

- BIG ROY:** OK. Here we go. Still with the events of September 11 and how they are affecting us in the gay and lesbian community. The federal gay civil rights bill and a separate bill authorizing the federal government to prosecute anti-gay hate crimes have been removed from Congress's legislative agenda this year due to shifting priorities brought about by the September terrorist attacks, Capitol Hill staffers said this week.
- Senator Ted Kennedy, the chief sponsor of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act, also known as ENDA, in the Senate canceled a hearing on the legislative legislation set for October 2 before the Senate Committee on health education, labor, and pensions. Kennedy, who serves as the committee's chairperson, has instead scheduled hearings on possible federal action to assist thousands of workers who have lost their jobs in the massive layoffs in the travel, hotel, and airline industry. And here in Houston, many people were laid off from continental.
- CHRIS HARRISON:** Continental laying off, it's having a ripple effect in there. A few weeks ago, Jay Leno did a free performance in Las Vegas because they're even feeling the hit from tourism. And he was putting on free shows and the only requirement was tip big to your waitstaff.
- And that there's also talk right now of a tax credit you can get for travel. It's working its way through some of the Senate, right now, it's just in the talking stage, where, I think the last I heard was if you travel over 100 miles that you can get a tax credit for up to \$500 for a single person or \$1,000 for a couple. And that includes your airfare, hotel, and expenses. You can claim that as a tax credit and that's still working its way through the Congress.
- BIG ROY:** It's so amazing. I hate saying this folks. But now, I'm seeing Republicans do doing what Democrats would have loved to have done. Somebody said many years ago, regarding the Democrats and the Republicans, the Democrats get the rhetoric but the Republicans get the action. I mean--
- CHRIS HARRISON:** This is one of those things that-- I think a lot of people were saying that after watching some of the early news coverage there from September 11 that we're no longer Black and White, and straight and gay, or Korean and Puerto Rican, especially up in New York. On that day, we all turned gray. From the people who were coming out covered in head to toe with ash, and seeing something that resembles bipartisanship. And it's an amazing thing to say that's something that came out of this national crisis.
- BIG ROY:** Now, I do want to give a little bit of a annotation note on what I read here at the very beginning. And this story comes to us from the Houston Voice. But regarding the hate crimes legislation, President Bush is leaning towards pushing the full package of the hate crime, especially now since so many hate crimes are being committed against Arabs, not just here in Houston but just--
- CHRIS HARRISON:** Anyone who has an Arab or South Asian, I think, even in some cases, the darker Mediterranean look, is receiving a lot of attention. And a lot of it is a negative force. So you may see some sort of legislation come through quickly. And if possible, there may be a little bit of attack on there for sexual orientation.
- One last thing here about September 11, make sure you stick on afterwards. The news and views segment, we have an interview with the executive director of New York City's Community Center that--
- BIG ROY:** That's going to be very interesting.

CHRIS --who was very close to ground zero.

HARRISON:

BIG ROY: And folks, you're not going to hear this interview from anywhere else but right here on KPFT. And if there's anybody who could deliver the goods, Chris, over and over and over, scoops me, scoops the Chronicle, scoops the voids, the triangle. I love Chris.

CHRIS Onto some more local news though before we continue national, Empower Expo kicks off next weekend. This year, the 2001 Empower Business and Community Exposition, which is sponsored by the Greater Houston GLBT Chamber of Commerce, includes guest speakers and a roundtable discussion as an open forum for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender groups.

Organizers note that Empower's not just about business, business, business. "We want the public to know that it's really a fun event," said executive director of the Chamber of Commerce, [? Coy Tal ?]. This is the event's fifth year. And [? Coy ?] said that it is geared towards the LGBT Chamber's mission statement to advance the economic and cultural development and vitality of the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and supportive heterosexual individuals, businesses, and organizations.

This will be taking place next Sunday, Sunday, Sunday, Sunday, because Jimmy's not here, he's out there working the phones for us, on the 14th. And this is going to be at the George R. Brown Convention Center where this week, they've got a couple of cars showing up around there. It opens for the public from 11:00 AM to 5:00 PM. There'll be hundreds of booths available and hosted by a variety of businesses that cater to gay men and lesbians, from media to retail outlets, and more.

