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SPEAKERS

Roy, Jimmy Carper



00:00

I need a local organization here screening and endorsing and advocating whether it's that our Safe Schools Initiative, whether it's our anti violence project, whether it's our, you know, whatever program it is that we're talking about, we need a local group, we need the task force that brings together national groups and brings together state groups and gets them to formulate a an agenda that is cohesive, so that we're saying the same thing. And so that we have 50 state actions. Can you imagine the impact if in every State Capitol in America, and whether it's Helena, Montana, or Baton Rouge, Louisiana, that there is a some type of queer action to bring pressure to bear to support for equality for all people? Can you imagine the impact that would have much greater impact than a nice fun? Looks good on TV? March in Washington?



01:11

I agree with you on that. And on the marches. That's



01:15

right. And Barney Frank, who is certainly is, you know, wise beyond his years, and certainly has much more wisdom than then I could probably ever hope to accumulate, you know, Barney, Frank calls national marches, a distraction, and a diversion and a waste of time. And he represents the very people, we're trying to influence



01:38

what you say, I think we've done the march thing, we did it in the 70s in the national March that got people's attention, you bet we got their attention, and then Washington. Now it's time to do other things.



01:50

Well, now it's time to go to hell AMA, yes. And to go to Bangor, and to go, you know, to go to these places, and make people understand that, that we're in Helena, that we're in Salt Lake City, that we're in Seattle, that we're in LA that we're in Sacramento, you know, wherever, you know, they need to understand that we're not just in LA, as you were saying earlier, that we're everywhere.



02:17

Okay, what about the average square in the street that says, Well, you know, I don't have it so bad, what what do I need to give two?



02:25

Will political, you know, something that that we started putting at the top of the newsletter for the caucus, the caucus news every month, a quote that we started putting on that right next to the masthead, it says no one is free, until we're all free. You know, you're fortunate, I'm fortunate, you know, knock on wood. You hear me,



02:49

I hear it, and I'll go knock on wood.



02:51

You know, I'm in a position where I don't face discrimination, or the potential for discrimination every day when I go to work, right? I'm in a fortunate position. I don't I have a wonderful, loving, supportive family, who embraces me and loves me for who I am, and isn't concerned about my sexual orientation. But there's so many people out there that aren't blessed with that kind of circumstance. That's exactly right. And those are the people that we're fighting for. And those are the people that we're working to help and reach out to. And so, you know, I really go back to that no one is free until we're all free.



03:37

I know it. I know it that I'm with you on that. And yes, it just irritates me when everybody's in the bars on Friday and Saturday night partying, and you know, hey, what, what do you mean? I've got it good.



03:52

Well, and you know, Jimmy, we had this big, very successful couple of 100 people from all over

the state converged on I think it was May 2 in Austin for this statewide legislative strategy, mainly talking about this anti adoption legislation. Yes. That you know, Jimmy, if this legislation is passed, you won't even be able to adopt your own family. My sister has been in her will is the guardian for some of her children. Just six. Dear God, I don't want them all. She Catholic. We think she's a closet Catholic. Actually, no, we think she might be hiding. But what this is saying is that even the parents own designation would be overruled by this legislation. But what the point I was going to make that ties into what you just said. So on Saturday afternoon, we all meet we have about about 200 Little under 200 folks which was great from from El Paso and from Laredo, and from Houston and Dallas and Fort Worth, you know, just all over Wichita Falls from everywhere. It was real productive thing. It was kind of a leadership meeting. And then the next day the lobby, I had rented a barge, and how to barge out and hippy hollow for splash day, because that was splash weekend. Oh, what fun. And you know, Diane Hardy Garcia, who's executive director of the lobby, the Lesbian Gay rights lobby I Grl. And Peter Brooks, who is the co chair of the board and who's by the way, owl, Cochon, his longtime companion, who died a few years ago was one of the founders of the lobby. The three of us are sitting there on this barge. And we're looking at the hundreds and hundreds of people who are jumping in and out of the water and, you know, having this great time swimming around, you know, drinking their beer. Diane, and Peter and I looked at each other, it's like, if we could have just had half of these people reactively, a quarter of these people this meeting yesterday. Yes. But the bottom line was that it was a great meeting, we actually had took in \$700, not just in contributions, but \$700 in monthly pledges. So we increased our monthly pledge commitment by \$700 in that one day. So it shows that there is a real commitment in Texas to equality, and we just have to be creative. And it wasn't a mistake that we plan that event on Splash. We



06:26

bet not.



