

[MUSIC PLAYING]

KIM SEVIER: Hi, and welcome to TV Montrose. I'm Kim Sevier.

SUZANNE And I'm Suzanne Anderson.

ANDERSON:

KIM SEVIER: Well as you know, last Saturday night was the 1998 Gay Pride Parade.

SUZANNE But next week, the only television coverage of the parade will be on TV Montrose.

ANDERSON:

KIM SEVIER: That's right. And tonight, we have a look at the end of our series *Countdown to Pride*, which includes a look at outrageous construction party and everything else, all the way through to Gay Men's Choruses, production of time travel.

SUZANNE Also tonight, we'll have our nonprofit of the week. And it's about the grand opening of the Body Wellness Center

ANDERSON: and JC Michelak will be covering the celebrity event of the week. And he's going to interview Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee.

KIM SEVIER: I like her. That's going to be cool.

SUZANNE She always has good things to say. And she's very supportive of our community.

ANDERSON:

KIM SEVIER: Definitely. We are very proud of the way that we covered the Pride Parade. So stay with us, because next week, we'll bring you excerpts from a video we compiled on the parade. And you might just be in it.

SUZANNE And if you were at the parade, then you saw TV Montrose's Skycom high above west time or catching the parade

ANDERSON: as it's never before been done.

KIM SEVIER: Can you believe that?

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

SUZANNE They were up there just taping everything that was happening and got to view like nobody else has seen. If you

ANDERSON: want a copy of that tape, you just call us at 713.523.6302. And for only \$12.95, you can pick one up here at our Westheimer location.

KIM SEVIER: That's right. Or we can mail it to you for only \$15 plus tax.

SUZANNE But nobody can offer you a better deal for the best video of the parade.

ANDERSON:

KIM SEVIER: That's right. Well Suzanne, you ready to get into the show?

SUZANNE Let's get started.

ANDERSON:

[MUSIC PLAYING]

[MUSIC PLAYING]

STEVE BAKER: Hi, we're at Lambert Hall where the Gay Men's Chorus is getting ready to perform. It's also part of Heights Christian Church. And with me is Tony with Gay Men's Chorus. Hi, Tony.

TONY ADAM: Hi.

STEVE BAKER: So Tony, what is a Gay Men's Chorus?

TONY ADAM: The Gay Men's Chorus is an organization, we're a non-profit, devoted to excellence in men's choral music. We accept anyone, any man as a member, gay or straight. And we perform not only in Houston but the surrounding area. And we've performed all over the United States.

STEVE BAKER: So in Houston, what kind of places have you played here?

TONY ADAM: Oh, let's see. We've been everywhere from the Old Tower Theater way back when. We've performed at the Wortham Center. And we just finished a gig, a major gig, performing at Jones Hall with the Houston Symphony Orchestra and Chorus under Christoph Eschenbach in Schoenberg's *Massive Girl Leader*. Two major sold out performances.

STEVE BAKER: So what kind of music can we expect to hear tonight?

TONY ADAM: Oh, tonight is mostly-- it's called Time Travel. It's a walk down memory lane, mostly popular music from probably starting about the 30s, 40s, almost up until today. Everything from old ballads like *Mack the Knife* and things like that to *Material Girl*.

[MUSIC - "I HEARD IT THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE"]

STEVE BAKER: So if someone wanted to become a member of the chorus, how would they go about doing that?

DAVE FABER: Well we rehearse on Thursday evenings. And Thursday evening at 7 o'clock at Grace Lutheran Church. We will be beginning the first Thursday after Labor Day, and they could just show up. Be glad to have them.

STEVE BAKER: Great. And how many members are there on the chorus?

DAVE FABER: Right now, about 45.

STEVE BAKER: 45. Are most of these people on the chorus, I guess, they have a real full time job during the day, and then this is something that they do for fun?

DAVE FABER: Everybody has a day job. And like I say, the number of hours that people put in is phenomenal. You'll see the program tonight is quite well prepared. And from many facets from costuming and staging and lighting and dancing and choreography and instrumentation, there's a lot that's going to happen. It's going to be very exciting. And we're going to have a good time doing it for you.

STEVE BAKER: Great. We're looking forward to it. Thank you.

[MUSIC - "I HEARD IT THROUGH THE GRAPEVINE"]

[APPLAUSE]

SUZANNE Well once again, TV Montrose has shown a story about our community as only television can do.

