

[NO AUDIO]

[BEEPS]

[MUSIC PLAYING]

DAN DE LEON: Hi, I'm Dan de Leon.

SUZANNE And I'm Suzanne Anderson, and you are watching *TV Montrose*.

ANDERSON:

DAN DE LEON: Our one year anniversary on the air is just one week away.

SUZANNE And last week, we began our look back at the first year by showing clips of the diverse stories that we produced

ANDERSON: to fit our diverse community.

DAN DE LEON: Tonight we're going to pick up with stories from last spring and work our way up to the summer.

SUZANNE And later tonight we're going to announce what is planned for our anniversary party at Club Picasso. It'll be

ANDERSON: Monday, March the 1st at 7:00 PM.

DAN DE LEON: And I hear there's going to be two big door prizes and lots of smaller ones for fans of *TV Montrose* to win.

SUZANNE That's right, but let's get into that later.

ANDERSON:

DAN DE LEON: OK, let's pick up where Jason left off last week on our history tour of stories from the first year by our producer, Steve Baker.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

STEVE BAKER: Last week we went through our videotape archives on tapes much like this and began showing you short little clips of some of the stories that we did in 1998. Tonight we're going to pick up just where we left off about mid spring of '98, and show the variety of the kind of stories that *TV Montrose* was dedicated to producing then, and what we're doing today, which is much the same. Pretty much showing the full spectrum of what goes on in the Montrose area. Why don't we get right on to it and take a look at some of those first clips.

The second story for reporter Jaima Shelton took her to Cherry Hurst park on a Sunday afternoon. The purpose of this story was to show off one of the many neighborhood city parks within the Montrose area. This story also showed how natural it was for gay volleyball teams to practice in the park side by side with straight residents out enjoying the park with their children at the same time.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

In show three, Fred Walters reported on a PFLAG sponsored photo exhibit at Stages Theater entitled Love Makes a Family. The photos portrayed gay and lesbian parents raising children. A goal of the exhibit was to show non-homosexuals that homosexual families can and do exist with the same kinds of love found in traditional family atmospheres.

THEATER MANAGER: We have a main stage in the evening time where we have adults coming to see adult shows. I mean not anything x-rated, but for instance it's Edward Albie's, *All Over*, which is on the boards right now. And then during the day we have a family theater that children come to see, *Beauty and the Beast*. And so they'll walk along that wall, and they will see all of these photographs, which I think is a perfect thing for children to see, because it helps to define how-- to redefine family values. It also helps to show that there's more than one kind of family here. Children of heterosexual families will be able to define or expand their tolerance, and also I think even more importantly, children of gay parents will be able to see themselves up on that wall, and see that there is some kind of reinforcement and confirmation about that kind of family value, which I think is very important.

GAIL RICKY: The whole point of this exhibit is to show how natural and normal it is for families with gays and lesbians as parents. That is happening more and more across our country. It's very exciting for gays and lesbians to be able to form their own families, to have children, and to nurture those children, and it's-- they're invisible to our society. And so this exhibit shows that they exist, that they have lots of love to share, and that our daughter has a child, and our daughter and her partner have a child. So this represents the family that they have built.

STEVE BAKER: In show four, reporter Bridget Holmes enjoyed the famed Sunday brunch at La Strada. Our camera captured all the fun from table to table.

BRIDGET It's John. Say hello John.

HOLMES:

JOHN: Hello John.

BRIDGET Say hello, Ephram.

HOLMES:

EPHRAM: Hi, how are you?

BRIDGET And why are you here today?

HOLMES:

BOTH: We're celebrating our birthday.

BRIDGET Woo! And where are you?

HOLMES:

EPHRAM: At La Strada in Montrose.

BRIDGET And what show is this?

HOLMES:

EPHRAM: This is--

BOTH: TV Montrose.

BRIDGET You know that. You what we're going to make your friends do for you?

