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SPEAKERS

Glenn Holt, Jack Valinski, Cindy Friedman, Greg Gordon

- ⌚ 00:02 commercial free and listener sponsored Houston is 90.1 KPFT the sound of Texas KPFT Houston
- ⌚ J 00:15 Jack Valinski Welcome to another edition of lesbian and gay voices. This is Jack Valinski.
- ⌚ G 00:19 Glenn Holt And I'm Glen Holden, we have John Devlin on the line.
- ⌚ 00:22 Hi, everyone. I'm in Ohio. I'm not naked yet. But why not? Because I'm on the phone with you. So what are you guys doing? Do you miss me yet?
- ⌚ J 00:38 Jack Valinski I didn't know you were gone.
- ⌚ 00:43 So what's been going on in Houston?
- ⌚ J 00:45 Jack Valinski

Oh, lots of things. Lots of things. I had a wonderful time at the Women's festival on Saturday. It went later this year, and then the night and they had some wonderful, wonderful singer, songwriter type people. And

00:57

great hopefully JD will get some new stuff out of it. Oh, we

J 01:00

talked to him about it. And he did some interviews and stuff like that. And Jimmy Carper was there. And I think we were like three guys that were there. Actually, there was a there's a few more than that. There was a few more than that. But it was a very nice event. And the weather was just absolutely perfect. Oh, yeah,

01:16

it was it was a nice weekend. I know that.

J 01:18

And of course we know that PVA was out canvassing God's trying to get more people out to vote, not only for early voting, but for the election a week from tomorrow.

01:27

Yeah. And I wanted to talk about that. Because as I was driving to the airport this morning to come to Ohio, what do I hear on the radio but a public service announcement encouraging people to vote yes on to. And that really upset me because of course, we all know that we need to vote no on two. But this ad was on a radio station that obviously it costs a fair bit of money to advertise on that particular station. So I really want to encourage everybody get out and vote, get your friends out to vote, help PVA out and this last week before the election. These people have money, obviously, you know, they're pushing hard right now and we really need to make sure that you no referendum the referendum does not happen. Now on to

J 02:11

you wrote a very good piece in the Texas triangle this week, Joan, about concern about low voter turnout could jeopardize domestic partner plan. And along with that notes we have tonight joining us Deborah Rogers will be joining us from the Houston gay and lesbian Political Caucus, Alex Mora from PBA progressive voters in action. And in the second hour, we have Clarence Bagby from the National Gay Lesbian Taskforce, which will probably touch on the election but also talk about creating change. Right he'll repeat probably put in a few notes for

this or that. Oh, well, that's just your tough luck. Also, Ray is going to talk a little bit about the holy holiday of Halloween and engineering brunches. We'll be on to talk about the black tie dinner. And of course we all know that. Janine is the liaison for the gay and lesbian community. To the mayor of Houston Iair, Mayor Brown. So all that stuff is going on tonight on lesbian and gay voices and I'm really glad you joined us this evening.



03:27

I'm Christopher gall and I'm Cindy Friedman with news wrap a summary of some of the news in or affecting the lesbian and gay community for the weekend in October 27 2001. Berlin voters this week elected Germany's first major openly gay politician Klaus vulva right to a full term as mayor, Volvo right was not widely known until June when he publicly identified himself as a gay man, as his Social Democratic Party nominated him to serve as interim mayor. The Berlin assembly then voted him into the interim post. In this week's election, Berlin's SPD took about 30% of the vote up about a third from Berlin's last election in 1999. The previously dominant conservative Christian Democrats lost nearly half of their 9099 votes with a mayoral candidate who had described valve arrived is having a deformed character. Volvo ride said the signal from this election is that Berlin is a tolerant city and international city. And it doesn't matter which skin color or religion or life orientation a person has. Lacking a majority in the assembly. Volvo right must now form a governing coalition. One option is a partnership with the party of democratic socialism, the former rulers of post communist East Germany, whose vote swelled to nearly equal the Christian Democrats. The other option is to join with both the fast growing Free Democrats described as a pro business party and the Greens the coalition partners of the national SPD. Volvo right said that tolerance would be a factor in his decision,



C Cindy Friedman 04:54

while serving as interim mayor of have right personally congratulated Berlin's first gay and lesbian car oppose to contract Germany's new registered life partnerships on August 1. Almost three months later, those partnerships will finally become available in the conservative state of Bavaria. Following a vote of the State Parliament this week, the varia had sued and lost in Germany's constitutional court to try to overturn the National Partnership law as damaging the special status of marriage. Bavaria will only take up its state responsibility to implement the national law beginning November 1. Germany's registered partnerships confer legal recognition on same gender couples in areas including inheritance, Social Security benefits, co adoption of a partner's child and the right to use a partner's surname.



05:43

legal recognition for gay and lesbian couples came to the floor this week in the parliaments of both Britain and the Czech Republic. Although the votes went in opposite directions, neither bill is expected to be enacted in the current legislative session. The first vote ever on the subject in Britain's House of Commons supported Labour member of parliament Jane Griffiths relationships civil registration bill by a three to one margin, but as a private member's bill rather than part of the ruling party's legislative agenda. Only 10 minutes of debate was allowed, and passages unlikely. During that brief debate, another Labour MP Stuart Bell said the registry should be put to a nationwide vote because it would serve to redefine marriage.

The proposed civil registration would confer recognition as next of kin and rights in areas including inheritance pensions, Social Security and accident compensation. It has the act of support of Britain's National Gay and Lesbian advocacy group Stonewall,

c Cindy Friedman 06:38

the Czech Republic Chamber of Deputies didn't outright reject the government's bill for registered partnerships, but is probably effectively stalled its passage until after 2002 elections by returning it to the government for revision. The Czech national group gay initiative which supported the bill was encouraged that the current bill didn't get the same parliamentary thumbs down as its two predecessors, with 21 Abstentions. 85 votes to return the bill top 60 to debated as presented with the conservative Christian Democrats and civic Democratic Party opposing the bill and the Social Democrats and communists supporting it. The Catholic Church has also actively lobbied against the bill. The proposed registered partnerships would confer rights scenarios including inheritance and healthcare.

o 07:26

And in the US although California has just enacted a law greatly expanding the legal benefits of its partnership registering a bill to create even broader Vermont style civil unions for gays and lesbians was heard in a state assembly committee this week. Democratic Assembly Member Paul Koretz of West Hollywood introduced the bill called the Family Protection Act a b 1338, describing it as the final frontier in equal rights. One legal expert told the committee the bill would not violate the state constitutional amendment passed by voters last year to restrict legal marriage to one man and one woman since the word marriage would not be applied. But two anti gay religious right groups warned that civil unions would damage traditional marriage even sponsor curettes estimated it could take six years to enact his bill.

c Cindy Friedman 08:14

The family pride coalition warns that a California State appellate court decision this week threatens gay and lesbian second parent adoptions. For 15 years California courts have allowed gay and lesbian co parents to co adopt their partner's biological children. It's been the only means by which those co parents could gain legal recognition. Although when the new partnership law goes into effect in 2002, they'll be able to use the simpler step parent adoption procedure. But in the San Diego case called Sharon s versus Superior Court of California appeals court overturned two adoptions by the CO parent known as a net F, finding that trial courts had never had the authority to grant second parent adoptions. The unprecedented ruling reportedly could affect 1000s of children. It's expected to be appealed to the California Supreme Court,

o 09:05

but a partnered gay father in Brazil has won custody of his two year old daughter in preference to her mother and what's believed to be the nation's first court decision to recognize a gay couples parental rights. Gay biological father, Jose Diaz has lived with his male partner for 15

years.

 Cindy Friedman 09:21

In Taiwan, a transsexual was allowed to legally adopt an unrelated child for the first time this week. The family laws of the Republic of China do not explicitly refer to transsexuality. It's taken trans woman Shang shilling five months to become the legal mother of a now six month old baby, as the shyy District Court at first looked askance at her sexual history and her occupation as an entertainer. The court was finally convinced after additional investigation that Chun has adequate family support to raise the boy. The baby was born by an unknown father to Shawn's next door neighbor or who's currently incarcerated. The grandfather who's raising him support Sean's adoption. Shawn plans to name her baby Shang Tao when

 10:09

South African gays and lesbians have won an apology from the national census agency for its failure to recognize same gender couples and a promise that they will be counted as one item in the census. 2001 questionnaire explicitly prohibits gay and lesbian couples from identifying their status as unmarried yet living together, while another item denies them the automatic right to decide whether to indicate the nature of their relationship, according to a complaint filed with the South Africa Human Rights Commission. This week statistics as a head Polly law hola said that the problem has been fixed, saying that in both the actual training of enumerators and in the census questionnaires itself, it is made clear that same sex couples are to be enumerated in the same way as any other couple living together as part of a household.

 Cindy Friedman 10:55

Australia's upcoming federal elections feature yet another first as the Australian Democratic Party selected both members of a Perth gay male couple as candidates for office. Well known activist and lobbyists Damien Meier is nominated for Australia's Senate and his partner rod swift for the House of Representatives. Swift told the Sydney star observer that standing as a couple has a strong symbolic message for people. We've moved the goalposts and set our relationships are a reality, not an argument. controversial legislation to recognize same gender couples is currently in process in the legislature of Myers and swifts home state of Western Australia, whose current laws are the least favorable to gays and lesbians of any state in Australia.