06:28

You do what you gotta do that right. actly right.



06:31

You got Yes, yes. And this



06:33

fundraiser that, you know, we're having next week, you know, as part of the Houston premier of fit to be tied. Yes, we've been pushing that. Yeah, you know that that event is fun. And we have to do fun stuff. And we have to draw people in in that way. And they're gonna get to me, you know, our underwriters will get to meet Gary Morrow who will only be there very briefly. But you know, you got to entice people to give a little money. So that's her enticement. Carrie Labelle will actually be here for the entire day. No kidding. And we'll be here that evening, and we're real excited about Carrie being here. She's going to be meeting with different service providers, executive directors of different service provider organizations that day, is going to be

meeting with different leadership in the community. And also she's going to be quite frankly, meeting with potential donors, you know, folks that want to give a little money. Yeah, we need to add to the ranks of the Leadership Council, which is the major donor sustaining membership program of, of the task force, and also the triangle society, which is a wonderful way you can think of society Yeah, the triangle society, you give \$5 \$10 \$20 a month, whatever you want to throw electronic funds transfer, or you can send a check, or a credit card. And, you know, it's our it's our small sustaining membership program, small donor sustaining membership program, when you think about it, you know, don't go to the Black Eyed Pea, one day, exactly. And you can join the triangle society, you do that one day, a month, and you can join the triangle society. The Liberty club is our counterpart at the caucus. And we've seen a about a if you can believe this, about a 70% increase in Liberty club membership since January. So I'm really heartened by that and really excited about that, but we need more people. And it's doable. Most of us can give up dinner at the at the black IP, and I hope they don't sue us using that example.



08:32

Okay. Give up a night at the top,



08:36

whatever, whatever comes out to about 10 bucks, but most of us could do that. And



08:42

I would have to give up a CD, and I don't know that I can do.



08:47

I know it's tough. It's tough. I make those sacrifices.



Jimmy Carper 08:51

Yes. But and it kind of angers me sometimes that people don't remember that. It was just a few years ago, and it could happen again. bars were rated.



09:02

Jimmy 2029 People 29 People have been killed in Texas in the last two and a half years because of their sexual orientation or we go now so those days



09:14

are over. No, they're not those



09:16

days aren't over. We have a problem with same sex domestic violence. We have men running through the streets of Montrose shooting their lovers in public in broad daylight. We need to do more to address same sex domestic violence. And that's something that the caucus is working hard on. We're we've collaborated with the Houston area Women's Center and the Montrose Counseling Center. And we're working on that issue to just provide education and make sure people know the warning signs.



09:47

Well, yes. Because I think that in our attempt to look good to the American public, we that's our dirty little secret. That's right, and that that we have domestic violence just like any What else has done?



10:02

And we don't talk about it. Yeah. But you know, the hate crimes and the employment discrimination. I, you know, I was talking to somebody last week, who makes made \$70,000 a year as an industrial supply salesperson. And anybody that knows anything about industrial supplies knows that sales that that's mainly commission and if you're making \$70,000 a year, you're pretty damn good salesperson. And this person's boss walked into them and said, You know, I understand from so and so who's the receptionist to blabbed to the boss, that you're gay? And before the person could even answer they were told to get out. So we don't employ queers here packed your desk say, it doesn't matter. Yeah, and, and Texas, like for, like 39 other states in the United States, there's no legal recourse. That's



10:47

incredible. That's incredible. People



10:49

don't know that



10:50

I know. And people think like, this guy probably thought, hey, I'm a good employee, I'm bringing in a lot of money, it wouldn't matter if they found out



10:50



10:58

and he marched down to the employment, the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and said, I need to, you know, file a complaint. And my good friend, Harriet Erlich, who is a wonderful friend of equality, the district director of the EEOC, here has had to say, I'm sorry, that's not covered by statute. Exactly.



