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SPEAKERS

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

 Cindy Friedman 00:02

Houston is 90.1 KPFT the sound of Texas at Pacifica network station KPFT Houston.

 Jack Valinski 00:14

Welcome to the April 30 edition of lesbian and gay voices. This is Jack from Linscott. And I'm doing Devlin Glenn Holt. And we're here for another week of exciting things that are happening in the community. This past weekend was the art car parade and our friend rainbow was in there doing a gay lesbian people in history on his side of his van which was you know, rainbow is always just rainbow.

 Joan Devlin 00:36

And he works really hard on his projects. I believe she won an honorable mention or something. So I'm really happy to hear that.

 Jack Valinski 00:42

Of course he was in the political category. Of course, where else

 Joan Devlin 00:45

would rainbow be pleased?

 Glenn Holt 00:47

It was out that I saw on hen net about the we did it van or something like that

It was out that I saw on their site about the we did it van or something like that.

J Joan Devlin 00:51

I have no idea.

G Glenn Holt 00:53

Because rainbow was mentioning something. Yeah,

J Jack Valinski 00:55

yeah, that was rainbow talking about.

J Joan Devlin 00:57

Okay. I never know he titles everything. You know.

G Glenn Holt 01:01

By the way, I saw an interesting bumper sticker on the way over here. It said Stop mutilating crape myrtles

J Jack Valinski 01:06

was that the first time or second time on your way over here?

G Glenn Holt 01:11

Yeah, for some reason, you know, I normally take a nap after work. And normally I just sleep very lightly, and I dream, and that's all I needed. But tonight, apparently for some reason. I needed deep sleep. And I went I went very deep sleep. And I woke up an hour early thinking that it was an hour later. Okay, so you're gonna take a nap during the show now, while I normally do anyway, okay.

J Jack Valinski 01:29

Tonight's show, we're going to be talking about progressive voters and action about what's happening on the campaign and the referendum and things like that, because it is a little bit complicated. Try to keep up with it.

J

Joan Devlin 01:40

That's right. And they're working very hard. The other thing we're going to do is the National Gay and Lesbian immigration task force is going to be coming on to update us on the legislation that would make it legal for a partner of a gay or lesbian immigrant to stay here.

J

Jack Valinski 01:56

Yes. And that's very pointed because of what was going on in the IRS today, that today was apparently the last day to file to be able to stay in this country. It's been it's a long story. But basically, it was a very busy day at the the immigration today. And in the second hour, we'll have Ray Hill sort of updating us on his life and talking about his fourth, is it fourth or fifth life show that he's doing? I don't know. But he's doing a pride show. That's what I'm talking about. Yes, his life story five, I think it's going to be

J

Joan Devlin 02:27

right, but I have more lives in the cat. So we can expect at least five or six more live stories.

J

Jack Valinski 02:33

Yes. So all that's going on? Of course, will we have segments from this way out? But coming up first is the well it's coming up in a second or so because we actually had two tapes today. We weren't sure which one was the most current?

J

Joan Devlin 02:46

How difficult we you know, sometimes

G

Glenn Holt 02:48

we end up with no this way out. To this way outs. Well okay, let's go ahead and I'm pretty sure that this one is for this week. So let's find out.

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03:02

I'm Jay Showalter. And I'm Cindy Friedman with news wrap a summary of some of the news in or affecting the lesbian and gay community for the week ending April 28 2001. As Green parties held their first World Conference in Australia's capital city of Canberra members formed a new global gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender intersex network to be known as the Green carnations, founders included greens from Australia, Germany, Mexico, New Zealand, Sweden and Taiwan. They plan to develop linkages between gay and lesbian communities and Green parties, particularly in countries that actively discriminate against both groups. co founder

Dinesh Matthew told the Sydney star observer that the only real obstacle in forming the group was identifying members of sexual minorities saying of the greens gathering. Everyone looks like a queer here,

 Cindy Friedman 03:56

and every day is a pink day for Elio Di Rupo, president of Belgium Socialist Party. That's what he told the Netherlands magazine Zizo in an interview representing his first public declaration that he's a gay man, although he's long been the subject of speculation when he was serving as a Deputy Premier in a coalition government in 1996. allegations that he had paid for sex with an underage teen sex worker years before nearly created a constitutional crisis. But many headlines later the allegations were found to be baseless. And to Rupa his political career emerged intact. The popular politician promised he detained Brussels Pride event in May but said I will watch gay pride but don't expect me to dance on a wagon.



04:43

pride events in the US this past week included a march by 200 people in Lawrence, Kansas, a parade in Phoenix, Arizona, and Washington DC is fifth annual Youth Pride Day a festival that drew 2500 people despite rain,

 Cindy Friedman 04:58

but organizers have Philadelphia's big annual pride fest are hopping mad that the city's \$110,000 grant of last year has been cut to \$50,000 for this year, when they'd asked for an increase to \$150,000. The difference represents the loss of a cash contribution from the Greater Philadelphia tourism and marketing Corporation, which plans only advertising support this year. But activists blame Mayor John Street for failing to lobby that tourism group Street had vigorously opposed recognition of gay and lesbian couples while serving on the city council, but as trying to mend fences with the community since becoming mayor,



05:38

but Chicago will be subsidizing construction of a new gay and lesbian community center to the tune of two and a quarter million dollars. The city's Housing Committee has agreed to buy a site for \$5 million and then sell it for only two and three quarter million dollars to horizons community services. The total cost will be \$22 million for a 50,000 square foot space, including a gym, theater and Technology Center.

 Cindy Friedman 06:04

DeKalb County this week by a vote of six to one became the first county government in Georgia to extend spousal health insurance benefits to the domestic partners of its unmarried employees regardless of gender. The city of Atlanta is the only other local government in the state to offer those benefits having fought a six year legal battle to do so.



06:25

Although New Jersey has been a leader in recognizing parental rights of lesbian and gay co parents, a state Appeals Court this week found the closet door barred one lesbian from seeking visitation rights. The Lesbian known as a F was denied standing to sue for visitation with a seven year old daughter her former partner DLP adopted. A F never shared a home with the child, although she had often visited with her. The ruling said both parties agree that DLP hid the romantic aspect of the relationship from family and friends maintaining the appearance of a close platonic friendship. If the parties did not hold themselves out to the world at large as a family How then can a court conclude that a ft live with D LPS child as part of a family unit, a EFS attorney said the issue was not how society viewed the relationship. But how the child did



C Cindy Friedman 07:20

the British fertility society this week adopted by a landslide a resolution supporting equal access to fertility treatment for gay and lesbian couples. The British fertility society is comprised of medical research and clinical specialists. This society is chaired Dr. John Mills warned that the resolution is not likely to find much popular support in Britain at this time.



07:44

In fact, one British pastor is blaming the equalization of the age of consent for sex between men with that for heterosexual acts for the nation's current Foot and Mouth Disease crisis. In the Morton Christian assembly newsletter, Pastor Ray Borlase noted that the last major outbreak occurred in 1967. The year Britain decriminalized homosexual acts. Local residents were reportedly outraged by the allegations.



C Cindy Friedman 08:11

equalizations most vigorous opponent Baroness Janet Young was reprimanded this week by Britain's Advertising Standards Authority, even though that official watchdog group generally avoids comment on political ads. While equalization was being debated, young and other leading conservative party members placed an ad in the national press that the authority called misleading and inaccurate. Specifically, Young's added charge that equalization would mean that boys and girls of 16 will be legally subjected to anal intercourse and act which is known to have severe health implications. The authority found that equalization did not allow 16 year olds to be legally subjected to anal intercourse against their will.



08:56

At the other end of the UK political spectrum. Wales's Liberal Democrats have issued an election campaign pledge to enact an equality act extending civil rights protections for gays and lesbians. They say they're the first political party in Wales to adopt a clear policy on gay

and lesbian rights and said the ruling Labor Party had made big promises but mismanaged relevant legislation.

 Cindy Friedman 09:21

civil rights protections from discrimination based on sexual orientation and other categories were unanimously adopted this week by the city council of Huntington Woods Michigan, does another Michigan municipalities have similar human rights ordinances?

 09:36

Hate Crimes bills advanced in to US state legislatures this week but failed in a third in the Alabama House of Representatives. A bill to add sexual orientation as a protected category under the state's existing hate crimes law was narrowly approved by a vote of 45 to 42. A similar bill died in the Alabama Senate last year. Alabama's existing Hate crimes law prescribes mandatory minimum prison sentences for felonies motivated by bias against seven categories. The Texas House of Representatives passed a hate crimes bill including sexual orientation as a protected category by a vote of 87 to 60, after a series of damaging amendments were defeated, Texas's existing hate crimes law does not list specific categories, and has proven nearly impossible to prosecute. As a result, the fate of a companion measure in the Texas Senate is unclear. The 1999 hate crimes bill was stalled by Republican state senators in what's generally agreed to have been an effort to protect then Governor George W. Bush from having to take a position on it during his presidential campaign. A bill to add sexual orientation and other categories to Colorado's existing hate crimes law was killed by a party line five to four vote in a House committee. Seven similar bills have failed in Colorado in the last decade.

 Cindy Friedman 11:00

measures to deny legal recognition to gay and lesbian relationships this week advanced in Missouri but failed in Louisiana. The Missouri Senate gave preliminary approval by a voice vote to a bill to recognize only those marriages between a man and a woman. Missouri enacted a similar measure in 1996 that a court struck down on a technicality. The Louisiana Senate voted 17 to 16 in favor of a bill to deny recognition to other states' gay and lesbian domestic partnerships, civil unions or similar relationships. Despite the majority the bill failed because the Louisiana Senate requires a minimum of 20 Yea votes for passage, the bill sponsor Republican co Fontanon may try again. Louisiana already denied legal recognition to gay and lesbian marriages in 1999. No US state performs legal marriages for gay and lesbian couples. Although this week marked the first anniversary of Vermont's enactment of civil unions. Those unions extend some 300 state level benefits of marriage, but none of the more than 1000 federal benefits of marriage,

 12:07

but there is favorable recognition for North America's gay a Spanish language TV series. The Telemundo cable network sitcom Los Beltran has been awarded an American Latino Media Arts Award known as the ALMA by the Latino advocacy group the National Council of La Raza known

Beltran was a pioneer in adding a gay couple to its regular lineup, and also features openly bisexual actor Gabrielle Romero.

 Cindy Friedman 12:33

And finally, the latest entry in the growing marketing of cosmetics to men is mascara. IMCI this week introduced its dynamic duo mascara at a fashion Expo in Bologna, Italy. It'll be in stores in about six months, as well as stay waters surface foundation cream and eyeshadow IMCI as several other cosmetics for men in the pipeline, including a concealer, a lipstick and an eyebrow pencil that can also be used on sideburns. But an eye NCI spokesperson said these products are the final touch something light almost invisible, but which will improve the looks. We're not talking about makeup for gay men, but for macho men.

