354. 355. 356. 357. 358. 359. 360. 361. 362. 363. 364. 365. 366. 367. 368. 369. 370. 371. 372. 373. 374. 375. 376. 377. 378. 379. 380. 381. 382. 383. 384. 385. 386. 387. 388. 389. 390. 391. 392. 393. 394. 395. 396. 397. 398. 399. 400. 401. 402. 403. 404. 405. 406. 407. 408. 409. 410. 411. 412. 413. 414. 415. 416. 417. 418. 419. 420. 421. 422. 423. 424. 425. 426. 427. 428. 429. 430. 431. 432. 433. 434. 435. 436. 437. 438. 439. 440. 441. 442. 443. 444. 445. 446. 447. 448. 449. 450. 451. 452. 453. 454. 455. 456. 457. 458. 459. 460. 461. 462. 463. 464. 465. 466. 467. 468. 469. 470. 471. 472. 473. 474. 475. 476. 477. 478. 479. 480. 481. 482. 483. 484. 485. 486. 487. 488. 489. 490. 491. 492. 493. 494. 495. 496. 497. 498. 499. 500. 501. 502. 503. 504. 505. 506. 507. 508. 509. 510. 511. 512. 513. 514. 515. 516. 517. 518. 519. 520. 521. 522. 523. 524. 525. 526. 527. 528. 529. 530. 531. 532. 533. 534. 535. 536. 537. 538. 539. 540. 541. 542. 543. 544. 545. 546. 547. 548. 549. 550. 551. 552. 553. 554. 555. 556. 557. 558. 559. 560. 561. 562. 563. 564. 565. 566. 567. 568. 569. 570. 571. 572. 573. 574. 575. 576. 577. 578. 579. 580. 581. 582. 583. 584. 585. 586. 587. 588. 589. 590. 591. 592. 593. 594. 595. 596. 597. 598. 599. 600. 601. 602. 603. 604. 605. 606. 607. 608. 609. 610. 611. 612. 613. 614. 615. 616. 617. 618. 619. 620. 621. 622. 623. 624. 625. 626. 627. 628. 629. 630. 631. 632. 633. 634. 635. 636. 637. 638. 639. 640. 641. 642. 643. 644. 645. 646. 647. 648. 649. 650. 651. 652. 653. 654. 655. 656. 657. 658. 659. 660. 661. 662. 663. 664. 665. 666. 667. 668. 669. 670. 671. 672. 673. 674. 675. 676. 677. 678. 679. 680. 681. 682. 683. 684. 685. 686. 687. 688. 689. 690. 691. 692. 693. 694. 695. 696. 697. 698. 699. 700. 701. 702. 703. 704. 705. 706. 707. 708. 709. 710. 711. 712. 713. 714. 715. 716. 717. 718. 719. 720. 721. 722. 723. 724. 725. 726. 727. 728. 729. 730. 731. 732. 733. 734. 735. 736. 737. 738. 739. 740. 741. 742. 743. 744. 745. 746. 747. 748. 749. 750. 751. 752. 753. 754. 755. 756. 757. 758. 759. 760. 761. 762. 763. 764. 765. 766. 767. 768. 769. 770. 771. 772. 773. 774. 775. 776. 777. 778. 779. 780. 781. 782. 783. 784. 785. 786. 787. 788. 789. 790. 791. 792. 793. 794. 795. 796. 797. 798. 799. 800. 801. 802. 803. 804. 805. 806. 807. 808. 809. 810. 811. 812. 813. 814. 815. 816. 817. 818. 819. 820. 821. 822. 823. 824. 825. 826. 827. 828. 829. 830. 831. 832. 833. 834. 835. 836. 837. 838. 839. 840. 841. 842. 843. 844. 845. 846.

You notice how Larry's name keeps coming up as being a person. Do you get something going and you leave town and you say here?

1:02:42

Okay, well, Sheri Cohen Darbonne is our other grand marshal line. Hi, Sherry.

1:02:46

Hi.

1:02:47

And according to this, it says that you were the CO organizer of Houston's first gay pride march in 1976.

1:02:54

Yes, I'm actually I had thought it was 1975. And I was corrected that it was 1976 by Ray Hill. So

1:03:07

that's a switch.

1:03:09

Yes. Yeah. I was. Most of my actual activism was in the 70s. And I kind of missed out on the 80s. And I'll get to that.

1:03:23

Well, so what was the parade like in 76? What was it first?