 11:42

As organizers in Sydney Australia announced plans this week for the cultural festival associated with the 2002 Gay Games. International organizers were already looking ahead to 2006 meeting on the African continent for the first time in Johannesburg, the Federation of Gay Games announced its selection of Montreal as the site for the seventh quadrennial Olympic style competition. The hotly contested site selection one mainstream international media attention because the good games have become big business, the Montreal games are

projected to draw more than 23,000 competitors. The Sydney games expected to have 14,000 participants have already set a record with more than 4000 registrations received more than a year ahead of time.

 c Cindy Friedman 12:25

And finally, New York City's 10% Productions this week launched a million dollar ad campaign for 10 a fragrance marketed specifically for gay men, and claimed to contain natural attractants 10 slogan is gain confidence seduce the senses get the man, but New Zealand's Maria nature catalog is seeking gay male customers for more unusual merchandise. thongs and nipple warmers made of Possum for the company compares the food to make but it's politically correct. It's taken from the brushtail possum. A pest whose use for fur is reportedly advocated by all New Zealand's environmental groups.



13:09

That's news wrap for the week ending October 27 2001. Written by Cindy Friedman and recorded at the studios of KPFK Los Angeles



c Cindy Friedman 13:18

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



13:28

the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation will have their 11th annual Race for the Cure to raise money for breast cancer research, education, screening and treatment. If you'd like to participate and help them reach their \$1.1 million goal on October 13, call the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation and 713-783-9188 or visit their website at www dot Coman ustun.org.



g Glenn Holt 13:57

Well, that sounds like one PSA that we can toss. You're listening to lesbian gay voices.



j Jack Valinski 14:02

Yes. And that's the old trick that Glenn plays where I can't say it again. On the phone with us is Deborah Rogers, who is the president of Houston's gay and lesbian Political Caucus. And it's that time of the year again, where it's time to go out and vote. And we have anything to vote for Deborah.



14:20

Oh, gosh, yes, we do. Actually, this particular voting, this election is going to be an amazing thing for voters to see when they go to the polls, if they haven't already seen a sample ballot of which they're now out. They're going to be amazed at the number of things to look at. First of all, we have state 19. state constitutional amendments.



J Jack Valinski 14:44

We Yes, usually, on these years when it's city election, there isn't too much to vote for in the number of choices you have to make



14:51

exactly this time. It's just the opposite. We've got the 19 state constitutional amendments, at least three city propositions which are also enhanced with six city bonds. Then you have individual district city council members, you're at large city council members, your mayor's race, there's quite a bit there for the voter to look at. And that's why we're hoping people will go to www.dotHTMLpc.com. And see our endorsements for this year to give them an idea of who our membership has looked at screen talk to and decided might be the best person for the job.



J Jack Valinski 15:29

Well, and of course, we're going to be talking a little bit later about the the actual referendum Alex Moore was going to is here. He'll be on to the next segment. But let's talk about in the HG LPC is really the only organization in the community that endorses Well, I should take that back. I guess the the log cabin also endorses, but I don't know if they endorsed this cycle.



15:51

I believe they did. But their endorsement process is a little bit different from ours. The way we we endorse it is our general membership comes together. We have people volunteer for screening committees, everyone who has announced the candidacy at the time that we're preparing for endorsements is invited to come. And we select our members for the screening panels very carefully. For example, someone is an avid proponent of a given candidate, they don't screen in that race. And we have a very thorough questionnaire that asks a lot of key questions related to our issues and otherwise. And it's a basic one on one process where the members talk to the candidates face to face and see what what they're about how they are on the addition on the issues and how they present themselves.



J Jack Valinski 16:38

Well, let's talk about some of the endorsements. Of course, at large position one, I guess was probably one of the easiest endorsements.



16:45

Yeah, I think that was a nice Parker for at large position. One was definitely a go for us. Membership. approve that one, by acclamation unanimously, not a question there.



J Jack Valinski 16:59

Okay. And a nice has been a former president of the caucus along with a longtime academic activists within the community. And this will be her third term if she wins in her last term as city council person because of term limitations. Exactly. And she does have opposition. But it's, you know, you never really like to say token, but it more or less is



17:22

I'm not that familiar with our opposition. I encourage people to please go out and vote anyway, never take anything for granted. I know that one of the candidates, she's running against this time that the last election gained 30 to 35% of the vote. And that was just being a token candidate even then. That's exactly you're you're right about that. You can't take that for granted.



J Jack Valinski 17:42

Okay, and going down and other large positions. What else did the caucus endorse?



17:48

Well, we went with Gordon Quan for position two than we had at large three, which is very competitive. This turnaround. We had returning the screen with us, Andrew Burks, who was who was training with us in the past, Mark Whitehead. And we worked with Mark Whitehead for this position, because he's a very even keeled steady sort of guy, he presents as just someone that that you can feel like you can just go to in a crisis and he's not going to go nuts on you or anything like that. He's a lawyer. He was on the issues point for point very much an advocate for civil rights across the board for JLTV. Right. For the basic freedoms that we that everyone else has, that we should share with. And he was he was a good choice for us. Then we moved on to at large for, which has been an incredibly exciting competition. There are a lot of candidates in that race. We have some up and comers in that race, such as Barbara Ashley, who I suggest everyone keep their eyes on Barbara Ashley, she's going to be appearing many, many times in our future. And she's someone who's screened really well with us. We wound up endorsing Claudia Williamson. It was a tight choice. But we went with Claudio, who is a very dynamic, energetic, professional. She is on point with the issues. I think she appeals to a very broad base of people as well, because she's fiscally conservative and basically a very common sense oriented person. And I think she's going to really make a dent in this election. So I'm encouraging people to go with our endorsement on that one for Claudia Williamson. Then we moved into some district

J

Jack Valinski 19:49

races, which are there's no endorsement on position five, position five. No,

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they're not okay. We don't endorse races in which people do not screen so We did not have any response from say district five we did not screen and we did not endorse. Okay. And also if we only had one person on screen and we did not feel that we could endorse them, we would not endorse them. Okay.

J

Jack Valinski 20:16

Onto the district's

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20:17

on to the districts. Yes, indeed. We have some hot races their district is turning into a real pot boiler as we see. Al Flores and William Morris and Carol Alvarado, duke it out. We went with Carol Alvarado because of her, her experience her presentation, the fact that she's grown up in that area and has been a community leader. Then we go to district D, which I think has been on the tip of everyone's tongues in terms of, of a close race. And that's the Montrose district that includes the Montrose district. Yes, it does. And Edward has been our choice for that one. And his longtime activist, you couldn't want for a better advocate for your cause. She's been open and upfront about her position on on JLTV issues from the get go from before the election started through the election. And I anticipate she will be after the election as well. So this is very dynamic woman as well. We've got some great, great people out there that we can choose. And the caucuses, were has really tickled pink that we've been able to endorse these people.

J

Jack Valinski 21:28

Okay. Any other district candidates?

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21:31

Oh, gosh, let me say, I did have an opportunity to interview Jerry Coleman, who was running in District C, we were not able to endorse in that district because at the time we were screening and endorsing Jerry was not running in that race. She was in the at large for mix, which was very competitive, very tight. A lot of really good candidates from that one. And after she assessed the situation, and after many people in her community came to her, she made the decision after our endorsement to run for the district seat position, which is where she lives. She was hesitant to do that, because she also happens to be the ex wife of the incumbent Mark

J

Jack Valinski 22:21

Goldberg, who only won by a few votes. Last time.

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22:25

Exactly. He only won by a few votes. And her interest is not per se to defeat Mark Goldberg her access, but her interest is first and foremost to bring representation to her district which is accessible. She considers one of her passions to be the after school programs which are very key to that that area. Keep in mind that district C is an incredibly diverse areas. I grew up in that area and I've watched a change over the years. And it encompasses what are parts of Charlottetown Meier lands, Fondren braise what area, some of the Med Center some of going out towards pass the Med Center that also parts of what include Bellaire parts of the Galleria, it's an incredibly diverse area. And working with with the schools and after school programs is a key issue, as is just basic accessibility to the the issues they have out there. There's a very active business community that has worked with organizations out there, which she's been a part of. She's been active in her community, and we're going to be publishing that interview on our website the next day or so.

J

Jack Valinski 23:41

Okay. And then also in District B is Carol Galloway. And District H is Gabriel Vasquez.

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23:48

Yes, those are both incumbents. They scream very well. They've been very supportive of our issues, whether it be the non discrimination issue that we saw come before city council, or the various issues regarding domestic partner benefits, and they're both against Proposition two.

