

uhlib_2022_016_lgv_20010618_edit

📅 Thu, Sep 28, 2023 9:25AM ⌚ 1:48:51

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

gay, year, parade, lesbian, people, week, group, called, festival, houston, community, pride, city, sexual orientation, helms, scouts, play, vote, ordinance, world

SPEAKERS

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



00:00

Commercial Free 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Houston is 90.1 KPFT the sound of Texas, a Pacifica network station KPFT Houston.



Jack Valinski 00:17

Welcome to another edition of lesbian and gay voices. This is Jack Valinski.



Joan Devlin 00:21

And I'm John Devlin.



Glenn Holt 00:22

And I'm Glen Holt and Happy



Jack Valinski 00:23

Pride.



Joan Devlin 00:24

Yes, we only have



lack Valinski 00:26

less than a week to go now you have less than a week to go. In fact, next week, we'll be wrapping it up talking about what had happened. Lots of things going on. In fact, there's a grand marshals event going on right now at Picasa network. casos. No, that other bar that's, that's, that's run by those same people. A lava lamp, lovely, wobbly. And Ray Hill is doing his event right now at the community center. Right another one of his life stories or history, whatever he's making up. Then so so this weekend, of course, is the big weekend. I'm going to tell you about an impromptu unplanned, spontaneous party that's going to happen Friday night at the community center starting around seven, and going till about dark will be the preview of the pride float. The community centers float and hatches float, and there will be beverages so so that's this Friday Community Center. 803 Hawthorne at Stanford, starting at seven Saturday, of course is the parade. There will be a rally before the parade starting about 637 o'clock be there be in front of the grandstand. Lincoln and Montrose between the Burger King and stop and go. And we'll be talking about that tonight. Coit Tower is with us and Sue level. And then the parade starts at 845. Sharp. Whether everybody is there or not, it will start. And we will have Jim Shumsky tonight talking about that, who was a parade co chair. And then the festival is Sunday, the 24th between one and 7pm at Garden, the heights, which is on faith and just off of wall and Jeffrey needs will be here to talk about that. We're bringing the festival back. So all that stuff is happening. And Glenn, don't you have somebody coming up later in the show? Maybe Maybe.

G

Glenn Holt 02:13

Oh, okay.

J

Jack Valinski 02:14

Okay. Well,

J

Joan Devlin 02:16

you also have quite a bit of news for us. I heard

G

Glenn Holt 02:18


Yes. Well, especially since we didn't get to news last week. And then it's been a very busy week in news partly because all of the news organizations around the country have woken up to the fact that oh, this is Gay Pride Week, let's put an item in our newspaper.

J

Jack Valinski 02:32

Well, and if you saw the article on Sunday and the top of the Metro State section, Carol Christian did a wonderful article, I thought, talking about pride in the community in general, talking about the fact that we don't all live in Montrose, talking about the fact that there's other people in our community besides the G and L people, and talked about the fact that AIDS is still


around. So she had a really nice story and you probably can still pick it off the net. And the voice the voice didn't have anything about pride this way. But the triangle did and of course out smarts out and we got a new shipment of pride books in unfortunately, it's a national edition, not the Euston edition, but you still can pick them up. They're all around town.

 Glenn Holt 03:14

Okay. Now since since this is primetime and not after hours, we have to say shipment. shipment.

 Jack Valinski 03:19


What did I say? Now what repeat it? Oh, and I will be on after hours this week, sort of recapping the prey or decompressing,

 Glenn Holt 03:26

decompressing or decomposing. Yes, something like that. And as you pointed out one item missing out of the weather that I did just before the program started each day this week and Saturday night for the parade a 100% chance of mosquitos

 03:48

are facing so much exclusion and denial. And worse than that they faced harassment, discrimination and assault on a daily basis.

 03:58

Senator Helms had been a friend of my husband's my husband had supported him I always voted for him. And I felt sure that if I just wrote him a letter of explanation, he would understand that was very naive on my part

 04:11

we got the other mothers together whom we knew and as they say he was running for re election at the time said we just couldn't let it get by without doing something in the only thing that we could think about doing was that we could oppose him

 Greg Gordon 04:37

Welcome to this way out the international lesbian and gay radio magazine. I'm Greg Gordon. Berlin's got a new mayor and he's openly gay. I'm all in Superior Wisconsin gifts queer youth and inferiority complex. And the remarkable anti helms mothers of magic are determined to

keep singing those stories and more this week now that you've discovered this way out Hi



05:05

I'm Cindy Friedman and I'm Donald Herman



Cindy Friedman 05:07

news rap a summary of some of the news in or affecting the lesbian and gay community for the week ending June 16 2001. Close Vova right became mayor of Berlin this week after identifying himself as a gay man for the first time. At a meeting of the ruling Social Democratic Party this week he ended his speech accepting their unanimous mayoral nomination by saying I'm gay, and that's a good thing. His coming out is believed by some do have anticipated a possible outing, but it's reportedly been well received. His speech was greeted with extended applause. And later a poll found that only about one in seven Germans had concerns about having a game air. He later commented that I've never conducted gay politics, but rather politics as a gay man. The 47 year old override is an attorney who has served six years on the Berlin assembly with little public notice. Exiting Berlin Mayor Abraham a deacon suffered a vote of no confidence by the City Assembly this week, reflecting allegations of corruption and mismanagement resulting in debt totaling billions of dollars. Fulbright was then elected by the Assembly by a vote of 89 to 78, with two abstentions, he's been sworn in to head an interim government until Berliners go to the polls probably in September Vova right is the second open gate to head of major European city following the election of Bertrand delanoe As mayor of Paris earlier this year, because Berlin is actually a city state of nearly three and a half million people vote for Eid can also be viewed as a governor.



06:44

In Britain, Michael Portillo formerly announced his candidacy for the leadership of the opposition Conservative Party, he's favored to win over two or three likely candidates who are farther to the right. Preparing for his political comeback two years ago. Portillo publicly referred to homosexual experiences in his youth, although he has admitted to nuns since his marriage nearly 20 years ago. That admission alone makes him unfit for party leadership. Right Wing senior Tory Lord Tebbutt told the BBC this week. tebbit said he prefers Portillo's likely opponent in Duncan Smith, because Smith is a normal family man with children 18 of the 61 local PARTY CHAIRS reportedly also oppose Portillo specifically because of his gay past. But a public poll taken at the time Portillo statement ran in the London Times found that nearly 70% of Britons would accept a prime minister with such a history, while nearly 60% would accept an openly gay Prime Minister. Portillo has urged the Tories to soften their vehement opposition to gay and lesbian civil rights. In announcing his candidacy. Portillo called the Tories devastating defeat at the polls this month catastrophic and promised his leadership would mean major changes in the party's style and the issues it chooses to focus on. He said, we need to adopt a tone that is moderate and understanding, warning that otherwise the party will lose the public's respect. Conservatives will vote for their new leader in July with the winner to be announced by early August.



Cindy Friedman 08:18

Italy's new Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi named several vehemently anti gay Neo fascists to his cabinet this week. Among them were Umberto Bossi, head of the nationalist northern League and John Franco Feeney, head of the National Alliance for him from what was once Bissell leanings brown shirts. Feeney will serve as Deputy Prime Minister, although Feeney was key to the election success of the ruling Casa Della Berta coalition, pundits had believed the strong showing of Berlusconi his own Forza Italia party would allow him to sidestep Bossi whose party pulled less than 5% of the vote.



08:55

The US Senate this week voted narrowly to withhold federal education funds from schools that deny meeting space to the Boy Scouts of America because of its policy of excluding gays. An identical measure was approved by a voice vote in the House in May. The Education Amendment by homophobic North Carolina Republican Senator Jesse Helms also ensures access for other youth groups that, in its words, prohibit the acceptance of homosexuality. During lengthy debate, Democrats claimed that language could be used to force access for hate groups, but conservative West Virginia Democratic Senator Robert Byrd supported Helms amendment to give it a 51 to 49 edge. California Democratic Senator Barbara Boxer later introduced a successful amendment to bar discrimination against groups that support gays and lesbians as well. The overall education funding bill was passed by an overwhelming 91 to 8.



Cindy Friedman 09:53

The scouts policy is created controversy across the nation since a divided US Supreme Court upheld their right to this discriminate a year ago, the National group's official declaration of the previously unwritten policy led to reconsideration of scout group status by local governments, school districts, United Way's and corporate donors with non discrimination policies, including sexual orientation. When the more than 300 regional councils of the Boy Scouts of America held their annual meeting earlier this month, there were calls to end the ban on gays from some of the largest groups, including those from Los Angeles, New York City, Chicago, Philadelphia, Boston, Minneapolis and San Francisco.



10:35

Also this week, perhaps the most notable victim of the scouts ban on gays confirmed the preliminary settlement of his lawsuit against them without disclosing terms. Len Lanzetta had served well over a decade as head of California's Los Padres Council of the Boy Scouts. Then he identified himself as a gay man while testifying in the scouts defense before the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors, which ultimately ended a special deal with the Council for the use of some county facilities and its annual cash grant. Lanzetta was fired as a result believed to be the highest ranking scout in the US to come out since the High Court ruling. He sued for breach of contract, defamation, discrimination and wrongful termination.



Cindy Friedman 11:20

Also in California, a federal appeals court upheld San Francisco's pioneering equal benefits ordinance in the face of a challenge by the religious right. Since 1997, San Francisco is required its contractors to offer their unmarried employees domestic partners, the same benefits extended to married workers spouses. The three judge panel of the ninth US Circuit Court of Appeals unanimously rejected and Ohio based companies claim that the local law represented an unconstitutional restriction of interstate commerce. Gay and Lesbian activists were impressed that a conservative judge wrote a ruling clearly identifying the equal benefits ordinance as legitimate defense of civil rights. Since San Francisco passed its ordinance, Los Angeles and Seattle have adopted similar ones. And it's believed that a number of other cities may be encouraged to follow suit in the wake of this legal victory. A further challenge to San Francisco's ordinance by the Air Transport Association is still pending in the same appellate court.