Also, there's going to be-- we'll get that one later. That's on the next one. There's also a roundtable that we're going to be mentioning a little bit later with the Community Center.

BIG ROY: I have been to Empower. And let me tell you something. It is so much fun. Empower is just one of the greatest things. It is a do-not-miss event.

CHRIS I was at the first one of those that they pulled off. And it was just interesting seeing-- at that time, I mean, just the first time. And there wasn't that really that big of a crowd because I'm used to other conventions and trade shows that I've been to.

But just to see that many businesses for our community that are looking out for our interests in one building that you can walk through and find groups that if you need help, there's someone there who can help you. If you want to help, you can find some a group there that can use your help.

BIG ROY: And it is just amazing. Anyways, moving right along, after the Bayou City's long, hot summer, it's time to cool down. Chill out and celebrate the beginning of autumn at the annual Houston Women's Festival slated for October 27, from 1:00 PM to midnight, at Garden in the Heights. "Now in its seventh year, the festival celebrates art, music, crafts, and community," said Shirley Knight, one of the event's organizers.

"The fest is scheduled at this time of the year to follow the old concept of celebrating harvest time, giving thanks, and welcoming fall," she said. And it will be a veritable feast of art and entertainment. And most of all, it's fun. They'll have three stages of entertainment, with the main stage and cafe stage outside along with singing and music.

CHRIS HARRISON: And we have played some of the artists you're going to hear at that several times. And we'll probably be dropping them five more times here and during our rotation until we get to the Women's Fest.

Some events at the Houston Lesbian Gay Community Center. First of all, on Saturday, October 13, they'll be hosting a roundtable for GLBT organizers. For the second year, the Community Center and the Chamber of Commerce will host an open forum to organizations called the Roundtable.

The event will take place on Saturday, October 13, from 3 to five PM at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston. The Roundtable is free and open to everyone. It's a part of Empower 2001, the business and community exposition presented by the Chamber of Commerce.

Also this week at the Community Center, HEAT, the Houston Employees Affinity Team, meets 6:30 on Monday. The Lesbian Coming Out group meets 7 o'clock on Tuesday. Wednesday, there's free HIV testing and counseling. The Caucus has a meeting. And--

BIG ROY: We had our meeting.

CHRIS HARRISON: It says you have it on the 10th as well.

BIG ROY: That's the board meeting.

CHRIS HARRISON: Oh, well, then forget that. You can't show up for that.

BIG ROY: Yes, it is open to the board. The board meeting. But the Caucus is always open to the public.

CHRIS HARRISON: All right, and the 11th is National Coming Out Day which we're going to talk a little bit in the second half as well. There will be-- the CATS will be meeting there at 7:00 on Thursday. And don't forget, Q-Patrol goes out from the Community Center on both Friday and Saturday nights.

BIG ROY: And folks, now with the right wing fanatics thinking that they've got an excuse-- trust me, Q-Patrol needs you and your money now more than ever. But they especially need you.

CHRIS HARRISON: For more information on Houston Lesbian Gay Community Center, call them at 713-524-3818. The Queer home for Houston is located at 8/03 Hawthorne at Stanford.

BIG ROY: And they can contact Q-Patrol at--

CHRIS HARRISON: Q-Patrol is 713-528-SAFE.

BIG ROY: OK. Moving back to politics here for a moment, Senator Hillary Clinton says surviving partners of gay and lesbian victims of the terror attacks should get the same help as the families of other victims. The New York Senator, addressing an audience of gay and lesbian actors Saturday, said in the aftermath of the attacks, quote, "We have to make clear that we're treating-- that we're fighting for is our values," end quote.

She says that includes ending discrimination against gays and lesbians once and for all. Recently, the Reverend Louis Sheldon, chairman and founder of the Traditional Values Coalition, said relief agencies should not give aid to surviving members of gay partnerships.

Now, for unique news, once again, it looks like the gay community is going to be a trendsetter. In politics, of all places. And this is coming to us from Wellington, New Zealand. New Zealand lawmaker Georgina Beyer has nothing to hide. The former male prostitute and stripper has reversed her decision to retire from politics and will run for re-election.