J

Jack Valinski 24:08

Okay. And that leads us all the way to the top of the ballot. They're in the mayor's race. Yes, the

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24:13

mayor's race indeed. We had two excellent candidates screen with us. Lee Brown, the incumbent and Chris Bell, who is the city council member running against ORLANDO SANCHEZ did not screen with us, so we were not able to make a determination. There. We did have one other candidate from the work no fuse from Roman forest, but we appreciated his attempt to screen but I don't think he realized the organization he was screening with because he was against all gay issues, so we weren't too sure about that situation. Our screeners put both candidates bill and Lee through the drill and They thought long and hard. The scores were very close. Both candidates are very good on our issues. But hands down without a doubt, the

screening panel and then the membership itself. What was Lee Brown? For two basic, fundamental reasons. The first reason, which does carry quite a bit of weight is that we Brown made a commitment to stand behind JLTV issues. And he's actually fulfilled that promise. That's something that we have not seen in this community in the city. And when somebody does what they say, and takes the heat and stand by you with your issues. That means something that's a coalition, that's a partnership. And that's something we want the voters to remember. The second thing is that we felt Lee Brown was the right person to lead our city into the 21st century and continue to make this a world class competitive city. When you look at issues such as Proposition one, which we are endorsing, and saying people should vote for city Proposition one, we are doing that, because we're saying this is a commitment to look at things like light rail to start projects, finish those projects, and then make our decisions afterwards of what we want to do to further progress in this town. When we look at proposition two, and we're asking people to vote against Proposition two would asking them to vote against a charter change, which would eliminate the consideration of domestic partner benefits for gay lesbian couples. We're asking people to vote against it, because these are things that lead us to a world class city, if we can offer our city employees and lead by example, in in offering domestic partner benefits. We saw the sign out there that we're being competitive with all the other cities and major industries that are doing the same thing. Lee Brown has been at the front of this. He's seen that he's followed through on it. He's led with transportation issues with numerous other issues. He has excellent rapport with the police department, which means something for all of us across the board. And those were the reasons that our membership, what was the round?

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Jack Valinski 27:26

Well, and I think that was a very compelling reason as I was in that meeting. And it was an incredible endorsement meeting on factor reminded me of some of the years past when some of the old days in the caucus when there was a tremendous amount of energy. And it was just really, really nice to be back. See the caucus? Sort of, you know, moving forward again.

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Yeah. Well, I was very appreciative that evening, I was glad to see people there. I'd love to see them come back again and again. And again, because we can sustain that kind of energy last month and really get some things accomplished. If there is no time for us to sit on our laurels, no matter what happens on our election day, a week from tomorrow night, we will undoubtedly have something in a runoff, which is December a a Saturday. And people that close to Christmas are probably going to think they have better things to do with their time, then go vote real quickly. But we've got encouraged people to remember, it doesn't just stop there. If there's a runoff. We've got to be there for the runoff as well.

J

Jack Valinski 28:26

Absolutely. Deborah Rodgers is president of the Houston game lesbian Political Caucus. And reminder is that you can see these endorsements at the on the website, which is www.dot.hgopc.com. And the caucuses phone number is 713-521-1000. And the next meeting will be the

first meeting first Wednesday in November, which would be the day after the election. Right? Well, yes. Okay. Well, Deborah, I know you in fact, you're at work tonight and you were able to take a few minutes off and call in and I really appreciate that. So we'll see you all Election Day.



29:03

Okay, and I'll see you all out and about probably was HGL PC postcards in my hand. So if you see me grab one,



J Jack Valinski 29:09

okay. You're listening to lesbian and gay voices.



29:15

Every day.



G Greg Gordon 29:19

Felice Bikaner was the author of more than 20 books, including Best Selling novels, the lower Looking Glass lives, and this year is onyx, as well as nonfiction works like the new joy of gay sex. And the literary memoir, men who loved me is 9095 release, like people in history, won the founder of the legendary violet quill club, the pharaoh grumbly award for best gay novel. This way out. Steve pride had a chance to chat with McConnell about his life's work and gay life.



29:49

Please because bacana could easily rest on his laurels as a pioneer of gay literature. His work spans over a quarter century and moves effortlessly between genres, but the Kano still hasn't lot to say, This year he contributed memories of friend Robert Ferro to the anthology lost within loss, and released a semi autobiographical novel, Onyx.



30:11

Onyx is about the last two years of my life in New York City when I was losing my partner, and my best friend to age, who essentially when the sort of well to do middle class houses in the country and cars like was totally falling apart. And what I wanted to do is I wanted to write a book about that that would show what that was like for people who may not have experienced that, almost as a sort of warning to the younger people who are mainstreaming so avidly that this is not going to save them if something really goes wrong. And also because I wanted to tell that story and to memorialize a really difficult period of my life. And because I had not done anything about it, this all happened about a decade ago. And I've done nothing about it. And I thought it was time to write about it and, you know, get it off my chest. And I was very worried about how people would react to something like that. But the reaction so far had been

amazingly positive. And what makes it a little bit different, I think from most books of this sort, is the fact that the main character who had more or less based on me, at the same time that his lover is dying begins a physical affair with a straight, quote, straight, younger married man, which lasts throughout the entire period of the book. And so I'm going out of my way to open up the can of worms, the big scandal about straight and gay men in America and so much we hear so much about the violent connections they make, and there are other connections that they make. Also, tell me about loss within loss. This is an anthology put together by the estate project Alliance for the Arts, which seeks to show what happened as a result in the artistic community in the United States as a result of the AIDS epidemic. And nobody's really done anything about this before, in terms of actually memorializing people or just even listening people who are lost.



32:12

It's very easy for artists to slip away, you say, well, they haven't had a new painting lately. I haven't seen them on television, I haven't seen their new book,



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like I think are 17 or 18 artists who are specified in it. And they are of such a diverse group that I think we have to pay attention as a result of that.



32:28

Let's talk about Robert Pharaoh, who you celebrate in the book.



32:31

Robert Pharaoh was a friend of mine, and was also part of a group called the violent quilt club that I belong to, along with Edmund white Andrew Holleran Roberts, partner of many years, Michael grumbly, Christopher Cox, and George Whitmire. We came together in the late 70s. I figure about a decade after Stonewall, in an attempt to try to put together a serious gay literature on this country. And it was a benevolent conspiracy of seven people with various hangers on and it seems to have taken it seems to have worked. But Robert was one of the people who was the social glue of the group, because it was a social group, as much as it was a literary group,



33:17

Edmund White said it was about the desserts.



33:21

Well, the desserts got pretty fabulous, I have to admit. But the desserts were part of the social

glue also know what it was about was we were supporting each other's work. We were all writing gay literature at a time in which there was no such thing. Every once in a while there'd be a gay book published, or homosexual book published, let's put it that way. And there were a great many of them at the time, you know, like to every year or something like that. But there was nothing that really dealt with the fact that they was already in existence, a gay community, which was all across the country, and to some extent all across the world, which we knew existed because we lived within one. So we just really got together and said, well, for example, let me give you an example of how this work. Edmund White, who was at that point, a very well known writer within a literary set in New York City, which was working at that time, everything was really happening in New York City. Although he had many homosexual friends in literature, including some very famous people. None of them were writing a literature. None of them were interested in the idea of gay literature. They didn't see much point to it. So he really had nobody to discuss what he was doing with. Neither did I neither did Andrew hall or and neither did anybody, in fact, so the idea was to get together. So read the works that we were doing in progress, you know, works in progress, and to sort of check up and confirm for each other, that this was the right thing that we were doing, and that it was a good idea.



34:48

A few of the members passed away. More than half so many wonderful artists, singers, dancers, writers that would have gone on to leave behind a larger body of work. Have their lives cut short, leaving behind not very much



35:03

in terms of literature and just among my group, Robert Ferro wrote, I think, I think it was five books. And although he said he was done, and that he had written everything that he had to when he died, he was 47 years old. I'm 10 years older than that already. And I know that there were books that I have written as a result of undergoing those past 10 years. So obviously, a man as talented and thoughtful as he was, would have written more and it would have gotten, I believe it would have gotten better and deeper and more interesting. So the loss is to us. And that's true with many different writers. There was so many that we lost to



35:40

it, many writers bristle at the term gay writer, is that something that bothers Felice become not at all, do you think that there is a gay male artistic aesthetic?



35:49

Well, if there is, I don't have it. I wrote my first memoir, which is called ambidextrous, the secret lives of children, because all the growing up stories that I had read by gay people were about sensitive youths who had been artistic and readers and you know, who felt tormented by their friends. And looking back on my own life, I realized I was probably one of the people who tormented them. And I had played sports and run around with my, my own group, you know, we lived on our bicycles, and I grew up as a regular boy, you know, I mean, we we did odd

things like sniffing glue, and having sex together. But aside from that, it was a pretty ordinary American childhood. And I wrote that book, just to make sure that there was something out there, showing that you didn't have to have a sensitive, overly aesthetic youth to turn out to be, you know, gay the way I was.



36:43

What do you see gay literature going all over the place?



36:47

I think gay literature's is very healthy and doing very, very well.



36:51

So what is a gay book? Well, I



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don't know what it is what I write about is gay life in America more or less today. And not enough people really are dealing with issues that I write about. And there seems to be so much material out there still to be written about. So much is happening. We have no lack of readers. That's for sure.



37:13

This has been a conversation with author Felice bacana I'm Steve pride. Thanks for listening



37:19

every day, AJ every day.



37:38

Save please. Save space for me. In your in your safe place for me. Save space for me.



37:58

Kids grow up and kids dream. Dream of going to college. Dreams The United Negro College Fund helps make real well for every deserving student we help as one we can. Not without the funds. Please help us ensure there will be a place for everyone with a dream.



38:18

Save please.



38:21

Please support the United Negro College Fund The mind is a terrible thing to waste call one 800 332 UNCF A message from the Ad Council.



G Glenn Holt 38:31

You're listening to lesbian and gay voices.



J Jack Valinski 38:35

Election Night here on cape on KPFT lesbian gay voices election I pre coverage. Alex Morris here to talk about the effort against Proposition two. And first of all, I guess that's one of the tough things you got to tell people to vote against.