11:18

Exactly. Until it happens to you, you don't think it's a



11:22

process, right? And here's an an average person, you know, just looks like you and me. You know, we're not even dealing with the folks that don't look like you and me that deserve respect, and eat and, and fair treatment. We're talking about somebody who just looks like average Joe on the street, even doesn't



11:43

matter. It doesn't matter. And that's why I get so irritated when people talk about our special rights.



11:50

It's not about special rights, you know, the right to work. That's pretty basic, right? I think so, you know, the right to have a place to live, right. And when my spouse, and I, several years ago, before we bought a house, we're looking to rent an apartment. And we're told that the Houston Apartment Association had rules that two people of the same gender could not rent a one bedroom apart.



12:17

I've heard that so many times. Yeah, that's discrimination. Of course it is.



12:23

You know? So my sister and I, you know, who yes, you know, can go rent an apartment



Jimmy Carper 12:28

together. But, but not you and your lover. Right? Hello, it's still two people in a one bedroom apartment. What's the deal? Those are basic rights. And that is just a law to keep us from That's right. Renting an apartment,



12:45

or to make us discriminated against us. So we have to rent a two bedroom, so we have to pay more. Yeah. And we get so insulated here in Houston, you know, you've lived here how long?



12:53

Since 1966. Right? You know,



12:57

we get so insulated here. And we don't realize that in Gainesville, Florida, and, you know, Tyler, Texas and, and all across the country. They're horrible examples of discrimination and things that are happening to people, people are having their children taken away from them, you know, people are being fired from their jobs before being killed. And you know, I had a friend tell me, Oh, don't be some dramatic people are being killed. That is not drama. You know, that is reality, it's very much reality. And we have a hate crimes law in Texas that will not stand up to constitutional muster. We need to amend it, and we need the votes to do that. And we're in a terrible position right now with the State House of Representatives, where we're really on the brink of losing our progressive majority. And anybody that knows anything about the Austin knows it ain't that progressive a majority. And if we're gonna lose this, we're really, really in a bad state. And the only reason we've been able to beat them back so far is because we've had fine people like Deborah Dannenberg, on the calendars committee, right and find people like Diane Hardy Garcia lobbying, who in the last session, three different times Jimmy got a right wing, rabid Republican, to step out of the room, and not be there to vote on the anti marriage, anti queer marriage bill that was being proposed. And, and because of that, because she convinced this guy to step out in the hall three times he wasn't there to vote against us. And Deborah's work helped us get the votes and we prevented that from going to the floor of the House and for amazing, and that's the kind of work that's so essential. And we need the caucus here in Houston, ensuring that the right kind of open minded, fair minded People get elected, then we need the lobby in Austin, lobbying them, and, and further educating them and reminding them and we need the Human Rights Campaign lobbying them in Washington and continuing to remind them, and then we need quite frankly, the the National Gay and Lesbian taskforce doing all of the great work that it does to bring together folks so that we have a cohesive message so that we have grassroots organizing, and so that we have work going on in states that aren't as fortunate as Texas. You know, there we mentioned earlier there 36 of the statewide queer political organizations, it's really important to understand a third of those have only one staff person. A third of them have two or three more than one.



15:48

I'm gonna have to stop you there because we need to take a break. Oh, and let people know who we are. We are after hours queer radio with attitude. We'll be right back



16:00

the sound of Texas KPFT Houston of Pacifica radio network station 90.1 FM 89.1k EOS College Station, vintage blues, acid jazz folk in acoustic Cajun in Texas, Irish and Celtic. And all points in between the stuff weekends are made a specialty music programs that bridge Texas with the world on Houston 90.1k P F T, the sound of Texas



16:36

whoo Yeah. Let's go to a pleat piece of music right now and then we'll bring clip bring clarity back. I've got something new from Rufus. Right Wayne, right? He is the gay son of Loudon Wainwright, the third who, if you listen to this station, you've heard many, many times. He's got a new album out his first. It's kind of strange stuff. I wouldn't recommend that everybody. It's kind of operatic in many ways. But this is my favorite off of it. It's called April Okay, folks, I told you it was weird. That's Rufus Wainwright from his brand new album, self titled, and that was April. You're hearing it on after hours queer radio with attitude on KPFT Houston and ke O 's College Station. I'm Jimmy Carper. And I'm here with Clarence Bagby, president of this the the caucus caucus, and Michelle Meyers,



17:47

who's president of the Texas Association for transsexual support. Yes,



17:51

and many other things and many other things many, many. In fact, you'll be hearing her in 10 minutes, with big Roy doing the news.