1:03:27

There was no it wasn't a parade. It was a march, there were about 200, a little over 200 people in it. We marched through downtown Houston, our guest special guest. I don't know if you'd call him a grand marshal or whatever was Vito Russo, who was the late film Producer, producer. And the it was, it was really different because there had never been anything like that here before. And we didn't know what we were going to be getting into. And

1:04:07

was that the one that was in response to Anita Bryant?

1:04:11

No, that that came the next year. Oh, I see. And people were a little more organized than

1:04:18

about how many people were involved in that first March,

1:04:21

the one for Anita. I was the one that about 200 people and that was there was a Texas gay Task Force Convention. And they were meeting at the University of Houston. So a lot of those people were from Texas Gay Taskforce and from other places.

1:04:36

And of course, you're the editor of the New Voice, which is their other publication here in town. Yes. Well, weekly publication and how long have you been on the new voice?

1:04:46

Okay, well, I with the Montrose Voice. I had worked for the Montrose Star which was a forerunner of the Montrose Voice for a little while and when I came back to Houston the first time in 1986 I went to work for the Montrose Voice. And I left again the next year and came back in 1989. And I've been editor of the new voice since or monitors voice a new voice since 1989.

1:05:12

I think a lot of us still think of it as the Montrose voice. Of course, we realize that our community expands beyond the the boundaries of what's called the Montrose area.

1:05:23

And you were active with the first gay and lesbian organization on the campus, second, second, have been corrected on oh gosh, another correction. And I've had that corrected in the, in the, in the new voice, I ran a correction on it and tried to get a correction into the pride guide. But it still came out saying the first, the first organization was the gay liberation Forum, which was there in late 1970, and 1971. And they must have been a real brave bench because we had



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they had disbanded and were no longer functioning when, when you came along, and who else was involved at that time, what was going on on campus. There were

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a lot of things going on. As a matter of fact, in the 70s, I'm not sure what the situation is like the end, but there was a gay and lesbian artists and performers group also at the same time. And a group that put together an anthology of people's writing and poetry and stuff that was also kind of a semi closeted gay and lesbian group. So there was a lot going on, on campus at that time. Out in the community in general, there, there wasn't that much. It was it was pre Pride Week, per se, and Houston. And one of the things that my involvement in Pride Week and the reason that this is such an honor for me, is that I was in the group that early on, was pushing for a Pride Week in Houston. And is matter of fact, in LXIX magazine, which I was editor of. And in 77. I ran some editorials pushing for a Pride Week, and really promoted the 78 Pride Week.

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Well, what do you see the function of Pride Week being?

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I think it's something that's very, very necessary. Every, every year, I think that rather than not to include the years that I was gone. But every year, I hear the same thing. And it's usually from someone associated with the mainstream media or just with the mainstream. Who says why? Why do we need a Pride Week? And the reason we need a Lesbian and Gay Pride Week, and I think that as much as possible without being repetitious, we need to use that every single time is that? Well, it's like our theme this year is pride equals power. And the opposite is also true. A lack of pride, a low self esteem is the most devastating thing that can happen to a person and also to a group of people. And I think we're

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really couldn't have a community if we didn't have some pride in who we are.

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Yeah. Well, getting back to the reason I was gone, I came out when I was t--

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What the heck does that mean? Where had you gone? Did you go with Dorothy to to Oz, or what?

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Basically, yes. In the 1980s, I had so little self esteem that I thought that the way to improve my life and to become a part of the world was to change my identity. And so I got married and had two kids. And other than that little hiatus in 1986 and 87. I gradually over time, I realized that this was not the way to go for me, and that it took a lot of growth. And I was someone who originally never would have thought that I would do something like that.

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Now are Josh and Zack going to ride in the parade with you?

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Josh [inaudible] at his grandma's house.

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I see, two beautiful boys really adorable. And now. Now you were married to a gay man, weren't you?

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Yes.

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So was he was he trying to change his identity to that what that was about you thought maybe if we try living a straight life we can.

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Yes, I was married to a close friend who is gay man. And that was basically the the scenario that the same thing that I'm sure a lot of people go through in the community, which is that you know, we're going to try This and see if we can do it quote unquote, right?

1:10:03

Right. And, of course, he has been very ill with AIDS. And that's been another struggle that you've had to deal with in your life raising two children and then having a spouse who you're still very close to what, what else are concerns of the community that you see that Pride Week is part of, I don't know, bring making more visible

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the main thing of gay and lesbian Pride Week, and I think the theme reflects it this year is self esteem. Be proud of who you are. Be glad you're who you are, and show everybody else that you're proud and glad to be who you are.

1:10:45

That's great. That's great. And you're going to be waving to us from the convertible. Sheri Cohen Darbonne, one of the grand marshals of the 1992. Pride Week, and Brian C. Bryan Keever. I can't remember what the C stands for Brian really chaired.