38:51

Exactly. I mean, it's unfortunately the way the ballots worded and we're just the language itself, it's you have to vote against city prop two. And aside from the fact that there are other props that are also prop two A state prop two, that people need to be clear about that. They're two very different propositions. Yes, and



J Jack Valinski 39:10

I voted last Thursday with the new electronic machines. It's really, really neat. And that's right. If you want to use the electronic machines, you have to do early voting, and you can early vote until Friday. There's 29 places around the county and actually probably the first thing I should give is the website. If you're looking for your place to vote, you can vote at any one of those 29 places if you're in the city of Houston and that's www.co.harris.tx.us/c Clerk as in county clerk slash ELD si t dot haich T m, little bit long but that's typical government ways. So that's the first thing you got to vote against Proposition two, right?



39:56

That's the first thing you need to do is to vote but again to win a success. So campaign, you need three things, votes, volunteers and money. And I'm here to talk to you about the last little ladder to, we really need your help, PVA and the nonprofit to campaign have done an amazing job organizing people in a way that I think the community has never seen before. Tonight as we

speak, we have 50 people making phone calls talking to targeted voters that we believe in are more likely to support us and defeating this measure. And so to see that many people come out, and who believe in this and are willing to do something about it is really empowering. We have we have these phone lines completely filled for the next four Oh, actually for through this week. And we have signed up hundreds of people for election day. But I have to tell you, it's we need to do a lot more than that, if we want to be have a really strong chance of winning because at this point, it really can go either way. It's that serious. I really just want to put out the urgency that this community has, for all the work that we have been we have done up until now, which is really incredible. We can't rest on our laurels at this point. We've got a week left. And we can do so much more in this last week to really show the city that this city is not 1985 anymore. We have a much more diverse and really inclusive community. And I really believe that we've got a great shot at beating this measure. And we can do that by bringing more of you all out to volunteer with us at PVA.

J

Jack Valinski 41:31

It's amazing. You tell me you have 50 people out there tonight that that's that's absolutely incredible. But still, I mean, John was saying, as she was driving to the airport today that she heard a commercial on the other side. And she didn't say what station it was, but it was a major station on a radio station. And you know, I'm sure they're getting people out. The other side is getting people out, even though there's probably a rift in the in the right wing side of the Republican Party for the selection there. But they're still trying to get people out. Yeah,

Q

42:00

I mean, I I've heard conflicting reports about that, because I don't I haven't had any clarifications yet on it. But I know that people have said that there have been this prop to or prop six or 15 combination spots in the radio, but they're on the state props. It's not for the city prop. But I need to get some more I need to get a confirmation on that, that there are but I've heard some mixed reports about that. But what I what I do know is that there are some there's a radio spot than we've already called. And I thought that it was already corrected with it with a campaign for the state prop two, that they would mention state prop to make it really clear that they are not in support of this anti gay ballot measure rights

J

Jack Valinski 42:38

right. Now, I understand that you work really hard, you and grant and everybody else working on this to get a coalition together of churches of businesses, of progressive people. And and how did that work? How's that working?

Q

42:52

Grants phenomenal. I mean, it's it's kudos to grant and to everybody in the community that has really rolled up their sleeves to come together on this. But grant has been the point person, he is a campaign manager. And you know, he just has done a tremendous job of organizing the business community of organizing the African American community, the clergy community

working with local, LGBT and straight allied clergy here in Montrose to kind of starting to build start to build that coalition. We've got, I think it was over 107 clergy people that have signed on to take a stand against discrimination and against no one against prop two city prop to the business community has come out in a way that was not present in 1985, with the CEOs of Bank of America, of Chase calm, Chase, bank.com. And we have, you know, several CEOs have come out Steve Miller from Shell, you know, mayor, Mayor Brown has come out in a really strong way in a very proactive way to help us defeat this measure for Mayor Lanier has come out to lend to support and to basically open doors for us that we really wouldn't have been able to open on our own. And so it really is amazing to see this really diverse group of people. Well,

J Jack Valinski 44:06

and the Chronicle. Yes. And very much last time they were so much on the other side, that now the Chronicle is going to be offering benefits for their employees.

44:16

Exactly. And yeah, and it was it was really great to read it and although it probably no, although the the editorial voting to advocating people to vote against Prop city prop two, but it wasn't as strong as it could have been. But it was it was clear that if anything, it's really influential for those undecided voters. And it was basically like, Well, wait a minute, this debate does not should not be stopped. Before there's actual a true a true debate within the city within the community because it's basically stops it

J Jack Valinski 44:45

right. Exactly. I think that's that's something we need to to really explain here is that even if we defeat this, that doesn't mean there's going to be domestic partner benefits. It just means that that will allow the bait on it. If this thing is enacted, there will not up any debate on it

45:01

exactly emanate. And I guess that's where just goes back to the urgency and to really get people to think about this is that, okay? So if it explicitly talks about city workers, but this is, but this goes beyond city workers, this goes towards our community, the progressive communities in the city, that really, that are concerned about building a more inclusive and more progressive environment. And we can do that, with this with this proposition does is effectively, you know, put a halt to the work that we've done so far. You know, I use this analogy of like, well, there's this people call it the glass ceiling about trying to move up. But I what I how I see this prop city prop measures that it's basically putting a concrete ceiling up there so that we cannot continue to progress to to get equal rights that we deserve as as gays or lesbians, bisexuals and transgendered people in the city. And I really want people to look at it that way to say, this is going to make it much more difficult for us to be able to, to really struggle and, and ask for the civil rights that we deserve. It's gonna make it harder. And so we have eight days to go out there and roll up our sleeves and really win this win this fight decisively to show the city that we're not we're not an 85 anymore. And I

J

Jack Valinski 46:15

Yeah, well, and I understand that there's, at least I think I heard it, there's people from all over the country working on this.

Ω

46:21

Yeah, that's I mean, it's exciting to see Dave Fleischer, who's, you know, called the Zen master the organizing guru, along with Eric Levy, who has done an amazing job helping coordinate the last few weeks of organizing where, with the PVA and the prop two campaign. We have people everywhere from Santa Fe, New Mexico, from DC from New York, Portland, hi out there to Kathleen Sullivan, who's just amazing, too. So we've got a really neat array of people, Michael Crawford, who left you seem to go join HRC is also in town working with us. So we've got a really neat broad coalition of organizers that have come in to lend their their field expertise and really, in a really amazing way have helped basically, tripled PVS cuckfield capacity, which, you know, beforehand, we're still doing, we're doing pretty well. But the fact that they're able to help us grow and really multiply the work that we're doing currently, is a true testament to the experience and the leadership that these people are bringing,

J

Jack Valinski 47:25

that's fabulous. And, and you probably have some new people out there have never volunteered before.

Ω

47:31

It's true. It's you don't ask people like today to see 50 people in the room. And I was just really like, well, you know, it was great to see that there are a lot of first time people. And, you know, they're like, Well, I got a call from you guys. And, you know, I know this is this is a real serious matter. And I really want to make sure that we can defeat this. And, you know, I was here in 85, or, you know, I, my partner has benefits with it. It was just amazing to hear all these different reasons why people really felt that they needed to take a stand against this. And it's it's, it's great to see that many people coming out. And the other interesting thing is that there are at least half of the volunteers are coming out are straight for Wow. Yeah, it's, and that's the that's, I think it's also it's a good thing in that, you know, straight, straight allied people feel that this is this is a fight that everybody has to fight. This is a fight about social justice. They're equally concerned, whether it's for their children, for their family members, for their friends, they are equally concerned that they want to live in a city that's tolerant and fair.

J

Jack Valinski 48:31

Well, I understand that there was some questioning about whether this, you know, they read that they actually got enough signatures to qualify this as a ballot. But at the same time this election was going to happen either way.



48:42

Right. I mean, it was going to be really difficult to stop. And I even though we found what I believe to be enough signatures, there were there were like, questionable or fraudulent when you went held under scrutiny, but I think they're still what it came down to is there's there are still a lot of loopholes or ways to go around this. And you know, it's really unfortunate because I don't think there really were enough signatures to get this on the ballot. Okay,



J Jack Valinski 49:11

well, we're eight days away from the election. Yes, you can still early vote till Friday, and there's 29 locations throughout the county. And in the Montrose area, the best place to go is 1475. West gray, which is the Metropolitan multi service center. And on Thursday and Friday, I believe the hours are like seven to seven, they're open till till seven o'clock. So, you know, there's like no excuse not to go out and vote. And, you know, back in 85, when this when we voted in January of 85, we lost the election because a lot of our own people didn't go out and vote. So it's really important that you go out and vote, because there's also some other things on the ballot. That's very important to us because City Council wins and stuff like that. And there's a couple of Metro votes, and all that type of stuff. But remember, vote no on two and if somebody would like like to get volunteered at this stage, they still can do that, right? So they do that



50:04

PVA number is 713-521-7161. Another way that I could ask you right now to sign up is email us right now, if you're online at Alex at vote pva.org, and email me there. And, you know, we have, we can use your help, we've got phone banks, Tuesday through Thursday, from six to 930, we can use your help on election day, we already have 300 people signed up for election day. But you know what I want to see 500 people signed up on there, because we have enough, we, I know we can sign up 500 people to show the city that we are a strong community that's really confident and mature enough to take the stand that it needs to take to really defeat this measure decisively. So you can volunteer on election day on a seven for seven to 10 shift in the morning, or a four to seven shift in the afternoon. Or if you have the time, I'd ask you all to take the whole day off. And we call those captains to help help us not only manage the other volunteers, but take that whole day off to talk to voters, because it's really critical, there was a lot of confusion as to how to vote on this ballot. And that's why it's really important that we get enough people out at the polls on election day, to remind people one more time how to vote, which is to vote against city prompt to,



J Jack Valinski 51:19

and yes, I used to do that. And it used to be a lot of fun just meeting your neighbors and watching people come and vote and you know, you realize how lucky we are to be able to live in a place like this where you can vote, and really make a difference. And when you get involved in this and seeing that people do respond. I mean, you know, people are so busy, they don't always get to know the issues. But you can help make that happen.



