

[MUSIC PLAYING]

DAN DELEON: Good evening. I'm Dan DeLeon.

KIM SEVIER: And I'm Kim Sevier, and you are watching TV Montrose.

DAN DELEON: And, Kim, it's great to have you back for this episode.

KIM SEVIER: Thank you. Thank you so much. It feels great to be back here. I missed it. It's fun to cover for Suzanne who is in the South Pacific somewhere. I'm not sure if it's Yap or Pilau or Guam maybe, but somewhere in Micronesia and trading stone money or lying on a beach or somewhere having a fabulous vacation.

DAN DELEON: Rumor has it, she's doing the sequel to South Pacific.

KIM SEVIER: Oh my god, my agent didn't even tell me about that.

DAN DELEON: I never knew could sing.

KIM SEVIER: Suzanne's always had an end in I just never have had.

DAN DELEON: You got me. Well, things have been going well for you?

KIM SEVIER: Well, yeah, but not as well as Suzanne.

DAN DELEON: Tonight, we have another really packed show for you.

KIM SEVIER: That's right. Let's get right into it.

DAN DELEON: Our first story is our day-long coverage of World AIDS Day events that took place on December 1.

KIM SEVIER: Let's go right to Jama Shelton and three events that she's covered.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

JAMA SHELTON: Hi, we are here at the Ensemble Theater where we are beginning our coverage for World AIDS Day, Day Without Art. Here at the Ensemble, there's a ceremony for artists who have been lost to HIV. There are people from all over different theaters. We have a huge group of kids from Robert E. Lee High School here in Houston, and the lineup of speakers is just incredible.

We have Sarah Spear Silver, AIDS Foundation Houston executive director. We have Deborah Dannenberg, state representative, of course. We have Anice Parker, Angela Mora, the executive director of Amigos Volunteers in Education and Service. We have James Campbell from the *Houston Chronicle*. Audrey Gassama, the executive director of the Loving Arms Foundation, and we have Michael Crawford, a Houston artist living with HIV.

MICHAEL CRAWFORD: Well, I think that if you want to know the reality of AIDS, you don't go to a politician who can only tell you the number of dollars that have been spent on the epidemic. You don't go to the executive director of an AIDS service organization who can only tell you the number of people that they think are infected.

And you don't go to a journalist who will only be able to regurgitate the information that he's been provided by the politicians and the AIDS service organizations. I think for me, the reality of AIDS is that it's infected my body. I'm living with it daily. I'm fighting against it with every ounce of strength that I have, and that I will conquer it.

ANDREW EDMONDSON: We've been doing this event for about four years, and each year, the theme is different. But this year, we specifically wanted to focus on the impact AIDS has had on African-American and Hispanic communities right here in Texas. People tend to think, oh, it's a disease that only affects gay males or IV drug users.

But what you're seeing as we enter year 17 and 18 of the AIDS crisis is it's really hitting African-Americans and Hispanics hard. AIDS is now the leading cause of death for Black men between the ages of 25 and 44. It's the second leading cause of death for African-American women between the ages of 25 and 44. 20% of all new HIV infections are with the Latino population.

JAMA SHELTON: Also at the Ensemble Theater was a commemoration to artists that have lost their lives to AIDS. Several local artists that have died were lovingly remembered by their colleagues. Each speaker had a warm story to tell about the talents and the bravery of each artist, as well as the special contributions that they made to the community. Some of these stories were very heart touching. Also, there was a presentation by Loving Arms of quilts remembering children who have died of AIDS.

Now, let's take a look at what happened at the West Gray Multi-Service Center, where they had a Christmas tree memorial for those who have died of AIDS.

The tree of remembrance is a Christmas-oriented ceremony which allows for friends and families of those who have died of AIDS to place a Christmas ornament on a tree of remembrance in memory of a fallen loved one. There were three trees provided for the several dozen people that attended. Many of the ornaments displayed the names and/or photos of those being remembered. There was also an opportunity for people to write poems and messages of remembrance on posters. Let's take a moment of reflection for all those who have died of AIDS.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

The trees of remembrance and the posters will be on display at the West Gray Multi-Service Center through December, and anyone may add an ornament through Christmas. Our next stop for World AIDS Day took us to Theater Lab, where QUac, the Queer Artists Collective, performed their original play entitled, *I Think I'm Paranoid*.

