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SPEAKERS

Kay Harper, Jeff Mackey



00:06

Hello and welcome to AIDS focus. I'm Mike alkali,



00:09

and I met binder. This is the weekly national news magazine that brings you the latest news and information on the global epidemic. In this edition of Athan focus first, we'll look at the response to the administration's cuts to the AIDS research budget.



00:23

We still have no comprehensive plan for basic research. no progress at all has been made in the quest to restore damaged immune systems.



00:32

And then we'll look at one of the few British program that targets prostituted women for HIV and AIDS outreach



00:40

tend to be an early experience the best consumers of safer sex information for



00:44

first this aids



00:45

update. The Hoffman LaRoche drug company announced this past week that it will make its experimental AIDS drug DDC available to about 8000 More people than are getting it now. The move came two weeks after the Food and Drug Administration asked underground buyers clubs to stop selling bootleg DDC because of alleged quality problems. LaRoche spokesperson Paul Ostreicher says the DDC will be available free of charge to patients who qualify, their physicians must simply call accompany 800 number I think we're breaking new ground as far as trying to make this as easy for the physician and patient as possible. We want to act as quickly as we can to provide a bridge for these patients to so that they may receive their their DDC until we receive clearance for marketing by the FDA. People who are asymptomatic but have T cell counts less than 200 will be eligible for the free DDC. Also people who are symptomatic with T cell counts under 300 will be included. patient advocates praise LaRoche for widening access for the drug, but they say some of the qualifications are too restrictive. Larry Tate of project informs as as many as 4000 people who bought DDC through buyers clubs will be shut out of the company's program, what they are doing is creating publicity that seems to suggest that there is no further need for Buyers Club DTC because everyone is taken care of. You know, I mean, anybody who's asymptomatic but more than 200 T cell doesn't qualify for this. Which means if you took DDC when you had lower T cells and your T cells went over 200, you're no longer qualified. Tait says the best solution to the DDC availability problem is for the FDA to approve it. The company expects that to happen by this summer. US government drugs are Bob Martinez came out against needle exchange programs, saying there's no proof they helped combat aids. In his speech in San Diego this past week. Martinez said that studies show that only about 10% of drug users regularly return dirty needles for clean ones. But at the same time, Martinez was making his speech a new needle exchange program was just starting up in San Diego with the blessings of city and county officials. Soon Alou a lawyer with the San Diego County Task Force on AIDS challenges, Martinez statistics and his perspective. He's coming at the problem from a law enforcement perspective. Whereas other individuals who have really been involved in community education around the issue of HIV and needle sharing have come out and said point blank, that it's tantamount to medical malpractice to not have a needle exchange program in some communities. And I think it's really a question of the legislators deciding really what is their first priority going to be? That's an Alou of the Legal Aid Society in San Diego. The United Nations released a report this past week that linked the depletion of the world's ozone layer to increased risks for AIDS. The report says the 5% increase in ultraviolet radiation expected with the reduced ozone layer could cause general immune system problems in many people. For people who are HIV positive, the report says the results could be worse symptoms and shorter lifespans. Those conclusions are based on research with animals exposed to ultraviolet radiation. That research shows that HIV and other viruses can actually be activated from dormancy by the radiation in San Francisco Annette binder.



04:38

The top aids researcher in the nation, Anthony Fauci of the National Institutes for Health warn congress this past week that President Bush's proposed aids budget will only prolong the epidemic. The administration's plan to cut AIDS research by 25% will, according to Fauci, add another two to three years to finding A medical cure and an AIDS vaccine. Susan Carter reports from Capitol Hill, President Bush's



05:05

1993 proposed budget for AIDS research is \$873 million. That's significantly lower than the request of nearly \$1.2 billion from the National Institutes of Health. Researchers say this means that there won't be adequate funding for new initiatives or ongoing research. Anthony Fauci, Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, explains that the cuts would be quite damaging, there would be the



05:29

construction and the renovation of the facilities to conduct HIV research at the extramural level is essentially put on hold. A considerable amount of investigator initiated research will have to be less than two we will not be able to fund up to the level that we think is scientifically justifiable. Also, the training initiatives and career awards would be decreased the collaborative intramural program would be decreased. The animal model, non primate animal model development for vaccine would be caught.