12:21

Hawaii now has a hate crimes bill for the first time, one which will increase sentences for crimes motivated by homophobia as well as other biases. It was signed into law this week by Lieutenant Governor Mazie Hirono, who had specifically asked Democratic governor Ben Cayetano to perform that honor while he traveled on the mainland. Among those attending the signing ceremony was gay activist Martin Rice, who is one of a score of gays victimized in a serious hate attack while on a camping trip on kawaii two young men have been charged with attempted murder for that attack.



Cindy Friedman 12:56

Also in the US this week, two of the nation's largest Christian denominations held their national conferences, the anti gay Southern Baptist Convention, representing nearly 16 million members met in New Orleans. In keeping with that locale, the gay support of interfaith groups soul force kept a week of silent protest with a demonstration in the form of a jazz funeral. While dancing to when the saints go marching in about 100 members attempted to carry into the meeting a coffin representing gays and lesbians damaged by the denominations anti gay positions. The result was 34 arrests for trespassing, but those charges were later dropped. As it does each year. The conservative dominated convention featured several explicitly anti gay proposals and past one applauding President George W. Bush's refusal to issue a proclamation of gay and lesbian Pride Month. Most proposals were sent to committees, but it moved to allow ex gays to speak at the 2002 meeting was defeated.



13:58

It was quite a different story at the General Assembly of the two and a half million member Presbyterian Church USA, where 60% of delegates approved a move to ordain sexually active gays and lesbians. Just four years ago, the denomination officially adopted the ban on ordination of non celibate gays and lesbians that have interpretations since 1978. repeal of the ban, which had been recommended by the denominations committee on ordination standards will still have to be endorsed by a majority of the 173 regional presbyteries to take effect that voting will take months and no one is yet willing to predict the outcome.

 Cindy Friedman 14:37

And finally, fans in 100 countries are bidding farewell to TVs Xena Warrior Princess after six years. A strong lesbian following helped make the action adventure series one of the top rated syndicated dramas. It's star New Zealand or Lucy Lawless told The Associated Press. Originally it was a story about Xena and Gabrielle confronting the world, but the story shifted and it became about how the relationship between the two of them was affected. There were times we'd play up to the lesbian subtext. The producers and writers weren't afraid to toy with that. But it was never meant to be an overtone. It didn't matter one way or the other to me or to Renee O'Connor. It made no difference in how we played the roles. We just tried to play a relationship of love and respect. And what people wanted to read into it was fine.

 15:29

That's news wrap for the weekend in June 16 2001. Written by Cindy Friedman, and recorded at the studios of KPFK Los Angeles, follow

 Cindy Friedman 15:38


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

 15:44


Donald Herman.

 15:47

As Houston recovers from the effects of Allison the American Red Cross is providing its assistance to the Houston area service centers have been open to assist victims of flooding. For information on service centers call 8777250 400 If you'd like to do your part and contribute to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund, you can do so by calling one 800 help now, for more information on the Red Cross or to make a contribution on the internet. Go to [www dot Redcross dot o RG](http://www.redcross.org).

 Glenn Holt 16:18

You are listening to lesbian and gay voices.

 Jack Valinski 16:21

Now you talked about 100% chance of mosquitoes Of course there is ways to, you know, help prevent them there are there are sprays you can use. So we're telling people not to stay in this weekend because we have a lot of stuff to do outdoors. And we have something that's

happening that it hasn't happened in a long time. A rally and actually we've never had one before the parade. Coit Tower is here with Sue level. And let's talk a little bit about that.



16:48

Well, this Saturday before the parade, starting at 630, we will gather in the street on the route right basically, by stop and go Burger King off Westheimer on Lincoln. And we will at seven o'clock begin an old fashion rally around primarily the new ordinance or the equality in the workplace issues that are going on in our city government, and will be met by the mayor and many of the candidates that that are in support of that ordinance. And we will basically try to get the community to come out and understand that this is a critical issue to our community right now. And that it's time that we rally. And it's time that we understand that there's a possibility that in November, we may be looking at another major vote in this across the entire city that could affect all of us not just in not not just the city employees, but the way that Houston is perceived as a city around the nation and around the world.



Jack Valinski 18:00

Well, exactly what is the sort proposed ordinance?



18:02

Well, the ordinance is it's going to be hopefully voted on this month is a non discrimination ordinance that includes sexual orientation. And it covers city employees, it's pretty much the same that was passed. And then you know a little bit about that. So you don't want to be the Congress President, when that all happened. I



Jack Valinski 18:23


was on the board at the time you were and what a time wasn't it?



18:27

It was a time. But these times were different. I mean, we we have the the votes on council, again, we actually have a mayor this time that is far more supportive and willing to put some political capital out to make sure that this these ordinances pass and that if we do go into a referendum that we don't fail this time, like we did for the one last time, I also think the city's changed a lot, too. You know, so many corporations now that have non discrimination policies in the workplace. And the city's changed to I mean, I think people just don't understand it's just a basic, you know, fairness issue. You know, if you go to work, he just shouldn't be fired, because your sexual orientation. And so we're going to have an opportunity again, after many years to pass this ordinance again. And it's important that the community come out to the rally, and show their support, not only to show the mayor and the elected officials that are that are

going to vote on this, but to show our own community, that we really do care about these issues, and we can rally around issues and also to show the rest of Houston that, you know, fairness is really a good thing. And the city of Houston really is a fair city.

 Jack Valinski 19:42


Well, you know, certainly we remember back then you and I remember back then how difficult it was, I mean, everybody was against us that there was money put in by the corporations against us, and, you know, the minority communities and it was just such a tough battle yet. You know, we also sort of got backed into having to do this by some people in the community. And it was very, very tough issue. And just as we've seen so many other things change in this community, like how the parade has changed over the years and how, you know, we have a lot more organizations like the Chamber of Commerce that we didn't have back then it's changed, but we still need to get out there and do our part.

 20:22

Excuse me, you know, in a five when we lost, it was a referendum against the ordinances, but it was also a referendum against Kathy Whitmire. I mean, there was a lot of different issues that came into play during that and people came out to vote for all different reasons. You know, this year, we don't have the situation. If the people that are going to go get signatures for a referendum, it's going to be against Lee Brown. But the difference is, is that Lee Brown, you know, our mayor now is going to stand up and fight for, for us, and he's going to go speak to the groups that support him and the black community quite truthfully, which were not with us last time. And we just have a lot more support this time than we did before.

 21:08

And the fact that we have a nice Parker, who has been, you know, a very popular city councilwoman, and I think that that is critically important because she's gained the respect of Greater Houston. And because of that she has a voice and she has the ability to give people a true reason to put this into effect, because it affects her personally, and her family. And I think that a lot of times, back in the mid 80s, there were it was easy to, to fight against them because we didn't know who they were. And now with, with more faces to our community, more people being out more people being active, more people being, you know, talking about this in the workplace, I think it becomes more of an issue that that people can better understand. It's just a true issue of fairness. And I think that I think the time has come but we as a community have to move from just sort of this complacent, passive community to an active community that says, We're not standing by to and hope this happens in November, that we're going to have to get out and get in the streets and and get our friends and our families to go to the polls and vote. Fairness.

 Jack Valinski 22:29

Now, who are we talking about? What are their organizations behind this?



22:33

Absolutely. You want to talk about some of the ones that are that specifically have endorsed?



22:38

Well, here's Kenny Democrats are endorsing, we spoken to some other groups, some labor groups, some other democratic clubs, PFLAG, across the board, log cabin, Republicans HRC, and GLTF Stonewall Democrats, I mean, it's a broad coalition of not only gay, or lesbian, bisexual, and transgender organizations, but organizations throughout the city, that don't belong to our community, but are just supportive of the fact that, you know, let's do the fair thing. And let's do the right thing. And, and they care about the image of this city, I don't think that Houston wants that image, again, of a city that's biased and, and discriminates. And it's not a, an open city where, you know, people can be treated fairly. I think that now, people really care about that image where they may not have so many years ago, but I think now they really do care about the image of Houston, and that we're a fair open city.



23:39

And I think our endorsements reflect the fact that this really is not a partisan issue, that it truly is a fairness issue that, that both Republicans and Democrats and those from all parties come together with



23:50

its green party, I mean, you know, we've got all all those groups that are supporting, supporting us, the most important thing that has to happen as our community needs to show up, it's, there's no reason they should, it's before the parade, we all know you're gonna go down there and find your good spot where you can watch the parade. So it's, it's, you know, basically it marches on Westheimer. And you can come down there and, and show your support and, and then go back and grab your spot to watch the wonderful Parade, which I do want to commend you, Jack in the your pride committee again, for I know, it's gonna be spectacular. I know how much hard work goes into this, and you probably don't get enough thanks for the work that you do. But I want to take this opportunity to thank you. Well, I



Jack Valinski 24:37

certainly did. There's you know, we have like about 35 people on the committee this year, and hopefully we'll have about 100 volunteers a day of the parade. And people should also know that PVA is going to be out there progressive voters in action and they are going to they're one of their missions, and maybe I am not an official spokesperson for them. It's never stopped me before or any of that But basically, their goal is to build a list of 100,000 progressive voters in the city, which would be an incredible amount. And they're going to try to sign up people to that they can call and urge them to vote. And, you know, we all know about the caucus list. And

it's one thing to have a list. But it's another thing to get people out to vote, and to vote progressively is pretty incredible. And actually, so you're on the Democratic National Committee. Right? So incredible honor,



25:26

it is, I'm the first care openly gay or lesbian elected from the state of Texas to committee, but only cars, that that's impressive. It's there's only two statewide seats for women and I, you know, was elected to one of those. So I was elected across the state, again, with a broad coalition of support, you know, which was made my victory possible, I do want to remind people out there being a sort of a senior person in the community now and remembering when we didn't come together, we didn't do our work in 85. And we lost, there was severe consequences to us not putting our heads down and doing what we should do. And if you remember, we, the next year, there was no nobody that came in screen with a caucus, none of the city council members, including the mayor, a lot of our support went down at that time that even the the participation in the parade, the community felt very defeated. Yeah, it happened. And but yet, we have to take some responsibility for the fact that we didn't go out and do our work, but we're doing our work. Now, we're gonna make sure that we're going to win if we have a referendum. And that means that all of you out there need to show up, show your support at the rally before the parade, and in give everyone including a nice if, you know, at least could be in danger. In November, when these ordinances are passed, if there is a group that decides to go out and collect signatures and have a referendum,



Jack Valinski 27:05

and have names, exactly, to vote, Oh,



27:08

absolutely, I could put a nice and danger. One thing that scares people away from doing that is when they see that, that their efforts, they won't win. And that's what we need to do is show anybody that even dares to think that they're going to come and have a referendum, that we're not going to go down without a fight. And in fact, we're going to fight and we're going to win. But we have to be able to show them that. And that's what this rally is about. And that's why it's important for all of you to just come and stay in there and show your support. And let's have a huge crowd. So that when the press cubs, they'll see just how important this issue is to the people in our community.