18:01

I think we're ready for that. Roy, he's out there doing some of the things that I normally do. Okay, good. And cutting up the paper and all that that's what I usually do for him. He tells me what we're going to talk about. And I get it all together. Well,



18:17

and you know, in the vein of news, it was really amazing this week, to pick up this week in Texas magazine published all over the state. And to see greetings from the President of the United States.



18:31

I want you to read that because it is the most amazing thing.



18:36

Well, and you know, it's it just blows my mind on White House letterhead, you pick up something and it says warm greetings to everyone taking part in the 1998 Gay and Lesbian pride celebration and goes on as Americans, we're proud we can be proud of our diversity striving together people of different ethnicities, backgrounds, races, beliefs, and sexual orientation have contributed to the success of our nation. And yeah, I'm not gonna read the whole thing. But, you know, the the bottom line is, you know, he's commanding the community for its dedication and celebration of diversity. This is a President of the United States sitting president, you know, absolutely amazing. I mean, it's one thing for Barry Goldwater a one time presidential candidate to finally 35 years later see the light and, you know, I shouldn't say finally, 35 years later, I think Barry Goldwater was always a social progressive. Yes.



19:34

But because his his grandson was gay and because someone was gay in his family, it came home to him, and he could be public about it.



19:43

And that's why it's so important if you can, if you can build up to it, because nobody would say that it's it's not hard, but it's so important to be open and honest. You know about who you are and and what we are and it's certainly freeing, you know, I know Michelle could probably do a whole show series of shows on how freeing, being open and honest about who you are is,



20:11

well, the thing that is most important about it is that it just, it revitalizes you're totally inside. And so if you do have the opportunity to come out and you don't have to come out to everybody, you don't have to run down the streets, yelling up or down, hey, I'm queer. I'm gay. I'm lesbian. I'm this. Do it as you're comfortable, but you do it as a normal course of happenings in your life. People do begin to know, gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transgender, they begin to see him they begin to be a part of their life. Yes. And once you see once you know someone, it's much harder to hate them. That's



20:58

right. And they see that we're everywhere takes the mystery out of it. Yeah. And they realize, oh, gosh, I know, a transgender person. You know, they're and they realize, you know, people are people are everywhere. And they're just people. And nobody has horns and a tail, you know, or I just have a tail I think on Friday night, but



21:20

I thought you had a very nice looking tail. Actually.



21:23

I saw you Oh, my thank you very much. You're gonna make me blush. I'm glad you are blushing. Red is my Coca Cola can hear.



21:36

Okay, Clarence, let's say you're the president of the caucus, and you're on the national board. Now. What's what's the future for Clarence Bagby?



21:45

Oh, gosh, you didn't warn me about that. You know, I'm quite content, being an activist. And being involved in the Lesbian Gay rights lobby and being involved in the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. And, and the caucus here, the task force, I have to tell you is just so exciting. I just started a three year term. So I'm not looking, you know, too far beyond that. In terms of the task force?



22:11

Are you gonna like replace Carrie? Oh, no, no, I just



22:15

carry on? I hope not. I hope not. I hope she's there for a long time. Carrie is just tremendous. But I'm real happy being kind of more of a behind the scenes activist and in the broader community and doing what I can to, to facilitate progress in the movement. I don't really have any high aspirations.



22:42

How do you do us proud?



22:44

Oh, aren't you sweet?



22:46

I could, I could, I shouldn't do this. Go. But I'm going to I could give you something to work on.
~~Oh the youth the youth of this community you bet need to be part of the political process~~

On, the youth, the youth of this community, you bet need to be part of the political process. And a lot of times, they're they don't know enough to become involved. Or they're busy finding things out or they're in the closet or whatever. But if they have an opportunity, then we can begin to grow new leaders. That much quicker. You're right, and much more in tune with what it is that we're going to have to do as a community know, their their community, you bet very soon they will be in



23:36

well, you know, that's a good point. And I have noticed that that there are so few youth that are politicized. Or, I mean, maybe they have the exuberance for an ACT UP type of exuberance.