06:07

Max Essex, chairman of the Harvard AIDS Institute argues that through extensive research, scientists have been able to learn more about HIV than any other virus, as six adds that while the medical community doesn't yet know what causes AIDS, significant progress has been made.



06:21

We now know that HIV evolves through genetic mutation in a single person. So the virus present when disease occurs five or 10 years later, is different than the one that caused the infection. We also know that at least two classes of AIDS viruses exist HIV one found throughout the world, and HIV two, which is still relatively limited in his spread. HIV two appears to be less lethal and more closely related to older viruses present in African monkeys that are less deadly



06:58

as excess that the basic research on HIV provides the best way to learn new genetic principles that can be applied to curing cancer and other genetic diseases. Scientists say that a decrease in AIDS research funding will also affect the rate at which remedies or cures or even an AIDS vaccine can be found. One of the reasons cited by the Bush administration for the cut in funding is due to research competition. Because private medical facilities and organizations conduct their own research, scientists who receive funds from the federal government say they're being shortchanged. This in turns in the scientist is why the government has the impression that more funding for AIDS research is going disproportionately compared to other areas of research, like cancer or heart disease. Again, Anthony Fauci of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases,



07:43

something that is disturbing to me as as the person who's responsible for trying to coordinate the research effort is that there is this perception and it's real. And we've seen it at several levels, unfortunately, including the level of the Congress. And I'm concerned that there is an attitude now that AIDS has essentially done very well which in many respects they have, and therefore, there's not going to be the kinds of increases at the congressional level. David Barr,



08:16

Assistant Director of Policy at the Gay Men's Health Crisis in New York City, is gay and is infected with the HIV virus by argues that the problem is not the cost of research, but the priorities.



08:28

We still have no comprehensive plan for basic research. no progress at all has been made in the quest to restore damaged immune systems, we still have very little understanding of the pathogenesis of HIV disease, which severely limits the capability to explore new avenues for cure or a vaccine. The ability to treat and prevent many AIDS related opportunistic infections remains far out of reach. Further, while the number of deaths from cancer and heart disease have remained stable or have declined over the last 10 years, that's for me, it's continued to rise at alarming rates. But the comparisons are unnecessary and insulting to people with cancer and AIDS like give us one day of the Pentagon's budget, and we can adequately fund the entire biomedical research effort.



09:12

Barr says that research is the only weapon for fighting the AIDS epidemic. I'm Susan Carter in Washington.



09:22

West London is the home to one of the few agencies that targets prostitute women for HIV and AIDS outreach. The Kraid Street project in Paddington offers checkups and treatment for sexually transmitted diseases, including the AIDS antibody test. Louise Hansen, a support worker at the project was recently interviewed by Marianne Craig



09:43

Well, I think that prostitutes are part of a larger group which is at risk and that is people with large numbers of heterosexual sexual partners. What makes prostitutes rather different to that general group is that prostitutes tend to be in our experience the best consumers of safer sex. Information, and also people who are very keen to promote safer sex because obviously prostitutes want to look after their bodies as it's their source of income. How can a prostitute

practice these texts and sell mine which anyone else can practice safe effects. The factors which makes someone a prostitute how you the exchanging of money in relation to sexual acts, doesn't make the virus any more virulent and doesn't make the types of sex that you need to have for it to be safe or any different so it's really be talking about if it's penetrative sex, using a condom, and some prostitutes that come to the project used to condoms, one on top of the other and even considering using three non penetrative sex. Some of the women for example, give a dominance service, which means tying someone up or insulting them that sort of thing or spanking them. And some women use other imaginative and fantasy types of sex which don't involve penetration. In fact, we found that prostitutes tend to know about a vast and wide range of other types of safer sex other than penetrative sex, which might be very valuable for the wider community to hear about. The prototype project also carried out to start to explore the relationship between lifestyle and sexually transmitted disease. Researchers surveyed 91 prostitute women who attended the Paddington clinic and found that they practiced safer sex with clients than the fourth, and they found no evidence that prostitutes fairly high rates of change of client were placing them at special risk of infection from HIV. I asked Louise Hanson whether current laws support the work of health agencies in promoting safe attacks in the sector industry. Unfortunately, no. In our experience, we found that the effects of the prostitution laws are exactly to the detriment of any efforts to promote safer sex, and certainly to the detriment of the efforts of the women who work as prostitutes to ensure their own safety and the safety of their customers. In fact, the whole law in this country is called the suppression system, which means this, although it's not illegal to be a prostitute, all the things that you need to be a prostitute are illegal. The law attempts to hide or do evidence of prostitution, because it's considered distasteful and a nuisance. The result of this, of course, is that prostitutes cannot openly advertise a safer sexual service as they can, in some other countries states in Australia, for example, there's been an intensified police crackdown on prostitution recently, particularly in London. Many people believe that this is the most effective way of minimizing the spread of AIDS and that prostitution should be wiped out altogether. I think this is a very naive view and one in which if you actually talk to the policeman, they'll even tell you that they're not getting rid of the problem. They're pushing it on to someone else's area. Actually, intensive policing nearly removes women from areas where they're in contact with supportive agencies and health agencies, and puts them somewhere where they're further marginalized and isolated. workers at the Paddington project and others like it in Manchester and Edinburgh, do valuable outreach work distributing free condoms and health information. It tried to support the working woman in the streets and to lessen her vulnerability. This is my own crib in London.