The play featured several skits based upon several well-known movies, including *War of The Worlds*, *Poltergeist*, *The Exorcist*, *Fantastic Voyage*, and *Aliens*. QUac played upon elements of paranoia in these movies to expose the paranoia around the AIDS virus. Let's take a look now at some clips from *I Think I'm Paranoid*. And, yes, the one in the blonde wig is yours truly.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

ACTOR 1: Ladies and gentlemen, we interrupt our program at dance music to bring you a special bulletin from the Intercontinental Radio News. An unknown particle, possibly a deadly and highly contagious virus, has been discovered in a remote part of upstate New Hampshire. No further details are available at this time.

JAMA SHELTON: Those men loving men. Women loving women. Sodomite. Homosexual centers of our world. Help put a stop to the destruction they are causing. The unholy bodily fluids they are unnaturally packing. The communities they destroy. The sickness they breed, which will put it into our world.

ACTOR 2: Not the apocalypse.

JAMA SHELTON: The apocalypse is near, my friends, just like God sent the great flood and the great life that knocks Saul off this horse on the road to Damascus. This gay sickness that is invading our world. The AIDS is a sign from God. Omar, our lost brother, black sheep, possibly possessed by the devil. How else would you explain this behavior, but we love him anyway. Love the sinner, hate the sin.

MICHAEL: Yes, sister. Yes, sister.

JAMA SHELTON: Brother Michael has something he would like to say to us this evening.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

MICHAEL: Supreme sister, I want to ask you two say because I am possessed by the demons of homosexuality. I am the gay. I burn with lust for other men, sister.

JAMA SHELTON: Oh, my. We have one in our midst tonight. A homosexual.

MAN: Save him, sister!

JAMA SHELTON: But you too can be saved and experience the love of God and be transformed out of your homosexual lifestyle. Get down on your knees, Brother Michael, and beg the Lord to heal you.

ENSEMBLE: (SINGING) When you call my name, it's like a little prayer. I'm down on my knees.

JAMA SHELTON: I feel I have done my duties this evening, brothers and sisters, by touching this one poor suffering homosexual soul. And just like him, I encourage the rest of the people like him to get right with the Lord. We must be weary of these people because we never know what they will do. Hell, they will try to give us their disease and take over our world.

MAN: They're evil, sister.

JAMA SHELTON: Be weary and be paranoid, but reach out to them just the same.

ENSEMBLE: (SINGING) Stop in the name of God before he strikes you down. Think it over. Think it over. Stop!

JAMA SHELTON: As you can see, we have had a very full day of events for World AIDS Day. And I would just like to say that World AIDS Day should not just be December 1 every year, not just one day. We should fight this hard and educate this much 365 days a year. I am Jama Shelton reporting for *TV Montrose*.

DAN DELEON: We all probably know, someone that has been affected by the AIDS virus in one manner or another.

KIM SEVIER: That's right, Dan. And Houston unfortunately has lost a large number of talented artists to this horrible disease.

DAN DELEON: Well, now we're going to take a short commercial break.

KIM SEVIER: And when we get back, we're going to pay tribute to an artist that died only two days after *TV Montrose* produced a story about him and the Houston pride band.

DAN DELEON: We'll be right back.

ALL: You are watching *TV Montrose*!

[CHEERING]

[MUSIC PLAYING]

MAN: Are you still using your parents' insurance agent? How good is your insurance if you're not comfortable talking to your agent? At the Schmerler Insurance Agency, we understand the special needs that special couples have. We ensure the autos, homes, and businesses of people just like you all over the Houston area. We also handle health insurance, life insurance, renters insurance, and any other insurance needs you may have.

JEFFREY BULES: I'm Jeffrey Bules.

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

SCHMERLER:

MAN: The Schmerler insurance agency is here for you.

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

investment that you will ever make, and I am always amazed at how casually people select a realtor. They'll call the name off of a sign or take the name of a friend of a friend.