Jack Valinski 27:46


And so when, where, why how, okay, it's



27:50

this coming Saturday, it's going to start, we'll gather at 630 with speakers beginning at seven o'clock, and it will go till and by 8:30. So everybody will have plenty of time to get back into

o'clock, and it will go it'll end by 8:10. So everybody will have plenty of time to get back into place and back into their parade spot. For those of them for those of you who were actually in the parade, we are going to do a parade March that will go up the reverse route of the parade so that the mayor can kick off the parade with a ribbon cutting. And so everybody will have plenty of time to get back to their floats or to their walking delegation, and be in place so that the parade starts on time, and makes the pride pride committee happy. And of course, progressive voters and action are going to be out there with clipboards and getting their numbers. And I wanted to actually, the progressive voters in action phone number is 713-569-9320. And if anyone wants to be more involved than just showing up for the rally, and actually maybe wants to put a little bit of time in doing calls or walks or we all need to use what resources we have available. Some of us have cash resources, but some of us just have time. And time is a very valuable asset in this particular for this particular project. Yes.

 Jack Valinski 29:06

And the one thing I can say about progressive voters is they do put people to work I mean, efficiently. You don't just go there and stand around. There's things and whether you want to knock on people's doors, or make calls or enter things into computers, they have things for you to do.

 29:19

And it's very exciting to actually sit in that room full of people because there are you know, I mean, many people coming from throughout the entire community that are progressive in and want to see Houston become more of a progressive city around a lot of different issues. So

 29:36

we'll just remember our theme this year. We're going to fight till hell freezes over and then we're going to fight them on the ice. That's the That's the mindset we have to have. And that's why we want you there at the rally to show that that's what we're gonna do. We're not going to just sit back this time. Well, thank you

 Jack Valinski 29:53

great Tao and Sue level. Thank you. We will see you out there Saturday night and remember I'm taking role If you're listening for lesbian and gay voices, watch ads here I come

 Greg Gordon 30:11

and annual youth fair planned for September 15. In Superior, Wisconsin will have to move to the campus of the University of Wisconsin superior because of the Mariner mall where it's been held for the last two years won't allow the participation of a social and support group for Gay Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender genes. Mike Simonson originally filed this report for Wisconsin Public Radio.



30:33

After several years at the Mariner mall this fall's youth fair will be at UW superiors Westman arena. UW Extension youth educator for Reba Pendleton says mall management notified her that the gay teen group together for youth is not welcome at the fair. Negotiations went nowhere. So Pendleton said she had no choice but to stick up for the band group. It's the law



30:56

ensure that no person or group is being discriminated against. And this also means that I cannot hold events at facilities where discrimination occurs. So I guess my decision to change the location from Marina mall to Westman arena at UWS is very simple



31:16

but difficult. Nevertheless, she notified Shirley Duke who is the Gay Lesbian teenagers coordinator at Lutheran Social Services in Duluth. Duke says she's glad UW Extension supports her group. But she isn't looking forward to telling her kids they're not wanted at the Youth fair.



31:32

Kids are facing so much exclusion and denial. And worse than that they face harassment, discrimination and assault on a daily basis. So,



31:45

so this happens kind of often. gay kids here



31:49

anti gay taught in schools 25 to 40 times a day.



31:54

Duke says her team members have been assaulted, harassed, and have had their belongings vandalized. That's one reason she wants to have a booth at the Youth fair, along with other community groups and services. So gay teens know that they have a place to turn but Mariner mall General Manager John severs and says he got complaints about the group's presence last year, he's sticking by his decision, I was



32:15

surprised and taken aback that for a youth fair, that that would be a group that would be exhibiting here at the Mara Mall. So I made it clear that that in my opinion, was an inappropriate time for that group to be at the shopping center exhibiting



32:35

severs and says homosexuality is an adult issue and has no place at a youth fair. What about a gay or lesbian youth? Who's at the fair? Wouldn't that be?



32:45

You know, I think we should stop the interview. I've made my position very clear. And if there is a human, a person who happens to be a gay or lesbian who wants to come to our health affairs, we make these different types of events available throughout the year.



33:06

Other groups that have had exhibits in the past at the Youth fair include local health agencies and the domestic abuse shelter. Surely, duke says severs ins decision is unfortunate. And she says it's not fair to her team members



33:19

to say, well, I guess it could be worse. But the thing is, we're not asking for pity. We don't want pity. What we want is equal opportunity.



33:28

They will get that opportunity now that the youth bear is moving on campus and superior Extension Educator Pendleton says this is a chance for the community that set an example of tolerance. I hope so



33:39

I hope the society and our communities more than ever are becoming more diverse. And I hope it makes a community much richer when we can embrace our differences and we can celebrate those differences together.



33:54

The youth groups are diverse from the four h to the Boy Scouts to the Gay Lesbian teen club, more than 2000 young people on their parents attend the youth fair every year. The difference this year is that they won't be able to duck out to enjoy mall features like the mall video

this year is that they won't be able to duck out to enjoy their features like the main video arcade. In superior Mike Simon's and Wisconsin Public Radio.



34:17

ABFT has given the old electronic funds transfer and monthly credit card installment plan a new name and a new look, you can now be a key PFT monthly Sustainer by calling 713-526-4000 extension 314 and help support KPFT on a monthly basis. It's the KPFT Sustainer program a fancy name for one simple plan. Electronic Funds Transfer and credit card installments have always been a simple and easy way to support KPFT on a monthly basis, an easy way to sustain a relationship with KPFT sustainers. Enjoy insider updates on new programs and projects as well as a special invitation to a KPFT open house. If you'd like to become a KPFT Sustainer please call seven one 3526 4000 extension 314 It's that easy. Become a KPFT monthly Sustainer member today at 713-526-4000. Extension 314 and help support Houston's 90.1 KPFT, the sound of Texas.



Glenn Holt 35:17

And just a reminder to everyone who pledged your support during our most recent pledge drive. Please do honor the pledge by sending in your check or money order. You're listening to lesbian and gay voices.



Joan Devlin 35:31

Good evening. I'm John Devlin. And we have Jim, I want to try to say your name correctly. Shumsky. That's right. And he is the pride parade co chair. And you're here tonight. Just give us give us an update on the parade. I already heard Jack's warning about the mosquitoes. But uh, how's it looking for this year?



35:48

Um, it's looking pretty good. We have about 140 different units has today. And it's looking pretty good. It's right now we're down into the last week before before pride, and we're just all stressed. And but with that stress, we are pumped and ready to go?



Joan Devlin 36:07

Well, I mean, the prime committee does amazing things every year. I mean, they really do I have nothing but admiration for them. Because I know how hard they all work. I mean, they were up working at the community center last week with you know, no air, you know, mold and everything else, because, you know, it has to be done.



36:22

Yeah, it's a group of really, it's, it's, we're a group, it's a good group of people. I mean, I moved

here in 96. And thought I would just get a little bit involved with it. It was the last daytime parade, and I carried a banner. And thought I would just get involved a little bit. And from there, I just dove right in with the parade.

 Joan Devlin 36:41

That's the other good thing about the pride committee, because if you're willing to go in there and help them, they're willing to have you exactly. There's no ego, there's no games, there's no politics, you know, just come out and be willing to work.

 36:51

Exactly. And that's why I joined the committee. I wanted to meet some new people. And I was new here to Houston and I, my first time I came here to Houston was three weeks before pride. And I saw one of the publications that had something about pride in it. I said, Well, that's, I think that's where I'm gonna go to to meet new people. And that's, it's domino from there.

 Joan Devlin 37:12

Now, can you tell us about some of the maybe newcomers to the parade this year? Some people that maybe haven't been in it before?

 37:18

We have a big one? Yeah, comments.

 Joan Devlin 37:21

Oh, no. My boss is gonna rip her clothes off and jump out on that float. The comments are there. Yes.

 37:27

That's great. When I saw that application come through, and I'm probably one of the well are contingent of boys that go to the games now have been increasing over through the years.

 Joan Devlin 37:39

Yes, I heard about their fantastic dancing ability. Oh, yeah. Oh, yeah.

 37:43



When I saw the application come across, I was like, Oh, this is so cool. It's gonna be great for this year.



Joan Devlin 37:47

Oh, that's wonderful. Yeah. So not only the rockets though, huh. I don't know. Astros. The Astros no Euston, Texas. Well, that's great. And who else? The first time.



38:02

First time we've have quite a few. I would consider them corporate people, corporate businesses. We have it's increasing every year. Every year we get of course, Chase comes back every year, Wells Fargo. But we have a couple of new ones that are coming out. That I've seen last year. I wasn't here. I was out in Los Angeles. But from since the last time I did the parade, we have staff script pharmacy, we have cellmark. So there's a couple there's a lot of different corporates that are coming on board with the parade.



Joan Devlin 38:33

Well, that's great. And some old favorites. You mentioned Chase, who are some of the other old favorites that are going to be returning this year, will chase is



38:40

always our favorite. And every year they try to do themselves bigger and better. And talking to different people that are with the organization, their organization. They actually have people come out and they do dance routines, and they really get serious about it.



Joan Devlin 38:54

Yeah, they're very proactive on foreign which is really good.



38:58

A lot of the just our usual we have all of our we have a very big political support. We have our church support. It's a very good mix of the community. I think



Joan Devlin 39:09

no spirits dampened because of Allison.