13:28

And that's it for this edition of AIDS in focus. This



13:30

program was produced as a public service by the AIDS radio network at the studios of Pacifica station. KPFA.



13:36

partial funding is provided by a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.



13:40

Our audio engineer is Jenny Schwartz. A special thanks to the Pacifica news bureau and the Women's International news gathering service. If you have any



13:48

comments about this program, drop us a line at AIDS infocus 1929 Martin Luther King Jr. Way Berkeley, California 94704.



13:58

And if you want a copy of this program, call 1-800-725-0230 and ask for program number 193
Thanks for listening



Kay Harper 14:17

and you've been listening to that on KPFT 90.1 Houston after hours a continuing tradition. And I still put it in the wrong order. KPFT Houston 90.1 I need to write things down.



Jeff Mackey 14:33

Yes, you think that would be in here somewhere but



Kay Harper 14:37

Oh, well. Yes. How about music?



14:40

How about that?



Kay Harper 14:53

Yeah, wouldn't that neat? That's Sweet Honey in the Rock.



14:58

Sweet Honey in the Rock.

K Kay Harper 15:00
Oh yeah, they are such an incredible group. Lots of energy there. Although since they're acapella doesn't have quite the same driving beat that Patti LaBelle had when she was telling us to fluff up,

J Jeff Mackey 15:15
fluff up. I like that. And then she says on Sunday, you just simply have to say so just because it's easy for you to say,

K Kay Harper 15:22
really. And that was Patti LaBelle and her song love never dies. Yes. Well, it's it's so strange. This is the first time I've done a three hour show. I know. It's like, I've got 20 minutes left. That doesn't seem like very long.

J Jeff Mackey 15:39
I know. It's very strange. I sitting out there drinking coffee is as though I had

K Kay Harper 15:44
an hour and 20 minutes to go. Yeah, yeah. So we have a few more announcements that we need to make.

J Jeff Mackey 15:51
Yes, yes, a few more things. We wanted to let people know about that. Or they're coming up that you want to get involved with. Something that's near and dear to the hearts of several of us here gay and lesbian switchboard. Houston will be having training for it's fallen for new volunteers. This will be happening over two weekends, march 20 21st, and 22nd and the 28th and 29th. So that's coming up very soon. For more information to sign up where to get more information about the class you can call the switchboard at 5293211. Also, if you want to call the switchboard for information, referrals to organizations, businesses, etc, that serves the community. That's what the switchboard is, therefore, at that number 5293211. The Montrose softball league has a membership meeting coming up on Sunday, March 8, that's today. Later today 4pm at EA Jays for more information calls. Marvin Peter minutes 6923449

K Kay Harper 17:11
AJs is on Westheimer at Ralph right across this. Ralph is the street that runs Ralph at Westheimer. Yeah, it's on Ralph. It's right across the street from Dream merchant. Yes. Yes.

westheimer. Yeah, it's on Ralph. It's right across the street from Dream Merchant. Yes. Yes. Quite an interesting juxtaposition of businesses, right? They're

J Jeff Mackey 17:29

very true, very true. But if you're wanting to go out and play softball, versus men's league, or

K Kay Harper 17:36

if you want to go out and watch men play softball, I know some people who like doing that.