 13:17

That's news rap for the week ending April 28 2001. Written by Cindy Friedman and recorded at the studios of KPFK. Los Angeles follow

 Cindy Friedman 13:25

the news in your area and informed community is a strong community for this way out. I'm Cindy Friedman.

 13:32

And I'm Jay Sheltie.

 Glenn Holt 13:38

What is Q patrol? You've probably heard the name. It's a nonprofit corporation operating a volunteer citizens watch patrol in the greater Montrose area. Our patrols have been a successful deterrent to crime over the past five years, and we'd like to be even more effective. I'm Glenn Holt, the president of Q patrol asking you to donate just one night a month to make our community a safer place. Get your exercise walking on a foot patrol, rollerblading or bicycling or if you prefer, you can drive or ride in a mobile unit. Q patrol is a great way to do something positive for yourself and your community. Call us at five to wait safe. We need community minded people like you. That's five to eight safe 5287233 Q patrol is affiliated with the Houston Police Department's citizens on patrol program.

 Jack Valinski 14:36

And you're listening to lesbian and gay voices and we're going to talk about politics law, which is a strange subject for us, isn't it? Grant Martin and Tim are here from progressive voters. We've heard stuff about what's going on downtown about a possibility of a referendum. The

past you know talking about doing non discrimination for gay and lesbians who work for the city or contracts for the city. And now we don't hear very much about it at least not major mainstream. What What's the update on what's going on?

15:07

Well, right now, the city legal department is working on the language for this referendum, excuse me, not for the referendum for the ordinance, we expect it's probably going to be brought to council sometime near the end of May, or perhaps the very first week of June at the latest. And it's just a matter of making sure you know, we're looking at language in other cities, checking with lawyers make sure that we do it right. Because as you mentioned, we do expect that there'll be a referendum to repeal it. So we just want to be careful rather than Swift. But we feel we've got the votes on council 10 to five to pass it. So we're pretty confident about that.

J Jack Valinski 15:47

Much better than the last time it was passed eight to seven, which was just city employments non discrimination city, forcing workers. At the same time, we heard there was already something going on to put a to change the charter, so this couldn't even happen. And what happened to that? Well,

16:06

that's an initiative by a guy named Dave Wilson who's do I get sued if I call him a wacko on the radio. He's a wacko right wing wacko, but he's running his little pack called Houstonians for family values. And he has he's collecting signatures in a very unusual method. He's using a direct mail campaign to do it. He has a claims that he's got half of his signatures in. But he's claimed that for quite a while, and he's been pretty quiet. The problem there is that he's got because it's a charter change, he gets 180 days to get these super chats a year. Right. And so if he wants to get them, he will get them. And that's one of the reasons and as you know, even though he's a wacko, something like that gets on the ballot, it's very dangerous. So we've been working hard since February, to make sure that if that hits the ballot, we can we can defeat it.

J Jack Valinski 17:01

So but but my understanding that even though he was doing that a lot of people who probably wouldn't be in his camp weren't supporting him.

17:09

Well, he kind of runs a little bit of a rogue operation and a number of local conservative organizations and leaders and Republican Party leaders have disavowed his effort. They say that he's too extreme and will scare off moderates within their party, and that there are certain problems with this ballot measure language. And they've asked their supporters to hold off and

do this next year when we bring domestic partners back to city council. My sources tell me that the Local Group is a little unsure about whether they can prevent national money from coming in to fund de Wilson's efforts. So I'm delighted that they're all bickering among themselves, but but I'm stronger. Yeah, but I'm not at all convinced that he won't have money.

J Joan Devlin 17:58

Okay. Yeah. Because there's a lot of places you can get money from.

18:02

Unfortunately, the more well, not unfortunately, the good thing about it is the more that they bicker, the more segmented their support becomes. And it actually is better for us because people will, I think will look at it and go, they can't even get their ducks in a line. Why? Why should I support them might not necessarily go out and vote. But if they don't go out the vote, that's even better for us because we get our supporters out to the polls, right, and talk about

J Joan Devlin 18:30

because I ran across one of your door to door people this weekend. So tell us a little bit about what you're doing mobilize support?

18:36

Well, what we're doing day to day, actually, we do six days a week, in the evenings, Monday, Sunday through Thursday, and then on Saturdays in the morning. We do phone banking, calling supporters are calling actually voter registered voters that we as public information from the county column up ask him a couple of questions about the non discrimination ordinance how they feel about the city providing an ordinance that would prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity. And also if if they do support such an ordinance, would they are they going to go out and vote for us or vote with us. And then we also do door to door on Saturday mornings, where we actually go in in select precincts, we go from one end of the block to the other end, and knock on people's doors and talk to them face to face. It's it's a very interesting way to do it. i This is the first time I've been involved in anything like this. But the more I do it, the more you get to see what the city is like and how people react to different things. You know, of course, if you go to somebody's door to door, even if they're not supportive, they're not going to get real nasty in your face because you're actually looking at them face to face.

19:52

One of the things that I find interesting is that what we're really doing is just very old fashioned retail politics. We're just talking to people. I Instead of talking about them on television, and but the thing that makes it one of the reasons that people don't do that now is because people don't think is in the city as big as Houston, you can do it on a large enough scale to have an

impact. And that's what we've become really good at, we're going to have over 2000 volunteers that will work with us by the end of the year, I think we're already past our 500 Mark. And we probably will add about 50,000 voters to our list by the end of the year, which, you know, will make us a force to be reckoned with.

J

Jack Valinski 20:34

Well, but when you're talking about a city of 1.8 million people, how can 50,000 be a significant number?

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20:40

My favorite topic, I wish this if this were TV, I would draw my charts. Just imagine a big, like, what's that I'm not much of a sports person, the bow and arrow archery and archery target, you know, in the outer circle, is really all the people in the city of Houston. And I think that it's this census, that's about 1.995 million people now in the city limits, only half are registered to vote. So you're talking about, you know, 950 something 1000 People are registered to vote. In an average municipal election, only about I would say somewhere between 25 and 28% of that population votes in a special election. Sometimes it's as low as 8%. You only need half of that group to win plus one half plus one. That's right. Thank you. And so you're really talking about maybe something like 6% of the people in the city of Houston controlling the outcome of all these elections. So we just want to make sure it's our 6% Not

o

21:45

exactly. One of the things that I find interesting is having read the voice the last couple of weeks, they were talking about it. When this was last brought up in ad 45. It wasn't in Houston at the time, but when it was brought up in ad 45. The special election was held in January. And of course, it was an overwhelming loss for the gay and lesbian and transgendered community. But what's what's interesting to me is that the Republicans in the Conservatives can get their voters out at special elections. And so they make up the majority of what you say was about eight or 8% of a special election. If by working the way we are going door to door talking to people, you know, identifying them on a way to a scale of one to five, we can ensure that if there even if there is a special election that we still have our base of support shored up before the election, and the more help that we get from people in the community, the better off we're gonna be. Well, the

J

Joan Devlin 22:51

other thing is, how many times have we heard it, that the election was lost by a handful of votes, 30 votes, 40 votes, you know, even sometimes as low as 15 or 20 votes by, you know, the 94 Republican sweep happen because only 34% of the population voted. And of that 34% 22% were conservatives. So we got a house and a Senate, a Senate based on 22% of the voting population.

J

Jack Valinski 23:16

Well, look at Florida.

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23:18

Exactly. Every day, there's a new report coming out saying well, if we had if we had used this, to do the recount, Bush would have won, if we use this court would have won. So the more the more people that we identify for sure that are going to come out info with us, the better off we're going to be to make sure that this ordinance stays on the books. And in fact, if there is a special election or regular election on the charter amendment, the more support that we have, will show them that, that they can't take progressive and liberal voters for granted in the city anymore.

J

Jack Valinski 23:55

One of the things that happened a 45 and I was part of it was that we didn't really do our homework. We didn't really have our friends help us out. How is that different today?

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24:08

It's a lot different today. What a difference what 16 years makes. We've got, of course, our mayor, for one who's solidly behind this and has committed to make this a part of his reelection campaign. He's committed to help us talk with our friends in the African American community and the business community to make sure that that we can get their support, which we did not have, at least institutionally in 1985. A nice we have a nice an openly gay or lesbian person on City Council which we did not have. She also happens to be one of the most powerful and popular members of city council so she is really helping carry our water there. And he's met recently with former Mayor Bob Lanier and Mayor Lanier has have also pledged his support if this hits the ballot, and in his support in helping us get business support for this sort of thing. So, you know, we've got a number. I mean, there was a fundraiser for PVA, which Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, Congressman, can Benson was there. I mean, we clearly are, I think, in the mainstream on this, and you know, not the fringe. And I think that's almost the reverse, perhaps from what people thought in 1985

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was the incident I think to this was nothing that I read in the voice article a few weeks back, was that an ad for the Republicans and the conservatives were able to muster support for themselves from the business community? Well, the business climate in Houston is different now, when you've got Enron, Chase Bank, Wells Fargo, and a lot of these major corporations, shell that have done discrimination ordinances, or non discrimination policies for their employees. And even we got major gay groups, you know, Chase, that are out in the community that get out and actually do supportive things in the community. So the business climate is different, they're not going to be able to rally their their troops, you know, even though Ken Lay, may have been a big contributor to the Republican Party as Chairman of

Enron. Most of the employees, I would think of Enron, maybe not all of them, but but a lot of them would be supportive of this type of ordinance because they already have it in their workplace,

J Jack Valinski 26:29

saying that discrimination is bad business. Right. Right.

J Joan Devlin 26:32

And that's what I was going to say is that, you know, the climate now, people don't accept that. Right? I mean, you're even seeing within the very conservative element of the Republican Party, you know, openly gay people being appointed to positions and the conservatives holler and nobody pays any attention,

26:49

right? Well, there.

J Jack Valinski 26:50

So let's talk about the mechanics. So you get people knocking on the doors, you do all this? How do you know, how can somebody get involved?

27:00

Well, they, like I said, we work six days, actually seven days a week. We're open every day, Alex Medora is our executive director. And the phone number for PVA is 713-521-7161. And also, his email for PVA is pro voter at capital L, C, O, N n.com. And you can get in touch with him there. And he always responds to email. And everything as we as we contact voters, we add them to our email list so that we can keep them updated on the campaign and how things are going. And that way, they actually know what's going on. From the side that's going to win and not from the Chronicle, or from 950 K, Pfc.

J Jack Valinski 27:50

Well, let's say I'm a newbie, I come in, and I volunteer for for PVA what, what would I be expected to do?