51:43

And if I can add a couple more things is that I know that people are busy, I know that there are people are trying to make ends meet, they might have two jobs. I hear people telling me that well, you know, I have kids, I work really I have I have this big project that I've got to do. You know, I'm already volunteering doing something else. And it's not and the list goes on. But what I'm asking people right now, if you're listening to this right now, I'm asking you to think about prioritizing what's really important right now, we have a really strong opportunity to defeat this measure. And for the next eight days, I'm asking you to make this your priority. If this is not on your list of priorities, I have to ask you why it's not because we have to defeat this guy, we cannot allow our community to wait 15 more years to get off its feet and to believe in itself to believe in itself again, to to feel inspired to believe that we can ask for our civil rights without feeling like we're not going to be heard. And so if this if you have not made this your priority, I'm asking you to make this your priority to volunteer for three hours of your time. It's only three hours that we're asking. And you know, what's interesting is when you do this, you'll find that there are lots of other people that are out there that are first timers. And you know what, it's a great experience. And it's empowering. If you go on election day, another thing that Another benefit is that your stereotypes of false will, will come down because when I did this in Miami, where we helped organize, we brought up 300 people on election day, I you know, for as much work as I've done in terms of like being open and, and inclusive, I still felt there was this, there's this, this this pool in my heart, when I went to talk to these terrowin straight men who are kind of walking to the polls like while holding, they're holding their son's hands walking to the polls. And I was like, Okay, I'm gonna go talk to him. And I'm gonna ask him how he feels about believing in lesbian, gay civil rights. And you know what happened? This, this, this man said, he looked at me, and he just kind of stopped. And he looked at his son who was about eight. And then he looked at me again, and he said, Where do I sign. And so the benefit of doing this kind of work is that again, and again and again, the city really, in a great way. It reinforces the fact that it's tolerant, and that it believes that everybody should have the same access to their civil rights and should have the same privileges that are afforded to at this point, some people and, you know, you'll find that kind of message when you go out and volunteer with us and help defeat this measure. And it'll be really rewarding. I promise you that.



J Jack Valinski 54:11

Okay, you're listening to lesbian and gay voices. And I need I need to do I need the wrong chat button doesn't work about



54:19

this one does. I need to interrupt because I got a call just a moment ago, and we've been talking about this for some time. We got people all excited, and they don't know exactly what proposition two is because of the attention span thing. Proposition two is the referendum on the city ballot. When you go to vote this week, there will be a state ballot with a lot of propositions on it. There will be a county ballot with some bond issues on it. And the last thing you will deal with his city issues and city ballots. There are candidates to vote for. There are city bond issues to vote for. And there are three propositions to vote for.

J

Jack Valinski 54:58

And basically This particular one, Proposition two for the city is the one that would deny even open discussion about having whether the city can offer domestic partner ever never exactly. It's like an amendment to the Constitution of the city.

♂

55:14

Yeah and forever and ever, we would not be able to even consider those issues. And rather than clutter up the city charter with a bunch of garbage that forbids people from becoming mature in the city from becoming a world class city, please vote against Proposition two it's at the

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55:32

bottom of the ballot to please remember when you go to vote, it's number two punch please punch to 31 It's at the end of the ballot and please don't forget to vote against city prompt to

J

Jack Valinski 55:43

Alex more with progressive voters you're listening to lesbian gay voices and top of the hour here, we're just a few days away from the High Holy holiday of Halloween.

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56:05

The Halloween Halloween followed clearly but by the High Holy holiday of voting and so it's the holiday season. There's

J

Jack Valinski 56:12

something wrong with this picture. I have Ray Hill on here talking about Halloween rather than politics. What are they all sort of mixed, don't

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56:21

they? Well, it does is matter of fact, Halloween has been very good for the history of Houston gay and lesbian and transgendered politics. Because on Halloween weekend, when people would pour out to the bars and all kinds of costumes, we would win the prize would take the prize winners, all the politicians who were uglier than we were in costume around and just go into the bars and shake hands and get people excited about going in voting A few days later. And and I always thought that they put Halloween where they did to help us politically it wasn't until I started reading some history of Halloween that I come to the conclusion that that's not so

J

Jack Valinski 57:00

well also wasn't the only time that they usually didn't bother us the cops in the in the early days.

Ω

57:04

Well, they were a little bit confused about during the harassment years or I shouldn't say era but it's actually eons during the harassment eons, they would always get us for wearing costumes usually those of the opposite gender. And how do you do that on Halloween when everybody's in a costume anyway. And another thing is that Halloween played very much into our own closeted persona, people would hide virtually the rest of the year. They might come out and celebrate on New Year's but on Halloween they could put on a mask and go out and so the gay communities that I grew up in Houston and new audience there was a lot of cold weather bear skin with you couldn't make out their facial features because they had masks or hoods or something on but they showed a lot of arms and legs and midriffs and, and all of that things that obviously they had worked very hard to get into shape to be able to expose

J

Jack Valinski 58:06

rights and sometimes that was identifiable. No, absolutely. Right.

Ω

58:11

Well, certain intimate friends. That was and so and, and how do we know has traditionally been a kind of a thing. Halloween. from a feminist perspective, Halloween, the whole this whole thing about witches and all of that is kind of a feminist movement icon because women had more power in early Christian era because of the recognition of a pagan holiday, which really a pagan holiday Christian Halloween. And so women with the witches thing and all of that was considered a feminist thing. And by the same token, gay people have always been you know, in in Europe during the Middle Ages. And actually there we pretty much pretty much pretty much pretty much remembered well, and back up until about the beginning of the 19th century. The gay people were gypsies kind of caravan troop rights entertainers jugglers where they could I mean, what are your options in in meta evil surf based society you could be a surf and you could you know, carry the cow dung and horse dung and stack the hay and and do that for the layer to the manor or you could be a monk and a lot of gay people took that route you know and cut their hair funny and wore brown robes and hung loose underneath that or you could become like a gypsy and and join a caravan become a juggler and a fortune teller and an A card shark and a pickpocket and and so a lot of gay people did that and and so I remember very early gay and lesbian music metaphor one of the theme songs that I used to play for Wildenstein was caravan tonight, which was an early, gay, troubadour piece of music about caravan coming into town, and medieval Europe and all that.

G

Glenn Holt 1:00:19

Right? You forgot one fundamentalist preacher in East Texas.



1:00:25

Oh, I was that too. Yeah. Well, I was a fundamentalist preacher. Nice. But yeah, but that was after the medieval period. That was during early 19th century civilization. I mean, people really don't know that about me that I was a Baptist evangelist in East Texas. And let me tell you something about being a badger. It's kind of like caravan stuff. The tricks are great. I mean, those little bunny buddy doe eyed East Texas boys say come on back to hotel, let's have a private prayer beaten, and does a lot of getting down on the knees and those kinds of things. And it works they leave very spiritually inspired. But you know, those preachers would have gone out and got me boys because I was good for business, I brought in a lot of money. And the clergy was a regular place for gay people to go, which is getting a little off base of talking about Halloween but but you know, one of the things about Halloween is I've always compared Halloween and Pride Week. The comparison between Halloween in primary, both big events in the gay and lesbian, transgendered bisexual community are both important dates, people put them on the calendar plan ahead to do that, and, and all of that. And the bigger the celebration, Pride Week, or Halloween tells me something about the health of the community. Pride Week is the come out occasion, where you're out and you're liberated and you're free, and you're on the streets. Halloween is kind of the celebration of things in the closet. And so if Halloween is bigger than Pride Week, then in my mind, we're headed the wrong direction. It Pride Week is bigger than Halloween. And I would like to remind you that for the last decade, Halloween is a big day, but it can't hold a candle to Pride Week and the parade and, and and all of that that mentioned Asia, we just don't even come close it. There's not even a comparison anymore. But for many years, there was a struggle between the closeted event and the open liberated event in my mind, you know, I mean, going radio, just sickle Queen worries about things that other people don't even think about. But I remember in Houston, people would put on their final and you know, even in prison, even in prison, I mean prison where I live for many years, you go into a prison, it's it's all kind of adult green color. They don't paint it any other color because they're afraid any color that might excite excitement or braised violence. So everything's kind of adult green, and it's just basically a colorless dough green society, but come Halloween. And the gay wings, you wouldn't you don't know where they got all those colorful feathers and, and all of that finery, of course, the officers smuggle it in. And so the Queen's persuade the officers to bring in all of this. And when I was on the Ramsey unit, major Turner down there back in the early 70s used to just go to great links to see to it that the Queen's were dressed out. And then he would parade them down the halls of the prison of all everybody else whistled and all of that. And they thought they were entertainers and they didn't realize they were being ridiculed by the other inmates. And I was deeply offended by that spectacle. But then I got out and I came to Houston, us went to Greg shows and guess what? Major Turner was sitting in those drags, almost every week, sometimes in his prison uniform had to come down here and watch the drag Joe's in Houston. Just kind of a revelation but but even gay people in extreme opress circumstances where they are forced to be closeted. Because of the nature, the prejudice of the culture. Halloween kind of glistens, and gleams. Right, and



Jack Valinski 1:04:27

we sort of sometimes forget the really rough times of people being fired right and beaten. And I'm not saying you did. I

1:04:35

don't know. I don't think that kids have a hint. And yeah, I mean, I mean, when I get with gay people, I'm gonna start talking about James Buchanan and other people that I have known who've been sentenced to life in Texas prison for being intimate with people of the same gender. There were even a couple of women in Texas that were sentenced to lengthy sentences in prison for engaging in sexual activity whether the women. But people don't understand that until 1973, homosexual behavior was a felony in Texas. And you could get two to 10 for the first offense. And the third conviction, you could get the combination of the old sodomy statute and the habitual criminal act, you could get life in prison and credible and I known five men I spent one evening on the Ramsey. The last evening they were in prison with five old men that had been sentenced to life in prison.