23:51

No, I don't want to station but it gets down. I



23:54

thought, What about a caucus type of politicization?



23:57

Well, and I've been to I went to the big annual kind of advisory board meeting, big annual meeting of the Houston area teen coalition of homosexuals hatch, which is a wonderful program, which needs to be expanded upon and supported and added to, and there's a real openness there. You know, Kevin Davidson, the president of of hatches have longtime board member of the caucus, he's a current board member of the caucus. He's been treasurer two or three times board chair for three years. I mean, this is somebody who's really been committed to the movement and to the political part of our movement. So there's a real openness there, but we do need energy and we need folks that that will work within the caucus and other groups to reach out to youth and ensure that we're presenting them with an opportunity to participate. Yeah,



24:54

because it seems like the youngest folks she got her the late 20s, maybe early 30s He's and then it's a bunch of old farts.



25:04

Care, Paul,



25:05

there. I'm in there with it.



25:07

Well, I'm in that part you just mentioned happily still so, and I'm glad for that. But you're right, you're right. We do need to do more. We need to do a lot more to reach out to youth and we need to do more with PFLAG. Yeah, we're have established a real close bond. And we've gotten to be real good friends just personally with for instance, Susan and Don up Church, the immediate past CO presidents of the Houston PFLAG chapter. know, I've



25:37

had him on the air. He's He's aren't that great. Oh, yes. It was wonderful. That ruined and



25:43

I think Susan is still cold.



25:45

Right. She was just elected co president, along with another woman whose name escapes me escapes me too. I just read it. She's from the woodlands, though, which is wonderful. Because we certainly need to be doing some outreach



25:58

up there. No kidding. And while we're talking about outreach to the youth, we also ought to be outreach to the minorities.



26:06

You bet. Yeah. And one of the things that the caucus is doing this year is working more to collaborate and partner, and coalition build. And it's really, really tough it is. But in that vein, in that vein, we've we've formed the Houston anti violence project. And it's not a gay and lesbian anti violence project. And the taskforce was so excited when they gave us all the information on how to form an anti violence project. And once they heard that, we weren't going to do an A gay and lesbian, only anti violence project, they were thrilled to death because they're concerned about the broader movement. And they were thrilled to hear that we went to the anti Defamation League and got them to sign on, and that we went to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and got them to sign on. And that we went to the League of United Latin American Citizens in the Houston area Women's Center, and the Texas Association for transsexual support and the Gulf Coast transgender community and, you know, on and on and on, and we need to be doing more. But that's the kind of outreach that I think

Michelle was alluding to that we've got to be doing the broader social justice movement, the civil rights movement of the 1960s was not done with just the black community. Obviously, that's right. They didn't have the votes. They don't have the votes. Now,



27:28

Harvey Milk was not elected by the gay community.



27:31

That's right. The affirmative action referendum was, you know, was not turned back, you know, that horrible thing was not turned back with just the minority community. That was a broad coalition of folks. And that's what we as a community have to be doing. As, as the gay lesbian, bisexual, transgender community, we have to be reaching out to other groups and ensuring that we're building those coalition's so you know, you're exactly right. We need to, we need to make sure whether it's labor, you know, labor was instrumental in working the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers unions were instrumental in working with AT and T and getting them to very recently established their domestic partnership benefits program. Yes. You bet. Yes. And that's about coalition building. Because the gay community work with the unions, and, you know, you're scratch my back, I'll scratch yours. That's, that's the way everything works. But what's politics? Yeah, well, it's not even just politics, though. Your friends, I mean, that's how you develop friend, right? You know, you do something for somebody. And so then, you know, they become interested in doing something for you. And the next thing, you know, you're friends, and you're going to the movies together, it says



28:46

it's the ultimate out experience, certainly.



28:48

How about a plug for your new location?



