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Supreme Court Ruling, June 26, 2003

I was very blessed to have been present at the Press Conference in Houston announcing the victory, and also at the Rally that same day, and I recorded both events with my mini-disc recorder. So, I'm honored to share them with you, as well as some photos taken at the Rally and at the Pride Parade on June 28th.



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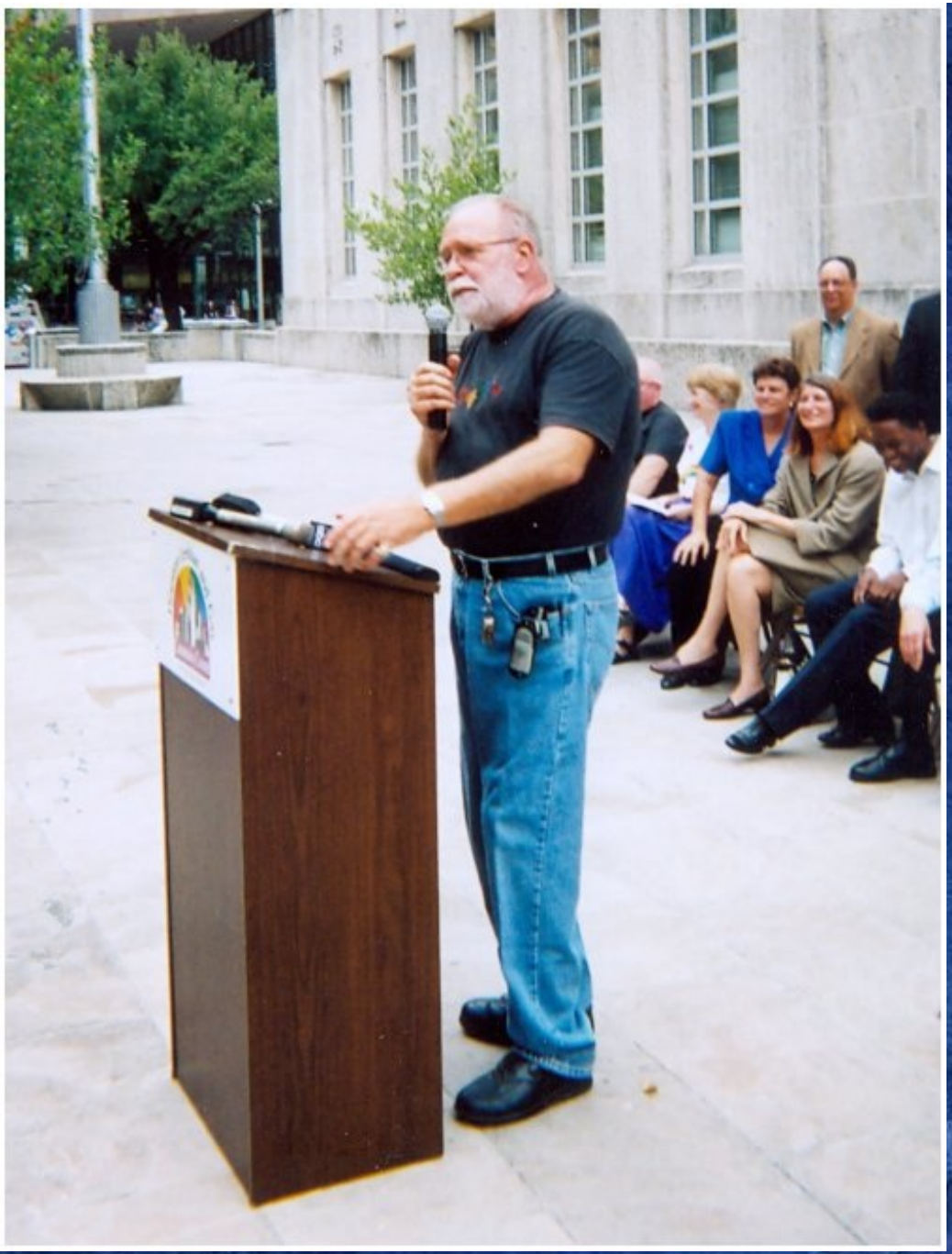
At the Rally, above Houston City Council Person Anise Parker at the podium. Second shot, seated behind her some of the other speakers, from left, Dr. Clark Chamberlain, Sue Null, Sue Lovell, Debra Danburg, Tyron Garner, John Lawrence. Standing behind them, John Nechman, Garnett Coleman, Mitchell Katine. In photo at right, group to the right is comprised of Linda Morales, Clarence Bagby, Anise Parker, Janine Brunjes, Brian Chase and Deborah Bell.