27:56

Well, one of the basic things that we have is the is the phone banking, which we always have somebody there that is, is a veteran of doing the phone banks, and we sit, and we go through

the script with you, you know, and it is a script. But one thing that you one thing that I always try and tell people to do is to make sure that, that they even change the script so that they are comfortable with it, you know, you don't have to follow the format Exactly. To get the point across if you want to throw in, well, if you heard channel 11, the other day, blah, blah, blah. So, you know, we go through the script, and then we give them a list of, of registered voters that we pulled and put into an Excel spreadsheet. And we actually have numbers and the address and whether or not we've ID them or talk to them, and we read them from one to five, one being the most supportive. And actually, somebody's gonna get out and volunteer or make a donation to PVA to being someone who is supportive of the effort. And we'd go out and vote with us three, their friends that are four, they don't believe in special rights and five, you know, faction burn in hell. That's my favorite way of putting it all you know, the five is the ones and you get a couple of those. But, you know, even then, don't you One shouldn't let it take it personally, you know, just thank you and hang up. And even if it's your first time of getting one and it really kind of upset you, you know, take a break, get up, walk around. There's always somebody to talk to and share experiences with we do we sit around swap stories.



29:28

And actually, like any kind of political campaign, there is something to do for everyone. No matter what you like to do. If you'd like to talk to people, we can have you talking to people. If you'd like to talk to computers, you can talk to computers, if you would like to file or give neck rubs or walk dogs. We have got something for everyone to do. And it's a great place to make friends and a really fun social space. And like I said, we've had over 500 people come in and volunteer their time this year and we're not even halfway through the year yet. So go right



J Jack Valinski 29:59

okay. So the number again for PVA is



30:01

713-521-7161. And the progressive voters email is pro voter at Capital L C O. N n.com.



J Jack Valinski 30:12

Well, thank you, Grant and Tim for coming by and talking about good time. You're listening to lesbian and gay voices.



G Greg Gordon 30:18

It's impossible to think of gay San Francisco without thinking about Armistead mopen. Nothing is more evocative of the city's freewheeling lifestyle than the six volume cereal that began in the late 1970s. With Tales of the City. Even his most recent book, The Night Listener is set just a rock throw from the Castro. May 2001 marks both the 25th anniversary of the tales debut and

the premiere of a new Showtime miniseries based on the third volume further Tales of the City. This way out. Steve pride has a preview along with an entertaining shot with mohan about the new book, The old books, the mini series, and the celebrated writers very gay life.



30:58

Writer Armstead mohan is the creator of the award winning newspaper serial Tales of a city, which later became an award winning series of books, which later became an award winning television mini series. He is also the author of maybe the moon, and his latest novel is called The Night Listener.



31:15

The Night Listener at its heart is a psychological suspense story. It's as close as I could get to the feeling I had when I read, rather saw the film vertigo at the age of 14, I'd always wanted to write a novel that capture that same feeling of human longing and loss and the nature of our emotions within the context of a mystery story. So this was my best effort at that really, it fundamentally involves a writer named Gabrielle neuen, who is a radio storyteller, a man who tells stories on NPR late at night. How autobiographical is this book? Well, that's a tricky one to answer because it's sort of emotionally autobiographical, I have tried to write about some things in my own life that are real, in order to, to lend a very similar to to it. I broke up with my partner, Terry Anderson, four years ago, that experience is recorded in the novel, within the context of the drama that I have invented. The character certainly resembles me more than most. He's a 54 year old, gay storyteller. So that's certainly me. But I take him off on adventures that I've never had. Some of them I wish I'd had, there's a sex scene towards the end of the novel that a lot of people assume happened to me. And I can't say that it did, really. But it was necessary at that point in the novel in order to tell the story the way I wanted to tell the story, which becomes the overriding thing. And I've been very autobiographical. As you mentioned, in the past, my last novel, maybe the moon was about a heterosexual female, Jewish dwarf actress working in Hollywood. So she was the perfect disguise for me, I was able to say things through her that are really about my own heart. Because I had such a good disguise. Gabriel noon is not a good disguise. He resembles me in in many ways. But that doesn't mean I'm always telling the truth about my life or the the lives of the people around me. Are



33:15

all of your books basically, about the search for family?



33:19

Yeah, I think they are. I didn't realize that for a long time. My books have been my therapy, I suppose over the years, I didn't have therapy for many, many years, I've only been to a shrink maybe for a six month period of my life. But I've always been able to get out those thoughts through my writing. And Tales of the City revealed me to me in the course of writing it.



33:41

I think a lot of people forget that Tales of the City was written over a very long period.



33:45

Well, it was about a 12 year span when it ran in the San Francisco Chronicle. Not I might add, all the time, Tales of the City and more Tales of the City ran the first two years, I nearly had a nervous breakdown. And then I figured out that a novel would be about six months worth of columns. So I would contract with the Chronicle for a six month period, and then stop and take a break.



34:09

I was surprised when I read that it wasn't an immediate hit



34:13

as a book. Yeah. Because it really people didn't know about it. It took a while for it to get its legs really. We took about 25,000 returns, as I recall on Tales of the City. And then when the novel was first published. That was my first big letdown. I remember thinking, oh boy, you know, I had a half a million or something in San Francisco reading this cereal and loving it. And I thought, well, if just well, you know, one out of 10 of those people goes out and buys the book, I'll have a big what, why would they go out and buy the book? They'd been reading it in the newspaper, you know? So it was a very slow build, really? I didn't have a New York Times best seller until the sixth novel. Sure, have you? I'm happy that it built that way really because you don't feel like an overnight sensation. You're not a fluke. You're you're somebody who His popularity has grown because people have liked what you do and passed it on to friends and the word of mouth is what's made it succeed. When I was writing Tales of the City, nobody wrote about gay characters. So it was pretty radical to begin with, to pick up your morning newspaper. And to find out several of the residents of this apartment house slept with members of their own sex. I couldn't write explicit sex scenes, of course, because it was a daily newspaper, but I could suggest an awful lot. And I think in some ways, those restrictions were useful to me because they made me consider everybody in my audience and tell everybody story I might have been sort of gay centric, had I had total freedom and an all gay audience, but I had to keep everybody who picked up that newspaper potentially interested. And that was the fun of it, that the person who was reading the storyline about Franny housie, and the very proper Hillsborough matron would suddenly stumble across a scene at a gay bathhouse and have to read it if he or she wanted to find out what was happening in the story. The characters were also interconnected, ultimately, that you had to take an interest in lives that were not like yours, if you read that cereal. Or if you read the book, it compels you to look at the lives of other people, no matter who you are. And I think that accounts for the long term success of Tales of the City. To my great surprise and delight, the first three of the novels are all on the French paperback bestseller list. Right now. They're more popular in France per capita than they they've been anywhere else in the world. I think possibly because they were able to sit

down and read them all in one fell swoop, and they're about to be serialized in Japan. And this is pretty good news to somebody who thought that I was writing a sort of inside joke about San Francisco for a daily newspaper. 25 years ago,



36:53

you came from a conservative southern background, I read somewhere that you even once wrote news copy for Jesse Helms TV station



37:00

I did back in 1967, or something like that I was a young conservative, back in those days, I was trying very hard to please my family. I think this had something to do with being queer. I've always said that if you, you know, scratch Satori, and you'll find a homo, because people who are trying to keep the lid on who want to stay in the closet are deathly afraid of being discovered, will often embrace a rigid political structure in order to do that. And that's certainly what was happening with me. Once I got to San Francisco just a few years later, after Vietnam, basically, I discovered this place that was so joyful, and so matter of fact about my sexuality that I could be matter of fact about it, the straight people in San Francisco were far more civilized about homosexuality than I was when I arrived in town. There was still a lot of self loathing going on in my part. And the town just took me by the collar and shook it out of me, and it was a wonderful experience.



38:01

Engage you too, just joined us. I'm Steve pride, and we're talking to author Armstead. mohan on the international gay and lesbian radio magazine,



38:09

this way out.



38:13

You were a good friend of Rock Hudson,



38:15

yes, I, I would never have defined myself as a good friend of Rock Hudson but apparently he he regarded me as such. I mean, I never felt that I got that close to him. But he didn't have that many people in his life who knew him very well.



22 22



38:28

And that's a story that parallels a story and further Tales of the City.



38:32

Yeah, we actually filmed a scene that recreates one of the famous beauties parties, that's what he called them his swear, a local optometrist would get the 50 hunkiest guys in town to be waiting for rock when he got home from the road. And to me, a kid from San Francisco who had never seen such a thing it was it was a stunning, it was roughly like seeing a circuit party for the first time, I suppose. But with a movie star at the center of it all I wrote about that in further Tales of the City, and it's actually recorded rather lovingly in the mini series, I think I was able to be in his life because I learned at a fairly early age, how to be comfortable around celebrity, it was just really a matter of empathy. Really, it seemed to me that what a famous person would want would be to be treated in a non hysterical fashion to simply link up with another person on a human one on one level. I think about that when people approach me and get all weird and goofy on me. There's a lonely making process there because you want to link up with other people. No matter who you are, you always want to link with them. And if they're treating you like some creature from outer space, then you want to get away from it as soon as possible. So yeah, I knew him and and I ended up writing about him in further tales. I use blanks in the original column and in the book because he was still alive at the time and I was trying to keep him his life private. But I also wanted people to know that this was a real person and to make the point that there were major movie stars who We were leading this weird double life, and who basically became anonymous, they became invisible in some strange way because their true selves could never be presented to the world or at least they felt they could never be presented to the world. When the time came to make the miniseries, we had a choice. I could have called him Rock Hudson, but I was so afraid that people would look at whatever actor played him and say, That's not Rock Hudson, which would happen to almost anybody who played him because there was the they sort of broke the mold with rock. So I decided to just basically give him one of those early 1950s made up movie star names cage Tyler,



J Jack Valinski 40:39

come home. Oh, yeah, he can do



40:40

that sometimes. How are these people just asking the same thing? Well, here's



C Cindy Friedman 40:50

a handy guideline. The



40:52

blondes are all named Scott. brunettes are all named Grant. That's all you need to know. Trust

... Ah, Tyler. This is Michael Oliver. Hello there, Michael Oliver.

me. An, Tyler. This is Michael Oliver. Hello there Michael Oliver



41:05

as he giving you the house tour yet? Well, actually no. Why don't you give it to him? Would you like that? Sure. Sure. Come on.



41:17

I've had people come up to me and say Paul Hopkins has to be gay. Well, sorry, he's not. But when you see him kiss Billy Campbell in further Tales of the City, it'll be very hard to believe that he's, he's not done that before. Really kissed him in the last many centuries. But they're getting even better at it now. It's really amazing stuff. And it touches me tremendously because they're, they're fulfilling a fantasy of mine, you know, to see, romance, you know, real passion and romance between two men on the movie screen is something that I ached for when I was a younger man and never got to see. And now I'm able to stand on the set with these two guys, these two naked guys, in some instances, laughing and joking, and being utterly believable in what they're doing. I remember saying to Paul, he does a scene with a Hispanic cop named Bill Rivera in further details of the SES a very, very hot scene. And afterwards, I said, Paul, you just amazing. And he said, Well, I know I know what that's about. I know how to do that. I that that makes sense. To me. What he means is he knows what sex is. He knows what passion is. He's experienced it with women. It's no big leap for him to as an actor to imagine that. And to impersonate that with a man. And then he added, is that gay irony that I can't do? And I said, Well, that's because you there's no pain in your life. Paul, you need more pain, and you'd be able to do that irony stuff.