39:13

We heard rumors we got when we did a couple of phone calls for our mandatory meeting. We heard some rumors of some floats that may have perished in the flood. In some groups that may pull out but you know, the night of the mandatory meeting there were there was a lot for our community.



Joan Devlin 39:28

I think it does, because participation in the parade. You know, floats are great floods are wonderful, but it's more than just about the float. Yes, it is, you know, and Euston is I mean we have one of the biggest parades in the country. And it's getting bigger every year and it's just amazing to me that you know, the bigger it gets, you know, just still gets handled and no matter what happens you know, we had a flood two weeks before the parade and it still gets handled



39:53

and that's the national it says a lot for Houston as a as a whole. You know, we've got our as a committee We have our things that we're being faced with right now, as far as construction, we had a new little curveball threw at us, you know, with the because of the flood, the construction that's up in our setup area is not done. And so now we're gonna have to during this last week of, hey, this is this is it, we have to get sustainless together. We've got it'll, it'll pull off. And that's, that's the amazing thing is that no matter what, the parade goes down Westheimer and it's fabulous every year. And it



Joan Devlin 40:28

is, and it's, you know, and I've seen it because, you know, we teach Jack all the time, because we see Jack, you know, by the time the parades ready to start, and he's about to melt down, because you know, he starts about six in the morning. Yeah. And you know, it always no matter what, you know, it rains it, you know, we had the one year we were in it with KPFT. I mean, it rained like 40 minutes before the parade. And Jack kept saying, Don't worry about don't worry about it. And sure enough, rain stopped, everything went fine. You know, it's just amazing to me how no matter what happens, it just the bright happens. It's smooth. And everybody's always like, wow, you know, you did a great job. And, you know, it's like a perfectly executed play or something. Nobody sees all the hard work that goes into the background, they just get to see the great finished product. And



41:12

exactly, that's my friends are all they every year, they're like, why are you getting involved again, and I have a passion for it. And it's you know, and that's just it, the community sees the parade and does not really realize what all the work that goes on behind the scenes. And we do everything that we can to put on the most fabulous event. And we try, you know, right up until the day before the parade, we're handling different units going in different sizes. And those are

things that the community doesn't say, and all they see is, you know, the event going by them. And it's, you know, it's it's been an incredible for me, I have never ever watched the parade. So I couldn't tell you what the parade looks like, as it's going by me, I've always been involved in it. But it's just, it's amazing.

 Joan Devlin 41:58

Well, the other thing, too, is the pride committee, and this again, speech to the pride committee, because you have a very clear focus. You know, your focus is on getting the parade done getting it done as the you know, the best way possible, making it a fabulous event, is another reason why it goes so well. Because you know, your purpose going in is very clear. You know, your goals are set, you know, there's no, there's kind of no like, if ands or buts about, you know, well, what are we really trying to do here, you know, and that's another great thing, because even after all these years, you know, and pride parades come and go, you know, each year, it's a separate event, but your goal is always the same right this year, the best parade yet.

 42:40

And that's what we've we've done every single year. And we we plan all year long. And we we may have one month off after the parade. And I think that's all so that we can recharge our batteries. But 99 people out of 10 that are on the committee on the committee will come back in some fashion. And even if they don't come back as a committee member or a volunteer, we'll see them they'll show up throughout the year. And it's just, it's just to

 Joan Devlin 43:08
give good parties too.

 43:10

We try we try, we try to have fun at what we do. And it's it's it's been a really good experience for me, I was really a shy person before I got involved with the committee. And this just it's bombshell since then.

 Joan Devlin 43:24

And the other thing, you know, the other good thing about the proximity when I've helped with it is it's the purpose is clear. But people are very free to contribute in any way they can with within those boundaries. You know, it's not micromanaged. It's not a dictatorship, if you have something to contribute, you know, contribute it.

 43:43

Exactly. And, and that's what we we love that we love different insights. And it's, you know, my first meeting that I went to was, well, we didn't, that didn't work back in 1978, or whatever. And we try new ideas. They're not there. Everybody that's on the committee is open to new ideas and doing things differently and are trying something again, that maybe didn't work three year, three or five years ago. And we're gonna try it again and see if it works. It's a lot of ideas. And we try to have fun at it. You know,

 Joan Devlin 44:13

the night parade was a perfect example of that. Oh, yeah. Because you know, and Jack has admitted it, you know, he wasn't for it. And then the idea was presented to him. And you know, the details were hashed out and he came around and look what it's become. It's just fantastic. But because people were open and willing to listen, and of course, because of the give and take and the compromise and the arguing back and forth was going on. Everybody still had the same goal, though, which is this will make the parade better. And so I mean, in the long run, that's all that really matters,

 44:43

right? And we try every year to do with something a little bit different, to try to bring some variety to it. And so that's what and throughout the year we're throwing ideas what worked last year, what didn't work last year, what we can do differently. We have a retreat every year in August Hoeber and there's also an organization. It's an internet international organizational called Eagle pick. And those of us that can go to the conference, it's every October, somewhere different in the world. We all get together. And it's ideas being thrown across the table from different countries. We've sistered with Australia, and they have the largest, you know, gay and lesbian celebration, we're

 Joan Devlin 45:23

going to get there one day in the world. Exactly. I

 45:25

mean, I would love to go there. And it's just one huge party. And they have just, you know, at least a million people that that come to their celebration, you know, and so, not that Houston would ever get to that size. But we take ideas, from the littlest surprise to the largest surprise, and we try to bring that back and incorporate that. And just to give a little difference to what we do here in Houston.

 Joan Devlin 45:47

I've also noticed that the Houston pride committee is very supportive of other cities pride committees. You make a point like to go out to Waco pride Oh, yes, to go out to Corpus Christi pride to go out to Dallas party now to see that Euston is represented. And that's a good thing as

well.



46:01

Yeah. I mean, it may just be two people going, but I try to, at least,



Joan Devlin 46:05

at least are just always



46:08

you know, he's devoted he, he, he's a good guy. And it takes people like, you know, that just his that are devoted to the cause. That's the backbone of the committee.



Joan Devlin 46:20

Yeah, I can still, you know, I remember all Jack's stories about, you know, driving home from Dallas at two o'clock in the morning in the pouring rain, you know, but he went and grew up, you know, Euston represented and actually won an award that year. If I'm not mistaken.



46:32

We try the floor there. We're going to try to win an award.



Joan Devlin 46:35

Great. Well, give us another reminder of you know, we should know it by now. But date time place for the parade.



46:42

Be there Saturday evening. The parade is going to step off promptly at 845 this year. And it will go on until about 1111 30. At Saturday evening.



Joan Devlin 46:53

Yeah. Well, you said what about 140 entries? We have about 140. And



46:57

God knows how many people are going to show up this year. It's it's a really big event with what we have being faced in front of the of the city. With the rally before the parade. There's going to be it's going to be huge this year.

J

Joan Devlin 47:08

Right. So suggestions would be probably to get here early. Get there definitely early. Yeah,



47:13

get there early. There's so many things going on around the parade site, different events, at chances at different different establishments throughout along the parade route, that if you got there early, there's certainly gonna be things to do and keep yourself active, active until the rally beforehand.

J

Joan Devlin 47:32

Great. Well, I want to thank you so much. We've been talking to Jim Shumsky, who is the pride co chair pride coordinator, yes, pride coordinator about the upcoming in five days Euston Pride Parade. And now we're going to go to another segment on this Whap Hi, this is



47:49

Tom Robinson, reminding you that you're either listening to discovering for the first time or tuned right into this way out the international lesbian gay radio magazine a showpiece



47:56

of the homosexual movement in the United States, demanding that society accept as normal, a lifestyle that most of the world's religions consider MRO and which the average American voter instinctively finds repulsive.

G

Greg Gordon 48:16

What would you do if your son died from AIDS? And then you read in the local paper that your own US senator said people with AIDS deserve their fate. To North Carolina women faced with this question rose to the occasion with a ferocity and determination that surprised even them. This way out. Steve pride talks with Patsy Clark and Eloise Vaughn, the remarkable matrons of magic.



48:42

lesse Helms has made a radical out of me he makes me want to take off my clothes shot from

jesse jennings has made a radical out of me, he makes me want to take on my clothes shot from the highest. March on Wall Street in my baby. To gypsy hounds is made or radical me,



48:59

heroes come in all shapes and sizes. Two of mine are grandmothers, one a lifelong Democrat and the other a recovering Republican. These days, they often complete each other's sentences, but in 1995, they only had one thing in common. Both of them lived in North Carolina, and both had lost a son named Mark.



49:19

Hello, I'm Eloise Vaughn.



49:21

And I'm Patsy Clark. The first time I knew what homosexuality was, was when I went to college. I was 18 years old. No, it wasn't mentioned in my home. Nobody said anything about it wasn't necessary. It just didn't come up.



49:37

My son was 34 when he died. He was the oldest of my four children. He was a handsome, beautiful person. And he loved to sing. He had a beautiful baritone voice. He finished estate in communications and that's why he went into the television work and loved it appeared in productions when he could in Raleigh in Atlanta, where he was saying it his brother's wedding. He was the kind of person who would give you the shirt off his back. He never saw anybody that he didn't like, or used to think he worked too hard to make people love him, because we loved him just as he was. But he seemed to work very hard that I never didn't know why I do that. Because he thought he knew something about himself that other people might not love him so much to fame you and he lived like that.



50:24

My Mark was, we all think they're wonderful. Of course, this is mother. But he was very handsome. He was six feet seven inches tall. And no, he didn't play basketball. He was he was not a lot of fun. He was little irresponsible little lazy. He was a real human being. But there was no one you would rather be around than Mark Clark. In my view. I say he was irresponsible. And yet when it came time to face the most difficult time of his life, he faced it with total responsibility, great class, even elegance, if you can think of dying with elegance, but he did. He died with humor, and class.



51:09

I've never heard once in this chamber. Anybody say to the homosexuals, stop what you're

doing? Do you realize that if they would stop what they're doing, there would not be one additional case of AIDS in the United States.