Jack Valinski 1:05:38

Things certainly have changed, you know, but that there are still people who don't feel that inside them that they can be out.

1:05:46

Well, yeah. And I'm not the guy that drags people on closing. Oh, I have never been the outter. You know, I mean, I mean, I know some things about people. But I, if I started outing people, when Ed Young gets caught with his hand and some kids jockey strap who's going to be there for him if I'm not, you know, and so I don't tell on people i I never did. But I did something. I'm really proud of it. A lot of people are going to say, Horace Horace Horace. But a couple of weeks ago, I met with Chief Brentford.

1:06:23

Oh, absolutely. And he's Yes,

1:06:25

yes, when I went in and, and there had been two significant cases, one concerning adult video stores. Now adult video stores can be sexually oriented businesses. And our adult video stores don't have to be sexually oriented businesses depends on how they're structured. If you walk into a store and all you see is adult material, it is supposed to be licensed as a sexually oriented business. And if you walk into a store and you see all this other merchandise, including adult material, then they do not need a sexually oriented business license. Because if their primary business is not sexually explicit material, and by sexually explicit material ain't talking about playgirl in Playboy and things of that nature. I'm talking about pretty hardcore stuff. But if the majority of the material is not that, then this place is not a sexually oriented business. And we won a case in judge Janice last court here in Harris County recently, a friend of mine had a clerk in one of his stores arrested for operating a sexual yard in business without a

permit, a manager's permit. And we carried that case to court and we won judge laws read the law, and found that that situation, did not justify trial. So she ordered a jury and and dismissed the case. And we went from there. Then we had another trial, where someone had been arrested for operating an arcade without a permit in a non sexually oriented business location. And so that went before the same judge JENICE long, she read the law and she applied the facts and come to find out these, the arcade section of the sexually oriented business is under the sexual so if it's not a sexual, you're a business. And the majority of the material available is not adult. It is not an arcade under the definition of law, you don't need any permits. And so that person was successful. So having those two victories, and a couple of outrageous behavior, the Vice Squad under my belt, I went to chief and the vice captain was there. And I'm really excited. assistant chief steward, the new assistant chief of the investigative commands, she is a woman. And it's the first woman it's I'm really excited. I was really excited when Betsy Watson was the police chief, that I got to brag to my friends around the country that not only was our police chief who was a woman, but she was pregnant. And we couldn't wait until we heard the little pitter patter of flat feet around the stage and as and now, the Assistant Chief over the investigative commands is a woman and her name is Stewart, assistant chief steward. And she's a very fine law enforcement professional and she was there and then the vice captain under her and of course, this whole happened in chief Bradford's office. And so I went in and I presented a plea based on five points of Vice Squad procedure that I thought was excessive. And I was the chief agreed with me on all five you know, when you go into the chief's office with five points and you expect You might walk out of there with three. Well, here's, here's what they are so that people know that if a place is not an SOP, it will not be subject to Vice Squad regulations as an SOP would. That's a major point. If place of business is not a sexually oriented business, their employees will not be required to have licenses, if it were that total with the Vice Squad can no longer walk into a business and make a claim. This is obscene take it off the shelf. And in other words, Vice officers cannot run those businesses. They belong to the proprietors and they don't have any control over them. And this applies to non sexually oriented business adult outlets. And if the vice officers think that material or item is obscene, they can't just shove people up the wall and arrest them. They can buy that if they think that it is obscene, they can carry it to a committee of the district attorney's office called the sexually oriented business committee, the obscenity committee, and those lawyers will decide what is obscene and what is not obscene officers just can't bully their way or we have lawyers now who are lawyers in the in the district attorney's office? Well, actually, that's been the policy for 20 years, but it hasn't been followed. Because the vice officers have been going around and just bullying and pushing people around using their badges and guns to intimidate people. I've been working on these issues jack for 20 years.

J

Jack Valinski 1:11:35

Yes. Longer than that? Well, since you got out

o

1:11:39

25 years since I got out for 26 years, I got out of prison. I've been working on these issues. And I've written help, right all the walls, all the statues actually already busy. I know all the decisions and all of that. And the Vice Squad has been kind of making up their mind as they go along. And not anymore. We've got a little command control over them. Now, those of you who frequent adult video arcades, please understand that that is still hazardous activity. All right,

that is hazardous activity. And I encourage you to go wherever you want to go to meet other adults to do whatever you want to do in private. But I would seek to strongly suggest that you understand that public engaging of sexual activity is inherently legal, legally hazardous material is our activity, okay. But the vice officers do not have probable cause to come in and seduce you into getting arrested anymore. And non sexually oriented business arcades in licensed sexually oriented business arcades. And there are several in Houston, which are license is actually already in business easy to recognize all the material animals adult, they don't make any attempt to do that. The statute permits close regulation and supervision. By law enforcement, there is nothing I can do to change the statute. But if the business does not qualify as a sexually oriented business, because the composition of the material that is available there for sale, then they don't have free license to come in and regulate those businesses. So great. Great. And just in time for Halloween, how Yes, but please, I want you to go out and have a wonderful Halloween. Dress up. Shock your friends surprise your mother. Do all kinds of wonderful things, but sober up and straightened out in time to go vote.

J Jack Valinski 1:13:51

Yes. And you can vote early voting till Friday. I've already voted. So did I

♂ 1:13:55

Yeah. I thought that was fun that we got to computers. And now when you go vote, you're gonna have regular punch cards. Right. But we got to dial up her position. I felt like Ernestine

J Jack Valinski 1:14:08

Well, I had that personal tour by Frank. Parslow. Yes, yes. So that's

♂ 1:14:12

the West gray voting place.

J Jack Valinski 1:14:16

1475 West gray metropolitan Multi Purpose survey would

♂ 1:14:19

be glad to have the business. You don't have to live in Montrose to vote in Montrose. I mean, here's something that is really important. You can live anywhere in the city of Houston or in Harris County. And you can go right in the heart of Montrose at 1417 was grade 1475 1475. West grade the Metropolitan multi service center and cast your ballot for the right guy. Vote No. on city proposition two.

J

Jack Valinski 1:14:45

Yes. Well, we're talking to Ray Hill as usual, and you're listening to lesbian and gay voices

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1:14:55

and more of those wonderful voices every Friday night on KPFA See you in Houston at 9pm. And a little news and maybe some politics, the prison show KPFT Houston

G

Greg Gordon 1:15:09

as we open this month's audio file, it's all right when the alumni have to favorite vocal groups unite, there's hooting and hollering for a solo performer live at the dawn home, and a legendary singer songwriter whose career has frequently been controversial takes aim at God and the FBI,

♂

1:15:26

calling all dreamers and up to mistake

♂

1:15:31

fools. Don't let go of it, dreams may come may come true. If you believe in a brighter day,

♂

1:15:51

I know we can find our way. Three

♂

1:15:57

Mary's come out of Provincetown with a close harmony, sound and lyrics that are way out of the closet. Hi, I'm JD Doyle.

♂

1:16:04

I'm Chris Wilson and you're listening to audio file. John Harker 10 of the flirtations and Mary Jo Perrin, Zeno and marry apt of the group Destiny unite for what might be called political harmony.

♂

1:16:17

As for our musical style, I think it's a sort of a melding of our past two groups, the flirtations in

Destiny, we do a lot of numbers which are acapella, like the flirtations, and even in those songs where we do use a piano we're very conscious about keeping the texture very skeletal so that the lyric can really come through in a way that can't be missed.

1:16:38

Something inside so strong that I can make no you're doing me wrong so my No, there's something inside so strong. No, no, there's something inside so strong.

1:17:03

You can find out more about the three marriage at WWW dot three Mary's dot com.

1:17:23

Knights

1:17:42

Sonia's third solo album is called Live at the down home. And it's a mixture of her solo work as well as some disappear fear songs. But here they are performed with a special intimacy of a live performance.

1:17:56

downhome is a little fun acoustic joint in eastern Tennessee and Johnson City. I love playing there. It's totally live. Really there's as much audience on it as there is me. Lots of hootin hollerin and going crazy and a lot of sweat. Nothing's corrected it's just it's all right there she grew up.