To be a good realtor, you have to be a good listener. And I've listen to my clients and I customize my services to fit your needs. We listen, present creative solutions, and help you make decisions in buying or selling a home.

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

WILL PENDARVIS: Hi, I'm Will Pendarvis from *1075 The Morning Buzz* and you are watching *TV Montrose*.

PENDARVIS:

KIM SEVIER: Only a few weeks ago, we ran a story about the Houston Pride Band.

DAN DELEON: We did the story because the conductor of the band, Irvin Decker, was very passionate about us covering the 10th anniversary party for the band.

KIM SEVIER: That's right. And sadly, only two days after Irvin's interview, he passed away.

DAN DELEON: Because of our World AIDS Day coverage tonight, it seems most appropriate that we honor Irvin with a replay of the story he wanted us so much to do.

KIM SEVIER: And unfortunately, a story that he did not live to see.

DAN DELEON: In memory of Irvin and all artists that have died this year to AIDS, this story is for them.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

FRED Tonight, we're at the Hollyfield Foundation where a group of gay and lesbian musicians have gathered to

WALTERS, JR.: celebrate the 20th anniversary of both the Gay Men's Chorus and the Houston Pride Band. What's the Houston Pride Band, you ask? Let's walk around and find out.

PIERRE TEJADA: We're having the 20th anniversary reunion party for all the members that have been in the bands here in the Houston area.

FRED Which bands?

WALTERS, JR.:

PIERRE TEJADA: Well, it started out originally as the Montrose Marching Band, then went to Monterey Symphonic Band, then Lone Star Symphonic Band, and now Houston Pride Band. The names changed, but it's the same people.

FRED How many members have come through the Houston Pride Band?

WALTERS, JR.:

PIERRE TEJADA: Oh, gosh. I'm sure that's up in the hundreds. I don't know an exact number. We'd have to ask the registrar over there, but it's well over 100 people.

FRED What are your goals for the next few years?

WALTERS, JR.:

DEBBIE HUNT: Well, we want to get out in the community a little more. Unfortunately, we've spent a lot of time practicing on getting our musical skills up-to-date, and it hasn't been a good time for us to get out in the community and do a lot of music. Now we're ready to get back out and perform. And so we're looking forward, especially starting next year, to doing a lot of community events, things that people don't have to pay money to come see, and just get out there and play music for the people.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

FRED Connie, you used to play in the Houston Pride Band and the Pride Parade, right?

WALTERS, JR.:

CONNIE You bet. I've been a member of the Houston Pride Band since 1988 for about 10 years now. And I've marched

MOORE: every year in the Pride Parade with the band. I came out in 1986 and my first Pride parade was a very emotional thing. And I guess it was my third year that I was actually marching with the band and it's just been an incredible experience.

FRED How many people marched in the parade with you?

WALTERS, JR.:

CONNIE MOORE: Oh, it varies. One year, we had about five. And then we've had about 40 before. We often have members of the Oakland band from Dallas come down and march with us. Marching in the parade is probably one of the highlights of our year in one perspective. We're really not a marching band, OK? We're a concert band, we're a lazy kind of group of people, we like to have fun. But one of the things that really gives us the most pleasure is getting out in the community. And when we do the Pride Parade, it's one of the most visible events that we have.

FRED Where abouts do you all play in the community?

WALTERS, JR.:

IRVIN DECKER: Well, for our Christmas season, we're doing here at the Hollyfield Center, of course, and then we're playing at the tree lighting at Mary's, and we're going to do something for P Flag, we're doing Galveston on the strand again this year. And weekdays, we're doing the Galleria on December 16, doing holiday music there.

FRED It sounds like y'all are getting more and more well-known, just not in the gay community, but in the straight

WALTERS, JR.: community as well.

IRVIN DECKER: --my job I want to show-- give vision to the group and hopefully get some growth in membership and growth of exposure.

J. DAVID We have to be celebrating our 20th anniversary season as well this year and we're going to call it back to the

FABER: concert at the rhythm center at June 19. As it is, we are working on a program for December 5 and 6 called Way Out West. And so you're going to hear some cowboy tunes tonight. Think of New Orleans.