HOLMES:

EPHRAM: What?

BRIDGET We're going to make your friends sing *Happy Birthday*. All ready, all ready. Ready? Sing *Happy Birthday*. From TV Montrose, here it is. 1, 2.

ALL: (SINGING) Happy birthday to you. Happy birthday to you. Happy birthday Ephram and John. Happy birthday to you.

[CHEERING]

STEVE BAKER: Bridget also took our viewers into the kitchen to see just how Le Strada makes all those wonderful entrees.

BRIDGET Why don't you tell us about what's going on today?

HOLMES:

JAMIE Well, this is the craziest day of the week. Basically we've got the full house. We do two or three seatings, sometimes, which is like filling up the whole house, and all the food going out in three ways. So we all look forward to it. It's basically everybody is rocking and rolling from the get go. So.

BRIDGET So your staff has to be on fire.

HOLMES:

JAMIE Oh, you're right about that.

MCDONALD:

BRIDGET That's right. So are you like--

HOLMES:

JAMIE Yelling and stuff, everybody gets in the mood.

MCDONALD:

BRIDGET So tell us what this is right here. This is one of the brunch specials. You only have this on Sunday, yes?

HOLMES:

JAMIE That's correct. Basically we have a number of egg dishes. This one here is our Newman. Eggs Newman, which is a polenta cake that's grilled with a crab cake on top and then poached eggs with a soft center, topped with hollandaise sauce. We have a scalloped potatoes here, and also a fruit medley.

STEVE BAKER: In show five, I discovered that Montrose has a professional basketball team that plays at the West Gray Multi-service Center. That was a surprise. But the real surprise was that the players are physically challenged with walking and are limited to wheelchairs in their daily lives.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

This story was an inspiration that proves people can overcome physical disabilities in miraculous ways, and that they can also maintain great attitudes about life at the same time.

HORACE LOVE: It's independence, because we are our family as well as a team. And it's our independence. Because we're disabled don't mean that we have to stay home and not do anything. This gives us a chance to get out and get exercise and be active, and just enjoy ourselves with basketball.

PLAYER: And I was fortunate enough to find these guys, and together we've been able to put some good things together. We strive to push each other to be the best we possibly can. And sometimes we go a little bit over the line. It gets a little bit rough, but it's all in fun, and it's not to get anybody hurt. It's to push our limits. And that's part of what being a team is about, pushing our limits to get better together.

STEVE BAKER: As you can tell from that short segment of clips, *TV Montrose* covered a diverse array of stories in early 1998. In a few minutes we'll be back with some more.

DAN DE LEON: Suzanne, since you were on board from the show from the start, how would you compare it then to now?

SUZANNE Well, one of the biggest differences is that nobody knew who then. We talked about *TV Montrose*, they didn't

ANDERSON: have a clue as to what we were talking about. And now people have a feel for it, people are watching the community. And do you ever get recognized in like Fiesta, Randalls or anything?

DAN DE LEON: Sometimes.

SUZANNE Occasionally. That's fun.

ANDERSON:

DAN DE LEON: And there are many more stories that we want to show you that demonstrate the diversity of our programming to match the diversity of our community.

SUZANNE But first let's hear from the sponsors that believe in *TV Montrose* and that pay the bills that keep the camera

ANDERSON: rolling.

LEE BROWN: I'm mayor Lee Brown and you're watching *TV Montrose*.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

ANNOUNCER: Baba Yoga, a Montrose tradition. Two lush patios and a spectacular waterfall make dining at Baba Yoga a peaceful experience. The only thing better than the atmosphere is the food. With a wide variety of fine entrees there's something for everyone's taste, including a veggie menu. The Jasmine room is perfect for business or social meetings. Also visit the Wild Earth Herb Shop next door. Excellent food, superb staff, tranquil surroundings, and moderate prices make Baba Yoga the complete dining experience.

BANKER 1: So what we got is?