1:18:19

She grew up she grew up thinking she could change the world. If she only worked hard enough. She became a lawyer to marry a good looking man she fell in love with the girl next door so that wasn't part of America she in front of me could see if they wanted to

1:19:03

meet

1:19:05

you can learn more about the music of Sonia and disappear fear at WWW dot disappear fear.com



1:19:13

For those who may think she disappeared following the commercial success of Jessie and at 17 Make no mistake. Janice Ian is still a prolific songwriter and is talented as ever.



1:19:31

Playing when I was a kid, playing like a girl was about one of the rudest things you could say to a musician and you run like a girl you play like a girl you throw like a girl. And nowadays the only answer to it is both da and female.



1:19:56

We asked her if she considered her career to be a successful one.



1:19:59

I don't know what's successes anymore. You know what, as cliche as that sounds 20 years ago, even maybe 10 years ago, success would have been having another hit record. Right now I feel real successful that I'm out of debt except for my mortgage in my car and I managed to put my partner through law school and I lead a life that's congruent with my work. And I think that's successful. Beyond that. I don't know any more.



1:20:24

Her latest CD God and the FBI, was released before the September 11 tragedy, but includes one track that is particularly touching in light of recent events



1:20:35

say there was a firearm. You can find out more about tunisienne under CD, God and the FBI put her website@www.tunisienne.com



1:20:51

We hope you've enjoyed this edition of audio file. You can write to us at PO Box 429 Sunland, California 91041 or online at info at audio file.org That's inf o at AUD IO FYI le dot o RG



1:21:12

audio files produced by JD Doyle, Chris Wilson and Christopher David Trenton. I'm JD Doyle



1:21:18

and I'm Chris Wilson. Keep listening



Greg Gordon 1:21:33

thanks for tuning into this way out the international lesbian and gay radio magazine this week Cindy Friedman, Christopher gall Chris Ambridge, Brian newness Jason Lynn Rex Walker, Graham Underhill, Steve pride and Chris Wilson JD Doyle and Christopher David Trentham contributed program material gentlemen Rick's perform some of the music you heard and Kim Wilson composed and performed our theme music. Remember, you can listen to this way out anytime online exclusively on planet out, just point your browser to www dot planet out.com and click first on multimedia than on radio. Some of this way out operating expenses are funded by direct charitable donations from our listeners around the world. For an urgent message about this way outs perilous financial situation please visit our website at this way. out.org Email us at TW o radio@aol.com Or write to us at Post Office Box 38327 Los Angeles, California 90038 USA for my partner in crime Alicia Chapelle and everyone at this way I'm Greg Gordon. Thanks for listening on see one on one Hamilton, Ontario, k d you are Durango, Colorado, W EFT, Champaign Urbana, Illinois, and more than 125 other stations around the world including this community radio station, do stay tuned



Glenn Holt 1:22:49

and you are listening to KPFT 90.1 in Houston. This way out is presented each week as part of lesbian and gay voices to which you are listening.



Jack Valinski 1:22:59

And it is lesbian and gay voices and it's a pre Halloween show that we're doing tonight. And Joan is away doing her Halloween stuff in Ohio, whatever that is. Yeah, whatever that is. She's probably visiting a grave of somebody's Joan Crawford or Elizabeth Montgomery or something like that. I



1:23:17

don't know. does it entail a costume?



Jack Valinski 1:23:19

Well, that's normal normal wear for each.

G

Glenn Holt 1:23:23

What part of Texas is Ohio in

J

Jack Valinski 1:23:26

the north part? Far North part. Well, Janine brunches is here and you're wearing a different hat the last time last time you were here. You were talking about the mayor. And certainly you can put a plug in for the mayor again, as re election is coming up. And we were talking about that earlier. Deb Rogers was on from the Political Caucus talking about the endorsement for Lee Brown. But tonight you're talking about the black tie dinner?

👤

1:23:53

That's right Jack Black Tie dinner. So

J

Jack Valinski 1:23:54

what is the black tie?

👤

1:23:56

Where shall I start the black tie dinner as a 501 C three organization, a charitable organization that began J Hollyfield. started the organization back in 1988. And J at that time, we were raising money for HRC and various other local organizations. And J started fundraising for the HRC through a small dinner in the basement of Tony's and now we have a website, which I'll make up for that course www.Houstonblacktiedinner.org and that gives the that gives photos of past events and fundraisers and also the history of our organization. But throughout the years, the sole focus is to bring the men and women the GLBT community of Houston together and we do that in an event format. But post event we distribute have distributed up to a million to Jack funds. Wow. Back to quote our community D and one national organization each year. So we're very excited about the money that's been raised. And this year, our events coming up November 17.

J

Jack Valinski 1:25:09

Okay, and that's just around the corner. That's right, just around the corner, where is it going to be held?

👤

1:25:13

It's going to be held at the Georgia brown Convention Center. Wow. we've outgrown the hotels. Although you see it's much easier to do it in the hotels because you've simply got everything

Although you see, it's much easier to do it in the hotels, because you've simply got everything there. But we've had moved to a different venue in the in the George RR Brown really handles a crowd very well. The wonderful thing about that convention center is that it can expand to be as small as we want it to be, or as large as as we want it to be. And we're expecting around 1400 This year,

J Jack Valinski 1:25:43

you know, it's amazing, the the convention center that hosted many times the names project quilt, right, and now in power, and now the black tie dinner.

1:25:53

That's right. That's right. It's becoming a real. I don't know, I've always thought of convention center as one of our best kept secrets. But I think we're starting to really use it in the way we should as a community. But you know, you've got to be, you've got to have a pretty large happening to have it there. So we just hope to compete and continue to grow, to continue to use the convention center.

J Jack Valinski 1:26:16

Great. So, um, what happens at the dinner? Okay, what

1:26:20

happens at the dinner? Well, this year, it's going to be a little bit different. As as I think that the listening audience knows, there's really two dinners to galas and the GLBT community are three rather, you know, we've got the Unity banquet. You've got the HRC winter Gala, in February, March, and then the black tie dinner in November. And basically the venue, as I mentioned is George R Brown, but the tone this year, Jack is going to be very patriotic, we're going to start out the Gay Men's Chorus is with a new artistic director. You know, James snapped hook there. He's coming back with 65 of the course they're going to open the dinner with God Bless America and patriotism galore. And then Sharon Montgomery, is going to follow with Charlene after that. And since the theme of the dinner, is then the beat goes on, which I think is 70s. Right. So 67 I was close to 71. So it's the 70s So she's going to follow up with some, you know, Puff the Magic Dragon kind of stuff. And we're the same is basically going to spring out. Laughing You know, so it's there's going to be a mix of patriotism, good time, retro. But we understand that we have a lot to be thankful for. And this dinner is not going to be about boozing speeches all the way through we want people it's like our our new president Gail Swinney said, you know, she just wants to have a big party, and make sure everybody has a good time. And we're, you know, after today's announcement on the news, you know, it's like, once again, you know, we've got to look for these spots to really, truly party.

J Jack Valinski 1:28:08

Right, and especially, hopefully, we'll be celebrating a defeat of the referendum. And, yes, I

mean, this, as we all know, this community has gone through a lot, you know, from the early 80s. And dealing with AIDS all these years, and, and so many other things that we've been dealing with that it's we need to have these celebrations every once in a while.



1:28:27

That's right. And they're hard to, you know, they're certainly not hard to plan, you know, you go through typical typical planning for events, but our, our theme and the way we're thinking and the atmosphere we want to create is very, is very, very planned, very pregnant this year, because we believe, and we feel that we are going to be celebrating, I think a few things I hopefully we're celebrating the defeat of city prop two, and the defeat of the terrorists. And that's what I hoped for were what, how many days away from that. But, you know, there's a lot going on right now. And I hope we come out really well at that point in time.



J Jack Valinski 1:29:06

And we have to get back to regular life. I mean, we have to, you know, go out and you know, otherwise they want. That's right.



1:29:13

And there's some huge, huge sporting events coming up in New York that ask next couple days. And you know, I've watched and not to move shift here, Jack for a minute, but I will shift to the to the role of the mayor for a minute. But I know during this campaign time, you know, he has really had to focus and appropriately so on the business of the city because now we're under a heightened sense of attack now, after five o'clock today, and the mayor doesn't have time to do the typical campaigning he would do as incumbent. I know that and so his life has been changed, just like the rest of ours since the 11th. Yes, it



J Jack Valinski 1:29:55

definitely is a different world and we've all got to sort of be careful about what we do, but you know, you just, you just can't keep, you know, just can't close up. I mean, we fought so hard in our community to become public and to become who we are. And if we're going to retreat back into the closet, then you know, and to be able to celebrate and to be able to thank the people who've done such great things. I mean, we had Alex on here earlier talking about working against the proposition, and it seems to me and I don't have the exact figures, but this will probably be the largest campaign this community has ever waged. You know, from the early days of getting Kathy Whitmire, elected, Hensley elected. And we all know that history of how we cut or how far we've come. But this would be an incredible thing if we win and, and the fact that you know, HRC, and ngl. F has sent people here, and we've got people all over the country, and not only being here, but being trained on how to drive in other cities. So it's pretty amazing. It's,



1:31:01

it is I think that's a great word. I mean, it's that everybody's really coming together and coalescing, you know, I was over at ran over PVA at night, and then over to know for city prop two, or raising money, and one is phone, banking, and just all the energy going on around that. And I'm just so so happy with the efforts of HRC and nglt of me, and I can't, it's not that I believe it, I believe it, I knew we were always capable of this. And I think it's taken this as it took the AIDS epidemic to bring us all together to to fight for the same thing, Jack, and I think it's happening

J

Jack Valinski 1:31:37

well, and certainly in in 1985 and 84, when we were going through this the last time and everybody was against us, the businesses were against us, the churches were against us. And, you know, the mayor sort of put out an effort, but not really, you know, really big effort. And it was a terrible, terrible defeat. And, you know, it's taken us this long to even attempt to do it again, right. And the, you know, the community after that defeat, you know, pride almost didn't happen, right. None of the candidates came out to get endorsed by the caucus. And now we're resurging again and to see the businesses be, you know, backing this thing to be defeated. And the newspaper coming out to the Chronicle coming out with an editorial, too, which is really incredible.