42:42

Is it true that you make an appearance in this film, I've been making



42:45

an appearance and all of the tails mini series, I was sitting in the window typing, watching Michael and Brian, sunning on the lawn in Tales of the City. I was the priest in more Tales of the City and the final scene where the dismembered foot falls from the ceiling of Grace Cathedral. I was the priest with the two altar boys behind the altar. And in further Tales of the City, I can be seen coming out of the glory holes, as Michael Talavera goes in, and our eyes meet very briefly, as we pass in the doorway, that's sort of symbolic. Well, I suppose it is. Although if it were really a realistic scene, and I saw somebody that looked like that going into the holes, I probably would have made a quick circle and gone back in again.



43:27

Do you think that there is a gay artistic sensibility are gay men in some way fundamentally different?



43:33

Oh, boy, I don't know. I think there's a queer sensibility. And I think that all sorts of people have it. I have known straight people with a queer sensibility. They're such outsiders, that they create art because of it. People who feel separated from the world who retreat to a kind of fantasy world. And some beautiful things have happened because of that. And I think an awful lot of gay people go in that direction. On the other hand, I know gay people who grew up to be happy refrigerator repairman and didn't create art at all. So it's very tough to generalize about that. I think my own internal life as a young queer is the reason that I'm a storyteller. When I was six years old, I knew that I was different from other boys that I didn't want to play the war games, the shoot 'em up stuff that I hated, competitive sports. I knew all of that. In some ways that makes me feel more queer than anything. Even today. I think that dislike of sports is the most dangerous thing you can express in America. Because there are plenty of queers out there. Look at the Gay Games, who are who are happy to embrace competitive sports, I find them stupid and pointless and oppressive and, and I felt all of this when I was six years old, and long before I had any sexual instincts before I realized I was attracted to boys. I felt this specialness is Do I know my queerness was a part of me from a very early age? And because of that I felt the necessity to tell stories and to make up a world that conformed to the way I saw things.



45:14

This has been a conversation with author Armstead. mohan. His latest novel is The Night Listener and it's available at a bookstore near you further Tales of the City airs on the Showtime cable network throughout the month of May. I'm Steve pride. Thanks for listening



G Glenn Holt 45:39

you're listening to lesbian and gay voices.



J Jack Valinski 45:42

I'm glad they talked about further Tales of the City being on Showtime because it puts Queer as Folk on how he does during May.



J Joan Devlin 45:49

So no breaks your heart Well, that's



J Jack Valinski 45:51

fine because they will be running no further Tales of the City. Same time on Sunday nights at nine o'clock on Sunday nights our time through a and then queers folk comes back for the for the concluding episodes.

J

Joan Devlin 46:06

Do you think it'll be renewed?

J

Jack Valinski 46:08

It's already been renewed.

J

Joan Devlin 46:09

All right, Jack. He's got a smile on his face. With the National Gay and Lesbian immigration Task Force, as you know, they visit us periodically to keep us posted on what's going on on the gay and lesbian immigration front. And I guess my first question for you is today's rather a big day.

o

46:28

Yeah, Jonah, today was the deadline for filing under 245 i which is a part of the immigration naturalization code and which, basically, it was signed by Clinton on the 21st of December. It allows us individuals who were here in an otherwise illegal capacity to adjust their status to waive the inadmissibility basically, and to apply for a green card either through family or through work. And as is so often the case, many people waited until the last week to try to make their application on this, which is made immigration lawyers like myself very, very tired this week. In fact, I got two of them, filed in Austin this afternoon and drove back this afternoon after doing so.

J

Joan Devlin 47:12

Now the deadline for work visas was 5pm. Yeah, they

o

47:16

the Department of Labor and Austin, where these have to be filed actually at the Texas Workforce Commission. They would not allow postmarks to be considered. In fact, they weren't even allowing for late after five o'clock deliveries, they required that it be physically in their hands before five o'clock today, that they're really difficult to find an office in downtown Austin. Those who are applying in under a family capacity can do two things, they can either file in person, I think up till midnight tonight at the Houston office, and there are a lot of people doing that. Or they can send it via mail. And if they have a postmark on their envelope. As long as it shows today's date, you know, when I guess the airport post office as the last one, they can actually file that until midnight, it will be considered timely filed, but they should do so via certified or registered mail to be on the safe side.

J

Joan Devlin 48:09

And what legislation is currently pending to help out the partners of gay and lesbian individuals. Well, right now,

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48:15

as they did last year, Nadler who's a congressman from New York introduced on Valentine's Day, the permanent partners act. And what this Act does is it simply allows SAME GENDER couples to apply for permanent residency for their partners. And it's gaining momentum and we're working very hard on it and trying to get support and get more co sponsors to kind of get it built up because it was reintroduced on Valentine's Day

J

Joan Devlin 48:53

and had it do or

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48:55

it's doing very well. It's gaining more and more people we're working in this area we actually met with the Office of Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee this past week and we felt very positive about the meeting. And we're looking forward to having more contact with her in hopes of getting her on board as well as some of the other legislators

J

Joan Devlin 49:22

and any idea when it'll come up for a vote.

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49:26

We got a ways to go John, do you have any?

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49:28

Well, one reason we're real fortunate to be here in Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee's district is because she is the head of the immigration committee. And so she plays an enormous role in terms of this and to have her on board is crucial at this point. It was surprising for us that we didn't see your name on the list and so we wanted to make sure that we had a chance to discuss with her office and with her the reasons why her presence on this is absolutely pivotal. We, as Shelby said, we had a real productive meeting and, and anticipate, you know, hopefully in the very near future being able to meet with her and having the congresswoman hear the stories of the members of our group. I think that is the absolute

key when they hear the stories of how many relationships that people in our group have have come to a forced end, basically, because of the laws as they exist now, it really tends to bring them about in terms of jumping on board of a crucial law like this one.

J Joan Devlin 50:31

Do you foresee much opposition to this law?

50:34

I would say absolutely. Along the same lines of of any pro, pro gay legislation that's brought up you're going to have the same folks that are going to be against this. And in a way this this provision has a double whammy, because it's it's not only pro gay, but it's also pro immigration, which, you know, we're always going to have have people who are against that. One, one person that's working very hard on this act is performance artists, Tim Miller, and I wanted to mention, a favorite guy. He's coming to town. Yes, that's what I was going to mention his. It's so happens that his partner is from Australia. And he is bringing his latest production, which is called glory box to Houston on June one through three. It's going to be at Theatre Lab, Houston. And this particular production is about the struggle of immigration, that that binational couples go through. And we are working on arranging having that June 1 performance as a fundraiser for our group. So I've been in contact with Tim Miller about that. And so we'll certainly let you know more as it as it comes along. But we're very excited about this. And it's a really good opportunity for people to go and learn exactly. Because Tim Miller certainly knows firsthand, all the

J Joan Devlin 52:03

so many people he never thought he'd end up with someone who's a citizen. No one should never do.

52:09

Yeah, yeah. I mean, I never, never would have dreamed that I would fall in love with a woman from New Zealand. It wasn't what I planned. And it it just, it just happened. And now here I am in this situation. And,

52:22

and by the way, the terminal or show is played this sold out, audiences everywhere it's gone. It's been just tremendously received. And it's been written up in and out and the advocate, and I actually have a lot of those postings that, you know, we'll we'll be pushing this a lot and, and, you know, we're real hopeful we're maybe this is a little early to say, but we're real hopeful that we may even be able to get the congresswoman at the function that evening, Sheila Jackson Lee so that she'll have a chance to see the performance and hear some of our stories, too. I want to go to that before

J

Joan Devlin 52:58

Tim Miller is just he's a very good person to have as a spokesperson because he's very articulate and he's quite brilliant, and he definitely will bring it to people's attention. Yeah,

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53:07

he's he's just a really neat guy and and certainly very, very emotional and and, and dedicated to this, this particular cause. So that that'll that'll be a really good thing. So we have a lot of things coming up with the permanent partners act and and the Tim Miller performance and we also plan on participating in the Pride Parade. We've got a lot a lot going on right now.

J

Joan Devlin 53:34

And the permanent partners Act is that lesbian gay only or does it also are Astaire transgender proficient in there at all.

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53:42

It basically is, is geared for any individual any US citizen or legal permanent resident in the country, the only difference between it and the current laws that would allow a heterosexual couple to or a heterosexual male or female to sponsor their wife or husband. The only difference is that it does not deal with the issue of marriage, it deals with permanent partners and it that is not specific in terms of whether one is gay, lesbian, transgendered, bisexual, it allows someone if they are in a committed relationship to sponsor that individuals, their partner in this country for a green card.

J

Joan Devlin 54:20

It's great because that says it should be

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54:22

and I'm glad that you brought up the the transgendered because I do want to mention that while right at the moment, the legislation that we're working on is is particularly geared towards binational couples. That is not the sole focus of our group. Certainly Chen transgendered people who are seeking asylum as well as HIV positive. All of these people have special immigration problems. And all of that is under our, our, what we're working towards solve Thanks. So I'm glad that you mentioned that because certainly this is not the only binational couples are not our only focus. It's just the focus right at the moment that has the most momentum, I guess you'd say.

J

Joan Devlin 55:13

And if people want to get involved with your group, what did they have to do?

O

55:17

They can certainly contact me at SDRY a m@houston.rr.com. Or my phone number is 281-485-5097. Also, there's a contact with the national website, which is info@lgirtf.org.

J

Joan Devlin 55:42

Great. Well, I want to thank you so much for being on the show. And I'm going to let you say your names because I never get them right with John,

O

55:48

John Nessman and Shelby Robinson. Thanks, John. Luckily

J

Joan Devlin 55:51

got Shelby Robinson. Thank you, you're listening to KPFT is lesbian and gay voices.