51:30

Senator Helms had been a friend of my husband's my husband had supported him, I always voted for him. And I felt sure that if I just wrote him a letter of explanation, he would understand that was very naive on my part. I did write him a letter and I spent a lot of time thinking about it and trying to make it right. And I asked him only to be more compassionate and not judge anyone is deserving what they got if they died of AIDS, because no one deserves that. And about two weeks after I'd sent that letter to him, his reply came, he started off with saying, I do not judge homosexuality The Bible does. That's a little hard for me to take. He went on about some things that were completely extraneous to what I'd written him about. And in the last paragraph of his letter, he said, I'm sorry that Mark chose to play Russian roulette with his sexuality. But that does not change the reality of what is that was very hard to read. So I did what a lot of mothers and grandmothers might do, I cried, and I walked the floor and cried for about two weeks, feeling totally inept, because I had not reached this man's heart. And I blamed myself. But after two weeks, I thought, Now wait a minute, this is not my fault. He should have understood. And then I got angry. And then Eloise and I began on this political rampage,



52:55

we got the other mothers together whom we knew. We had a meeting at Patsy's house in her leaving room. And we looked at the clip things and we talked about them. And we said, what can we do about this. And as I say he was running for re election at the time said, we just couldn't let it get by without doing something. And the only thing that we think about doing was that we could oppose him. And we decided that that's what we would do. At that point. We didn't know we were actually starting a political PAC. But that's what it turned out to be because we started working and traveling, money began to come to us. And an attorney friend told us that when you have money, you have to be registered with the FEC and with the state board of elections. So we took the steps to do that. And then we weren't official pap. And we chose the name magic pets. His daughter actually suggested that magic mothers that gets tested in Congress. So it has the J in the middle instead of the G. And that caught on really well. And it was easy for people to remember. And we'll never regret some where we were the magic mothers and we had bumper stickers and T shirts and stick all kinds buttons, all kinds of things. And we were mad. And as they say the more we did, the more money came and eventually we raised a lot of money.



54:03

Yeah, we started with a pickle jar with \$5 or \$20 Check and we thought mercy people are actually going to give us money. It was amazing. It really was but we ended up with what \$65,000 Which is nothing when you think of what Senator Helms earns, or makes or raises whatever you want to call it. But to us it was a lot of money. We really basically had 10 or 12

mothers and grandmothers all from the late 60s up into the 80s doing this work. And then it's spread across the country and people sent money from almost every state in the union. We were amazed at the response.



54:42

Our help came from unexpected corners and his Patsy meant and it came from everywhere from people that we didn't know and never heard of, but who felt in their hearts that what the Senator had been saying for years. You see he started out when he first gained power in the 1970s. He was a radio commentator and had news program every now At six o'clock on the Raleigh station, and he always ended up with a tirade against civil rights. He would talk about Dr. Martin Luther King and say, Dr. Martin Luther King. And it was just amazing that he said those things, but it got power to him. And then of course, he's anti intellectual, he came out against the university. And he made a statement, many times that we thought what everybody got to do is just put a fence around Chapel Hill and around the red pinkos, and commies ever in Chapel Hill, and Fitz, the man. And so you know, that became passe at the end of the Cold War. And so he looked around and thought, Well, who else is there and he found the gay community and his bat, he says, that's the last and I'm putting, quote, unquote, in the air, as I say, this acceptable prejudice. And he's using that now. It's a pattern with him,



55:47

keep hoping for some kind of wonderful thing to happen like Paul on the road to Damascus, and that something will really strike him. And what a wonderful voice he could be if he couldn't have a conversion. I'm sure if he's hearing this, he's certainly not going to agree with that. But I think it would be wonderful for someone who has said the things that he has said about the gay community if he could reverse himself and say, you know, I see this differently. Now.



56:13

I think as far as what future holds, I really do see that a critical mass is building, that people are becoming more open, that they're becoming more educated that we don't have the willful ignorance that we've seen in the past. There are so many things going on in our world. Now. There are books and there are articles. There are plays, there are people who are role models in other ways, who are pointing a different way. And I just think that things are changing. It's incremental, but I do believe that they're changing for the better. And I hope I live to see we want to be a part of that. We hope we are we hope that we're little parts is adding to that.



56:48

Senator Jesse Helms comes up for reelection next year, and every indication is that he will run again. Eloise Vaughn is 72 and Patsy Clark is turning 69 this summer. They have no illusions about mounting another campaign against helms in 2002. But hope that they've changed enough hearts in your home state that other mothers sisters fathers, aunts and uncles will

carry their flag into battle. Patsy and Eloise recount their story and a new book published by Allison books called Keep singing. I'm very sure they shall. This is Steve pride. Thanks for listening.



57:42

All supporting KPFT on a monthly basis is now as easy as ever. All you have to do is call 713-526-4000 extension 314 and make a pledge to become a monthly KPFT Sustainer. Make a pledge of \$5 \$15 \$25 or \$45 a month to KPFT. You can pay monthly with electronic funds transfer check or make credit card installments. Pick a payment plan that suits your needs. A record of each contribution will appear on your monthly bank or credit card statement. Increase the value of your donation by providing KPFT with a reliable and consistent monthly payment as a KPFT Sustainer. You reduce the cost of processing donations and eliminate the cost of sending monthly reminders. No more check charges or postage costs for you. Let your donation go further by becoming a KPFT monthly Sustainer by calling 713-526-4000 extension 314 and help support Houston's 9.1 KPFT the sound of Texas



58:51

at Houston recovers from the effects of Allison the American Red Cross is providing its assistance to the Houston area service centers have been open to assist victims of flooding. For information on service centers call 8777250 400 If you'd like to do your part and contribute to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund, you can do so by calling one 800 Help Now for more information on the Red Cross or to make a contribution on the internet. Go to [www dot Redcross dot o RG](http://www.donate.redcross.org).



Glenn Holt 59:27

At 90.1 FM This is KPFT in Houston, the sound of Texas



59:40

and now



Glenn Holt 59:41

more of lesbian and gay voices



Jack Valinski 59:53

Yes, and we're back and guess what we're talking about now. Dr. Jeffery Neves is with us and Matthew stone and And we're going to be talking about the festival. And actually, I don't know that much about the festival because we haven't done one in since 96. And 96. It was a small

one. Years and years ago, we used to have a rally after pride that's back in the 80s. And we used to have, like, 5000 people show up in the park. And it was really fun. But now the festival is coming back. So what's it all about?



1:00:22

Well, it really Jack, one of the good things about the festival is it gives you the opportunity of rather than just seeing an organization or a group go by you in the parade, you have the opportunity to stop and speak to representatives of the organization and find out what they're all about. It also gives you the opportunity of community because this year our theme is embrace diversity. And it gives you the opportunity to meet a broad range of people from our community at the festival.



Jack Valinski 1:00:50

Okay. And besides having booths with organizations, are there going to be? Is there gonna be food? And is there going to be other things besides community organizations?



1:01:01

Absolutely. There's definitely going to be food. There's going to be drinks of all types, including libations. You know, there's going to be a stage sitting next to me here is Matthew, who he N. Tide have done an incredible amount of work to put together what I consider an incredible lineup of entertainers. And I'm going to defer over here to Matthew and let him go into that.



1:01:25

I sure will. What's really interesting about this festival is for \$5, we've got some headline acts from really across the country from all genres of entertainment. Our headliner, of course, as I hope people know is comedian Bob Smith, who had an HBO TV special he's performed at last stop before. He's a big name to bring to town as our other headliner, suede. She's a jazz performer, as sultry voice. Amazing, amazing sound she has. She performs mostly in the Northeast. She's headlined at Tallahassee pride into the southern women's festival she's performing here. We've also got Dave Hall, who was nominated for a glamour award for best artists a couple of years ago. He's coming to town promoting his newest album, which is called True. He's coming to the festival, as is his partner on GSAP. Joe records Marcus Hutchison, who is from Montgomery, Alabama, he lives now lives in New York City. He's more of a folk rock artist. And those are the big top performers. We've got a lot of local acts also coming.



Jack Valinski 1:02:29

Matthew, how did you find these people? I mean, the competition for that day of the year with such major cities as New York and San Francisco and Seattle, doing festivals that day, or that weekend. And just finding this type of you know, getting a hold of them finding them.



1:02:46

Well, first of all, we talked to other brides across the country who had different dates. A lot of these artists have played at different prides across the country last year. Many of them are even performing. Other brides this year, we have Sarah Pinsker, who's flying in the night before from Atlanta pride. She performed last weekend at Baltimore pride. So she's doing the pride circuit this year. The internet's a great resource, word of mouth, from local bands from other bands across the country. The glamour Awards,



Jack Valinski 1:03:15

which I understand has gone too far and has gone



1:03:16

around anymore. So finding the artists who were nominated, some are still around and some sure aren't so



Jack Valinski 1:03:23

and JD probably helped out a little bit. JD is



1:03:26

a great, he's been a great resource. He's put together some tapes for us. He's really excited about the festival to go and meet some of the artists that he's played.



Jack Valinski 1:03:36

Yeah, I think he's even gonna get a backstage pass. JD does the fact next week JD will be doing a segment here on lesbian and gay voices. In fact, he did a CD of some of the artists that are going to be at the festival.



1:03:51

Plus, we've got a lot of local local artists too. We've heard Christie Claxton plays a lot. Houston Austin Beaumont area. Kristie Ray plays a lot of benefits. You see her around town, band name, true soul, it's more of a funk. kind of add a little diversity to the festival. And then Nancy Ford and her Dyke Show is won't be there. So there was a nice she's gonna perform a Sunday for us, which will be a lot of fun.



1:04:18

11 1:04:10

And we do want to mention that we do have two stages that we'll be presenting continuous entertainment. So if you don't like what's on one stage, you can always go to the other and check that out. And if you don't like both of them which way that'll happen, you can shop the market. Okay.