BANKER 2: Free checking at Bank United.

HORACE LOVE: Beyond the year 2000!

BANKER 1: And we want to?

BANKER 2: Make it sing!

BANKER 3: Give it some sizzle.

BANKER 1: Don't forget the steak.

ALL: Right.

BANKER 2: How about unbelievably free checking.

BANKER 3: Free check-o-rama!

BANKER 2: Check, check, check.

BANKER 1: OK, let's review.

BANKER 2: No monthly service charges.

BANKER 1: Good.

BANKER 3: No minimum balance.

BANKER 1: Excellent.

BANKER 2: Beyond the year 2000.

BANKER 1: Swell.

BANKER 3: Monstrously free checking.

BANKER 2: Checkzilla.

BANKER 3: Free check-o-saurus.

BANKER 1: With toys?

ALL: Nah.

BANKER 1: I got it. Super free checking.

BANKER 2: We could get that song.

[MUSIC - "CAN'T TOUCH THIS"]

ANNOUNCER: Get free checking beyond the year 2000 at Bank United.

BANKER 1: Thank you, thank you.

BANKER 3: Woo-hoo!

ANNOUNCER: Mention *TV Montrose* at the Bank United Montrose branch and get your first order of 200 standard checks free when you open your free checking beyond the year 2000 account. Thank you, thank you.

Are you still using your parents' insurance agent? How good is your insurance if you're not comfortable talking to your agent? At the Schmerler Insurance Agency, we understand the special needs that special couples.

JEFFREY BULES: Have we ensure the autos homes and businesses of people just like you all over the Houston area. We also handle health insurance, life insurance, renters insurance, and any other insurance needs you may have. I'm Jeff Bules.

ROB SCHMERLER: And I'm Rob Schmerler. Give us a call and let us help with your insurance needs.

ANNOUNCER: The Schmerler Insurance Agency is here for you.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

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? Message brought to you by the parents, families, and friends of lesbians and gays.

JOHN PALMER: Hi, this is John Palmer, Mr. Gay Houston, 1999, and you're watching *TV Montrose*.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

DAN DE LEON: Welcome back.

SUZANNE ANDERSON: And Dan, I'm ready to see some of those stories that have shown our community diversity that is way beyond the stereotype.

DAN DE LEON: Well, let's go back to Steve and see more of the 157 stories that *TV Montrose* aired within the first year.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

STEVE BAKER: Welcome back to our history segment of *TV Montrose*, 1998. We're going to pick up now a little bit later in the spring with some more diverse stories to show to you just where a camera went this past year. And I hope you're beginning to realize that *TV Montrose* was just about everywhere, covering just about everything in the neighborhood. In show five Liana Colemaneras reported from a fundraiser benefiting the new gay and lesbian community center. This would become the first of our four stories by *TV Montrose* in year one about the existence of the community center, and why our community should visit it and support it.

LIANA: Why don't you tell us where it's located, and give us a little bit of an idea about the look and walk us through the facility?

COMMUNITY CENTER SPOKESPERSON: Sure. It's at 803 Hawthorne, right at the corner of Hawthorne and Stanford. It's a beautiful old home built in the early 1900s. There are beautiful trees on the outside, and it's going to be a great place for us all to have our

LIANA: activities and such.

COMMUNITY CENTER When you walk into the first main meeting space area, it will house approximately 75 to 100 people with chairs. And we hope to have artwork that we're changing throughout the year in that main meeting space. When you **SPOKESPERSON:** walk into the sunroom, the sunroom is an area that we're going to have a conference room and possibly TV center that people can casually meet.

STEVE BAKER: In show six we interviewed native Houston singer Diana Taylor who was in town from her career in New York City. Diana was the first of many gay and lesbian entertainers to be featured on *TV Montrose*.

