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00:42

Oh yes, you've tuned into after hours queer radio with attitude right here on KPFT Houston 90.1 FM. The crew of after hours is ready to bring you news interviews, dialogue and music geared for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people and their friends. Hear it after hours. We may be diverse, but we have one thing in common. We are all out of the closet and urge everyone to come out of their closets. That means standing up for yourself taking responsibility for your own life and being proud of who you are. Realistically, we know not everyone can do that because of age job or frame of mind. That's okay, we're here for you too. So sit back, relax, and enjoy this week's edition of after hours.



02:05

Hello, Houston and college station and welcome to after hours queer radio with attitude. Right here on KPFT Houston, and ke O 's College Station. This is the April 29 edition. And I'm Jimmy Carper. I'll be with you you all tonight, because this is the fifth Saturday, and the focus is on music. But before we get to anything, and I do have a guest or two. I want to tell you that the music that I played the last song that you heard was Mark Weigel. A good day, it's on his own new CD plus a brand new CD called main streaming, Volume One which is a compilation of queer artists. And it's available through mp3 dot com. That's how I got a copy of it. Got great music on it. Before that Matt eye, Matt II, he's a Hawaiian man. And I thought that was just a really great opening, make your own kind of music mixed in with The Mary Tyler Moore. Opening. We're going to do a lot of music tonight because Monday night was the glamour awards, not the Grammy as you may have read in one of our publications glammers G. L. A. M A, the gay and lesbian American Music Association, had their awards night and gave out Oh 2025 awards, I was one of the judges or preliminary judge and a final judge for several of the categories. Happy to say, and we were going to have JD oil here tonight. But at the last minute, he could not make it but I have a lot of the music and we're going to be enjoying it throughout the show. But first, I have something things you know, things that we used to have to do almost every week and we haven't had to do in a while. And I just don't know how to say anything but

just the way it came to me. Excuse me, I got an email. Two of them actually. One from Nelson virgle of body positive and one from Kevin Davidson of everywhere else. Kevin is involved in just about every group known to man here in the in the queer community, but I'll just go with it. As I got it, this is a day of great sadness for many of us. I regret to inform you that our great friend and community leader Richard wiederholt passed away last night Richard enrich the lives of many people with his kindness, wisdom and reliance. He was a co founder of the Houston Gay and Lesbian Chamber of Commerce, and the body positive Wellness Center, and the owner of basic brothers. And from Kevin, there's going to be a memorial service is planned. In a couple of weeks, we'll have more information forthcoming, Richard gave of himself to the GLBT community and so many ways they will be great ly missed. Our love and support goes to E and during this time of loss and sorrow. It's also a loss for the entire community because Richard was recently voted male Grand Marshal of this year's Pride Parade. I've known Richard off and on I, Richard and I were not friends to say but we knew each other because I used to shop at a store, especially the original one that he had where he would, he sold us jeans and stuff like that. And he's always he always had a smile on his face. I was very friendly. He was very personable. Shopping at his store was always a pleasure. And now he's gone like so many others. So I have a few pieces of music is, is since that's what I do here. I do the music and that's the way I express myself. And I have a few pieces of music dedicated to Richard we're all gonna miss you



06:52

ah, Jimmy Somerville with Sunday we'll be together. That's specially for Richard because he's kind of of the age of I'm sure he was a teenager when the Supremes were going We're together and that that's that's Jimmy Somerville queer artists version of it, which i chi i almost like better than than the original. before. That was David Sarita with powerful love. And started out with Kevin Scott Hall with his version of if I can help somebody, all of that for Richard wiederholt. Who is not with us anymore, that I got that over the internet this afternoon. And with me tonight



07:52

I just got to note that Ken cloth and Jim Savini called in to say thank you for the remarks. Thank you. Yes. Thanks for calling. Well, that took my breath away. I Bobby's here. And Richards here. Hello. And again, I can't pronounce your last name.



08:22

Well, no one in Harris County can so that's not a problem. It's Aaron shield, Aaron shield.