[MUSIC - "GHOST RIDERS IN THE SKY"]

ENSEMBLE: (SINGING) Yippie-aye-ay, yippie-aye-oh. The ghost herd in the sky. Their brands were still on fire and their hooves was made of steel. Their parts was black and shiny and their hot breath we could feel. A bolt of fear went through him as they thundered through the sky. He saw the riders coming hard and heard their mournful cry. Yippie-aye-ay!

IRVIN DECKER: It doesn't matter if you haven't played for years. You pick your instant up again, you'll be amazed how easily it comes back. And also, playing music is very therapeutic. We do it because it feels good, not because we're getting paid big bucks or anything like that. It's a very satisfying experience. So if anybody is interested, they can use my phone number as a contact, 713-526-3881. And we have a website. It's Houstxband-- H-O-U-S-T-X-B-A-N-D --@aol.com.

FRED As you can see, the celebration is still going on behind me. And I have to tell you, this band is really good. I've

WALTERS, JR.: never heard them before. Tonight's celebration was also made special by singing from the Gay Men's Chorus. Now both groups are not going to stay in Montrose for long. They're being asked to sing in both the gay, lesbian, and straight communities. So look for both groups to go a lot of places soon. This is Fred Walters, Jr., reporting live from *TV Montrose*.

[MUSIC - "THE YELLOW ROSE OF TEXAS"]

ENSEMBLE: (SINGING) There's a yellow rose in Texas that I am going to see. I'll kiss her when I find her and treat her tenderly. She cry so when I left her and like to grow by heat. And if I ever find her, we never more apart. She's the sweetest rose in Texas, the best I ever knew. Her eyes are bright as diamond--

KIM SEVIER: Irvin worked very diligently for his band, and he had a personal drive to achieve excellence that we can all admire.

DAN DELEON: Now we're going to take our last short commercial break of the night.

KIM SEVIER: That's right. And when we get back, we're going to the gym to watch some exciting gay volleyball.

DAN DELEON: And we'll be going to the movies.

KIM SEVIER: We'll be right back.

MARIA TODD: Hi, I'm Maria Todd from 104 KRBE and you're watching *TV Montrose*. Mwah!

[MUSIC PLAYING]

ANNOUNCER: Lobo Bookshop and Cafe, Houston's only exclusively gay and lesbian bookstore, serving the gay and lesbian community for 25 years. Lobo carries a full spectrum of fiction and non-fiction books, including the largest selection of used books in Houston and also the largest selection of theatrical movies and other videos of interest to gays and lesbians. Lobo offers a wide selection of cards for any occasion and plenty of merchandise to select gifts for others or yourself.

And there's nothing better than a cup of fresh brewed coffee at the Lobo Cafe. Select from 40 flavors and a menu of specialty coffees. The Lobo Cafe also carries fresh made sandwiches and a wide assortment of desserts including cheesecakes and cookies. For videos, magazines, and merchandise exclusively of interest to the gay and lesbian community, there is no other place like Lobo Bookshop and Cafe.

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

ALL: You are watching *TV Montrose*!

DAN DELEON: TV monitors has a new reporter.

KIM SEVIER: Let's welcome Carlos Campos who's joined our reporter team. And his first story takes us to the University of St. Thomas.

DAN DELEON: And there, he found the Lone Star volleyball league in sweaty practice.

KIM SEVIER: Let's take a look and see how he did on his first story.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

CARLOS CAMPOS: No, this isn't a flashback to your high school gym days. We're at the University of St. Thomas which, every

Sunday evening, hosts the gay men's volleyball league. A lot of fastballs and sweaty men. What skill levels do you look for? What do you look for in a player?

DENNY LAVEY: OK, in the intermediate beginner sessions, everyone is just new to the game. So we try to train them and we have people with higher level of skills that help bring along their fundamental skill levels.

CARLOS So then you do help them out and do some coaching as well?

CAMPOS:

DENNY LAVEY: Right, we have coaching available, and we also have a clinic 6:30 to 7:30 every Sunday that they're welcome to attend.

CARLOS Houston has the honor of hosting the 1999 NAGVA championship. Can you tell us a little bit about that?