ANDERSON:

KIM SEVIER: Suzanne, TV Montrose covered 23 gay pride events. I just can't believe that. I mean, that's crazy.

SUZANNE It's cool. I mean, it's no surprise to me. Because our cameras have been going into the community where no

ANDERSON: television cameras have ever gone before.

KIM SEVIER: Up next, we have a look at our not for profit story of the week.

SUZANNE It's the new Body Positive Wellness Center which opened this week. And there to cover it will be JC and Fred.

ANDERSON:

KIM SEVIER: Let's go take a look.

JC MICHELAK: And Fred Walters and I are standing here at the opening of the Body Positive Houston's Wellness Center. Fred, why don't you tell us a little bit about it. You've been really involved in this all day. Why don't you tell us what's going on.

FRED Well basically, Body Positive came together with three other organizations and said, hey, let's focus on wellness.
WALTERS: And I think we're going to see a little bit tonight of the different organizations that are here. They used the Buyers Club, Body Positive, and the Women's HIV Coalition, and Program for Wellness Restoration, also known as PoWeR.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

JC MICHELAK: I'm here with Shana Ross, the executive director, and Anthony Bianchi, the president of the board. How you all doing?

SHANA ROSS: We're doing great. As you can see from all the people in the background, we have had an incredible turnout. It's been a wonderful evening. And I think we have a lot of people very excited about the wellness center.

JC MICHELAK: Can you tell us a little bit about the wellness center for viewers who may not have heard of it? Or they've heard of it and they're not quite sure what exactly it is and what its function is?

SHANA ROSS: Sure. Body Positive has been around since 1988. But in the last couple of years, the board of directors got together and decided that a wellness center, a one stop shop, where we could get resistance weight training, nutritional counseling, the Buyers Club is here, where supplements can be bought, massage therapy, yoga. It's the whole mind body connection to help people get back on their feet.

ANTHONY We have a lot of people to thank. Earlier, we talked about some people received a check from Houston Endowment for \$25,000. So we thank them. BCBC, Halloween Magic, Outrage, Galmiche Galmiche, and Evan Thayer Studios, and the list goes on of individuals that have brought us to this point. And as well as the board of directors and of course, Shana Ross has done an impeccable job in the short time she has been with us.

JC MICHELAK: Body Positive generally does has done a lot of things that are very well known in the community like Great Gatsby, and now you're opening up the wellness center. You have an event coming up on July 4th called the Big Bang. Can you give us a little bit of information about that?

SHANA ROSS: The Big Bang. And that means everything that the name implies. Talk about your panoramic July 4th spectacular. It's going to be on the roof of the building right here at 3400 Montrose, the old Cody's, some of you may know, music with a DJ from LA, dancing. We're going to have some dancers there also. But the most spectacular thing is every fireworks show that goes on in this city, you're going to see it from up there. And it's going to benefit Body Positive.

And we invite everyone to please come out get your tickets now at Lobo, what are some of the others, Todd? Basic Brothers. And they're on sale now. \$30 in advance, \$35 at the door.

FRED Why do we need a wellness center?

WALTERS:

NELSON Well many reasons people are living longer now with HIV. And they're trying to take care of themselves.

VERGEL: Hopefully, we can buy time until there is a cure. And most of the services are not provided anywhere else, not covered by insurance, not provided by medical groups. So we created a comprehensive program. Well, we give supervised weight training, exercise sessions, nutritional counseling. We have a Buyers Club, a non-profit Buyers Club to provide supplements, and conferences, seminars, massage therapy, chiropractic.

So all these different therapies that work together to keep people healthy and well until hopefully, we have a cure for AIDS.

FRED Well, JC, this was quite a party. It was packed.

WALTERS:

JC MICHELAK: Yeah. They had quite a turnout. From what I understand, there was almost 400 people here. And it is so hot, but it was worth it. It's all for a great cause. These guys have really outdone themselves, and I'm very impressed.

FRED I am too. All the food was underwritten and donated. And as you can see, we have some delectable leftovers. So we're going to raid the tables and head home and munch.

SUZANNE If you want to help the wellness center by being a volunteer or to make a donation, please call the number on the screen.
ANDERSON:

KIM SEVIER: The wellness center is a wonderful new addition to our community and unique by putting so many different services into a one stop facility. They truly stand out. And if the wellness center can help you, don't hesitate to call the number on the screen also.

SUZANNE Let's take a commercial break.