G

Glenn Holt 55:57

classic cartoon enemies. muscleman. Popeye and Pluto haven't kissed but they have made up in a new animated Us campaign behind minute made orange juice, where they can be seen riding a two person bicycle together like carefree lovers. Though the ad for the orange juice brand is gay vague. A European ad for minute made goes even further in Belgium and France. A young Army Sergeant dressed in his formal white uniform readies himself for work at home, and his wife and son who by the way, brandishes a doll dressed like dad to the tapping of a snare drum. The military officer steps out of the front door of his suburban home toward a driver in a jeep parked at the curb. But then a big red American convertible drives up containing the village people as the song in the Navy plays. At first the sergeant smirks at them but then a moment later he hops in the backseat with the flamboyant band and rides away. The text at the end reads start your day well, with minute made. The humor of course is that he's not only picked the Navy over the army but also to go off in the gay party car. Instead of going to work in the straight military jeep. The Chicago and Paris offices of ad agency Leo Burnett company developed the US and European campaigns separately four Minute Maid asked to explain the European ad. A Paris based Burnett spokeswoman says quote, minute made helps so much to be serene and well balanced that you are able to see life in a different way. That morning, the young officer drinks his minute made and gradually his mind changes. Then when the car with a village people comes by, he is feeling so good. He's not afraid anymore to live his real life, and he chooses to go with the village people instead. Well, meanwhile, in the US ad Popeye and Pluto have overcome their differences to such a degree that some in the gay community have wondered if the sailors are supposed to be suddenly

romantic partners. To play like school children on a swing a seesaw, they bury each other in the sand and they get tattoos together that say buddies for life. At the end, they ride a two person bicycle passing usual romantic interest olive oil without a notice. She offers a confused if not suspicious look as they peddle away. Before the campaign was conceived Dave line the Popeye's ad creative director at Leo Burnett in Chicago, says the agency did research into the orange juice sector, quote, to see what aspect of it we could try to own. For some reason lots of people said that they had started their day with orange juice, their day was off to a good start. It's like the opposite of the cliche of getting up on the wrong side of the bed. So we said what if people wake up in a good mood. So that's what we decided to own line came up with about 12 conceptual examples of people acting out of character and being nicer than normal, including an elementary school cafeteria line that resembles a depression era soup kitchen. Except for one cheery server. Another example has a husband doing wifely weekend activities such as laundry, and brings breakfast in bed to his wife to her surprise as she wakes up. They also wanted an example of classic enemies who became friends. Quote, we looked at movie villains and there were so many arch enemies. So we thought let's do an animated spot. We looked at lots of cartoon characters and we liked Popeye and Pluto for two reasons. I haven't seen them in a commercial before, and they're human characters instead of animals. When lion and his creative partner went for approval to King Feature Syndicate, which also represents the cartoon line says the syndicator was really pleased. Popeye and Pluto work on all kinds of levels, but my Minute Maid was not amused. So as they were making the ad the creative team decided to put Popeye and Pluto in various playful situations quote the only reason we put them on a two person bicycle was because it seemed so stupid line says as they pass olive oil, who lined notes is usually the catalyst to make them fight. Not even she can get between them this time. Asked about the gay vague aspects of his ad line seems pleasantly amused and notes that his take on another famously gay vague ad Volkswagens 1997 da da da ad were two men collect a discarded chair into their hatchback Well, that was simply that the two men were roommates. Aha roommates and what self respecting Queen wouldn't peg them as gay line seems impressed that his work can be read into by the gay community but the same cannot be said for officials at Minute Maid headquarters. Quote, we are not going there says Dan Schafer, a spokesman for minute made which is based here in Houston. Quote, any intent to draw a gay relationship parallel would be wrong. Anyone who knows Popeye and Pluto understands that that is not the case. There is no intent like that. We're not going to go there. Why Mr. Schaefer, you just co opted a classic gay ism. Despite minute maids, awkward response. There's something to be said for a company that truly happens to have two different campaigns running that really are gay friendly. And we will have more news in the second hour you're listening to lesbian and gay voices. This is lesbian and gay voices and taking a look now at what's been happening in the news. The Boy Scouts continued discrimination against gays has led to the loss of yet another backer and this time, it's one of America's largest labor unions. The Executive Board of the Communications Workers of America voted this month to end the union's long standing supportive relationship with the Boy Scouts, quote until such time as its leaders reversed their policy of excluding gays from membership or volunteer activities in scouting. In the past, the union had frequent frequently featured a scout honor guard in the opening of their national conventions, which had supported its members volunteerism with the scouts. The resolution notes the positive experience the scouts has provided to youth over the years, but calls the Boy Scouts of America policy quote, an appalling step backward. At a time when other American institutions churches, corporations, school systems, even the military are moving in a more enlightened direction to banish discrimination against people because of their sexual orientation. The leadership of the union of a three quarters of a million members called on the Boy Scouts of America to change its policy on gays. Quote, In the meantime, Communications Workers of America calls upon its local unions and members to refrain from supporting or participating in activities of the Boy Scouts. The resolution said the

Communications Workers of America is the largest communications and media union in the country, representing workers in more than 10,000 communities at employers ranging from AT and T and Lucent Technologies to NBC and the New York Times. Although the Texas House has given it's okay to gay inclusive hate crimes, it still faces resistance from some senators and the governor who like George W. Bush before Him is no fan of the legislation. The Texas House of Representatives on Monday gave preliminary approval to a comprehensive Hate Crimes Act that includes sexual preference. The house approved the James Byrd Hate Crimes Act by a vote of 87 to 60. After a two hour debate, as supporters defeated attempts to alter the bill on the floor, and to halt its progress completely. The bill is named for the African American man who was chained to a pickup and dragged to death in 1998. Texas already has a hate crimes statute addressing crimes motivated by bias or prejudice, but does not list specific categories. The new measure would enhance penalties and crimes motivated by the victim's race, ethnicity, sex, disability, religion, or sexual preference. The original bill sponsored by Representative Senfronia Thompson of Houston said sexual orientation for the language was changed to win the support of Republican Warren Chisholm, who is of course, our Republican passage of the Senate version of the bill is far from assured. The bill's key Senate sponsor Senator Rodney Ellis of Houston tried To bring the measure to the floor April 18, only to be thwarted by what he claims was intervention by Republican Governor Rick Perry. Quote It is my understanding that the governor has gotten involved and has discouraged members from voting to bring the bill up. Governor Perry's press secretary Kathy Wald denied any action by the governor against the bill. Quote, to my knowledge, there has been no further discussions with any of the legislators on that issue. President George W. Bush when he was governor of the state said all crimes were hate crimes and refuse to support similar legislation. Although Perry is known to agree with Bush he has not taken a public stand against the bill. In an editorial last Friday, however, the Austin American Statesman suggested that Perry would like to avoid considering an enhanced hate crimes bill. Signing such a bill would likely alienate conservative supporters, while vetoing it could lead to national criticism for failing to protect minority victims. The editorial said representative Thompson said that homophobia is the motivation behind the bill in both the Senate and the House. Responding to Thompson's charge representative al Edwards said quote, she thinks they're homophobic. I think they're hypocritical. Referring to the group working against the bill. He added that same block more likely was at church Sunday morning. Ellis agreed, quote, this bill would have passed both houses of the legislature many years ago, if we'd been willing to take sexual orientation out of it. But that would have made it open season on a certain group of people, so that will not happen. California transsexuals could see their protections expanded if a lawsuit filed this past week succeeds to transexuals filed suit in California state court claiming that a new state law there should protect them from discrimination in housing and employment. transgender rights advocates hope the case will set a precedent that strengthens and expands protection for California's estimated 35,000 to 60,000 transsexuals, Gary Johnson claimed in his suit that he was effectively fired from his job at a foster care and adoption agency. After he began dressing as a man. Johnson had been hired when he was still living as a woman and using his given name gay now. If the agency's actions were provoked by Johnson's gender change, then they may have violated California's Fair Employment and Housing Act, which grants protection to transsexuals who approved that they have incurred damages because of their change in gender. The other plaintiff, Stanford, Geragos, is suing over her condominium Owners Association, alleging attempts to remove her after some members found out that she had been born as a man. The compensatory and punitive damages sought by journos and Johnson have not been made public. And meanwhile, San Francisco is poised to become the first city in the nation to extend health benefits to municipal workers who want sex change operations. California, Minnesota and nearly two dozen cities make it illegal to discriminate against transsexuals. But San Francisco would go a step further if the city's Board of Supervisors approves coverage for the therapy, hormones and surgery necessary to make a

man into a woman or a woman into a man. The board is supposed to vote on the measure this evening. In 1991, San Francisco was the first big city after Seattle to grant benefits to the domestic partners of its gay and lesbian employees. Six years later, the city required all of its contractors to offer that coverage as well. Supporters now say that transsexuals deserve full coverage to quote here we are the champions of equal benefits for equal work. We insisted that 1000s of companies doing business with us provide equal benefits, but these individuals don't have access to our own health plan. That is wrong. That is inequality and it is hypocritical on our part, said supervisor Mark Leno, sponsor of the transsexual benefits bill. Opponents argue that a sex change should not be covered because it is optional, even cosmetic and not a medical necessity. Quote, I am opposed because it has benefits for a select group of people at the expense of others. It has nothing to do with being biased against transsexuals. Supervisor Tony Hall said. So I wonder how he feels about breast reconstruction surgery for a woman who has had a radical mastectomy due to cancer. Now there's a select group of people having cosmetic surgery at the expense of others. And it has nothing to do with being biased against women. Well, anyway, insurance actuaries estimate that the additional coverage would cost \$1.75 million in the first year, the equivalent of 35 employees using the maximum \$50,000 coverage. Supporters say that the estimate is too high because the city employs just 14 transsexuals, and most already have had the surgery. health premiums for 37,000 City and public school employees would go up by \$1.70 a month to pay for the added benefits. All set is Hall said that it is unfair that the city would pay for sex change operations disorder, but deny coverage for other pre existing conditions such as heart problems and hearing ailments that employees had before they went to work for the city of San Francisco. But he added this is a very politically correct issue so it will probably pass changes to the city's health plan. need approval of nine of the board's 11 supervisors Leno said he has eight votes and two supervisors have not said how they will vote. Nationally It is rare for employers and health insurers to pay for sex changes. Virtually no one covers this type of procedure today said Kirby Hudson, a benefits consultant with William M Mercer incorporated in San Francisco. One large company that does is Lucent Technologies, but only after both a psychiatrist and a physician agree that there is a medical necessity said spokesman Frank Berea Monty estimating the USA is transsexual population is difficult. Because uninsured sex change surgery isn't reported or track. The best guess of experts is 10,000 to 20,000. Studies suggest that by a three to one ratio, more men become women than the other way around. Male to Female surgery costs about \$35,000 were female to male surgery costs about \$77,000. Being Robinson, a University of Minnesota psychologist and executive director of an International Association for transsexuals said gender disorder has been a recognized medically diagnosed condition for 50 years. Today's standards of care are rigorous, she said if the new ordinance passes, Marcus arena, a 43 year old discrimination investigator for the city's Human Rights Commission will be reimbursed for \$400 a year in hormone treatments. I ran ahead sex chain surgery in 1995 and changed his name from Mary. This is about parody about a level field he said Claire Skiffington a 56 year old service coordinator for the health department who was born as a man said quote, the idea that it is cosmetic or bad hair day decision is simply not true. Leno said that he has heard from a few health maintenance organizations and universities that are interested in covering sex changes. Hudson of William H Mercer doubts that there will be any groundswell Mercer's annual salary survey found that the proportion of employers offering sex change coverage rose from 10% in 1996, to just 11% last year. Their proposal before the San Francisco's board this evening is part of a larger package that would also add coverage for infertility, acupuncture and Viagra prescriptions. A worker would have to be on the city payroll for a year to be eligible for same sex coverage. Quote, what everyone needs to admit is that this is a population that is disrespected, abused, and in many cases despised because of the fear of the unknown. But they are courageous individuals who face challenges in life far beyond anything I've experienced as a gay man. Leno said.