 17:42

Yes. name any names,

K Kay Harper 17:45

but one of them is turning pink right there.

J Jeff Mackey 17:50

Okay, um, there's something new. There's been some roller skating for a while here. fairly recent. The Houston outdoors group is sponsoring something indoors. Ice skating at the Galleria skating rink. This is on Tuesday, March 10. You can cast your vote in the primary and then you can do ice skating to celebrate for information you can call their their wonderful number. I know it's my MP o ut that's camp out. camp out K M K camp out with a K.

K Kay Harper 18:31

Out there queens. They don't necessarily have to be able to swap. Actually, they're not all queens. There's a fair number of women who are involved in this organization. Yes,

J Jeff Mackey 18:38

it's a very diverse group, but very active. I do a lot of interesting things. So ice skating, for people who want to try. I haven't I finally I skated once in my life. I need to give that another shot. So

K Kay Harper 18:52

I have weak ankles. It doesn't work very well. But that that's on Tuesday, Super Tuesday. Yes. Instead of watching election returns. You can go ice skating?

J Jeff Mackey 19:04
Yes, you can show that you're just above it all that do vote. Do vote be that much above it all. Please go out and cast your vote.

K Kay Harper 19:12
Yes. And we were going to talk about our remaining major Democratic candidate. That's right, Mr. Paul Tsongas with the Tet silent T.

J Jeff Mackey 19:22
Yes. Tsongas Paul Tsongas was a senator from Massachusetts. He

K Kay Harper 19:30
1978 to 84. I have dates in here.

J Jeff Mackey 19:35
We're working from different pieces of information here. And he

K Kay Harper 19:38
was a US Representative from 1974 until 1978.

J Jeff Mackey 19:42
He left office when he had cancer. Yeah. Understand correctly and left to to fight that and now is evidently completely in remission.

K Kay Harper 19:55
Yeah, he's not had any kind of cancer related problems in five years. yours, which, pretty much like they decide is, is in remission.

J Jeff Mackey 20:07
So he's getting back into politics where they run for the presidency. He has an extremely strong record on gay and lesbian issues. He says that if he's elected, he will support a comprehensive

AIDS policy, including increased funding for Care Research and Education. He's lobbied President Bush to fully fund the Ryan White AIDS funding bill. It's also stated in speeches and campaign literature that he strongly supports the gay and lesbian community and has campaigned position papers on gay and lesbian rights and AIDS. A lot of this is from from the current campaign, but in the past, he has supported the Massachusetts gay and lesbian civil rights bill, which was, like one of the

K

Kay Harper 20:55

most comprehensive in the country comprehensive. Yeah, yeah. complete protection. He also wrote and sponsored the lesbian and gay rights, civil rights bill before the House, House, Senate 1979. He was in the Senate, so he must have sponsored it in the Senate. But he he's done a lot for our community. He supports the civil rights bill, as opposed to caps on damages awards for women.

J

Jeff Mackey 21:26

Yes, he supports and into homophobic and aids phobic immigration policies as well. Hey, supports the rights of gays and lesbians to become foster parents.

K

Kay Harper 21:36

Yeah, he's he's really very pro gay, lesbian issues. Yes.

J

Jeff Mackey 21:41

Lots of gold stars on that front.

K

Kay Harper 21:44

Yes. And he supported the continuing sanctions against Iraq and was not in favor of going to war. And in the Middle East. As a senator, he oppose the B one bomber and the MX missile. And he's very much in favor of nuclear freeze. He, while he was in the Senate in the house, he wasn't really a leader in the pro choice movement. But he did vote solidly pro choice. He opposed Thomas's nomination to the Supreme Court because of the abortion issue.

J

Jeff Mackey 22:20

So he has a fairly complete civil rights record.

K

Kay Harper 22:24

Yeah. He's got 35 people on his campaign staff 15 of whom are women. So that's over 40% of

his campaign staff is female. And most and most of those women are in top positions, including his national finance director, his press secretary, his chief scheduler, Chief scheduler, I guess that's the person with the calendar in the head. That's what I'm missing in my life. And his Comptroller, the money person is female, which is probably a good move. Yes. Good



22:54

idea there.



Kay Harper 22:55

And he's made a big effort to meet with the major women's groups. So this is pretty interesting. He's He's certainly the one that has the best record as far as gay lesbian issues are concerned.