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But I think it's Carlton.

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I don't think so. No, but something else you might want to remember is the fact that and I say this every year, I guess it's one of those usual things that we have to remember to use those gnl words, you know, don't, don't just say, you know, we're going to do go down to Pride Week, go down and say you're going down to gay and lesbian Pride Week, because there's some kind of empowerment in doing that. And using those two words, you know, when I was much younger than I am now, I would use an expression that Frank Kennedy used to use that say gay is good. And I was one of those little one, those little teenagers that go around writing games, good kids, good. One that wrote different places, you know, that weren't supposed to be in North Carolina at that time. And that just helps you feel good, it makes you it helps you remember that gay is good. And that, you know, it's wonderful, it's powerful. And just, you know, a positive mental attitude towards your own sexuality helps. Because we have a lot of young people that look up to us and say, you know, well, here I am 21 years old, I've never been discriminated against, I have a lover, we're doing quite fine. We're wonderful. Hey, we're happy, you know, but for them to be able to get where they got, we need to remind them and that's what pride weeks about is remembering that.

1:12:34

Right? It's it's another one of those distorted messages that we get not only from the mainstream, but from within our own community, which is the one that says, why make an issue of your sexuality. Well, the people who say this are looking through a narrow lens, because if you look at the whole picture, and see what's happening, we ain't the ones doing that. And we need to keep in there and combat what's being done to us.

1:13:02

That's true. And that was one of the first questions my parents asked me when I came out to them, you know, was Why Why come out to us at all? Why not just, you know, pretend like it didn't exist. And it's like, I said, Well, to begin with, I said, my whole entire life revolves around my sexuality. I said, every

group I'm in as a gay or lesbian group, you asked me what I did last week, and I have to say nothing. You know, I said, I've been living a lie. And I said, I'm not gonna do that any longer, because this is who I am. And if you're gonna be brave enough to ask me what I'm doing, I'm gonna tell you.

1:13:32

Yeah, I think our friends over at PFLAG parents have Friends of Lesbians and gays have learned that their lives have been enriched by their involvement in that organization and being in touch with their gay and lesbian children. Because a lot of people would otherwise lose their children because we that same situation where you just cover it up are you pretending now you just you become estranged from your family. And it needn't be that way. It shouldn't be that way. And you know, our lives can all be enriches not necessarily the sexuality that revolves around it's the community that revolves around that, and and that we are wonderful citizens because we struggle so much to be able to be visible. And while it's combat time to take a break. I do want to thank Sherry And Brian for being with us as grand marshals of Pride Week. 1992 Lesbian Gay Pride Week. And

1:14:37

we are listening to the special Lesbian Gay Pride Week 1992 edition of the one to three show here on KPFT 90.1 FM Houston, we'll be back in just a few minutes.

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Citizens United for rehabilitate believes that this is not a surname. Cure is a group of concerned citizens who want to discuss is positive with crime debilitating errands or ex offenders. Cure is not a group of posts

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on KPFT, FM 90 Saturday Saturdays 9am to 12 leaping to you a little bit of India, right here in Houston

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and it is a gay and lesbian spirit, and you're listening to a special gay and lesbian edition of the 123 show here on KPFT 90.1 FM Houston. Of course, my name is Bruce raves and helping us with Echoing Green today is Deborah bell. And our engineers are Kay Harper and Jim Carper. And we'd like to give a special thanks to them for

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we're gonna mess up their names putting up with

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abuse. But Deborah is also the regional representative from the Texas area for the March on Washington, which was going to be on April the 25th 1993. And of course, Deborah has been a very active part in our community as not only the CO anchor of the Wildenstein show on Monday nights, but was co chair of Lesbian Gay Pride Week in 1987. In 1988, well, you were kind of chair when I was co chair with 1988. And so she's been around for for a while. I've been around. She's, she's been around, but, and has I know has helped me to realize a lot of the the the reasons why we need to be politically correct. And in both our grammar and our lives, and I and I love her dearly for that. And Deborah wants to advertise the march a little bit because I know that's going to be something coming up not too far in the future. And it's something we want everyone to start thinking about and planning for now.