DIANA TAYLOR: Rich's. Especially Rich's, I owe them a lot, because David Hammer and John Mott, they really backed me 100%. They were there 100%. And never give up, persist. So I'd say, if they have a dream, they have a mission, they have a goal. It's so easy to accomplish. The moment you begin to believe, others will believe in you, and then you'll have help. But if you really believe you have the talent, and you have the heart to do it, it's all going to unfold for you. You don't have to put no more effort than what you naturally have to give, and that's yourself.

STEVE BAKER: In show five, Suzanne Anderson reported from the grand opening of the Lobo Cafe. Gay and lesbian businesses in Montrose are as important to the strength of our community as our gay and lesbian organizations and events. Business commerce helps generate funds for non-profit organizations.

LOBO CAFE We try to have other things other than just dessert.

SPOKESPERSON:

SUZANNE ANDERSON: Let's talk about what's in the store. You got t-shirts over there, you got decals, you have coffee mugs. And one of the things that I always thought was fun about your stores is, where did all these autographed pictures come from?

LOBO CAFE That's what's left over from a previous career of mine, rare books and autographs. Which I've done business in **SPOKESPERSON:** for about 40 years.

STEVE BAKER: A story that brought smiles to our audience was a near town Little League association. There are kids in Montrose, and just like in any other parts of Houston, Montrose has a Little League. The diversity of the parents and the kids was proof that the homosexual community can thrive side by side at traditional family social events, and that all are treated equal.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

ZIZA: Hello. Hello. I'd like baseball a lot, and it's a fun game to play.

SUZANNE ANDERSON: What position do you play, Ziza?

ZIZA: I don't know.

SUZANNE ANDERSON: What position do you play?

SHORTSTOP: I play shortstop this year and last year I played shortstop.

SUZANNE Uh-oh, we got another one in there. Who's this?

ANDERSON:

LOUIS: Louis.

SUZANNE Come here, Louis.

ANDERSON:

LOUIS: That's my brother.

SUZANNE Are you all playing today?

ANDERSON:

ALL: Yes.

SUZANNE Who's going to win?

ANDERSON:

ALL: Us!

SUZANNE Yeah? Did you ever think that we'd have anything like this in the Montrose community?

ANDERSON:

PARENT: No, I really didn't. Never. Long ago when we started our activism, you and I. Of course I wouldn't think I'd be sitting there watching you with your grandbaby on your lap.

SUZANNE Can you believe it?

ANDERSON:

PARENT: One of mine.

SUZANNE And when you're ready, she's going to be playing on a team someday.

ANDERSON:

PARENT: But no, and the really neat thing is you can look out here and see the diversity of the kids. All different kinds of kids, from all different families are here.

STEVE BAKER: Wrapping up show six was a story by Peter Aranda about the annual Easter day event, Bunnies on the Bayou. As you can tell, costume designers work overtime on this one, and everyone has a great time for charity. Check it out for yourself this coming Easter day on April 4th.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

PETE ARANDA: Bunnies on the Bayou is a local charity, 501(c) 3 charity that raises funds to benefit the Houston area gay and lesbian community. We host an annual party every year on Easter Sunday that usually has about 2,000 people. It's here where we are today at the Wortham Center on Fish Plaza.

STEVE BAKER: By now you should be understanding the significance behind having *TV Montrose* showing the Montrose area and the gay and lesbian community as it has been doing for the past year. The types of stories that we've been doing have been promoting our community and our people in ways that have never been done on television before. And a little bit later, we'll be back with some more.

DAN DE LEON: The variety of programming in this show is broad.

SUZANNE Well, it really has to be, because the Montrose area, the lesbian the gay community, they're not exactly your ordinary neighborhood. I mean, Montrose has more theaters, museums, organizations, and unique businesses than any other place in Houston.

DAN DE LEON: And there is ample story material here and *TV Montrose* covers it all like nobody else in television.

SUZANNE OK, it's time to talk about our plans for the party on Monday. Monday night, Club Picasso, seven PM.