08:27

And again, I took him by surprise, because when I was making the announcement about Richards passing, which you heard it for the first



08:39

time, right. And I knew Richard wiederholt through my work with body positive, which was the first professional capacity in which I worked in HIV and AIDS. And he was really instrumental in taking body positive from basically a 10 by 10 cubicle with one employee to the wellness center that's now on the sixth floor of 3400 monitors, and doing a lot of great work for a lot of people through exercise and lean body mass building and this body enhancement program that they started he was really a driving force in that and I think even more so than his adventures in commerce. He probably be remembered for that. Yeah. Oh, I think so. And I think he has family. I think he has a daughter or two as I remember he spoke of his children. I think he has one or two daughters. So our thoughts go out to them to bed.



09:44

And all of the all of his children who were employing our employees, the basic brothers, as a matter of fact, that that little venture turned into a very, very small little My skinny, skinny long star with us jeans to what it is today. And what it is today is it's pretty amazing right?



10:10

And hopefully the sequent will continue even though Richard isn't here yes,



10:17

those were see through shirt Oh



10:19

shows where would the dancers get them without? That's right.



10:22

You know some of the most fun times I've ever had was just happened to be in the store. A dancer was in trying on different thongs and wanted an opinion when



10:36

Jamie disappeared into the fitting room just having



10:39

to have time to



10:41

bet you know. I bought one of my favorite shirts at basic brothers. The one that says we broke up for religious reasons he thought he was God. I didn't. I love the shirts they've got with all the funny saying they



10:59

love Yes, yes, yes and Doc Martens now and stuff. I know that Jim and Ken talked about that. Wow, okay, I'm rich. Why are you here tonight?



11:12

Well, actually, I'm here. Because it's time for my semi annual visit, I guess. So, at least at least at least also. As you know, I work for the people with AIDS coalition. And I'm the project manager for Project leap, which is an acronym which stands for learning, empowerment, advocacy and participation. And this is a program that we're happy to have for the third year. We submitted our application for funding, which was approved, yay, resounding success. So we have an additional 24 months to your grant, to participate in this program again. And the interesting thing about this program is it's an advocacy training program for HIV positive folks and their significant others and family members. Okay. Now, what does that mean? Well, this was created by a guy who you may know Steven Bradley, who was a dancer, a member of the Ryan White Planning Council, I believe, years ago, he and Jim Halloran and Mike Ross from the UT School of Public Health, probably one of the preeminent epidemiologist and behavioral scientists in the city, they had seen that there was a real need for HIV positive people to be involved in the funding and allocation process. Because what was happening is, all this money was coming from Washington and from Austin, and from the CDC and from other sources, was coming here to Houston. And a lot of the people making the decisions about who would get the money and to what services it would go to, were not affected by HIV and AIDS in any way. They were government bureaucrats. So



13:13

how nicely he puts this.



13:16

Well, they still fund us, so we must be calm. So what Stephen and Jim and Mike came up with was a prototype curriculum to get HIV positive folks involved in the in the training, because they needed the knowledge of how the funding sources worked, how the decisions were made, who made those decisions? And what was the process, you know, so much of government funding, especially from the federal level, it's all about process. I mean, the money is going to come to you anyway, but it basically you have to do somersaults to get it here. Right. So they developed this program. It's metamorphosized under the coalition's excellent tutelage. If I may say so myself, it's metamorphosized into a 24 week, 100 hour curriculum. Yeah, it's a tough

course. It's, it's, it's a tough course. But it's a course in which if you have a desire to know how to help folks with HIV and AIDS, how to determine the best way to render services, how to determine priorities and allocations. It's an interesting course in that we go through a basic course outline, we talk a little bit in the beginning about HIV and how it works and what they call disease pathogenesis, as you know, Oh, yeah. And then we talk about



14:50

being HIV right and my own.



14:53

We talk about that we talk about how HIV affects different communities what the epidemiology of it is because I'm sure you know, epidemiology and HIV is changing from year to year. So we talk a little bit about that. And then we talk about the there are several, what I call deliberative bodies that make decisions about HIV and AIDS funding. I'm sure you've heard of the Ryan White Planning Council, yes. Oh, well, they're kind of the granddaddy of, of HIV funding here in Houston. And they control this year, about 17 and one half million dollars. And that's funding for all kinds of things, for transportation, for food pantry, for primary medical care, for case management, for child care, all those things are covered in that, in that what I call that HIV pie, you know that that 17 and a half million dollars represents our pie of money. What the Planning Council does is they determine how that pie is going to be sliced up, and they determined what size slice different services get, does more go to like, for instance, this year, as in last year, I think that obviously, the number one need determined by the community was primary medical care. So things like Thomas Street Clinic, things like the Montrose clinic, where you can get primary care and now you can get primary care at office, you didn't use to be able to do that. That's right. But through that allocation of resources, which came from consumer input, those programs came into being so we talk a lot about the deliberative bodies that make these decisions, how to get on them and how they operate.