1:13:53

Hi, I'm Peggy Phillips. Lately, I've been hearing public officials talk about certain kinds of people as if they weren't really people, immigrants, welfare mothers, illegitimate children. I remember a time when people could be proud of their immigrant roots, the countries they came from where their parents came from. I remember when welfare was chartered precisely to help mothers who were trying to raise children on a little or no income. That's why we called it welfare. And I thought the term illegitimate child had gone out of our vocabulary for effort because children are children, no matter who they are, and we need to take care of how can we stop the politics of fear? Let's get involved in building communities, not barriers.



1:14:43

This message is brought to you by The American Friends Service Committee.



1:15:00

To save please save space for me. In your in your save the place for me, saves space for me. kids grew up and kids dream, some dream of going to college. Dreams The United Negro College Fund helps make real well for every deserving student we help as one we can not without the funds. Please help us ensure that we'll be a place for everyone with a dream. Say please, for me, please support the United Negro College from this mind is a terrible thing to waste call one 800 332 UNCF A message from the Ad Council.



G Glenn Holt 1:15:53

You are listening to lesbian and gay voices.



J Jack Valinski 1:15:56

And so we won't repeat ourselves. We have Ray Hill on the line.



J Joan Devlin 1:16:02

Are you with us? Of course.



J Jack Valinski 1:16:03

Are you too good too good enough now to come



1:16:05



1:10:00

see us and let me tell you throwing yourself around your whole body weight by your armpits is not an easy thing to do. And since I don't have a car it either come down the roads like Porgy and Porgy and Bess saying I'm on my way, although Reigen are doing it with the crutches and the telephone lines work fine, as far as I can tell.



Joan Devlin 1:16:29

Right? You know, you're entertaining. So we hear we hear a rumor that you've got a new show going to be happening during Pride over the community center.



1:16:40

Actually I am I thought that that, you know, bliss, Jack's heart. He accuses me of trying devastate the pride every year because I usually get a big burst of major media either the week before the week of Pride Week. So the more the merrier. And it's not really that hadn't really happened by design, it's just an accident. So I thought that I would tone things down to something to fit on the calendar in one slot, and over the gay and lesbian and by inference, transsexual and bisexual and transgender community center. We're going to take a little stroll through Houston history. And I'm going to out Amos Houston police chief Herman short. I have not done that in all of these years, although a few of my dearest friends, but it didn't work unless you heard the whole story. And so I'm going to do that whole story and probably some other other tasty little bits. Someone has suggested that probably what I do is is take the secret Gay History of the rich and famous now. I can't out anybody that's still alive or still.



Jack Valinski 1:17:57

Before we finish up with talking about the police. Did you see the article about that? Molly, Ivan's wrote about Patrick Wiseman. Absolutely.



1:18:06

I just read it on the internet. And of course, I love Miley to death. And at one point, Patrick Wiseman represented me



Jack Valinski 1:18:16

that's Well, yes. And he did a lot of C work for the ACLU. And certainly a lot of that stuff was dealing with Houston police.



1:18:23

My first interfering with a police officer case where I was arrested by Sandy Bilstein who's probably listening tonight. He has he is a JP down in Fort Bend County. Our Republican JP down in Fort Bend County and Sandy Bilstein is a Democrat. I'm not sure if that's true or not.

in Fort Bend County and Sandy was a Houston cop at the time. He arrested me for interfering with his officers. He was Sergeant Sandy and I subsequently became friends. And when he became a criminal defense lawyer became very good friends. He was representing a lot of my clients as I would refer to.

J Joan Devlin 1:18:56

So what's your first interfering with the police? Yeah, but

1:18:59

but actually it happened right where the Houston gay lesbian community center is located. There was a program going on circuit breakers where some of the local neighborhood Nazis were going to stop gay people from arriving driving in our own neighborhood. But the traffic was a little heavy because Houston was no street cruising town. And so Virginia Galloway and a few others that were kind of co founders of the caucus got together. And we went over there to examine the situation in that examination Sandy Bilstein did not like my riding down the number of one of his subordinate squad cars. So he arrested me for interfering with police and we started this lengthy constitutional discussion about whose constitutional rights were getting gored and I said, Look, my mama told me Do not discuss the Constitution with dumb police officers on street corner, take my ass to jail, which he did. In that case, I The municipal judge ruled that ordinance, Houston city ordinance 3411 was unconstitutional and ordered a judicial order for us Police Department not to enforce it. Because I had, of course, been arrested for being there and saying something. And that lasted until that Judge retired from the bench. And when he retired and bench then they went back to enforcing it again. And so that subsequently led to the famous Supreme Court case he oversees us.

J Jack Valinski 1:20:30

Well, getting back to Patrick Wiseman. He passed away. And that's why Molly Rodwell passed

1:20:34

away some time ago, actually, Patrick's been dead now several months. Okay. I got word of it. Pretty soon after it happened late last summer.

J Jack Valinski 1:20:46

And he was also the one who fought the 2106.

1:20:49

And I don't think Baker had much chance because it's the first time I've arrived. And while 2106 was in the federal court, yes, in a case stop Baker v. Wade, and Henry Wade of Dallas cooperated and giving Patrick the best for him to carry that forward. I mean, he defended but

cooperated and giving I think the best for them to carry that forward. I mean, he declined but all district attorney's posts.

J Jack Valinski 1:21:13

And I remember when the decision came out of the Dallas court, you were just hailing what a great

1:21:19

judge Meyer issued a very wonderfully crafted decision that was very persuasive. But what happened to the Baker case, is by the time we got to the Supreme Court, we got lost in the Hardwick Yes, the Bowers case out of Georgia. And so we just kind of became a footnote to that case, which was a phlebotomy law that applied to both homosexuals and heterosexual. And the only good thing that happened out of that whole trip was Michael Bowers was awfully cute. And I got to pat him on the acid next March on Washington. Why am I not surprised? And then, but Hedrick would have won the mirallas case, if it had been framed, so that it would be a direct appeal from a conviction to 21. Oh, sick. And young Mitchell contains case now is, in fact, the direct appeal from a conviction of 2106. Patrick Wiseman were the one that are sure that they weren't enforcing 2106 That year, so he had to go up to the civil side. And when he got to the Supreme Court, they actually denied cert. And there's been some confusion about that decision. Judge Gonzalez, who is now in Washington with little George towards the second Yeah, Georgia, Georgia, the next generation Hora Hora. Judge Gonzales voted to hear the cases of Supreme Court. And I actually heard LG ARL officers and other gay people saying what a wonderful judge Judge Gonzales was, he was going to hear that case so that he could vote against us. And that was real clear from his statements at the time. But everybody wanted to get heard before what revolution Supreme Court of Texas had become a very unfriendly court. But even at that time, the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals would have given us the decision, we've been able to go up on the direct criminal appeal side and get there.

J Joan Devlin 1:23:23

So what are some of the other things you're going to be talking about in your show? Because you will have had a huge place in the gay history of Houston. Well, I

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know and what I probably will do after I tell a few titillating stories about the rich and famous, two great Houston families had gay sons and how that came to be. The great construction company family and one of the great old company families had gay friends who actually fell in love at the most expensive prep schools that country could offer. And that was a real tangled downer. And then, of course, I can always, you know, fall back on the old William Marsh rice thing. I mean, I mean, nobody else is comfortable to be talking about it. But William Marsh was the spinster gentleman, and the fair haired boy of none other than the famous George Herman there would not be a Rice University if all we had was rice is the state to build that. But it was built as kind of a memorial by George Herman, who wasn't really a wealthy man who was a very frugal man who made good use of money that he had obviously because his name Grace's

Hermann Park and Hermann Hospital and is the cornerstone of the founding of the he too, was a spinster gentleman. And what is now Rice University was like Hermann Park, part of George Herman's land,

J Jack Valinski 1:24:59

unfortunately there you using it for a university rather than a city using it for a park not using it for a park and getting it taken back. Yeah. You know, as much as I love this city, Houston can do a much better job on parks.

1:25:14

Well, Houston could do a great deal better job on parks. And I understand that downtown at some point in the future is just going to be lovely with all of this. As a matter of fact, my niece, Mary Gibbs is very deeply involved in the concert hall project, which is going to beautify that the less glorious parts of downtown with parks and ponds and walkways and other stores we can afford. And storage we can't afford I was down there today, riding the bus and going to the public clinic for my prescriptions and I was starving to death. But reading the menu, there wasn't anything down there I could afford to eat so I came home and and ate some more mustard on ice cubes again.

J Jack Valinski 1:25:58

Now, Ray, I do want

1:26:02

some food. Patrick came and got me and we went over to be terrorists. And tomorrow is May the first May Day. Yes, my grandfather, Frankie's father, Dr. Taylor was a Marxist and I always celebrate May 1 is a kind of a family tradition. And so I'm having a few members of the revolutionary communist party over or non alcoholic cocktails. And if you munchies algorithm, yeah, well, I think there's actually four going to be in town because a couple of rounds. Oh,

J Jack Valinski 1:26:35

you had to import them.

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But, but I always remember Dr. Taylor, on the first of May. It's quite an occasion. Anybody else is welcome, incidentally, if you want to come over and spend a little time with me, and my kami friend. Well,

J

Jack Valinski 1:26:55

and I hope you have a couple FBI photographers there too. Well, you don't

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have to worry about getting by the commies and the photographers come? Yeah, but one point in the middle of the anti war years, when in some of these days, I'm gonna get around to telling those wonderful stories. But whenever I was the national chair of the student mobilization committee to end the war in Vietnam, the guy before me, who should have been chair instead of me, but he was an FBI agent who was found out so we had to retire. And so I became the vice chair that that moved up. And then I gave the gavel to this real tygris of a woman who was with the Socialist Workers Party. And years later, we discovered that she too, was an FBI agent.

J

Joan Devlin 1:27:39

Okay. I'd like to see rise FBI. Well, actually, this goes

J

Jack Valinski 1:27:44

on for a while. Yes. Well, that story about when you were bringing Patrick back from Canada, and you couldn't get then they started printing out your record, and it went on for 20 minutes.

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1:27:54

It scared that woman to death. But you know, I did get a stranger. But I didn't go but I got an invitation to go to the first day day at the CIA. Because I have several friends that are in the CI and have been for years and years and years. And they can come out of the closet officially during the Clinton years, I suppose they'll have to go back in the closet or

G

Glenn Holt 1:28:15

right I can't imagine a CIA Gay Day.

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Well, they actually had one. That's like a double secret in that compound. They're in Virginia, where the CI headquarters are. They had Gay Day celebrations there. And I was busy last year recuperating and trying to ride a motorcycle and a parade under excruciating pain and all other wonderful things. And so I couldn't go. But they celebrated Gay Day Gay Pride Week Day, at CIA headquarters in Virginia. But of course, the CIA has always had GAPI one thing about CIA, whatever they need, they will get, they've got to keep an eye on some gay people in the Soviet Union, or some gay people anywhere in the world, in Israel. I mean, if you had states in Israel,

they're such friends rather that we each spend too much time spying, I want to, I never did figure that out. But they will use gay people to do that. recruit them and train them and do that and they pay them rather well, too.