♂

1:32:22

And Reverend Bill Lawson, while he Lawson's dad has come out in support of defeat of prop two, and I air city prop two, it's, you know, and you were there. I was just coming to town, and 85 when that all happened. And I think I was coming in when Louis Welch was saying, shoot, you know, shoot queers, you know, and to think that I think we were defeated back then Jack, tell me if this is right, is it 92 to 14 or something? I can't remember.

J

Jack Valinski 1:32:48

It was like 19% we had and they had like, 8086 Yeah, it percentage was double. Yeah. And a lot of our own people didn't go out and vote. So many people says, well, it doesn't affect Yeah. And this does affect everybody because it's it's setting the tone about what can happen or what can't happen. It's not saying that the CEO is going to offer these benefits it's just going to say that we can talk about can

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1:33:12

talk about it right and and in my in our right mind, who could really defy that although we know there are those that will you know what we're what we're saying is about 40% of Houston is really undecided. And all the money raising going on around defeating city prop two is getting out on television. I understand that tonight was the first night we were out. On screen I didn't see and CD been out and about tonight. But I understand that we're on television tonight. Out

of the mayor going to bat for us last week with the businessman we last week alone was like a quarter of a million dollar week for the campaign. So volunteers votes and cash. I mean, I just see it all finally coming through. Yes, absolutely.

J Jack Valinski 1:34:03

And certainly all of us who are working in the nonprofit, you know, as volunteers or some people even full time know, it's going to be a very tough year because the economy and because of you know, certainly New York is very deserving of things, but then we've got so much else going on too. So it's gonna be rather tough. And I think we were all sort of surprised here. Yeah. KPFT had a record fundraiser few weeks ago. And so to K UHF and part of that probably is because of the coverage that was done a lot more serious on radio, especially NPR, NPR did some fabulous stuff. And K UHF played some of that stuff rather than just playing the classical music, but I know we're totally getting off the subject.

1:34:44

That's all right. I like to go around on different subjects. But you're right about that. And I've been to a couple others the past couple of nights that really been raising astounding money course now we have you know, I think that the Red Cross, it sounds like there's a lot of money and plenty of money coming into New York. So perhaps some people are now thinking about this local initiative and trying to get underway.

J Jack Valinski 1:35:08

Well, and now the black tie is not a cheap event,

1:35:12

we know it isn't. It's no in the black tie over the years as other events like this, you know, it takes a little bit of heat, because of the tickets are 175 and up Jack per seat. But you know, I have to tell everyone that this is a fundraising effort. And as much as there are events for 175, there are events throughout the years and a variety organizations for 2550 and 90. So this is just one of those where it is what it is, and raises a lot of money for a lot of good things. And God if you can come or even if you can volunteer. I mean, we need volunteers desperately.

J Jack Valinski 1:35:53

Right? And, you know, for example, I mean, I believe one of the beneficiaries is a community center. Yeah. I mean, the community center puts on tons of free events, right, you know, other organizations that, you know, benefit from the black tie dinner that do community service type of thing, right.



1:36:10

1:36:10

And we We fund them to be able to continue their work this year, there are 15, locals, organizations, and one national which is NGL, TF that were benefiting, and the responsibility of all those organizations, Jack is that they, they sell one table, and we can enlist their volunteers to help us the night of the dinner, and that they run an ad in the program, book, those, those are the requirements, and everyone really works very hard to meet those requirements.

J

Jack Valinski 1:36:39

Sure. And how many people do are you hoping for?

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1:36:42

We're hoping for 1400 Wow. And I think, you know, I really think in this year, Jack, that's I mean, that this is very optimistic. I wouldn't be surprised, and it's not that I'm being a pessimist or skeptic or anything, but because of the economy and where things are going or where they are. I don't think we may not hit that. 1400 But we certainly understand but we're we're telling everybody that just come out and have a good time. And, you know, just just be there and enjoy yourself. So you know,

J

Jack Valinski 1:37:15

it's pretty incredible. 1400 people I mean, even if you, you know, just approach that, and other cities sort of have comparable events, right? But you know, we sort of does things a little bit different. Well,

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1:37:27

we do it's really, it's really, yeah, well, we certainly do our parade better. Hey, you didn't even have to pay me to say that.

J

Jack Valinski 1:37:36

They use this women's festivals. event it is

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1:37:39

it is we have our legacy. Brunch was a fabulous event. The HRC winter galas affair. I mean, we do a lot of good things here.

J

Jack Valinski 1:37:48

A sisters had a fabulous adventure. Oh, that desert extravaganza. Yes, it was it was great. And



1:37:56

they all do it. I look at the list of just our beneficiaries. I mean, hatch a Behringer mega I mean, all these groups do so much work.



J Jack Valinski 1:38:04

And hatch is a very special group to I mean Houston is it's for young kids or teenagers who are trying to deal with their sexuality in peril is a fabulous person who runs that organization. You know, it's it's really nice to see that we finally have some of these organizations that, you know, used to didn't have that. I mean, he just had so many problems back then.



1:38:26

Now, we just need more infrastructure, you know, people that get paid to do these, you know, because I think that's where we, we have some growth and in due time, I think we will if we continue to, to fund like we do, but one aside is that Senator Rodney Ellis will be receiving the Hollyfield political award this year, Jack and Kevin Davidson will be receiving the Humanitarian Award just for the listening audience to know that's kind of a new development, but that probably I think that's been in the press already. Okay. And we hope that all their friends here so they come to the dinner to honor him. Well, let's talk let's give the particular the particulars let me get my, my cheat sheet, you know, the, you can call for information at 713-523-9611. Or you can call Chris Lewis, who's table sales chair at 713-521-2656. Now, you can go the website again, www.Houstonblacktie.dinner.org To inquire and we invite you to connect with us any way you can. It's November 17. Saturday night. Hopefully it will be a big celebration on a lot of fronts. Lots of fun. Alex Mapa is the guest speaker. He's an actor and has starred in shows like Seinfeld and friends and Roseanne and he'll be our guest speaker for the evening and be will be entertaining but but like I said there will be no what we call laying The political speeches were just out to have a good time that night.



J Jack Valinski 1:40:03

Fabulous. Well, Janine, thank you for joining us and coming out here tonight and, and all the work that you do in this community. It's pretty incredible. Same to you. You're listening to lesbian gay voices



G Glenn Holt 1:40:21

go girls Music Fest 2001 benefiting the Nicole Brown charitable foundation is happening November 3 at the continental club 3700 Main Street in Houston. The number to call there 713-529-9899. Tickets are \$5 at the door and the doors open at 8pm. The lineup Carolyn Wunderland, Elizabeth white Rebecca Terrell us, Hillary Arwin Kristie Ray and Chelsea Beauchamp. This is a night of great music, a silent auction and fun so bring your checkbook. The first 100 people in the door will receive a free go girls Music Fest 2001 compilation CD,

featuring Pat Patrice Pike and Elizabeth White. The Go girls Music Fest 2001 is brought to you by go girls music.com and disc makers and is sponsored by the Houston women's festival premiere paging and Mars music. And again that's the Go girls Music Fest 2001 November third at the continental club 3700 Main Street for more information call 713-529-9899 Go girls music.com Cuz chicks rock



1:41:57

Jerry Falwell favorite DECA?



Glenn Holt 1:42:04

Charlie King from his album released this year, I struck gold and of course, that was Tinky Winky. How appropriate? Well, I thought so. Especially with us talking about the election and all the stuff that happened in the religious broadcast community surrounding the events of September 11.



Jack Valinski 1:42:25

And Jerry Falwell blaming us for it. Well, not exactly. It's pretty incredible. Well, and to recap, you can early vote until Friday, and then next Tuesday's the election from 7am to 7pm. And you really have no excuse not to vote. If you want to use the new machines, you go to early voting, there's 29 locations throughout the county. And one of them is at the Metropolitan multipurpose Center, which is at 1475 West Grey. And I don't know who we have on next week, because Jonah's figuring that all out and she's somewhere in Ohio. Yeah, what's she doing there? Again, some type of religious Halloween type of ceremony. Hmm.



Glenn Holt 1:43:03

Okay. Well. 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 KPFK in Los Angeles, lesbian and gay voices executive producer is Jack Wolinsky. On Air voices are Joan Devlin Glenn Holt and Jack Valinski. You can write to us at PO Box 66071 Houston, Texas 77266 or send 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. And don't forget to volunteer for Que Patrol Houston's nonprofit corporation running citizens watch patrols to prevent hate crimes. It's fun, safe and easy to do. Call 7135 to eight safe. This is the sound of Texas 90.1 FM KPFT in Houston for lesbian and gay voices. I'm Glenn Holt.



1:44:30

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