16:37

Funny, you should mention obvious because Francisco Sanchez, does has a spot here, he does the Latin segment, and he went through your last class, he was the president of office,



16:48

right? He, he's president of the board of office, he is a lead graduate of this most recent class. And next year, he's going to be presenting on political and advocacy in the political arena. He'll be a presenter, he's a great guy. He's a lovely man, just a lovely man, and was a real addition to our class. And I'm just I'm all the LEAP grads are like my little kids. I'm so proud of that a lot of we said, and it looks like the rainbow coalition. Yeah, it looks like the rainbow coalition. We had our first we had our first transgendered league graduate this year, which was really wonderful, because advocacy in that community is really needed that we had our was it?



17:37

Oh, my Well, I'm not.



17:40

Well, it was a really motivated person. Okay. And I think that she will do a wonderful job in a community where there's a real dearth of advocacy. We also at the total other end of the spectrum, we had our first graduate, who was recently incarcerated. And he's he is now out and in the community, because those are two communities where there is no advocacy You bet. And so when they applied to the program, we snapped them up because we wanted, you know, we didn't want just want a class of gay white men. We wanted advocacy in every community and 60% of our class were from communities of color, and we're very happy about the end. That's our Yeah, I will unashamedly say that we are seeking representation from that community, especially from women in the African American and Hispanic community.



18:34

Well, that's, that's where as I read, that's where AIDS is rising. Yeah,



18:42

it's pretty obvious that places where people get ignored or, you know, aren't treated like they're part of the, you know, process, that that's where HIV tends to run wild, because nobody knows where to go or have feels like they have a place to go to, you know, fix the situation.



19:01

And it's so important to have women involved because HIV affects women a whole lot differently than it affects mind.



19:07

And interesting to note, I just attended a seminar on recent recent trends in Houston. Well, recent trends nationally, and HIV and AIDS. HIV AIDS is the leading killer of black men between of young black men, I don't remember exactly what the age parameters are. But between 21 and 38, I think it is it's the leading killer. The second killer in that category is homicide. So it's amazing when you see that kind of thing. And I often say to folks in the African American community, what I think they need is they need the equivalent of an African American act up Yes, like we had That's



19:56

right. 15 years ago, woke us up And I remember being part of backed up when we went into black neighborhoods and said Hey wake up And nobody woke up until just recently the

black neighborhoods and said, hey, wake up. And nobody woke up until just recently, the parallels are very striking. And it's gonna take it's gonna take members of the Black community to do it. And I want to tell



20:15

you a little story about advocacy and Richards. Yes, Richard Smith really brings this to the forefront of my mind. We also this was, I think, eight months ago, or thereabouts and pardon me if I'm wrong. We lost John O'Donnell, who was a member of the Ryan White Planning Council, and I believe a psychotherapist in Houston for a long time. And a person who contributed a lot of good things to this, this community and his funeral. Deborah Dannenberg left his funeral just in tears, and was reported to say, you know, all of the activists are gone, they're all gone. You know, what happens now. And I think that is kind of a clarion call to us to really say, you know, I don't believe that the activists are gone, I just think we need to get a new crop of them in. And I think that's why this project, project leap is so important, because the perception in the community is that the activists are gone. And it's not true. But so many of the folks that we've seen for the past 10 and 15 years, you know, now they're not here. And Richard is obviously a prime example of that. So what we need are educated individuals that know the ins and outs of HIV related funding and advocacy to take up these kinds of empty spaces in the community.



21:45

Because if not, those spaces get filled with bureaucrats, right. And I'm not using that as a bad term. But I'm using it as a term that says these people are not involved in the community and really don't know where the funding is needed most. Right.