Her path is an open book. Literally. She has published a book about her sex change operation and her history of working the streets the candid biography is entitled *Change for the Better*. Beyer says her history makes her the perfect candidate to stand up for minorities and political outsiders. And let me tell you something folks, a politician that could be that honest gets my vote.

**CHRIS
HARRISON:**

Definitely can't work in the United States. A little bit of theater news here, Unhinged Productions first offering of the season is *Stop Kiss*, a well-received and award-winning play written by Diana Son. It tells the story of two hitherto heterosexual women who meet in New York and fall in love. Their relationship comes to a crisis when--well, we really shouldn't reveal any more about that.

Stop Kiss is by Unhinged Productions. And it's Thursday through Saturday at 8:00 PM, now until October 27. For more information, you can contact 713-524-8707.

Also, Theater New West proudly presents the Southwest premiere of *Boy Meets Boy*. It is a champagne bubbly gay musical, very Noel Coward, set in London and Paris, in 1936. *Boy Meets Boy* is at Theater New West 1415 California on Friday and Saturday nights until November 17. For more information, call 713-394-0464.

And a Pay What You Wish performance for Jekyll and Hyde has been scheduled for Monday, February 15. They have three Monday performances but one is scheduled for the Pay What You Wish. You need to make a reservation though. First two shows have already been sold out.

And this doesn't tell you what time it is. And it didn't give me a phone number for the Masquerade Theater. You can email them for more information of the Masquerade Theater at info@masqueradetheater.com.

BIG ROY:

OK. Coming up tomorrow while Sunday,--

**CHRIS
HARRISON:**

Sunday, Sunday, Sunday.

BIG ROY:

Janine Brunjes, Mayor Brown's new liaison to the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Community, will speak about her experiences in that capacity at the next queer flag meeting at Christ Church Cathedral tomorrow at 2:00 PM. Janine believes her presence in City Hall will help the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Community articulate their agenda more clearly.

She has also filled and continues to fill several important positions on boards of community organizations and foundations. With the possible referendum on partner benefits coming up, we should have an interesting presentation and lively discussion. All are welcome. And small groups will meet following this session. And these groups are the heart of PFLAG. If you'd like more information, call 713-46-PFLAG. That's 713-46-PFLAG.

Also, you can chat online with the mayor's lawyers under the Houston Gay Lesbian Community, Janine "Broon-gez"--

CHRIS HARRISON: Janine "Broon-yez."

BIG ROY: --Brunjes will be available on the second Wednesday of each month. That's this coming Wednesday from 9:30 to 10:30 PM. Go to talk city sign in and go to the Houston GLBT forum room. And for more information, contact Ken at caseyntx5@gay.com. Again, that web address is caseyntx5@gay.com.

CHRIS HARRISON: The Royal and Sovereign Imperial Court in the Single Star and Mr. Gay Pride 2001, Sean Carter--

BIG ROY: This guy can say this all in one breath. I hate him.

CHRIS HARRISON: --present-- and I look at Roy as I say this-- Stuff This--

BIG ROY: Oh.

CHRIS HARRISON: --benefiting the NLA Houston Toy Drive on Sunday.

BIG ROY: Sunday, Sunday, Sunday.

CHRIS HARRISON: He's queuing a cart. On Sunday, October 7, at 8:30. Stuffed animals are welcome to be donated. That, of course, is at the BRB, 2400 Brazos. Mary's, naturally, on Sunday, October 7 at 5:00 PM will be having Miss Mary's 2001 Contest-- Rosy Cheeks Gives It Up.

And a different kind of fundraiser-- the Family of Clubs at 800 Pacific are providing a unity in our community fundraiser in light of the tragic events that occurred in New York City and Washington DC on September 11. They were going to donate 25% of all gross sales on mixed drinks, beverages, wine, beer, and non-alcoholic beverages. Half of these proceeds will be donated to the American Red Cross. The other half to the Twin Towers' funds.

This will be occurring on Monday, October 8, at the Montrose Mining Company, Tuesday, October 9, at JR's Bar and Grill, and Wednesday, October 10, at South Beach. So it's a good way-- it's an interesting way you can go and contribute to helping out the people in New York and Washington just by doing the most easiest exercise as you can of tying one on in the community.