28:52

Well, the caucus is proud to be the first tenant, really the anchor tenant of the Houston lesbian gay community center, we told the community center, actually, I kind of committed the COC. When, as an incorporating board member, the Community Center said, you know, the caucus will be a part of this, and we are going to be a part of making sure this happens. And we're committed to this. And so we stepped forward and said that, we would do that. And so when the time came and the community center folks had gotten it all together, we stepped forward and moved in over there. 803 Hawthorne Avenue at Stanford. That's right. It's just a few blocks, beautiful gray, two blocks east of Montrose Boulevard. Yeah, just just right down the street from the Walgreens. Walgreens backyard. That's right. Yeah, that's a beautiful building. And it

is a great place. There's still I think, one office space left there to be rented. So I'm sure they would love to hear from folks. They're in the phonebook. I don't have the number at my fingertips, but they're in the phonebook. It's the Houston and lesbian gay community center



30:01

Monday night the switchboard votes on whether to move in great, I think it's



30:05

86779048677904. So somebody who's interested might check with them. And definitely, you know, check with them about volunteering, need people to just sit in there and be a receptionist and,



30:20

and the more people who volunteer, the more hours they can be open. That's right. And then of course, they're open for your meetings, Bar Mitzvah is your circumcision parties, whatever



30:32

well, and there's a wonderful, there's a wonderful backyard where you can have a party there, small conference rooms, if your organization just has, you know, a dozen members or so you can meet there. If you have 30, or 40, or 50, you can meet in the big meeting room. There are all kinds of possibilities for meeting space, says the next meeting is the next meeting of the Houston gay and lesbian Political Caucus is coming up this Wednesday. Again, the social time starts at seven. We have complimentary soft drinks and wine and then at 730 of our meeting, which will be a dialogue with Houston police chief Clarence Bradford, and he'll be giving us an update on the or mana issue and what's gone on there and what changes had been made. The caucus has been closely monitoring that, you know, we're a founding member of the police Advisory Committee. Right. And a nice Parker was the first person to sit on that committee. And now Bill Clevenger, and I are the delegates. And Bill's the delegate non the alternate. And I'm hoping I never have to go to a meeting. This bill is real interested in this and we're real excited about it. But so we've been continuing to work with the chief but we wanted to bring him out to the community. this coming Wednesday. Yeah, folks to hear from him.



31:48

Okay, that sounds really, really good.



31:51

Yeah. And let me tell you, he's charming. He's intelligent, he's articulate. The other times he's come to our meetings, he stays for the whole meeting. Like, you know, he,



32:00

how did they get to be a police?



32:01

He's just, no, he's wonderful. He's such a departure from the previous fellow. Well, that's what I mean. I mean, he's just fabulous. Wow. And it was really neat to see him stay and participate in the meeting. He's, he's just great.



32:18

Good. Can you give us the telephone number and email address again? Of the caucus?



32:23

Sure. Sure. It's 713-521-1000. Okay. 713-521-1000, same number for 23 years, I believe. Wow. And the email is HGL PC at Neo soft.com.



32:40

That's pretty damn easy. Yeah, that's really



32:42

easy to remember.



32:45

Clarence, thank you for being on after hours. It's been really, really fun. Well, thanks.



32:50

Thanks for having me. It's been great. To talk to you all. I always learn a lot. When I'm around. Great folks like you all. It's a lot of fun and look forward to seeing you all again soon. Okay,



33:01

now it's time for after hours news with big Roy and Michelle. Okay, Kirk isn't here to saying but



33:20

different every time he sat, you know.



33:25

So, here you go.



Roy 33:28

Oh, good evening.



33:29

Good evening, Roy. How are you? Oh, I'm



Roy 33:31

fine. I'm here. I'm queer. I'm quite happy tonight.



33:34

I'm sorry to have left you to tear up all the papers and stuff.



Roy 33:38

This will teach it or leave me to do this.



33:43

So what do you have for the first item?