1:17:16

I think it's a natural extension of Pride Week and out of the 1987 march on Washington, the National Coming Out Day began which is October 11 of every year, and and then also the marches on Austin that we've had. Five years ago, we marched on Washington DC we shouted and smiled and why laughed and cried. We saw names and we mourned friends, we got married, we sat down in front of a comparatively more tolerant Supreme Court and we refuse to move. We lobbied we took over a city. We believe that we could change the world because in 1987, the March on Washington for lesbian and gay rights changed us. And though the straight world seemed to ignore us, we took our energy and returned to our cities and states to continue the dramatic process of change and transformation. On April 25 1993, we will march again, because our country has not moved on any of our demands. In fact, South Africa has a better record of addressing the 1987 march demands than the United States. We don't need to ask why we're marching again. The reasons are virtually the same. This time as the war in 1987. The United States continues to provide its Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender citizens with violence, intolerance and discrimination. The US continues to feed his children with the poison of homophobia every day. Our educational systems rob us of our role models. As students we never learned the truth about James Baldwin, Gertrude Stein, Michelangelo, Eleanor Roosevelt, Walt Whitman, or Willa Cather. We will march for an end to the censoring of our history in history and into the invisibility that denies all of us the vibrance and truth of our heritage. For lesbians, gays and bisexuals, the nuclear family has sometimes been a new killer disaster. The fallout of traditional family values can be shame and suicide. The American family is all too often a clan in which individuality is curtailed, thought censored and love rejected. We will march on Washington to demand that the United States face the fact that the suicide of its lesbian and gay youth is really murder.

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It's pretty heavy in it.

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We will march to demand that women and men who serve in their country not be tossed aside, the military ban on lesbian gay members must be rescinded. Our government ask all too eagerly for a person's life, yet it cannot treat it with respect or dignity. The 1993 March on Washington for lesbian, gay and bisexual equal rights and liberation is our chance to take the step beyond to reinvigorate our season leaders to teach our youth how to lead to empower those in the closet to emerge with pride, to demonstrate the failure of all three branches of the federal government to honor the hard work that we've all done, to remember those who have stood stood with us during the last five years and who

will not be those that will not be around next year. To celebrate our victories and to love openly and freely, and most important, it is a chance to prepare for the battles of tomorrow, the battles that will lead us to freedom, we hope that you will join us April 25 1993, in this massive celebration, remembrance and call to arms. It's a simple matter of justice, in pride.

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It's a pretty neat piece.

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Yeah, yeah, there's really more to that piece, there is a newsletter out now that's gone writable at the rally. And we do have some more events coming up to finish off Pride Week. It is the most exciting time of the year for our community. And it's one that we can do with joy and celebration. And it's certainly, I guess, something that made me more conscious of my role in the world as a lesbian woman. And as, as Carol and Sherry And Brian and Chris, all were saying it's sometimes not just being part of the community, but it it has to do with giving back to a community. And you know, there's people that come in the doors of this radio station and volunteer to help out with programs like after hours in Walden Stein. And there's other folks that get involved in the gay and lesbian Political Caucus, and have their things that they do in life. But it's just, it's just really special when we do come together as a community, and show our pride. And there's so many more things going on throughout the year, but especially during this time of the year, we're going to take another musical.

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And when we come back, we're going to be giving you the schedule, we'll quickly have the rest of the week, so be sure and have your pencil and paper ready for ready for that. Or whatever. But this next piece of music kind of follows real well with the March on Washington article you just read and kind of leads us back into pride. We could well, it's by the nylons from their acapella album and it's called Rise up I love this

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one too. It's great

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right rise up, rise up,

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rising. Hansen and it was great. I love that song. It's wonderful. It's a great message for I Pride Week whose theme is pride equals power to rise up

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everybody to rise up and get out there to see that parade this weekend.

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That's right, it's gonna be great fun and with the rally following over it marries naturally. The Houston press also says to get out and they were nice enough to include a calendar of events for Pride Week Lesbian and Gay Pride Week 1992. And they also made an editorial comment in during the persecutions and prejudice just others for so many years has made the gay community stronger and their pride deeper. To commemorate that sense of pride. The gay and lesbian community of Houston proudly presents its annual Lesbian Gay Pride Week. If you're a sexual minority, this is your glorious time if you're not try and an m&m transfer that's minority to majority to borrow an H ISD term. I Black's Black History Month, our National Women's Day This celebration has the implicit dark side that we wouldn't need this special time if life were unscrew amatory all year long. The festivities began on June 18 and last through June 28. Sure, it's a little longer than a week, but you can't expect to squeeze so much pride into just seven days. We got lots of pride. That's right, especially here at Kpf. We're big on pride for for us. So let's let's finish off what the events coming up for the rest of the week. Okay,

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starting today. night at seven o'clock, make our voices heard is going to be a roundtable discussion involving members of the lesbian and gay community. It's sponsored by the Lesbian Gay rights lobby of Texas and the AIDS equity League and it will be from seven to nine at the Montrose palace 1505. Nevada. For more information you can call probably the gay and lesbian switchboard at five to 930 to 11.