BIG ROY: Oh.

CHRIS HARRISON: So that's the 800 block of families, Monday at the Mine, Tuesday at JR's, and Wednesday at South Beach.

BIG ROY: OK.

CHRIS HARRISON: And now, finally--

BIG ROY: We're going to wrap it up with this.

CHRIS HARRISON: In the tradition of all the current news programs, we end with a piece of fluff at the end.

BIG ROY: A hunter who shoots a hermaphrodite moose. A hunter in the northern wilds of Canada's Yukon Territory got the surprise of his life two weeks ago when the supposed bull moose he shot at turned out not to be a male, not a female, but both. The hunter shot it thinking it was a bull. When he got closer, he saw that things weren't quite as they should be, or as he expected. It was a hermaphrodite moose.

It was a female with antlers, said Ward, who's a biologist for the Yukon government. And he added that he had never seen anything like that in his 25 years as a biologist. Now, that's what I call a lot of bull. Look at Jim just cringe when I said that. Well, it was a bull moose, or maybe it wasn't. Or was it?

CHRIS HARRISON: We'll have to put Sarah on that one.

BIG ROY: At any rate, folks, that's it for this week's edition of *After Hours-- News and Views* for Chris and Jimmy. I'm Big Roy.

CHRIS HARRISON: If you have any news, information, stories, love, mail, hate mail, (SINGSONG) dirty pictures, you can email us at afterhoursskpft@hotmail.com.

BIG ROY: Well, that's it. That's a wrap for this week's edition of *After Hours-- News and Views*. Glad you could join us. Please stay tuned listening because Chris has got a fantastic interview coming up. And next week, who knows what kind of craziness we'll have in store for you then.

CHRIS HARRISON: But right now, we need you all to call in--

JIMMY CARPER: That's right.

CHRIS HARRISON: --with your pledge of support.

BIG ROY: Give me your money, honey.

CHRIS HARRISON: I mean, look, what we do here-- we're cheap, and were easy. But running the show isn't cheap.

JIMMY CARPER: I know. It takes a lot of money to sound this cheap, I'll tell you.

CHRIS HARRISON: Yeah. I mean, look-- you can feel comfortable in this fact. The money you contribute does not go to any of our salaries.

JIMMY CARPER: Mmm, no.

CHRIS HARRISON: We're not paid to get on the air.

BIG ROY: All right, folks, if you don't start calling in--

JIMMY CARPER: Uh-oh.

BIG ROY: --Chris and I will both be out there on the corner of Westheimer and Montrose in G-strings. I don't think so.

CHRIS I'm sorry, but for the two of us, we're talking more like J-strings, because G just ain't going to fit it.

HARRISON:

BIG ROY: I know that's right.

JIMMY CARPER: Oooh.

CHRIS But no, seriously, folks, I mean, we come out to you once a week. And we just come out here for volunteer. We

HARRISON: do it because we feel it's a good part of the community.

A lot of stuff doesn't penetrate a closet door. A lot of people are closeted where they work. A lot of people who listen to us are the youths. I started listening to this show with a headphone under the covers, like a lot of our listeners do.

JIMMY CARPER: Francisco Sanchez, who does the Latino hour-- same thing.

CHRIS And it's amazing that we can have this kind of show, that we can come out to you, and we can talk about the

HARRISON: issues. Because, I mean-- let's look at it this way. A couple weeks ago we had Jerry Falwell accusing us of practically piloting those airplanes.

And for one of the few times out there, mainstream media got it. And they jumped down his throat. I mean, when Rush Limbaugh--

BIG ROY: Of all people.

CHRIS --criticizes him, when the president said, that was wrong, that was something. But the problem is this. This isn't

HARRISON: the first time he's opened his mouth and inserted his foot. When we have people like him, and Pat Robertson, and Fred Phelps, the Family Council,

JIMMY CARPER: Lou Sheldon.

CHRIS --all these people. And I'm not ragging on religion.

HARRISON:

JIMMY CARPER: No.