ANDERSON:

DAN DE LEON: Yes, all right. So besides lots of story and bloopers, what other reasons do friends of *TV Montrose* have to come out and celebrate with us?

SUZANNE Well, first of all, Club Picasso is usually closed on Mondays, but they're going to open up just for us. The viewers, **ANDERSON:** the advertisers, and the organizations that have all been a part of *TV Montrose*.

DAN DE LEON: From 7 to 9:30 PM enjoy \$2 beer, well drinks, and frozen specialties.

SUZANNE Two grand door prizes will be given away that include two tickets to Patti Label's March 10th performance **ANDERSON:** donated by the Arena Theater.

DAN DE LEON: And the newly opened Sonoma Restaurant is donating dinners to the winners before Patti's performance at the Arena Theater.

SUZANNE To get the winners from home to the Sonoma and then to the Arena Theater, A-A Classic Limousine Service is **ANDERSON:** donating a stretch limo for a ride in style.

DAN DE LEON: And lots of *TV Montrose* t-shirts donated by TNT Shirts will be given away to those that don't win the two grand door prizes.

SUZANNE For questions or to reserve space for large groups or organizations, please call *TV Montrose* and let us know **ANDERSON:** you're coming. Everyone is welcome and the more the better.

DAN DE LEON: There is never a parking problem at Club Picasso, with a large lot in front, and a huge rooftop lot.

SUZANNE Dan, did you know we've been hearing from all these organizations and people that have been a part of *TV* **ANDERSON:** *Montrose*, and they're going to bring their members to the party.

DAN DE LEON: To celebrate with us?

SUZANNE Yeah.

ANDERSON:

DAN DE LEON: Great. And we have been getting great support from *The Houston Voice*, *This Week in Texas*, and *The Texas Triangle* to get the word out that the party is for everyone that supports *TV Montrose*.

SUZANNE Let's take our last sponsor break.

ANDERSON:

DAN DE LEON: We'll be back in two minutes.

ALL: We're the cast of *End of the World Party*, and you're watching *TV Montrose*.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

ANNOUNCER: Lobo Bookshop and Cafe, Houston's only exclusively gay and lesbian bookstore, serving the gay and lesbian community for 25 years. Lobo carries a full spectrum of fiction and non-fiction books, including the largest selection of used books in Houston. And also the largest selection of theatrical movies and other videos of interest to gays and lesbians. Lobo offers a wide selection of cards for any occasion, and plenty of merchandise to select gifts for others or yourself. And there's nothing better than a cup of fresh brewed coffee at the Lobo Cafe. Select from 40 flavors and a menu of specialty coffees. Lobo Cafe also carries fresh made sandwiches and a wide assortment of desserts including cheesecakes and cookies. For videos, magazines, and merchandise exclusively of interest to the gay and lesbian community, there is no other place like Lobo Bookshop and Cafe.

SUZANNE Don't even think about buying or selling a home without hiring a professional. A home is the biggest financial

ANDERSON: 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 listen 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.

ANNOUNCER: *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 Journalists 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.

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 themed 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. Rich's is where the real world ends and your imagination begins. To be a part of the fun at Rich's this week. Rich's, where you can always be yourself.

MAN: [NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]

ALL: You are watching *TV Montrose*.

MAN: [NON-ENGLISH SPEECH]

[MUSIC PLAYING]

DAN DE LEON: Let's go back to Steve and see more clips of stories from year number one.

STEVE BAKER: Hi, welcome back to our history tour at *TV Montrose*, 1998. About to see some more diverse clips of some diverse stories that went on here in the Montrose area.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

In show eight I reported from the Earth Day festival held just outside of Montrose on Buffalo Bayou Park. Earth Day is an example of the large social events that draw people from all over Houston into our community.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

The Montrose area plays host for several city wide events each year like no other part of Houston, and *TV Montrose* covered every one of them in 1998.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

Art is a big part of the Montrose community with art galleries everywhere. Host Kim Sevier took us to Diverse Works to show just how diverse art can be in our community.