22:01

So we talk a lot about in Project leap, we talk a lot about the services that are offered. And we talk about how, I don't know if you've heard of something called the needs assessment, which is this football size document that that we come up with, that basically says this is what the community desires at this time for this money. And those needs assessments are done all over the individual entities that receive Brian wide funding, and ours. And that that comes exclusively from consumer input. The interesting thing is the needs assessment is the result of consumer input. But also, when applications are made for funding, like when the PW a fund makes an application for case management or for any service, or any ASO or CBO makes an application for funding to get money. You know, who reviews those applications? Who consumers just like you and me. These these applications are reviewed by review panels, consisting entirely of basic everyday people, some of which you have HIV, and some of which don't, you know, no, no scholars review these No, bureaucrats. No super brains are social, social work gurus, review these applications for funding, an application that an agency puts in for funding is reviewed by people just like you and me. And that's one of the most powerful points at which a person can put forth his or her opinion. So one of the things we try to do is we spend a lot of time and project link talking about applications for funding, how they're generated, how they're reviewed, how they're put together, how they're scored, we spend a lot of time in, in the class about reaching consensus decisions. It's very important when you work in groups like this to reach content, consensus, consensus, pardon me decisions, and

sometimes contentious ones, too, I guess. So. So those are those are some kind of high points. I think that the important thing to remember about this project is you only need two things to become involved in Project leap. One is you need to desire to help people affected by HIV and AIDS. And you need the stamina and the wherewithal to complete the entire curriculum. Everything else I will teach you. We have a great team. I'm on the team. Also Tracy Wilson, who you may know his pictures been on the front of the voice. He's pretty pretty involved with



24:46

almost I used to see him out almost every week. Right? He's involved



24:49

with the bearing support group. He's an external room, member of the Ryan White Planning Council. He's chair of the Thomas street Advisory Council. He's the class mentor and my assistant and He's been through the class and between the two of us, we will teach you everything you need to know if you can come to us with no knowledge. But if you have a desire to complete the curriculum, and a desire to help folks with HIV and AIDS, come on,



25:15

you know, I think there's I think it's a chance the the reason that we go through all these changes, you had mentioned activism earlier. I think the the reasons for a lack in some respects of activism. There was a time when we needed activists just to make people see us, those of us who were part of the HIV world,



25:48

yeah, that's what act up was about that wake up. Hello, here we are



25:52

now. And I mean, we needed that we desperately needed that. Now, I think the reason you might not see as many people, you know, being out there and raising, excuse my friends, all hell yeah, is that people are starting to believe that there's no more reason for it, because people are living longer people are being healthier people. And it's like, an all of this, you know, and I think they're, they're becoming that numb sort of thing again, because they, because they see that things are better. Therefore, oh, they don't need us to do this, because they're solving it.



26:37

No, no, no, no, listen, we may be living longer. But I don't know about the healthier. And if anybody wants to talk to me about side effects. Hello.



26:47

I think there are a couple things here. Number one, I think the misnomer of a chronic manageable disease should be banned, but a crock from from the airwaves, from the media. All my friends that have aged, they may say they say to me, my disease is chronic, but it sure as heck isn't manageable. And I think, you know, there's a there's a timeline, I think that amfAR puts out. And it traces kind of the history of AIDS over the past 15 years. And there are, there was that first point of fear. And then there was a point of hysteria. And then there was a point of knowledge. And now that the most recent point that they have on their timeline, guess what that point is labeled word complacency. And I think that in one word, that would really be the label that I would place on the public and private attitudes about HIV and AIDS right now,



27:49

on the other side, on the other side of the coin, though, you know, for 20 years now, we have been in the gay community raising funds and and for eights and every fundraiser you go to this for age. So



28:07

is there a show that isn't a fundraiser anymore?



28:10

I know, I know. It's it's, I can see where people get weary of it.



28:15

Right. And I think I think also activism has is taking a different shape. You know, there have been a couple articles in the gay press over the last year, talking about is activism dead. And I think activism is moving from what used to be which was working outside the system. You know, I mean, the whole accelerated FDA drug approval was solely the result of, of act up and if you the Center for AIDS, puts out a wonderful newsletter called Read up. Oh, yeah. And their most recent issue, edited by Tom to Gainey. And with contributions from Joe Martinez and others. There are some quotes in there. They're going through treatment in the year 2000. And there are some quotes from years before and it's very interesting, how activism is really changing somewhat from working with, from with without the system or outside of the system more correctly into working within the system. You know, you see you work within and this is something that we talk a lot about in Project Lape about working within established systems to be agents