CHRIS A lot of people just happen to have that fancy title of Reverend. There's a lot of people out there who don't have

HARRISON: that. When we've got Jesse Helms, and we've got Strom Thurmond, and we have all of these people who are out there saying, what? Negative and bad parts about us. And to come out here and try and put a positive spin. And I'll admit, sometimes we get crazy.

[LAUGHTER]

JIMMY CARPER: Sometimes.

BIG ROY: Crazy-- sometimes.

CHRIS Sometimes you might listen to us and go, what in the hell are they saying? This is supposed to be a positive
HARRISON: influence. And this is supposed to be a serious news show?

JIMMY CARPER: No way.

BIG ROY: Well--

CHRIS When we come out here, we're trying to entertain. We're trying to educate. Because if it wasn't for us, the only
HARRISON: time you would hear any talk about lesbians and what would be somewhat considered a wonderful thing is when it used to be the two clowns down the street from us here in the morning show would try and get two women together and then come on the show and talk about it.

BIG ROY: And not only that, but I want to tell you something else. No other radio station in this city promotes fundraisers for gay or straight causes.

JIMMY CARPER: That's right.

BIG ROY: None. No other radio show. We are it.

CHRIS And once again, we're seeing here with fundraising, and it's going to be covered a little bit in the interview we
HARRISON: have, through our community is great fundraisers. Our community is based on volunteerism. When the AIDS crisis began, no one was willing to step up. We had to step up and do it ourselves.

And there are a lot of gay organizations that are helping people in New York, in Washington because they know how to raise the funds. They know how to get it. And yeah, it may not look pretty sometimes-- some of the way we raise money, putting people like Roy in a dress and high heels. And thank god we--

JIMMY CARPER: Better that than the G-string.

CHRIS Here's the thing--
HARRISON:

BIG ROY: If gay Edgar Hoover could do it, I can.

CHRIS And that's why we need money for you because if--
HARRISON:

BIG ROY: To keep me out of a dress, huh?

CHRIS If not, Roy and I are going to be putting-- we're going to be putting on a drag show to raise money. And so get
HARRISON: ready, because I think you and Jack are going to have to do a duet.

BIG ROY: We have been putting our heads together. We have been conspiring on you and Jack, Jimmy.

JIMMY CARPER: I have to say something first--

BIG ROY: We'll it JJ.

JIMMY CARPER: I have to make a little correction to here. Because someone said that no other radio station promotes gay causes, but it's not true. There are a couple of large, commercial radio stations that not only promote the Pride parade but are in it.

CHRIS HARRISON: Yeah, it was the fundraising events-- the day-to-day fundraising there. Yes, there are a couple of commercial stations--

JIMMY CARPER: And by the way, it is the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender Pride parade, now.

BIG ROY: Oh, great.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes. You can thank Jack for that. So now, everyone, there is no longer going to be small T-shirts. They are going to have to be extra-large because fit all that printing on there.

BIG ROY: You can only wear my size, now.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, there you go.

CHRIS HARRISON: But no, we need you to call in with your pledge of support. Just let us know you're out there.

JIMMY CARPER: And that you support the station and this program.

CHRIS HARRISON: Yeah, because I mean, we want to be on another 14 years.

BIG ROY: Has it been 14?

JIMMY CARPER: It's been 14 years.

CHRIS HARRISON: Yeah, we're now getting--

JIMMY CARPER: Another 14 years are probably going to be a different producer and different host-- co-hosts and everything.

BIG ROY: Different, new show.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah. The show should go on, and on, and on. It's not me, and it's not any one of us that make this show what it is. It's everybody together. And it's been lots of different people over the years.

BIG ROY: And it has evolved, and it has grown. It is so different today than it was the day it first aired.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes. And in the next 14 years, it'll be different than-- totally different than it is, now.

BIG ROY: Speaking of that, did anybody ever send you a tape? Because I remember you asked if anybody had a tape of the first, original *After Hours*.

JIMMY CARPER: I have it.

BIG ROY: Oh, you got it?

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, I do have it.

BIG ROY: Oh.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

BIG ROY: You got to play some snippets of it for us, sometime. I have never heard.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, sometime I should. Yeah.

CHRIS HARRISON: Yeah. But call in when your pledge of support. The phone number 713-526-5738-- 713-JAM-KPFT.