CAMPOS:

JIM CAIN: Well, Houston beat out four other cities for the honor of holding the championships-- Miami, Vegas, and Long Beach. North American Gay Volleyball Association-- that's what NAGVA stands for-- is a association of basically league tournaments from around the country where we go and travel the United States.

CARLOS How many players do you expect in Houston?

CAMPOS:

JIM CAIN: It's usually between 100 to 120 teams of six to seven players.

CARLOS Volleyball is a pretty competitive sport. What do you get out of it, Ric?

CAMPOS:

RIC CHAMBERS: Friends. Lots of friends. Great sportsmanship here, a place for everybody to come and have fun. There's no other place in town where you can be gay and go and play volleyball and not have to worry about putting up a front in front of people. The stress of worrying about where is he going to think if my other half walks in or how would you feel if I was to hug my partner here-- you don't have none of that here.

Everybody here is very loving, we're all very caring people, we treat everybody exactly the same. We've had people transgendered here. We don't care. The thing is you can come here, you can be yourself and not have to worry about any of the outside problems.

CARLOS So this is a great place to meet people?

CAMPOS:

RIC CHAMBERS: If you want to do that.

CARLOS Meet your other half.

CAMPOS:

RIC CHAMBERS: I met my other half here. Yes, I did.

CARLOS All right. Well, there you have it. What more do you need? Come and meet your next boyfriend here.

CAMPOS:

[MUSIC PLAYING]

Is volleyball an expensive hobby?

JIM CAIN: Not really if you consider the amount of time that you get to play for what you're paying for. Any first time member gets their first evening free just to see if they like what they're doing with what we're doing. Your first season is basically half price what a normal season would be. And a season runs anywhere from 10 to 12 weeks. It's normally \$50 for that 10 to 12 weeks, which we take half price down to \$25.

CARLOS CAMPOS: Is there are a lot of injuries on the court?

JIM CAIN: Very few. We basically rate everybody as they come in at a level where we feel they're going to be able to play safely so that there are no injuries.

CARLOS CAMPOS: For a little bit of exercise and a whole lot of fun, come join the Houston Gay Men's Volleyball League and don't forget to mark on your calendar in May, the NAGVA, North American Gay Volleyball Association Tournament at the George R. Brown Convention Center. From the University of St. Thomas, this is Carlos Campos for TV Montrose.

DAN DELEON: It is time to go to the movies.

KIM SEVIER: I'm ready.

DAN DELEON: Really great reviews on this one. So let's roll it.

KIM SEVIER: Cool.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

HANNA: Oh, Mr. Whale. There is much good in him, but he will suffer the fires of hell. It's very sad.

CLAYTON You sure of that?

BOONE:

HANNA: That's what the priest tell me. His sins of the flesh will keep him from heaven.

CLAYTON Hell, everybody's got those.

BOONE:

HANNA: No, his is the worst. The unspeakable. The deed no man can name without shame. What is the good English? All I know is bugger. He's a bugger. Men who bugger each other.

CLAYTON A homo?

BOONE:

HANNA: Yes, you know. That is why he must go to hell. I do not think it's fair. But God's laws is not for us to judge.

CLAYTON So what you're telling me is that Mr. Whale is a homo.

BOONE:

HANNA: You did not know?

KIM SEVIER: It's going to be a great show.

DAN DELEON: So to get your free passes for the December 16 screen, just call *TV Montrose* tomorrow.

KIM SEVIER: That's right. We only have a few dozen of the 100 passes left. So act fast so you can have a few *TV Montrose* is always looking for people to help out with the show. If you're interested, give us a call.

DAN DELEON: And we can never have too many advertisers. So if you want to be a part of *TV Montrose*, then give us a call and tell us what you have to offer *TV Montrose*. I'm Dan Deleon.

KIM SEVIER: And I'm Kim Sevier. Thanks for being with us. Good night.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

CARLOS CAMPOS: For a little bit of exercise and a whole lot of fun, come join the Houston Gay Men's Volleyball League. And don't forget to mark on your calendar in May, the NAGVA, National North American-- and don't forget to mark on your calendars in May, the NAGVA, North American Gay Men's-- Coming up in May at the George R. Brown Convention Center, the NAGVA, North American Gay Men's Association. God.

[MUSIC PLAYING]