ANDERSON:

KIM SEVIER: OK. And when we get back, we'll go to the offices of Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee to hear about her involvement in the lesbian and gay community. Stay with us.

SUZANNE We'll be right back.

ANDERSON:

KIM SEVIER: And that.

[LAUGHTER]

ALL: We are Outrage, and you're watching TV Montrose. [SCREAMING]

[MUSIC PLAYING]

NARRATOR: Slash your wireless costs with phones and pagers from Premier Paging and Wireless. Premier guarantees the lowest advertised price on any PrimeCo or Aerial phone. Plus Premier has super low prices on pagers and airtime. Premier also carries a complete line of accessories for both pagers and phones. Premier Paging and Wireless with guaranteed low prices and the best service anywhere. There's no need to go anywhere else.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

NARRATOR: Celebrating 15 years. It's Houston's premiere alternative dance club-- Rich's has the hottest music hits, the largest dance floor, four huge bars and the wildest theme parties. Rich's is a place to be for fun and action. The only New York style dance club for the gay and lesbian scene which is where the real world ends and your imagination begins. Be a part of the fun at Rich's this week. Rich's, where you can always be yourself.

SUZANNE Don't even think about buying or selling a home without hiring a professional. A home is the biggest financial investment that you will ever make. And I am always amazed at how casually people select a realtor. They'll call the name off of a sign or take the name of a friend of a friend. To be a good realtor, you have to be a good listener. And I've listened to my clients, and I customize my services to fit your needs. We listen, present creative solutions, and help you make decisions in buying or selling a home.

NARRATOR: The Texas Triangle is a free weekly newspaper reaching over 60,000 readers every week. Available every Thursday throughout Houston Austin, San Antonio, and Dallas and 20 other Texas cities. The Triangle offers the best and news features and entertainment. A six-time award winner, it's the only gay newspaper to receive an outstanding journalism award from the National Gay and Lesbian Journalist Association. The Houston Press writes, for gay and lesbian news, by far the best is the Texas Triangle. So pick up the Triangle every week. Quality makes a difference.

ALL: You are watching TV Montrose.

[SCREAMING]

[MUSIC PLAYING]

SUZANNE Welcome back.

ANDERSON:

KIM SEVIER: Now let's go to JC for his celebrity interview of the week with Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

JC MICHELAK: We're sitting here in Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee's office in the Mickey Leland building downtown Houston. You've got a great view. And we're going to talk to her a little bit today about her support of the gay community in Congress. She has been an ardent supporter of the gay community. And we want the community be able to see what Ms. Congresswoman Lee has been up to. How are you today?

SHEILA I'm doing wonderfully. Thank you. And how are you?

JACKSON LEE:

JC MICHELAK: I'm hanging in there. One of those days for everybody.

SHEILA It has.

JACKSON LEE:

JC MICHELAK: What compelled you to fight or I mean stand up for certain parts of the equality for gays and lesbians?

SHEILA I love people. I do not see a difference in people. I've never found anyone who you treat with respect treat you

JACKSON LEE: differently. You make a good point. Because when I was on city council, I wasn't asked to do it. In fact, let me say that you say the gay and lesbian community, I say, my friends. Because when I started to run for public office early on, the kinds of folk who would come to my house late at night and make yard signs in the living room were my friends in the Montrose.

And gay and lesbian community, we became friends. And I think it's important for the whole community to see people as people and as friends. And so one of the first acts on city council I passed the first hate crimes resolution. I chaired the Human Relations Committee. We talked about these issues. At that time, it was a large leap to pass a resolution against hate crimes. There was a time before my coming to council where we had an Amendment that did not pass. In fact, it was turned back.

From there, I went on to run for the United States Congress and saw issues at a national level. Saw the pain, saw the inequity with civil rights laws, that people of different sexual orientation were not protected. And I thought it was very important to keep the principles that I had, and that is people are people. They deserve both my admiration, my respect, my love. And once that happens, you just by-- your very nature look after and go after things that will be helpful to people.

JC MICHELAK: You supported the mayors.

SHEILA Absolutely. And I will support him again. Let me certainly say that everyone has a right to their opinion. But I think it is also important to get the facts. Every CEO in government has a particular privilege or provision of an executive order. In fact, the President of the United States, in the domain that he controls, which are federal employees has issued a similar executive order. No discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in the federal government among employees. Period.