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And also this evening, an open house at the neighborhood police substation over on Westheimer it's already happening started at one is that through the afternoon, I think we're gonna have we're there and you can talk to the folks that serve our community and help build some relations there. And then on channel eight

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on PBS tonight, the last language of the cranes. Jack says it's on at 930 The press release has its own at 10. So be sure to check the local listings for that. But that's the last language of the cranes on channel eight this evening.

1:26:06

Yeah, cuz you don't want to miss it. I'm sure at least tape it. On Friday, the Texas Gay Rodeo Association pride night. Those wacky guys at the Texas gay Rodeo Association are added again with a bus tour of Houston bars plus a variety show at EJ is featuring their members. That's from 7pm to 1am.

A Jays is at 2517 Ralph,

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and a night in black leather. That sounds like fun. The National Weather association is hosting a cocktail party. Hopefully it's cooler there than it is in this room. They're gonna be hosting a cocktail party featuring Houston's hot 492, which will open letter Pride weekend. That's at 10 o'clock tonight at the venture in 2923 Main. For more information you can call 5260444.

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And of course on Saturday, the 27th will be the bagel blast at 10am. And you need to call for location. This is sponsored by the organization for Jewish gays and lesbians, their friends and families. That number for more information is 5207977.

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And then on Saturday, still on Saturday, the parks bike tour is gonna start at 10am and they're gonna meet at the heaven parking lot at Pacific and grant. It's been sponsored by the Chain Gang Bicycle Club, and it's gonna be a tour of the parks of Houston and for more information you can call 5224481

1:27:38

The Ranch Texas pride Invitational golf tournament, those bad girl girls of golf and the ranch sponsor starting at 11am I don't get golf but okay, Harmon Park golf course 6201 Golf Course drive, and this is benefiting the Texas Human Rights Foundation For more information on that call mine 568132.

1:28:03

And then the national leather Association's leather symposium is going to be from two until five on Saturday. It will take place again at the Montrose palace at 1505 Nevada at Commonwealth it's sponsored by the National leather Association and it's free. It's an educational seminar on the leather lifestyle and for more information you can call 5260444.

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The bar to bar fun runs sponsored by the front runners of Houston begins at 6pm at the brasses river bottom BRB 2400 browses. It's a non competitive running event. For more information call 5220899.

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And then at eight o'clock the Lone Star symphonic band in the metropolitan Church of the resurrection will be holding their pride 92 concert and it will be at eight o'clock at Rich's at 2401 San Jacinto for more information you can call 5270931



more information you can call 327-8331

1:29:05

Baile '92, Presented by Gay and Lesbian Hispanic Unidos. 9pm at the Sheridan astronaut dome at 686 Kirby for more information on that 2704548

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And the leather and erotic art and fantasy night your wildest dreams will come true when you see this art show featuring local and state artists exhibiting their erotic art 10:30pm at the venture end 2923 main

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okay Sunday the big day the parade starting at 5pm special live coverage starting at 4pm here on KPFT. The parade begins at Woodhead goes down Westheimer past mantras and it's followed by the pride rally

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naturally in the Mary's parking lot. It actually starts at three o'clock and runs till 830 It will be in the Mary's parking lot at 1022 Westheimer It's sponsored by Lesbian Gay Pride Week. And this is going to be entertainment speeches and community booths. And then

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the loading dock 92 with pride by Pacific Street and National Weather Association at 7pm on Pacific Street. And that wraps up Pride Week 1992.

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You've been listening to a special edition of the one to three program here on KPFK 90.1 FM, in honor of Lesbian Gay Pride Week. My name is Bruce Reeves. I'm been one of your co anchors this afternoon and I would encourage you to tune into the after our show which I'm a part of on Saturday nights from midnight until 3am.

1:30:38

And I'm Deborah Bell and the show that I usually am found with is Wilde 'n' Stein on Monday nights at 9pm. Along with Jack Valinski, Donna Gournay. And then of course our engineers today thank them very much, much Kay Harper and Jim Carper. And

1:30:56

Our other gay and lesbian show in town is breakthrough, Friday mornings from nine until noon with feminist expression. Pokey, and Laura and Suzanne, be sure and tune in Sunday from four until 8pm. Catch the live coverage of the parade with Deborah and myself as your co anchors and all our many helpers Kay Harper will be out there as well. And we look forward to talking to you then. Have a good week.

1:31:21

And pride equals power happy Lesbian Gay Pride Week 1992.

1:31:40

KPFT Houston