J Jack Valinski 1:04:37

So that's the lineup. So it's a mixture of both national X and local x

1:04:42

national X and local x. We have gay x by x. Lesbian X variety. We've even got some variety performers from Austin we have a performance troupe called clap coming in and they're the most interesting part about their performance is one of their female members couldn't make it to this show, which means we'll do some gender bending, performing, which sounds sounds quite fun. The front alley girls are not the Backstreet Boys, but they do lip sync and some performance. They should be quite entertaining. We're hoping. And we're added just we're still added a couple acts within last week some local acts. Chris O'Toole is a local lesbian, singer songwriter, times three is another band that we just added. It's a trio from Houston. So for \$5 This is that's,

J Jack Valinski 1:05:32

yeah, in some, you know, I think it should be noted that when we started thinking about doing the festival, we talked to Shirley Knight from the eastern women's festival, who has a very successful festival in the fall. It's just a great and a great variety of different things. It's gonna be at the same venue as garden in the heights, that she really helped out a lot and telling us some of the, you know, some of the hard lessons they all learned, and that certainly didn't men very appreciative.

1:05:58

Exactly, it has as much information and guidance as the women festivals has given us. We've we've had our own crosses to bear I hate to say, but it's been an interesting journey. And I think this is something that Houston needs in a festival. You know, you're looking at the lineup that Matthew and Todd have have put together, I'm kind of regretting that I'm a volunteer, because I would really like to sit and watch all day. And I'm knowing that now that I'm going to have to be running around and working, I'm going to miss a lot of it. So I'm hoping someone brings a video camera and shares their tape with me on this. But um, the venue is, since you mentioned that it is garden in the heights, and that's at 339 26. Fagan, the time is from one to 7pm. And I want to let everyone know that the tickets are \$5 in advance and \$8 at the door right now tickets are currently on sale, you can get those at basic brothers or m to m.

J Jack Valinski 1:06:54

Right. And then Friday night, the day before the two days before the festival at the community center will sell we'll have some tickets Exactly. At that spontaneous impromptu non planned party that is going to go on. And if somebody has a few extra hours this weekend, and would be interested in volunteering tomorrow, you can show up at the volunteer, it's the last chance to become a volunteer for 2001 at the Metropolitan multiservice center 1475, West gray at 7pm. And certainly we do have some slots open for volunteers.



1:07:29

Exactly. And another thing that I want to mention Jack is that we have put out invitations to many of our local politicians and statewide and national politicians to come and speak to this. As everyone knows, this is a lot of big things are happening in Houston politically right now. And we really need to get the word out about these things. I think as interesting as the entertainment lineup is going to be I think the politicians, our speakers are going to be just as informative for us.



Jack Valinski 1:07:59

Right, but there are going to be small blocks as compared to large blocks of music. Exactly, absolutely. It's very important that we talk about, you know, things that are important to the community. But this is also a chance to just sit down and have a good time.



1:08:13

Exactly. You know, in the festival, what is it it's all about the party. You know, just as you said it is the good time. But I do want to mention that, you know, the marketplace or the community bazaar is what we're calling it. It will have booths from organizations, ranging from progressive voters and action all the way to jewelry vendors where you can buy that toe ring you've been wanting.



Jack Valinski 1:08:36

Wow, I was waiting for that. Yes, you don't have to go out to the mall.



1:08:39

Exactly. So you know, it's gonna have a little bit of everything for everybody. And, you know, a lot of a lot of the feedback that I've been getting from the community is, you know, there's a lot of excitement based around this. And when I first started this endeavor, I was thinking to myself, you know, Houston is just too hot in June. You know, it's just a lot of reasons why this can't happen. But there's so many, so many more why this can happen and why it should happen.

J Jack Valinski 1:09:11

Well, basically Houston is the only major city that doesn't have festival.

 1:09:14

Exactly. And I'm a newcomer to Houston. And this is the first city that I've lived in. That does not have a festival.

J Jack Valinski 1:09:21

Yes. I mean much smaller cities have festivals, Wichita and Birmingham, Alabama. Yes, yes. And usually very usually when a community starts to do pride celebration, the first thing they do is a festival, then they try to move up to do a parade. Really? Yeah. Because it's, it's a lot less risk in doing that. It's a lot more sort of closed environments. Where as a parade, you're out in the streets with the cameras and all that type of stuff. And parades cost more money usually put on in festivals or there's less opportunity to raise the money for a parade and there is for festival so all of those things happen and and great. I really appreciate the work you've all done. I think it's going to be a fabulous day. And we're going to do everything we can to get rid of the mosquitoes. Maybe we'll have to bring some you know, there's Rodney Kroll who is a one of the core audiences on our station here during the day and has a new album out called the Houston kid which has gotten incredibly high acclaim was doing a live interview or interview on tape here and was talking about the old days growing up in Houston, when the DDT truck used to come DDT truck used to come down the street that you know, all the kids used to follow it and bicycles and inhale as much as they could. And then for about a half an hour after that the the kids used to lay on the ground with the mosquitoes and they had a truce. And then and then that would all wear off and then he'd be at war again. So that is this Sunday at Garden heights which is 3039 26. Just Fagan just off of wha just north of the Montrose area. It should be a great time. We will be there. We hope to see you there. You get tickets in advance at basic brothers which is on Westheimer at Commonwealth or at the community center Friday evening at 803 Hawthorne. Thank you all for being here and we'll see you at the festival. You're listening to lesbian and gay voices.

G Glenn Holt 1:11:38

This is lesbian and gay voices and taking a look now at what's been happening in the news. City lawmakers elected Berlin's first openly gay mayor Saturday bolstering the city's credentials as one of the world's gay capitals in a political shift that could also open the way for the former East German communists to enter the German government. Close worried a Social Democrat takes over on an interim basis after the coalition that ruled the city for a decade collapsed amid a bank scandal and mounting debts. The 47 year old worried was a little known political figure before grabbing nationwide attention last week when he came out at a party convention before his nomination. Quote, I am gay and that's a good thing he said later admitting that he made the statement because of rumors that tabloids were planning a story on his homosexuality. Since then, he has emphasized in interviews that he's a politician who's gay, but not a gay politician, and that he hasn't focused on gay issues. Nevertheless, while read selection was greeted with applause and some cheers when it was announced Saturday at a street festival in Berlin's Schoenberg district, the heart of the city's thriving gay and lesbian scene. Quote The

symbolism is important in Germany and in the capital, also in Eastern Germany. Thank God that this is possible in Germany said botto Monday, a board member of the National lesbian and gay Association. Waving to more than 6000 people who lined the streets of downtown Calgary on Sunday, former Conservative Prime Minister Joe Clark became the highest ranking politician to ever take part in Canadian Pride celebrations. Clark rode in a red BMW convertible as the parades Grand Marshal, and obviously enjoyed himself accompanied by his wife, Maureen McTeer. He waved and joked with pride organizers asked if he wasn't a little uncomfortable in a sports coat. And if he shouldn't have dressed in a bit more festive attire, Clark said was typical I conic style quote. I'm a pretty dull guy. I'm not wearing a tie. Isn't that extraordinary? Well, you have to understand that when Joe Clark was running for prime minister, a popular campaign slogan used against him was Joe who, referring to his lackluster image. Clark said that he was honored to officiate quote, I've always believed in equality and encouraging groups to do their best and make their community better. The crowd too obviously enjoyed Clark's appearance. Way to go Joe said one man in a dog collar as the car passed. This year's attendance was nearly double last year's numbers and organizers say that Clark's appearance was partly responsible. But one person who wasn't there was the homophobic preacher Fred Phelps. Phelps who runs the gods Hates Fags website had threatened to pick at the parade to protest Clark's appearance. But apparently Phelps decided not to cross the border out of fear of arrest. Because promotion of hate is a federal crime in Canada. The leaders of local Boy Scouts of America councils in some of the nation's largest cities want the national organization to compromise on its blanket ban on gay scouts and leaders and why resolution presented at the PSAs national meeting in Boston last week asks the organization to let local sponsoring groups set their own policies regarding the sexual orientation of members. The proposal came from board chairs and presidents from nine councils in New York City, Los Angeles, West Los Angeles, Chicago, Philadelphia, San Francisco, Boston, Minneapolis and Orange County, California. It asks the national association to amend its policy on gays to say that quote, membership and leadership positions are open to persons regardless of their sexual orientation, so long as they meet skirtings conduct standards, and that a scout treat all people with respect regardless of their sexual orientation. Now, the BSA is current stance is that homosexual conduct is inconsistent with scouting values, and quote, an avowed homosexual is not a role model for the traditional moral values espoused in the scout oath and law. Its position was upheld by a close Supreme Court decision last year. Quote, we're not a bunch of wild guys out here doing a palace revolt, we're trying to find another path that respects the beliefs of all scouts, and shows a truly tolerant attitude instead of one with broad stereotypical labels, said Mike Harrison, past chairman of the Orange County Council's board. Under the proposed rules, a troop sponsored by the school church or group with a non discrimination policy would be free to allow gay leaders and scouts with no repercussions from the national organization. Under current regulations, the BSA can revoke the charter as it did with several Illinois Cub Scout packs this year of any group that does not adhere to the national ban on gays. The policy change would also leave troops free to continue with the current heterosexuals only policy. Harrison said he would not expect all troops to open up to gay membership or leadership, especially those with conservative religious sponsorship. Quote, but many of us value scouting also precisely because it values tolerance and diversity, and believe that the scouts interpretation of morally straight meaning only straight people is out to lunch, he said. The BSA said it would send the proposal to its relationships committee for consideration, but didn't expect widespread acceptance among its 320 councils. These still represent a minority of councils said spokesman Greg Shields. A controversial new Church of England handbook containing a foreword by David hope the Archbishop of York contradicts official Anglican teachings on homosexuality, commissioned and approved by hope, the church of England's second most important official, an Anglican catechism. A Catechism is the title of it. And it says homosexuality, quote, may well not be a condition to be regretted, but to have