KIM SEVIER: An exhibit entitled Stories About Us, Photographs from Juarez. This is an exhibit that is an absolute must see. The material is extremely hard and made me completely angry when I saw it. It's the kind of thing that makes you stand on your chair and act. Do something about it. It's a must see. I recommend it highly to everyone. And Diverse Works, living up to their name, has a hysterical exhibit in the subspace right now. It's by Dario Robleto and Bernard Brunan. I hope I'm pronouncing that correctly. The exhibit is funny and light, and it's exactly what you'll need after watching Juarez.

SUZANNE ANDERSON: A story that we sure thought would raise some negative response was that on transsexual photographer Lauren Cameron. Lauren is a female to male transsexual, and educated our audience what it is like to change sex. We got several positive responses for airing this story, and no negative ones at all.

LAUREN CAMERON: And I am likewise very open about my gender identity now. I think what I'd like to say to any transgendered or transsexual viewers is that it's important to feel a sense of pride and dignity about who you are. It's not an easy road to be on, but for some of us it's the only road we can be on.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

DJ: Everybody smile for the camera, this is *Montrose TV* and you will be on television tomorrow. Warner Cable channel 54 at 8 o'clock.

SUZANNE ANDERSON: In show number eight, *TV Montrose* took cameras into the gay club scene as never before done on Houston television. Rich's had the courage to be the first, followed by Pacific Street.

REPORTER: I'm here with Jerry Ramsey, the manager of Rich's. Jerry, how did you get this place packed on a Sunday night?

JERRY RAMSEY: We just thought we'd have a party with two bars come together, and do a thing for the community, [INAUDIBLE] or show that the community here in Houston needs to get together and have everything to work together as a one community. So we thought we'd throw a block party, which means two bars, and have the party.

REPORTER: Great.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

STEVE BAKER: This story generated some negative responses from the lesbian community, that *TV Montrose* had just become a bar rag, and that shirtless men did our community no good on television. On the other hand, we had an equal male response that thought it was entertaining, and they thought it was cool that the no camera rule in gay clubs had been tossed out. There was no response at all from anyone in the straight world.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

In 1998, *TV Montrose* produced 157 stories. About 1,200 people were interviewed in one way or another, and had something to say on *TV Montrose*. We hope that by now you're beginning to see how important and how significant a show such as *TV Montrose* is for positive visibility for the gay and lesbian community. Let's face it, folks, gay and lesbian equality is not going to be won in the legislatures. It's going to be won through TV cameras like that one there, and through positive media attention to the gay and lesbian community that shows gays and lesbians as they really are, doing what they really do, beyond the negative stereotypes.

DAN DE LEON: This week we covered stories from last spring.

SUZANNE And next week we're going to show you what happened last summer and into the fall.

ANDERSON:

DAN DE LEON: We want to thank everyone that helped to make *TV Montrose* possible this past year. From you, the viewers, to sponsors that had the community spirit to support a first of its kind gay and lesbian program in primetime every week.

SUZANNE Next Monday night, March 1st, come to Club Picasso and be a part of history being made with lesbian and gay

ANDERSON: television.

DAN DE LEON: We expect mainstream news coverage of this event, and it would be great to have a packed house to show them that gay and lesbian television is alive and well in Houston.

SUZANNE Well, it's just about time. Are you going to dress up?

ANDERSON:

DAN DE LEON: Oh, yeah.

SUZANNE You are? OK, good. Well, come join us, Monday Night, Live and in person the Club Picasso, seven PM.

ANDERSON:

DAN DE LEON: Until then I'm Dan de Leon.

SUZANNE And I'm Suzanne Anderson. Good night for *TV Montrose*.

ANDERSON:

ALL: We're Outrage and you're watching *TV Montrose*. Woo!

[MUSIC PLAYING]