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**Above, lawyer Mitchell Katine at the podium,
and below, Ray Hill addresses the crowd**

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Tyron Garner, John Lawrence and Mitchell Katine at the Press Conference

The Press Conference, 1:30 pm
Houston GLBT Community Center

Clarence Bagby (1:32)
Lee Taft (5:57)
Clarence Bagby (0:35)
John Lawrence (0:55)
Clarence Bagby (0:37)
Mitchell Katine (3:06)
Lee Taft (Q&A, 8:15)
[entire event, 21:00]

The Rally, 5pm
City Hall Steps

Mitchell Katine (5:00)
Brian Chase (2:56)
Janine Brunjes &
Anise Parker (4:21)
Clarence Bagby (2:04)
Linda Morales (5:40)
Debra Danburg (5:34)
Garnett Coleman (2:50)
Ray Hill (6:32)
Sue Lovell (4:45)
John Nechman (3:40)
Dr Clark Chamberlain (3:06)
Sue Null (4:50)
Deborah Bell (6:00)
[entire rally, 58:15]

Note: Mitchell Katine introduces most of the speakers at the Rally

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Above right Mitchell introduces Tyron and John to the Rally. Below, part of Rally crowd.

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All photos above by JD Doyle

Below, two days later at the Parade, JD, John Lawrence, Mitchell Katine and Tyron Garner

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September 2009. A friend asked me to reflect and to tell him about some gay experience of mine. A lot of things flashed through my mind…think about my "gay experience."

Gee, I've been Out in a big way for 30 years. I was a year out of the closet and became editor of a gay newspaper (in Norfolk); I went to the first three Marches on Washington; I've been doing radio for years.....But I think I've settled on what I consider the huge gift I received on June 26th, 2003.

That was the day the Supreme Court ruling came down on "Lawrence vs Texas," and

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overturning the sodomy laws for the whole country. The case started in Houston when John Lawrence and Tyron Garner were arrested years earlier, and it took many years to get through the courts to the final step. As one of the hosts for the radio show Queer Voices and also a music contributor to This Way Out, it kind of by default fell to me to try to do some coverage of the story for This Way Out, as I was their only local source.

Now I am NOT a news reporter, I just do music segments and some interviews, but I was there. We knew something was in the wind and the decision might come down that day, though we did not know which way. But the Queer Voices producer called me at work that morning and my boss let me leave work to make the press conference, held around 1pm, bringing with me my mp3 recorder. The room was at the community center, no larger than about 25 by 25 feet so it filled up quickly with reporters, TV cameras, activists, etc. I boldly walked over to the podium just before it started and placed my small recorder alongside the hugely more sophisticated microphones, etc, and switched it on. And the Word came down, on our side, a tremendous victory with effects reaching further than could be imagined, perhaps the biggest moment in gay history since Stonewall. And events had somehow conspired for me to be there, in person, to witness it, and to get it on my recorder. I considered my being there a huge gift to me and I am still awed by the experience.

Postscript:

Sadly, Tyron Garner passed away on 9/11/06, age 39,
and John Lawrence passed on 11/20/11, age 68

Below, this is THE read on the subject, and it's fascinating

"Flagrant Conduct" by Dale Carpenter

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HOW A BEDROOM ARREST
DECRIMINALIZED GAY AMERICANS

DALE CARPENTER

FLAGRANT CONDUCT

THE STORY OF

LAWRENCE v. TEXAS

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