JIMMY CARPER: That's right. Make Buddy Johnston proud.

BIG ROY: That's right. And I'll be out there to listening your calls. Chris won't because Chris has got a job to do in here.

JIMMY CARPER: And you will be here next month at this time, Big Roy, doing your own segment.

BIG ROY: Oh, that's right.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes. One of the changes, and I guess we can make it a little bit announcement of that. We're going to be-- what was *After Hours-- The Next Generation* is kind of changing. And I haven't told Roy with my suggestion of a name for it, but tentatively, maybe, *After Hours-- News and Views Magazine*.

BIG ROY: Ah, now, that's--

JIMMY CARPER: That's nice.

BIG ROY: That'd be really good because--

JIMMY CARPER: It's better than *After Hours-- The Old Farts*.

BIG ROY: Oh, oh, oh, oooh. Well, Chris, you're really no longer the *Next Generation* generation.

CHRIS HARRISON: Speaking *Next Generation*-- hey, hey, hey. Now, I've been watching *Next Generation* on TNN lately, and god, I still love Wesley Crusher.

BIG ROY: I know that, right?

CHRIS HARRISON: He still looks cute. And you know the sad thing? He's as old as I am, and he still looks cute.

JIMMY CARPER: And he's such a queen.

CHRIS HARRISON: Yeah, unfortunately, he is very protective that he says he's straight.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, I know.

CHRIS HARRISON: On one of his websites had it.

JIMMY CARPER: He says it constantly.

CHRIS Oh, yeah, he even had to say it in one of his little promos, there--

HARRISON:

JIMMY CARPER: I saw that.

CHRIS --where it's like--

HARRISON:

BIG ROY: Oh, honey, he's as straight as me.

CHRIS Yeah. Whatever it says-- when he goes there, whenever I saw this cute girl looking at me, I'd go, is she think

HARRISON: because I'm good-looking guy, or is it because I'm from Star Trek? And he goes god-- [BLEEP]. He's saying, damn it. And so it's like, you have to throw out that little part? I mean, we know you're on TNN, and the closest thing we've got to queer showing on TNN is some of the wrestlers.

JIMMY CARPER: Mmm. Let's not even go there. That's a whole other show.

CHRIS Oh, there's a whole chat room on that, honey. I read in on.

HARRISON:

BIG ROY: I know that, right?

CHRIS But call in with your pledge of support 713-526-5738--

HARRISON:

JIMMY CARPER: 713-JAM-KPFT.

CHRIS You're listening-- OK.

HARRISON:

JIMMY CARPER: Go ahead.

CHRIS You're listening to *After Hours*-- queer radio with attitude, KPFT Houston, KEOS College Station.

HARRISON:

JIMMY CARPER: We'll be right back.

JOAN DEVLIN: Hi, this is Joan Devlin. You're listening to KPFT's *Lesbian And Gay Voices*.

SPEAKER 1: We want to create the political climate for same-sex marriages.

SPEAKER 2: Let's just talk about some of this stuff.

SPEAKER 3: The neutron lesbian strikes again.

JOAN DEVLIN: We're going to be doing some radical radio right now.

SPEAKER 4: Legal changes decriminalizing gay sex.

SPEAKER 5: We celebrate the diversity.

JACK VALINSKI: Welcome to another edition of *Lesbian and Gay Voices*. This is Jack Valinski.

SPEAKER 6: It wasn't until I had lived with a woman for a year that it even occurred to me to ask, do you think we're lesbians?

SPEAKER 7: Civil rights for gays, the ending of don't ask, don't tell.

SPEAKER 8: Listen to *Lesbian and Gay Voices*.

SPEAKER 9: My prediction-- Al Gore, 276 electoral votes. George W. Bush, 262.

SPEAKER 10: That's *Lesbian and Gay Voices*, Mondays at 8:00 PM.

SPEAKER 11: (WHISPERING) I hear gay people.

JIMMY CARPER: That is becoming your theme song, isn't it?

CHRIS I like that one. It's-- I mean, it's a real-- it's kind of like this show. It's an eclectic mix.

HARRISON:

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

CHRIS I mean, you've got a little bit of soul, a little bit of Gospel. You've got that robustness that's almost dance-y.