divinely ordered and positive qualities. Homosexual Christian believers should be encouraged to find their sexual preferences. Such elements of moral beauty as may enhance their general understanding of Christ's calling, continues the section on sexuality, the first full length attempt at a definition of Anglicanism since the brief catechism in the 1662 Book of Common Prayer, the title and Anglican catechism was created as a teaching tool for ministers. And official catechism under development by the Church of England is several years from completion. There has been much debate within the church about its policy on teaching and homosexuality. And at the last International Conference of Anglican bishops, Archbishop of Canterbury, George Carey, the church's leader, gained enough support to pass a resolution that called homosexual acts quote, incompatible with scripture, and mandated celibacy for those not called to marriage. But author canon Edward Norton acknowledges in the text that the church considers homosexuality intrinsically disordered. But he says, quote, significant numbers of Christians are and always have been homosexual, and that sexual orientation is generally not chosen, but the result of genetics and Early Development. In his forward he called Norton's catechism, quote, a celebration of Christian living that explored relevant current issues within the framework of an unchanging doctrinal basis of faith. Lesbian and Gay Christian movement, General Secretary Richard Kircher said the text was quote, a refreshing statement, which the church is crying out for. Meanwhile, the chief policy making body of the Presbyterian Church voted Friday to recommend lifting a ban on ordaining homosexual clergy. The measure to remove the banned from the churches book of order or constitution was approved by the General Assembly of the nation's sixth largest Protestant denomination. The measure still must be ratified by a majority of the churches 173 presbyteries, or regional legislatures over the next year. Jerry Andrews, a minister from suburban Chicago, who supports the ban said the recommendation was not a surprise. He said the General Assembly traditionally is more liberal than the presbyteries. The standard for ordination requires ministers, deacons and elders to quote, live either in fidelity within the covenant of marriage between a man and a woman, or chastity in singleness. In other news two weeks ago, we reported that a CDC study shows a dramatic increase in the incidence of new HIV infection among young gay men. Now, a new federal study reports that the potentially deadly Hepatitis B virus is running rampant among young gay men. Even though a widely available vaccine can keep the incurable curable disease at bay. Researchers found that in the United States, nearly one in 522 year old gay men were infected. Almost all those infected with hepatitis B should recover, but 5% of them may develop serious liver damage, said Thelma King Thiele, Chairwoman of hepatitis Foundation International, some will remain carriers of the disease for the rest of their lives. Researchers at the CDC surveyed 3400 gay men aged 15 to 22. The men were studied from 1994 to 1998, meaning that some of them are now in their 30s 2% of 15 year old gay males were infected with hepatitis B, but that number rose to 17%. By age 22, just 9% of all the young men had been vaccinated. The findings appear in the June 2001 issue of the American Journal of Public Health, which is devoted to medical issues facing gays and lesbians. Hepatitis is a chronic liver disease. It comes in three main types in the United States, A, B and C. The first two are common among gay men. Hepatitis A most commonly spread among gay men through oral anal contact usually doesn't kill, but can create months of flu like misery. Thiel said, the Hepatitis B virus is usually spread through blood and body fluids. And there is evidence that it can even be spread through deep kissing. It lives much longer in the open air than HIV, and is estimated to be 100 times as infectious. Quote, It is easy to get it and whether you fight it off just depends on your immune system. Nobody knows who will be the lucky ones to avoid it till said vaccines that prevent both hepatitis A and B are now routinely given to many schoolchildren. Many gay men also request the vaccines, which must be given in three injections over a six month period. We will have more news after this. Some other says God is a flat footed cricket and you are listening to lesbian and gay voices and continuing with news. A federal court has upheld a city's right to do business only with companies that treat

their gay and lesbian employees fairly. The ninth US Circuit Court of Appeals yesterday rejected and Ohio companies claim that San Francisco unconstitutionally interfered with interstate commerce by requiring its contractors to provide their employees domestic partnership benefits equal to those given to married couples. SD Meyers incorporated represented in court by conservatives evangelist Pat Robertson's American Center for Law and Justice had been the low bidder on a contract to maintain electrical transformers for San Francisco. However, because Meyers refused to comply with the provisions of the city's 1997 equal benefits ordinance, the company lost the bidding on the \$143,000 contract. This is a big win said Matt Coles, director of the American Civil Liberties Union, lesbian and gay rights project, author of an amicus brief supporting the city. Coles said the court shot down one of the most common arguments that employers use against ordinances like the one in San Francisco, namely constitutional restriction of interstate commerce. Quote, I think there are cities all over the country that have been watching this case he said, San Francisco was the first municipality to enact this type of law. The decision gives a seal of approval to all municipalities like San Francisco that want their tax dollars spent on companies that treat fairly all of their employees who have families, said Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund attorney Jennifer Pizer. Land also filed a brief supporting the San Francisco case. What is most stunning about this decision is that a deeply conservative judge wrote a very matter of fact opinion supporting the law. Calls said, with no fanfare, he said Judge J. Clifford Wallace confirmed that the matter was one of civil rights. There was no rhetoric, not an ounce of hostility calls said quote, the San Francisco law created a cascade effect through major market sectors, starting with commercial airlines, said Ken Mills, author of The 1999 Human Rights Campaign report, the state of the workplace for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered workers. After a protracted battle with San Francisco over the partner benefits requirements, United Airlines implemented same sex benefits in late summer of 1999. American Airlines follow the United lead. United's lead one week later, and now the majority of the largest US based carriers recognized domestic partners. Other sectors that quickly followed were banking and oil and gas Mills added. According to Mills benefits at 76% of all firms known to be offering them by 1999 could be linked to enactment of San Francisco's law. A pending decision from the same panel of judges will address the Air Transport Association's appeal of a ruling on the same ordinance. While most of the plaintiff airlines in the case have already adopted domestic partnership benefits for same sex couples. According to Coles, they are arguing that they shouldn't be required to offer them to unmarried heterosexual couples. The released last week of the first set of figures regarding same sex couples from the year 2000 US Census revealed huge increases in same sex partner households over the 1990 count. The June 13 release of the new numbers from Vermont and Delaware, with more states to be reporting later, is an unprecedented move by the federal government and will significantly affect public policy relating to the GLBT community says one researcher, the data shows that Vermont went from 370 Same sex partner households in 1990. To almost 2000. In 2000, Delaware showed an increase from 212 to more than 1800 in the same time period. The results from eight additional states and the District of Columbia will be released later this month. Paula Edelbrock, Director of the Family Policy Program at the National Gay and Lesbian taskforce said she expects to see dramatic increases in the number of same sex couples in every state. Quote, any new question has to be developed and asked over time, so it'll brick the unmarried partner choice on the Census form appeared for the first time in the 1990 count, so she believes part of the increase is attributable to familiarity. More significant, though, she said is the change within the GLBT community. Quote unmarried partner has less resonance had less resonance to us then marriage wasn't the context in 1990 like it is now. We've undergone a huge change in the cultural identity in the GLBT community she said it'll break said she calls the 1990s the decade of the gay and lesbian family. Increasingly widespread domestic partnership benefits, the marriage discussion that began in Hawaii, the creation of civil unions in Vermont, and the availability of second parent

adoption, combined with the right wing backlash against all of that progress, she said, gave gay and lesbian families unprecedented visibility and a sense of confidence that they may not have had before. That Vermont had higher numbers than Delaware in 1990 is indicative of a higher level of comfort in Vermont earlier said Edelbrock, who has been analyzing the 1990 figures for several months to prepare for the release of the 2000 data. Quote, I'm expecting to see similar trends in Massachusetts and Connecticut, she said both states are part of the next group to be released. The more interesting numbers will be broken down to congressional districts. She said the ability to approach a politician prone to voting against gay rights measures, with actual numbers representing the gay and lesbian population in his or her district will be a tool the likes of which activists have never had before she said, quote, this is very big for us politically, all public policy and most public dollars flow from the census. Lisa Bennett of the human rights campaigns family net said quote, as more gay and lesbian, bisexual and transgendered families feel comfortable about identifying themselves the American people will become aware that public policy does not treat them equally and will seek to rectify this injustice. Speaking of which, the US Senate approved a measure Thursday. That guarantees groups equal access to school facilities, regardless of their views on homosexuality, taking the anti gay sting out of a measure backed by Senator Jesse Helms, which had been approved earlier in the day. The Equal Access to Public Schools facilities act, says schools and educational agencies can't deny equal access, quote, in a designated open forum to any youth group, including the Boy Scouts of America based on that group's favorable or unfavorable position concerning sexual orientation. The Act counters the Helms back measure that the Senate had approved just hours before Helms said his Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act, which blocks federal funding to schools that bar the Scouts because of the group's ban on gay members and leaders would protect the organization from removal from schools by what he calls radical militants. We are heartened that many senators stood up to Jesse Helms. Senator Boxer's subsequent amendment ensures all groups will receive equal treatment at the door of America's schools, said Elizabeth Burch, Executive Director of the Human Rights Campaign. Opponents have called the Helms amendment quote gratuitous gay bashing, saying the Supreme Court has already ruled it unconstitutional for schools to deny the Scouts the same level of access as other groups because of the policy. The purpose of the Helms amendment is to bully schools into granting the Boy Scouts special privileges not offered to other groups, said HRC political director when he social Berg boxer said in her amendment would simply codify what the Supreme Court has said, and that is that every group including the Boy Scouts has equal access to school facilities. But stay away from the quote can of worms we believe was opened up in the Helms amendment. Senator Joseph Biden of Delaware told colleagues that those who truly want to make sure that the Boy Scouts have access should bring back Boxer's measure. Senator Phil Gramm of Texas argued that Boxer's amendment would quote put the burden back on the Boy Scouts to spend millions of dollars to fight their way back into public schools. Well, a memo circulated at the Capitol yesterday indicates that state Republican Senate Republicans may have had other motives in stretching the Helms amendment debate out over several hours. The Omaha World Herald reports that an email from the GOP Senate steering committee encouraged senators to quote show Senate Majority Leader Dashiell and the Dems that we will fight to get votes on the issues of interest to us now that we are in the minority and quote, three pages of speaking points which included a section on homosexual crimes that described an alleged assault by a boy on a boy by a gay scout leader accompanied the memo. The Senate Education Bill with both amendments attached is now headed for a House Senate conference committee. The House of Representatives passed its version of the education bill, with an amendment identical to the Helms amendment attached at HRC says that it will try to get that language removed from the final bill GlaxoSmithKline said this week that it was extending its offer of cheap AIDS drugs to a total of 63 countries, including pressure following pressure from activists and territory groups. The medicines will be offered at the cost of