J Jack Valinski 1:29:20

Well, and gay people are very loyal, and sometimes very smart

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and very serious, conscientious bureaucrats. I mean, I mean, we will be riveted courts and bureaucrats. No one has company or project lawyers who like gay men and lesbians. It's the acceptance thing. That's what makes us dress more than we need to.

J Jack Valinski 1:29:39

Well, exactly. Well, we always try to do better because we feel we have to.

1:29:45

Well, you know, I am, I guess probably the first person within the sound of this voice that came out publicly and was proud to be gay in 1958. Now imagine that Eisenhower is president to me As hairstyles and certainly wasn't designed by date, but we all had flat tops, the people that had flat tops until we had beards and mustaches to go with them. But it was, it was really an interesting period of time. But now, they've got a whole generation of gay, lesbian, transgendered and bisexual people who really don't have a hint, how we got to where we are now,

J Jack Valinski 1:30:31

or the heartache, you know, just today, there are some people doing some memories on hand net, talking about the wonderful days, and then somebody else sort of brought back the reality of police busting bars. You know, not that I mean, that's still happening slowly. Oh, was in that letter. Right. And waterfowl? Right. And certainly, let's not, you know, let's not forget the McCarthy era.

1:30:54

One of you know, the gay people were all in McCarthy. I don't know, McCarthy married late in life to a ready made family and his wife, but he was an alcoholic. So we don't know what he was. sitting right next to him in the hearings was Roy Cohn. Yeah, what is sorry, Carrie was who was without a doubt the most sinister guy. But actually, before Roy died, he died. Before he died, he came down and visited another very, very conservative friends of his Sharon moody dining out. And I heard he was here and this was Gosh, in the 80s, I went down and I drove up

to the front gate at Sharon Moody's ranch. And they recognized me and said, Oh, come in. Right. And I went on in and thanked Roy Coyne, who by this time was very, very sick man. Very physically, emaciated and devastated. And but I thanked him because it was, is sorry, performance in the army McCarthy hearings. It made me a political animal.

J Joan Devlin 1:31:56

And I'm sure he appreciated hearing. He was very

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gracious about that is not a fact we laughed about it. You see, Roy, apparently, once you cut through all the sinister crap, was an urbane kind of silly, not cynical, but sophisticated person who had a sense of humor and thought he had a role to play. And he played that. And his well being and money was tied up and all that super conservative. You know who else was on that committee? Under Senator McCarthy was Bobby Kennedy. We don't hear a lot of mention of van that deep involved in the McCarthy era, witch hunts was John Kennedy's younger brother, who would like to become Attorney General the United States.

J Jack Valinski 1:32:58

Okay,

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excuse me for throwing a little reality into his Well,

J Jack Valinski 1:33:02

yeah. We all sort of

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politically incorrect things you just have to forgive. Okay.

J Joan Devlin 1:33:13

Insulting Republicans in the future.

J Jack Valinski 1:33:14

I do that regularly. It's too easy. How are you feeling?



1:33:19

I am feeling wonderful. I actually haven't felt this good in years. It's this the mobility thing. It's just getting around. And my body said, Oh, you've lost 15 pounds and probably gained it and stuck it right on my waistline. So nice, good. throwing yourself around by your armpits on these crutches just absolutely miserable. And I refuse to get down. But yeah, I don't have pain. And that's the big deal. They're going to we're going to go into s&m phase with my leg here in a week or two. And hopefully by the end of this coming month, which starts girlie tomorrow. I will be up on my trainer prosthetic device.



J Jack Valinski 1:34:00

Well, you'll be ready for pry.



1:34:02

I still don't think I can walk the distance. But I'm thinking about clever ways to go from one end to the other without



J Jack Valinski 1:34:08

well we need to get your cat or you know convertible or something.



J Joan Devlin 1:34:13

Monkey guys to just carry him Cleopatra stood around



1:34:16

a Georgia grin as he had that lovely Cadillac with those enormous fans. That would be kind of my style.



J Jack Valinski 1:34:22

Well speaking of those cars, the art car parade is just fabulous this year. The art car parade is always fun. It's the biggest in the world here in Houston. And they ship those things



1:34:31

all over the world here to do that. And I am so happy that rainbow Declan. I rainbow he's listening is out there and is deeply involved in that so that we have a visible and open

is occurring is out there and is deeply involved in that so that we have a visible and open presence.

J Jack Valinski 1:34:48

Oh, and as we walked by, we saw rainbow there setting up he was just so proud of what he was doing. You know having all these people in history who were gay or lesbian or bi or transgender contributed to this Sid pasted on the side of his, his via calling you know ring we all love rainbow.

♀ 1:35:05

Absolutely. I mean, rainbow is is it has come a long way from that church of Christ preacher that he wanted to be

J Jack Valinski 1:35:13

well and rainbow deserves due credit and he was one of the four people who helped shape the idea of doing the night parade.

J Joan Devlin 1:35:21

And that's one thing about rainbow he is tireless. Oh, absolutely. He

♀ 1:35:24

will wear even me out.

J Jack Valinski 1:35:26

Yes, yes even wears all out.

♀ 1:35:30

Well, I love you all. And oh, by the way of interest to those who have noted that recently the Supreme Court in a very divided decision with Justice Stevens giving an oral dissent from the bench allowed police officers to arrest people for what used to be ticketed more than citation of offenses, specifically arrested a mother bringing her children home from school, because she was not wearing her seatbelt and passing teenagers had to take custody of the children. Just an excruciatingly ugly, ugly story. Well on the prison show, either this Friday or the 25th. And I, Chief Bradford will be our guest. Okay, and

J

Jack Valinski 1:36:25

when is the prison program on

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1:36:26

prison program is on Friday night on this very station nine to 11 o'clock. And we're going to have Keith Bradford and to explain the policy implications of the new Supreme Court decision. And since he is the guy that sets the policy and writes the policy about folks in Houston, gay and otherwise might be interested in the jeopardy that they are of being arrested for a citation.

J

Jack Valinski 1:36:52

Exactly, especially when you've been hearing about all this profiling and arrested while being black, you know, drywall.

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1:36:58

You don't think profiling extends to Montreux? Viens then think again? Because that has been going on for some time.

J

Jack Valinski 1:37:08

Absolutely. Well, Ray, it's good to hear from you. And I

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1:37:12

apologize for not being in studio but I love you both. And I love your audience and I am real cluttered with the high honor of being able to chat with him a lot this evening.

J

Jack Valinski 1:37:23

Of course, Ray Hill longtime activist here in this city. You're listening to lesbian gay voices.

G

Glenn Holt 1:37:37

Dozens of couples who have registered their unions with the state of Vermont came together last week to reflect on the large and small ways in which their lives have changed in the past year. Nearly 200 People gathered at the Vermont State House on Wednesday night to celebrate the first anniversary of the signing of that state's civil unions law recognizing same sex couples. Exactly one year ago, Vermont Governor Howard Dean quietly signed the landmark law that gives gay and lesbian couples most of the rights benefits and responsibilities of married couples, but the crowd on the steps so the building where the law was written was anything but

silent. About 75 of the 427 Vermont couples who have civil unions posed for a group photo. Then they burst into several choruses of You Are My Sunshine. Photographer Jordan Silverman asked the crowd to look straight ahead, hoops. The spontaneous and in unison answer from his subjects was we can't look straight. Laughter cheers and tears were pervasive as several of the leaders in the battle to pass the historic law addressed the crowd. Senate President Pro Tem Peter Shumlin told the crowd that efforts from the Republican controlled House to repeal the civil union law were a waste of time, because the Senate would support no such action. Quote, send us all the bills to undo civil unions that you want, he said referring to the house, but don't bait a minority group that is such a is as much a part of our family as any other. Steve Swain and Mike Bachman moved to Vermont from California only two months before the state's Supreme Court released its decision in Baker versus Vermont. We knew nothing about the case. Bachmann said. But in October of last year, on their ninth anniversary as a couple the two men stood before a crowd of 160 people near a pond at their new home in Woodstock, and heard those all important words, by the power vested in me by the State of Vermont. Those words never never failed to shake Representative Bill Lippard, one of the authors of the civil unions law and an openly gay man, quote, each time I hear that phrase, I know what it is we did and why we did it. He left much of last night's crowd in tears with an emotional speech that He ended by telling them quote, There is nothing we have now that we have not deserved forever. Swain said he realized the impact of their civil union recently, when he had to take Bachman to a hospital emergency room across the nearby New Hampshire border. Even though they weren't in Vermont Swain said the emergency room clerk was delighted to inform them that civil union was one of the choices on the forum she was complaining about them, and that they were her first four Swain and Bachman it was a comforting reminder of their new legal status. Prompted by complaints from San Francisco, the Food and Drug Administration ordered drugmakers Friday to tone down their upbeat ads for AIDS medications, calling them misleading. FDA marketing Division Chief Thomas Abrams told drugmakers in a letter that they must change their ads within 90 days, new ads will have to carry information about the lethal nature of HIV infection, and the dangers of transmitting the virus. As we reported previously, AIDS groups in San Francisco found fault with images of buffed up models that do not reflect the side effects that many patients experience from the medication, including redistribution of fat from the face and arms to the belly and the back. After months of deliberation, the FDA appears to have endorsed the views of California AIDS activists and San Francisco Board of Supervisors President Tom amiano that the deficient depictions of healthy robust people with AIDS in drug advertisements are sending an overly optimistic message. Quote, images that are not generally representative of patients with HIV infection are misleading, because they imply greater efficacy than demonstrated by substantial evidence or minimize the risk associated with HIV drugs wrote a room's, whose division regulates what drug companies can say in consumer advertisements. Many AIDS drug advertisements, according to Abrams, do not adequately convey that these drugs neither cure HIV infection nor reduce its transmission. The outcry over the AIDS and San Francisco AIDS ads in San Francisco drew national attention to an issue that has been an irritant to people with AIDS, who have complex relationships with drugs, which simultaneously have saved their lives, but make them ill with side effects and cost 1000s of dollars a year. Jeff Getty of the organization survived aids hailed the agency's decision. Quote, It is a major victory. It looks like this is exactly what we asked for four months ago. Getty said that FDA officials were initially hostile to the activists campaign, but they may have been persuaded by San Francisco Department of Public Health Research, suggesting that gay men felt the ads were affecting decisions on whether or not to have unsafe sex. They have been using sex to sell AIDS drugs, said getti. The pharmaceutical industry is coming under increasing criticism for its expensive direct to consumer advertising campaigns that market prescription drugs of all kinds to the general public. Since rules were relaxed in 1997, allowing prescription drug ads to run without the full list of side effects. Industry spending on direct to