HARRISON:

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, it's that-- what I do like to refer to as disco Gospel.

CHRIS Yeah, I could see that.

HARRISON:

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, it gets you going. And it's a feel-good kind of thing. Heather Small from--

CHRIS *Queer As Folk USA* soundtrack. And I'll be honest with you, after watching the *Queer as Folk* there, I didn't catch

HARRISON: where this song is played the first time I heard it. And it's one that you may not recognize if you've seen the series.

This is the background music during the ledge scene, when Michael and Brian are on the ledge playing Superman and Lois Lane, which is the takeoff from the British version, when it was-- the original version had the *Titanic* theme where the line was, why am I always Kate Winslet?

[LAUGHTER]

JIMMY CARPER: Well, welcome to--

CHRIS *After Hours-- News and Views Magazine*. Basically, we're going to-- this is our take of *Dateline*, and unfortunately,

HARRISON: we don't have a Stone Phillips.

JIMMY CARPER: Oooh.

CHRIS I knew that would get someone's motor running.

HARRISON:

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, it does. Yeah, that guy's kind of hot.

CHRIS HARRISON: But what we're basically going to be doing with this is taking a little bit closer look into some of the topics that go on in our community, not just a little quick blurb in the news. Today, we're going to be talking a lot about the impact of September 11 on our community. We're a talk show, basically, with a lot of music sprinkled in.

JIMMY CARPER: A queer variety show.

CHRIS HARRISON: Yeah. And the week afterwards, we did very much-- a lot of talking on the *Country Dyke* segment about September 11. And in a way, I guess you can say this interview we have is kind of a challenge from one of our listeners who basically said, well, none of you were there. None of you have any personal tie to it.

So we went out and we got somebody from New York at the New York City-- let me make sure I get these in the right order. Hold on. Let me look at my papers here-- Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered Community Center, which is, just looking at their website, this is a tremendous facility that they have. And we talk about how they're helping with September 11 and basically what they're all about up there, their Community Center. And I hope that we can get something like that here.

So we're going to have this interview where we started off with. And after that, we're going to be talking a little bit about EMPWR and the fact that it's National Coming Out Day coming up.

JIMMY CARPER: That's right. That's right. And that's why EMPWR is where it is, because it ties in with National Coming Out Day. And right around here, it's specific a national membership drive. And we are looking for your pledge of monetary support for *After Hours* and this station. So that number to call is 713-526-5738-- 526-KPFT to support this show. And this show is a whole lot of things, including this interview that's coming up right now. You ready, Chris?

CHRIS HARRISON: Yes, let's go to the DAT. Hello, and welcome to *After Hours News and Views Magazine*. I'm Chris Harrison, and with me is Jimmy Carper.

JIMMY CARPER: Hello.

CHRIS HARRISON: With the events of September 11, the world has looked closer at New York City and tried to get a feel of how New York is dealing with 9/11. Tonight, we also go in for a closer look and see how our community in New York is coping with the aftermath of that day and their return to some semblance of normal.

Joining us today is Richard Burns, Executive Director of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered Community Center of New York City. Welcome to *After Hours* and Texas, Mr. Burns.

RICHARD BURNS: Thank you.

CHRIS HARRISON: First of all, we just want to begin again with the general layout of the land. I was unaware, exactly, where our community sits in relation to the downtown of where this occurred-- the World Trade Center-- because I've never been in New York City. And if you could just give us an idea about where the Center is and something like Stonewall and the Village where our neighborhood is in New York in relationship to Ground Zero, as they call it.

RICHARD BURNS: Sure. Well, as you know, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people from all over the world flock to New York City for a variety of reasons-- for career reasons and for simply the opportunity to embrace the diversity and the vitality of New York. And so why in the past there might have been one or two gay neighborhoods in New York, now there really are openly gay people everywhere in New York.

The World Trade Center was located down at the southern tip of Manhattan on the West Side of the island. And as you know, it was a huge, huge complex. And literally thousands, and thousands, and thousands of people went through there every day. North of the World Trade Center area, which is also the general area of where City Hall is, north of that is a neighborhood called Tribeca. And then there's SoHo, and then there's Greenwich Village. And then above Greenwich Village is Chelsea.