production to governments, aid agencies and churches in all least developed countries and any country in Sub Saharan Africa. The world's largest supplier of HIV AIDS medicines also promised to make anti malarial medicine medicines available at cost and to continue research into diseases affecting the poor. It is setting up a corporate social responsibility committee chaired by its non Executive Chairman Richard Sykes. At the same time, GlaxoSmithKline plans a new pilot program to study offering potential preferentially priced anti infective de worming agents and anti diarrheal drugs in poor countries. The British charity Oxfam, which has spearheaded a campaign demanding more action from that UK based company welcomed the latest initiatives but said GlaxoSmithKline now needed to take a lead in pushing for a change in global patent rules. Oxfam argues that the World Trade Organization patent rules contribute to putting drugs out of the reach of millions in the developing world. GlaxoSmithKline said the pharmaceutical industry disagrees, contending that simply making generic copies of drugs available would not solve the problem. Chief executive John Pierre Garner said the measures set out a on a policy documented document and titled Facing the Challenge recognize the ethical imperative on the industry to do more. But drugmakers alone could not be responsible for delivering health care, he said, quote, The Pharmaceut coal industry can play an important role, but it does not have the mandate expertise or resources to deliver health care unilaterally to developing countries. If the health of the developing world is to improve, then all sectors of our global society, governments and international agencies, as well as the private sector must work together in new kinds of partnerships backed by significant funding, Garner said in a statement, Garner said he is strongly supported a call by UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, for large scale global funding to fight AIDS and other diseases. Gay protesters danced to New Orleans jazz outside the Southern Baptist conventions annual meeting Wednesday, while inside the country's largest Protestant group urged its members to stay married. Then police arrested 34 gay men and women as they tried to carry a coffin into the Superdome to protest anti gay positions taken by the Southern Baptists, who have 16 million members worldwide. As they were led to a nearby police bus the protesters, their hands bound by plastic restraints danced to When the Saints Go Marching In, played by an accompanying jazz band. They were arrested for trespassing, but the charges were later dropped. Sole force a group of religious gays and supporters held the protest because it said the Southern Baptists believe that homosexuality is a sin leads to the killing or suicide of gays. We're here to say the violence must end said Jimmy Creech, a former United Methodist minister who lost his pastor at for performing same sex marriages. Most of the 9000 Southern Baptists who attended the two day Annual Meeting ignored the gay protesters, but a small group stage to counter protest. They carried signs saying God Hates Fags and AIDS is God's curse. In the past, the convention has fought over resolutions about gays and women. But this year there was little controversy and no dissent. The key resolution urged support for so called covenant marriage in which couples receive counseling before marriage and are wed under special state laws that make divorce much more difficult to obtain sort of a wedding wedding. Well, the measure was part of a general thrust by the Southern Baptists to shore up traditional family life, which speaker after speaker described as being under attack. Quote, this is a troubled world where racism, pornography and the homosexual agenda are just a few of the issues challenging our faith and assaulting our families, said Richard land, president of the conventions Ethics and Religious Liberty commission by signing a bill passing passed by the ledge legislature six weeks ago, Hawaii's second in command has made that state part of the growing majority of states with hate crimes laws, inclusive of sexual orientation. Why Lieutenant Governor Mazzy he or oneo signed the legislation in a public ceremony on June 13. Hirono, a sponsor of the legislature's first attempted hate crimes law in the early 90s. asked to sign the bill instead of Governor Ben K Yeto. The legislation establishes harsher penalties penalties for those who commit crimes based solely on their victim's race, religion, disability, national origin, ethnicity or sexual orientation. Bill supporters say it's not about creating special categories. Quote, this is about

people who are different than the general population. And it prevents those who are uncomfortable with these segments of our community from coming out and acting on that discomfort. If someone was to commit a crime because they don't like a person because they're black, white, gay, lesbian or whatever, we will be protected. And for our community that is essential, said Ken Miller, co author of gay and lesbian, co chair rather of the gay and lesbian community center of Honolulu. The legislation was signed less than three weeks after a highly publicized attack on gay campers at a Hawaii State Park. Two teens are charged with attempted murder for allegedly entering a campsite, which was flying rainbow flags, trying to burn tents with campers inside of them and yelling anti gay epithets. They are also accused of trying to hit the campers with their vehicle. A while joins the overwhelming majority of states that now offer some form of protection from hate crimes and as the 23rd to explicitly include sexual orientation. The new legislation also creates a tracking and Analysis system for hate crime statistics. The state is one of four not participating in our federal hate crime data collection project. Canadian aids workers say that government assurances that immigrants To test positive for HIV will not automatically be rejected are filled with loopholes. The government announced last week that it intends to proceed with a plan to test all immigrants and refugees for AIDS. But Citizenship and Immigration Minister Eleanor Kaplan said it will not necessarily mean immigrants who are positive will be refused entry to the country. The decisions are made on a case by case basis with a formula that is under development, she said. Later, Kaplan's press secretary Derek Hodgkinson said that partners spouses, children and refugees will not be excluded if they are HIV positive. Quote, testing is the first step to treatment and information on how to cope with this. So testing is not to be used as an exclusion tool, he said that will leave the decision in the hands of bureaucrats. Although federal law permits gays and lesbians to bring their foreign partners into the country as lended immigrants. Activists fear that a partner who tests positive would be rejected. Despite Kaplan's statement. Ralph Jergens, head of the Canadian HIV AIDS legal network, said he still feared that the authorities would deny entry to HIV infected immigrants, which he described as unjust. Quote, we are worried about the fact that the vast majority of people would still be excluded based on an assumption that they would create an excessive demand on health and social services. He told a news conference at present only those prospective immigrants whose doctors suspect they might be suffering from HIV are tested. Health officials say around 50 to 70 potential immigrants a year are rejected after testing positive. The world's largest publicly traded oil company is now the target of a boycott. Spearheaded by the nation's largest gay and lesbian political organization. The Human Rights Campaign today called for a nationwide boycott of Exxon Mobil following the defeat last month of a shareholder proposal to add the words sexual orientation to the corporate employment non discrimination policy. This was the third consecutive year that such a proposal was turned down. The proposal first appeared after the merger of Exxon and Mobil mobile employees did have domestic partnership benefits and the sexual orientation non discrimination policy. The merged Exxon Mobil rescinded both policies. Quote HRC continues to distort the truth. company spokesman Tom's reg Liano told the San Francisco Chronicle. He said mobile had a discrimination policy based on sexual orientation relevant to harassment, but not employment, and that the domestic partnership benefits were available only to employees who lived where they could legally register as partners. According to Serega Leanna will the domestic partnership benefits are still available to employees whose unions are legally recognized in Canada, the Netherlands and Vermont and those who worked for mobile before the merger. Quote, a boycott may be a drastic action, but it is commensurate with the company's actions which are unique in US business. Our efforts to work this out with company officials have been met with resistance, said HRC Executive Director Elizabeth birch. As one of the largest corporations in the world, Exxon Mobil should be a leader in fairness. Instead, it has become the leading proponent of stonewalling gay and lesbian employees, consumers and shareholders said birch. At a press conference Wednesday morning near a mobile station in

Washington, DC Birch appealed to fair minded Americans to stop patronizing the company's gas stations and convenience stores, and to cut up their mobile and Exxon credit cards. Quote, Exxon Mobil is out of step with most other corporations, including many of its competitors. We are at a loss to explain why this company wants to risk losing valuable employees who want only access to equal benefits and a written assurance that they are valued and protected from unfair treatment. Sid Burch HRC also launched a website to support the boycott, and it is www.equality@exxon.org and it provides contact information for Exxon Mobil executives, and suggests activities for anyone wishing to support the action. And finally, newly elected Italian Prime Minister Silvano Berlusconi has been sworn into office and immediately unveiled a cabinet that includes former Neo fascists. His selections immediately raised concern in Italy's GLBT community. Gianfranco Fini has been named deputy prime minister as recently as 1987 Feeney labeled Mussolini to be quote, the greatest statesman of the century and predicted that he would himself build the fascism of 2000. Feeney has consistently attacked gays and lesbians. But of even greater concern is Umberto Bossi his northern league calls for Italy to abandon Europe and refuse to allow foreign immigrants into the country. Bossi, who has a long list of verbal abuse to his record, continually uses disparaging terms for gays and lesbians. A significant number of cabinet members, including the new premier himself are currently facing judicial probes or possible criminal wrongdoings. Berlusconi was sentenced to a total of six years and five months in prison for forgery of documents, corruption and illegal party financing. But the cases eventually came under the statute of limitations. A number of other cases against him are still pending. You know, social affairs minister Roberto Moroni has been given an eight month suspended sentence for contempt of the national colours. He still faces trial for violating the integrity of the Italian state. Justice Minister Roberto Castellini publicly insulted a magistrate investigating the former separatist northern leagues activities and compared Berlusconi his predecessor, Galliano, Amato to Adolf Hitler, former Justice Minister of all Aveiro Diliberto, a communist said Berlusconi's government was so right wing that it would have made Britain's former Conservative Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher green with envy. Belgian Foreign Minister Louis Michel said he regretted that while Berlusconi could have assembled a government without the extreme right wing xenophobic party of Bossi, he had chosen to include him in the government. Michael labeled Bossi a right wing extremist supporting fascist ideas. And that is our look at a huge pile of news that happened during the week.

J

Jack Valinski 1:47:03

By any chance. Can we play a selection from somebody who may be at the festival? Sure, okay. And that is Dave Paul, one of the performers will be on the festival this Sunday between one and 7pm at garden in the heights Fagan and off of walk to find out more about pride events go to pride.euston.org We'll see you at the parade.

G

Glenn Holt 1:47:38

Yay. You have been listening to lesbian and gay voices heard each Monday at 8pm here on KPFT. publicly funded Pacifica network station, lesbian and gay voices is produced live in Houston with recorded segments from this way out, which is produced at KPFT in Los Angeles, lesbian and gay voices executive producer is Jack Wolinsky on air voices are Joan Devlin, Glenn Holt and Jacqueline ski. You can write to us at PO 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. This is the sound of Texas 90.1 FM KPFT in Houston. for lesbian and gay voices. I'm Glenn Holt.



1:48:39

Commercial Free 24 hours a day, seven days a week, Houston 90.1 KPFT the sound of Texas A Pacifica network station KPFT Houston.