Certainly, the executive order does not go as far as many people would like it to go, but no discrimination for sexual orientation. That means then that the president has made a statement as it relates to his administration. The mayor is the CEO of a strong mayor form of government. He was elected by a combination of many different people, and therefore is reflective of many different people. He had all the authority in the world to exercise an executive order.

JC MICHELAK: You recently appointed a gay liaison, Andreas Pereira.

SHEILA Yes. Yes.

JACKSON LEE:

JC MICHELAK: What brought that on? I mean, you've been in office for some time.

SHEILA I have. And I think I'd like to call him rather than liaison, because as many people know, I've already said, the

JACKSON LEE: community, we are friends, we have worked together. But I find that being in Washington, I wanted to be more informed, more able to respond to issues that were occurring in the community quicker than I might have in the past. But I thought it would be exciting to be able to have a liaison, a volunteer who would be out and about with his ears, very much attentive to issues that I deal with in the United States Congress, so that I can immediately assess the issue and immediately respond.

JC MICHELAK: With respect to the gay community, the thing, the most-- the only really one of the few critical things is the way you voted on the Defense of Marriage Act. And still people are talking about that.

SHEILA Yeah.

JACKSON LEE:

JC MICHELAK: And so there's a lot of people out there that can't still don't understand why you voted to abstain and just not take a position.

SHEILA Well they don't understand what my interpretation of abstaining was. And I stand by that vote, and I appreciate

JACKSON LEE: the concern. And I hope that you will stop me on the street when I come to receptions or meetings. Let us discuss it in a very deliberative fashion. My vote on the floor of the house. I'm a member of the House Judiciary was to say to the house Republicans, this legislation did not belong on the floor of the house. Yes, there were people who voted no. But no votes did not count.

So for anyone, when I say no, no against it in terms of not supporting it, the abstention vote in actuality did not count. So all no's and abstentions were together. My abstention was to simply say this did not belong on the floor of the house. I would not dignify it by claiming yes or no, because it did not belong on the floor of the house. At the same time, I managed to get a motion to recommit. We almost won it, which was to put on the legislation, the passage of the end of legislation. I was very proud of that.

We did not get it passed, but we almost got it passed. And so I think that if people understood that there are different strategies that one uses to express one's views, and I happen to use that, I also represent a very diverse community. And I think my position was the most appropriate, which was I would not dignify this piece of legislation by voting on it. I've said to you in my remarks, meaning on the floor of the house, it did not belong here. There was no issue. There was no problem. It was mean spirited. I will not vote for it. Period.

JC MICHELAK: Great. Well, I want to thank you for taking your time out of your busy schedule to talk to us today. It's always a pleasure, Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee.

SHEILA My pleasure. I've enjoyed it, and I hope that our interview has provided some interesting points for the **JACKSON LEE:** community. And best wishes to everyone.

JC MICHELAK: Thank you. Again,

SHEILA Thank you.

JACKSON LEE:

KIM SEVIER: Suzanne--

SUZANNE What?

ANDERSON:

KIM SEVIER: I'm worried about JC.

SUZANNE What?

ANDERSON:

KIM SEVIER: He's having too much fun with these celebrity interviews.

SUZANNE He really is. And next week, he's going to interview Marguerite Cammermeyer, so check it out on TV Montrose.

ANDERSON:

KIM SEVIER: Now, get your day timers out, because the Community Calendar is coming up.

SUZANNE What's happening?

ANDERSON:

LANNIE Hi, I'm Lannie Griffith with 1075 *The Buzz*, and you are watching TV Montrose.

GRIFFITH:

[MUSIC PLAYING]

DAYNA STEELE: Hi, I'm Dayna Steele from 97 *Talk* and you are watching TV Montrose.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

KIM SEVIER: Well, there seems to be another week of pride to go with the red, white, and you party.

SUZANNE That's right. There are five parties. And they start Friday, July the 3rd. And they don't end until Sunday night on **ANDERSON:** July the 5th.

KIM SEVIER: That's right. All the way through the whole July 4th weekend. And if you still haven't gotten enough pride, we have another segment in our Countdown to Pride series.

SUZANNE Let's join Steve Baker at the Outrage Construction Party. Don't you know he suffered doing that one?

ANDERSON:

KIM SEVIER: Oh, yeah. That was a rough one.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

[MUSIC PLAYING]

STEVE BAKER: We're at the Outrage Construction Party. With me is Raul.

RAUL Hello, how are you doing?

GONZALES:

STEVE BAKER: So what is Outrage?