And Tribeca, SoHo, Greenwich Village, and Chelsea might be neighborhood brand names that you might have heard of. Certainly, Greenwich Village has historically been a center of the lesbian, gay, bi, and trans movement. And it was at Sheridan Square, which is the intersection of Christopher Street and 7th Avenue, where the Stonewall riots took place in June of 1969.

The Center is a few blocks north of Sheridan Square. And we're located on West 13th Street, just off of 7th Avenue. And if you stood in the middle of 7th Avenue and looked south, well, three and a half weeks ago, you could have had a direct view of the two towers of the World Trade Center.

And on the morning of Tuesday, September 11, many of us were, indeed, standing on 7th Avenue looking south at the two towers in flames. And it was a terrifying experience and a convergence of community. I mean, the streets were filled with strangers-- gay and straight-- talking to one another and going inside to watch television and then coming outside again to look at it in our direct eyesight-- sight line.

So we are probably-- there is a subway line that runs down the West Side of Manhattan, goes through Times Square, and then Penn Station, Chelsea, comes into Greenwich Village, goes down into SoHo and Tribeca, and terminates at what was the World Trade Center complex. And so it's just a couple of subway stops south of here, although that portion of the subway near the World Trade Center has been destroyed. Those of you who have been to New York, that's the number 1 and the number 9. And that subway tunnel is one of the projects which must be rebuilt as part of the reconstruction of the World Trade Center area.

**CHRIS
HARRISON:**

It's hard to imagine the scope and scale coming from in Houston and just seeing the pictures, I mean, to be able to describe even just how the mass transit system is affected by this. We have nothing along those lines here in Houston. We look at what mass transit is, and it's lucky if you can find a bus, sometimes.

But to hear of-- I mean, of a few subways as a reference of moving around a town and seeing how close you were in proximity to this, that it's-- I mean, it just pales-- what we can imagine of this pales in comparison to the actual experience of watching all of this occur right in front of your eyes. And especially so close to all that, how's the community there dealing with this situation?

**RICHARD
BURNS:**

Well, I think our community has a lot of experience with adversity. Certainly, each individual who has confronted and struggled through the coming out process, the historical homophobia that members of our community has faced, and then, of course, the AIDS crisis that our community has faced are all past examples and current examples of how gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender people come together and give of themselves and build community to take care of one another in times of trouble. And I think that we've seen that again.

The Center, actually, has two locations. We own a 30,000-square-foot former high school building on 13th Street, as I said, off of 7th Avenue. But we also have a rental space right now several blocks west, just off of 9th Avenue. And those people who escaped from the World Trade Center and walked north from their offices, many of those people walked up the 9th Avenue Line and ended up on our corner in a neighborhood that is called the Meatpacking District.

Many of them had no idea where they were going. And members of our mental health and social services staff that day, while still in shock, went outside, set up just little folding tables with cases of water and were handing out little bottles of water. And the Meatpacking District is filled with food supply companies. And when they saw what our staff was doing, they brought cases, and cases, and cases of water out just to be part of the community.

And our staff handed out bottles of water to people who had been walking, and walking, and walking in their suits and ties up from the World Trade Center. And I was there for a while and had a chance to talk to some people who had gotten out of the building. And they were sort of disoriented.

And there'd be guys who had been in suits just there in T-shirts with their shirts thrown over their shoulders. And they'd be drinking water. And I said, well, what floor were you on? And they said, well, the 83rd floor. And I said, how did you guys get out? And they said, it actually was very orderly on their floor. Everybody got out-- was going down.

And they said, the firefighters were going up the other side of the staircase going up. And of course, at that time, none of us realized that all of those firefighters had indeed been killed in the course of their duty trying to save the lives of other people.

CHRIS HARRISON: One of the pictures I really thought was important was seeing was actually on the front cover of one of the British tabloid-size newspapers that apparently it was someone who was coming down the stairs at one of the World Trade Centers took a picture of a firefighter on his way up.

RICHARD BURNS: Wow.

CHRIS HARRISON: And he was, I would probably say, late 20s, 30s. And he had a look on his face that it's kind of hard to describe. It was like you could see the adrenaline running back there, but you saw a lot of concern.