Roy 33:45

Okay, you want to mention that the the meat that always are going to be, which is the amigos volunteers and education services are going to be targeting the Houston gay and lesbian, Hispanic community. They're going to be offering four different monthly workshops. That's going to be specifically for the the Hispanic gay and lesbian community in town. And it's, they're going to be the workshops are going to be held on the second Wednesday of each month during June and September, to help educate and empower the community. Now, these

are going to be two hour workshops. And they're going to be sessions on political activism, coming out queer theory and building communities. And it's going to be held at the lesbian and gay community center at 803 Hawthorne. And this is very important to me because there are a large number of gay, Hispanic and Latino lesbian Hispanic people in this city. In fact, there's more Hispanic people in Houston than there are in San Antonio. Oh, I didn't know that. That's right. And in fact, the Latino population in the city of Houston is almost equal to that of the black community. And it's growing.



35:07

Oh, I know it's growing. And I'm so glad to hear that they're going to do it here at the community center. I am too. That's a real good tie together of that of the community.



Roy 35:19

And this is really something because in previously, there's been no absolutely no support services. That's been geared directly to the Hispanic, gay and lesbian community. And, you know, this is really something that I think is long overdue, and is a very welcome part, especially the political activism. You hear that Gary?



35:47

B. Oh, the next thing I wanted to mention was that the Montrose clinic has received \$25,000 from Exxon. All right, IV AIDS research. And I'm very happy to talk about that. Because, of course, I work for Exxon, and I'm proud to see them making contributions to HIV and AIDS research.



Roy 36:12

Did you play a role in that?



36:14

Oh, absolutely. Not I hadn't, I had nothing to do with it. I was, I saw it the other day and in the paper, and I was very surprised and pleased. I didn't know that they were contributing and had been contributing for years, to the Montrose , clinic, Clank. Over the years they've contributed \$175,000 to decline.



Roy 36:36

Well, you know, I want to say this about Exxon, which is that not only do they financially support our community, such as in this fight on AIDS, but emotionally, they help support us as well, because Michelle, you just got a new award and you are a transgendered person. You

started working at Exxon as one gender and switched over. And you were just recently honored at Exxon?



37:08

Oh, well, yeah, they have a, they have one of these little things that they hand out. It's a peer recognition award may give out to about 15 people, or projects per year and the one that I was working on, in fact, my first job as Michelle, with Exxon as a transgender person as a trait as as transsexual. I got this really neat plaque. And they also gave me \$100. So it's not just, you know, it's not just the plaque, they put their money where their mouth is. Oh, right. I was really happy to receive that, because that was my first job as Michelle,



Roy 37:47

I think that's really fantastic. And I you know, we're really proud of our Michelle because not only is she a good interviewer and a good news person, but obviously, in addition to all her activism, she still has time to dedicate to her actual employment, to such a degree that she shows that professionalism, even there, how do you do it?



38:10

Well, it's getting very, very, very difficult. And very soon I'm going to retire so I can spend all my time having fun in the community. All right.



Roy 38:19

I got a little bit of sad news. Plaza 9200 has announced it will close in less than a month. And they're citing lack of financial support has been cited as the real reason for its closing. Now, the Plaza 9200 was located at 9200 Buffalo Speedway, and that was a strip shopping center that was converted into the nation's largest lesbian entertainment complex. At Plaza 9200, you had a Country Western Dance bar called the ranch, there was a progressive music bar called ecstasy. There was a cabaret which very frequently had live entertainment. That was Miss B's. Excuse me, it had a huge patio and a barbecue pit. A basketball court, a volleyball court. It had a huge parking lot that parked over 300 cars and it was patrolled. You know they had security armed security patrolling their vehicles and it was a very safe place for lesbians to me. And so it's really sad to see it closing. Now according to Plaza 9200 Manager, Jenny Sickles, the club will remain open only on Sunday nights until the end of June. And Sickles added that Houston's grandfather clause prohibits any new owner from reopening Pleasant 90 to 100 as a bar at because the property is right next to a church and a school



39:59

Oh Okay, they're using that one again. Okay, well, some good news, ah Chase Manhattan Bank. And I guess that is also Chase, Texas. Well, has decided to provide domestic partner benefits beginning in January under their expanded health benefits policy. Great that was announced

this week. The policy will affect 50,000 us employees across the nation, and that includes 9000 Here in Texas. So, Chase now has domestic partner benefits. They said that the reason that they were doing this is that they have a diverse group of employees and this will help