RAUL Outrage is a social group that we primarily raise funds for HIV and AIDS charities in the Houston area.

GONZALES:

STEVE BAKER: So it's tonight's party benefiting anyone in particular?

RAUL Yes, it's benefiting the Milam House, Stephen's House, and the Assistance Fund. There are beneficiaries for the

GONZALES: entire year for anything that we do.

STEVE BAKER: How many members does Outrage have?

RAUL Early, we have about 26 members.

GONZALES:

STEVE BAKER: And if someone wanted to belong to Outrage, what's the process? I mean, how does someone become a member?

RAUL Well actually, we're not that selective as far as-- you have to be brought in by a couple of members. If you would

GONZALES: like to become a member, just contact one of our members or you can get our number of the back of the TWIT or in the Outsmart guide. Give us a call in our line. We'll contact you. And we have rush parties through the year for new members. So they can meet us and decide whether they want to belong to us, as well as we want them.

STEVE BAKER: What kind of events besides throwing these great big mega parties does Outrage do with its membership, for example?

RAUL Well we-- as far as socially, we have beach parties throughout the summer and on Galveston. And we usually will

GONZALES: have a boathouse for Last Splash and our members all get together and rent that and spend the weekend out on Lake Travis.

STEVE BAKER: Any expectations on numbers here tonight?

RAUL Well, probably around 400 people, especially for the first year of this. We're hoping just to build some tradition
GONZALES: out of this party, and maybe make this a yearly event every year for Pride Week.

STEVE BAKER: OK, well, thanks for having us here tonight. Looks like you had a lot of work and fun going on.

RAUL A lot of work. Thanks a lot.

GONZALES:

[MUSIC PLAYING]

KIM SEVIER: Well, Suzanne, the Outrage guys certainly know how to throw a party.

SUZANNE They really look like a lot of fun.

ANDERSON:

KIM SEVIER: I think so too. Let's take a commercial break. We'll be right back.

ALL: We're Outrage, and you're watching TV Montrose. [SCREAMING]

[MUSIC PLAYING]

BETTY DEGENERES: Hello, my name is Betty DeGeneres. And my kid is the greatest. You know her. She's Ellen, and she's gay. For too long, gay Americans have suffered discrimination. As long as our sons and daughters are excluded from the basic protection of law, we must share that burden as a family. So let's not waste one child, and let them all reach for the stars.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

NARRATOR: Some of them will be three times more likely to commit suicide than their friends. There's also a greater chance that someday some of them will be assaulted, beaten, threatened, harassed, or even murdered, just because they may be lesbian or gay. But look at them, they deserve it. Don't they? A message brought to you by the Parents, Families, and Friends of Lesbians and Gays.

KIM SEVIER: I'm sure you saw TV Montrose covering the Pride Parade last weekend.

SUZANNE And next week, our entire show will be dedicated to our pride coverage.

ANDERSON:

KIM SEVIER: That's right. And of course, we invite you to record it and share it with your friends.

SUZANNE And within just a week, a full length TV Montrose pride parade video will be available for purchase for \$12.95 plus tax, if you pick it up here. Or if you want us to mail it to you, it's just \$15.

KIM SEVIER: That's right. And next week, we'll bring you excerpts from that video, so you can get a little sneak peek.

SUZANNE That wraps up another episode, Kim.

ANDERSON:

KIM SEVIER: See you next week. I'm Kim Sevier.

SUZANNE And I'm Suzanne Anderson. Good night.

ANDERSON:

[MUSIC PLAYING]

SUZANNE So if you want to make-- go ahead-- start over.

ANDERSON:

KIM SEVIER: Bye, bye.

[LAUGHTER]

KIM SEVIER: Wait. Fluffing the bangs. OK. [LAUGHS]

SUZANNE If you want to help the wellness center--

ANDERSON:

KIM SEVIER: The what?

SUZANNE ANDERSON: The wellness.

KIM SEVIER: The who? The who? Oh, yeah.

SUZANNE God, I'm ready.

ANDERSON:

KIM SEVIER: Friends who may not been at the parade or wherever the [BLEEP]. I'm tired.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

SUZANNE So stay tuned to TV Montrose next week and you'll -- But that, you don't stay tuned. I've got to read the damn

ANDERSON: thing.

KIM SEVIER: [LAUGHS]

SUZANNE Oh. OK.

ANDERSON:

[MUSIC PLAYING]