consumer ads in the United States has grown at a rate of \$2.6 billion a year. According to IMS Health, which tracks drug company marketing. Consumer groups and Health Maintenance Organizations alike have criticized the prescription drug advertising as incomplete and misleading, as well as for unnecessarily driving up the cost of medical care. Quote, The problem has been getting out of hand with different drugs for different diseases. It took AIDS activists to finally get the FDA to step in, said getl. Among the AIDS drug manufacturers notified were Merck Pfizer, and GlaxoSmithKline. activists were particularly upset with the ad campaign from Merck for its antiviral drug. Crick's Yvan. The ads depicted healthy people with AIDS hiking on a rocky mountain top. On these drugs, you do not feel like climbing a mountain said Getty Merck spokeswoman Kira Linderman said Friday that company executives were aware of the letter but declined declined further comment, quote as a rule, we don't comment on any discussions or actions taken by a regulatory agency she said Daniel della Breida, the San Francisco consultant to both drug companies and community groups on healthcare issues, said there is a need for balanced messages on AIDS drugs. While he agreed that AIDS drugs companies need to address the treatment optimism issue. He also said it is not a bad thing to show positive images of people with AIDS. Quote, there are many handsome healthy young strong men and women who have HIV who are taking the medications. He said it is widely believed that hope and optimism and belief in the future are important to people with any day sees. Brazil will soon be spreading the gospel of safe sex through an unlikely but perhaps quite effective, medium pornographic movies. Brazil known for its aggressive campaign against AIDS, plans to enlist the pornographic film industry in the cause by requiring erotic films to carry a safe sex message. Under legislation awaiting final approval in Congress, all pornographic films for sale or rental in Brazil would need to carry a five second opening message, advising the use of a condom during sexual intercourse. Quote, our objective was to alert the population to the importance of using the condom since Elio Demello, chief adviser to Deputy Fernando Gan CAVIS, sponsor of the bill, quote, We wanted people to be well informed when watching films with a sexual appeal Demello said, expressing confidence that the measure would be approved. Brazil has become a model in the AIDS fight thanks to extensive precautionary advertising, and a policy of distributing free anti AIDS drugs. The nation of about 170 million people slashed aids deaths to 24.8% of the infected population in 1999, down from almost 75% in 1990. Latin Americans large Latin America's largest country has a large number of HIV positive people with 200,000 registered cases of HIV and estimates of up to half a million total cases. But that's actually only one half of 1% of the adult population which is infected, compared with an estimated 36% in Botswana, the country with the world's highest infection rate. And finally, scientists haven't yet identified the cause of Britain's devastating Foot and Mouth outbreak. But one local pastor there thinks he knows who to blame. It's the homosexuals. I British church pastor is distributing leaflets, claiming that the latest outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease in the UK countryside was caused by God's disapproval of homosexuality. Funny, I thought Reverend Fred Phelps was the cause of Foot and Mouth Disease. Oh, no, that's foot in mouth disease. Well, anyway, the Morton Christian assembly's newsletter, in which pastor Ray moralise suggests that the devastation wrought by Foot and Mouth Disease is linked to the recent reduction in the UK age of consent for gay sex to 16 years. Quote, The last major outbreak of Foot and Mouth was in 1967, a Christian leader at that time linked that outbreak to two Acts of Parliament. The first was the abortion Act, and the second was the legalization of homosexuality. Those acts permitted behavior which would have brought the disapproval of God upon our nation. Soon afterwards, the foot and mouth disease began to affect our country. By the way, that's the same kind of logic as saying, look, the sidewalk is wet, therefore it must be raining. Of course, the sidewalk could just as easily be wet on a sunny day because of a lawn sprinkler. Continuing to quote this nut. In recent weeks, just prior to this outbreak, Parliament lowered the age of consent for homosexual acts to 16. Mere minors. We have failed to protect our children from perversion. There is such a similarity between events in 1967. And

this outbreak that we have to conclude that this is more than a coincidence. This guy is engaging in what psychologists call magical thinking. It's superstition, not Christianity. Local resident Julie Deane described herself as quote, totally and utterly gobsmacked by the pamphlet, which by the way, is a British way of saying that she was dumbstruck. Quote, it's publications like this that drive up the suicide rate for young gay people. Now, every homophobic idiot thinks they have an excuse to terrorize lesbians and gays, after a rowdy night at the pub, and I can guarantee that it will happen. The pastor of mortal and Christian assembly should be ashamed of himself, she said. And that is our look at the news this week.

J Joan Devlin 1:49:14

Well, you really did have a lot of news tonight. So lots going on. The one about Foot and Mouth cracked me up because of course when I got the article, it was titled, okay, who's been sleeping with cows?

J Jack Valinski 1:49:26

Yes, exactly. I saw that too. And I think it came from David,

J Joan Devlin 1:49:31

David Elliot at the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and he will be on the show next week. As a matter of fact, sure about this and other

J Jack Valinski 1:49:37

things. And if you can't wait till next week, the pride committee is going to be doing a mail out of our newsletter, the one before the parade, which will be this Friday and Saturday. So if you have some extra time and you would like to volunteer, or if you don't want me to call you at home, you can come volunteer Friday. I will be here Friday nights, starting at about seven and Saturday starting at 10am. I am at the community center, which is the lesbian and gay community center, not lesbian only as some people said, yeah, right. 803 Hawthorne at Stanford. And if you don't want to do the mail out, I'm sure they're probably playing a movie Friday night. Or something. There's always something going on.

J Joan Devlin 1:50:16

Yeah, there's always something going on at the community center, for sure.

G Glenn Holt 1:50:19

And in keeping with that last story that I read, whoever it is out there that's been mutilating crape myrtles, and you know who you are. Stop it.

J

Joan Devlin 1:50:27

Okay, so let's get a cute patrol update. How did you do this weekend?

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Glenn Holt 1:50:31

Well, actually, we had a couple of new folks come out. Unfortunately, we didn't have enough of the old fire hose coming out. So we weren't really able to,

J

Joan Devlin 1:50:40

because this is probably the best time of year to do it. You know, it's pretty nice out.

J

Jack Valinski 1:50:44

That's actually wonderful.

G

Glenn Holt 1:50:45

Well, yeah, the problem was, you know, any kind of volunteer activity is that people burn out on it. And so we can't just keep depending on the old folks all the time, especially since the old folks are getting old and forgetful, forgetful. So, you know, we need new new blood new volunteers and like I keep preaching, you know, you don't have to have any special skills or ability, just a willingness to come out and do something positive for yourself and your community. And it's really easy to do just call five to eight safe.

J

Joan Devlin 1:51:14

Okay, and now Jack, your turn the pride committee, what's going on with pride?

J

Jack Valinski 1:51:19

Well, the mail outs, of course, tomorrow is a board meeting, we have a general meeting on the third Tuesday in a board meeting on the first Tuesday of the month at the Metropolitan multiservice center, 1475, West Gray, and all meetings are open to the public. But there's a lot going on. We're getting ready, we're getting close the Pride Day at AstroWorld, or pride day at Six Flags Over Texas, I think they're calling it now will be happening Saturday, June 2. And that should be great because the village people will be there. And the first Friday in June will be the kickoff party, which we haven't decided where it will be but it will be somewhere in the community and it will be free. And as mentioned earlier to Miller's coming to town, and that's going to be a pride event. And he's going to be talking about immigration, which I understand

the show was very well done. Number of things will be happening. There's going to be the pride run the runners club is going to be doing that. Lots of things. Just what you've been entering a lot of that stuff into the calendar. Yes,

J Joan Devlin 1:52:25

I've been very impressed. Some excellent movies coming up at the MFA. And at Landmark Nico and Danny is going to be premiering at the landmark on May 26. And then also the vampire lovers, among others. Hedwig and the Angry Inch are going to be playing at the MFA. And there's several others. I can't think of them off the top of my head. But this is going to be very exciting. Well, it always is exciting. But this year is shaping up to be the film festival shaping up to be quite exciting. Pride week looks like it's shaping up to be quite excited at home. I know. And of course, we have like pride summer.

J Jack Valinski 1:53:02

I don't know if I could deal with that. Ray. We'll be doing a one person show as he said earlier, and I know there's gonna be a number of things going on in the community center.

J Joan Devlin 1:53:09

Oh, yeah, they're going to be having a special showing of a documentary about life before. I think it covers gay life from the 20s through Stonewall. It's a documentary narrated by Rita Mae Brown. Before Stonewall.

G Glenn Holt 1:53:24

Yeah. Leading up to Stonewall. Well, it's actually cardboard.

J Joan Devlin 1:53:27

And then they are showing Stonewall the night before the Pride Parade on Movie Night. Oh, interesting. They have they have quite a bit going on. They really do.

G Glenn Holt 1:53:36

You know, I'm actually just barely old enough to remember hearing something vague in the news about Stonewall when I was seven or eight years old. I remember that. I remember I

J Joan Devlin 1:53:45

and I remember hearing about Judy Garland stuff. I remember that very well. But I do not remember hearing anything about Stonewall.

G

Glenn Holt 1:53:52

Yeah, no, see for me. I guess I just didn't get that gene Julie garden just didn't mean anything to me. But I do remember hearing something about, you know, some kind of a riot in New York

J

Jack Valinski 1:54:02

City. I didn't at all and I was about about three hours away. I remember. Of course Woodstock happening because I remember that. freeways were closed. But I didn't hear anything about Stonewall.

G

Glenn Holt 1:54:13

Hmm. Interesting. Well, of course, you know, living in Ottawa, we got all the American news. You probably got more than I did. Probably. Yeah, probably.

J

Joan Devlin 1:54:20

I was living in Brooklyn at the time of Stonewall.

G

Glenn Holt 1:54:22

You were what were you doing there?

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1:54:24

I was born there.

G

Glenn Holt 1:54:26

Oh, okay. And going to school there.

J

Joan Devlin 1:54:28

I wasn't going to school there yet. I was only like five but

J

Jack Valinski 1:54:34

well, you've just wasted as they say on car. Talk another two hours of your time. Come on,
Glenn Anv

G

Glenn Holt 1:54:42

word about what's happening next week.

J

Joan Devlin 1:54:44

David Elliot, that's it for now. And Jack has something to

J

Jack Valinski 1:54:48

some possibilities we're working on.

G

Glenn Holt 1:54:50

Okay and confirm. Okay, we'll leave everyone in suspense then. You have been listening to lesbian and gay voices heard each Monday at 8pm here on KPFT. Up publicly funded Pacifica network station. Lesbian and Gay voices is produced live in Houston with recorded segments from this way out, which is produced at KPFK in Los Angeles, lesbian and gay voices executive director is Jack Valinski . On Air voices are Joan Devlin Glenn Holt and Jack Valinski . You can write to us at P O Box 66071, Houston, Texas 77266 or email to LGV news@aol.com. Be sure to listen to KPFT every Saturday night at midnight for after hours with Jimmy Carper. It's queer radio with attitude. Lesbian and Gay voices credits the following news sources Associated Press Reuters, Agence France press. The San Francisco Chronicle USA Today, Planet out.com Gay financial network@gfn.com and head net. This is the sound of Texas 90.1 FM KPFT in Houston. for lesbian and gay voices, I'm Glenn Holt.