Jeff Mackey 23:09

That's true. Yeah. He's interesting, looking at some of the other issues. So he tends to be a little more moderate on some financial issues, and some of the



Kay Harper 23:23

he's a pro business Democrat, but he does support things like child care funding and the extension of unemployment benefits. Those of us who are unemployed are real in favor of that. Yes. That's a endorses family and medical leave the the Family and Medical Leave Act, and he's designed a public private partnership on child care. One thing that's really interesting about him for a Democrat is he's pro nuclear energy. Not nuclear arms, but nuclear energy. Yes. Yeah. And I heard on the news tonight that most of his supporters make over \$50,000 a year. Really? Yeah. It's like, huh, how



24:05

interesting that is very interesting,



Kay Harper 24:08

because I know several people who really like fungus, but don't make quite that much money. I know



Jeff Mackey 24:14

very few people.

K

Kay Harper 24:17

I'm sure somebody I know makes that much money, I'm sure.

J

Jeff Mackey 24:20

But so that was our, our look at the three sort of front runners in the Democratic race. Maybe a few issues to bear in mind when you go to the polls on Tuesday. And by all means, do go to the polls on Tuesday.

K

Kay Harper 24:37

Yes. And vote. It's very important to exercise your right to vote. Even if you don't have someone you want to vote for. You certainly have someone you want to vote against. Yes. Yeah. And that's, you know, that makes a big difference.

J

Jeff Mackey 24:52

Yes. Both early and often but vote,

K

Kay Harper 24:54

but you don't get to vote more than once per election.

J

Jeff Mackey 24:57

Okay, sorry. I know I just enjoy being part of the democratic process so much. I just wish I could.

K

Kay Harper 25:05

Haha. Well, something that we I just occurred to me that we haven't mentioned that's going on later today is Amiga, which is all mu had us interested in getting active. Mu Harris. That's the Latin not the Latin word the the Latino word for women. Yes, actually it there. It's mostly a Latino organization, but not completely. They, they, they're just interested in women who are interested in getting active. But they're having a fundraiser on this evening at 530 and Inklings. It's gonna be really interesting because they've got EBE s. Gomez Vega, who is a woman who's just recently written a book called Send my roots rain. So fascinating book. It's a novel, but um, she's gonna be there. And Ricky Fisher, who is a poet here in town, among other things, but one of the things she does is writes poetry. And she's gonna be there reading some of her poetry. In fact, she's written some poetry, specifically for this occasion. Yeah, she interviewed my significant other who is Latina? For information. It's like, Hey, I've been asked to be part of this, you know, celebration, this fundraiser for a Latin organization. And I'm not Latina. And I

don't know what I should be talking about. So that's what she she was researching. And there's going to be music, there's going to be food. And this is all to raise money for Amiga and for the Yego National Conference, which is the National Latin and Latina, Latino, lesbian, gay organization. The letters don't match what their name is, but yeah, go means we've arrived in Spanish, so that's why they use that an acronym.



27:14

An acronym,



Kay Harper 27:16

acronym or Yes, acronym, sorry.



Jeff Mackey 27:20

An acronym means it's outlasted its time. More appropriately. We think



Kay Harper 27:24

maybe, actually, I think we're heading towards anachronisms. Yes.



Jeff Mackey 27:28

That sounds wonderful. Good. Food music. Good writing. I mean,



Kay Harper 27:35

yeah. Good looking women. Or, like, I know you could care less, but



Jeff Mackey 27:42

I like good woman. Good, good looking women like good woman.



Kay Harper 27:45

That's good. And all this is happening at Inklings. Oh, goodness, I'm causing him to blush again. I'm such a bad girl.



Jeff Mackey 27:54

Don't forget that. Yes. Tonight. And what time is

K

Kay Harper 27:57

it? 530? I did say music, didn't I? Yes, your guitar and something else. I know Blanca is playing her guitar, but I don't remember who the other woman is or what she plays.

28:10

It sure to be wonderful. I'm sure it will be.

K

Kay Harper 28:13

Asana has put this together and she always throws a good party. So one of the things that we've been talking about, because today is International Women's Day is feminism. And time and CNN together, did a poll last month, and asking people whether they considered them asking women, not people, but specifically women people, if they consider themselves feminists, and 63% of them said no, really? Yeah. Time did a whole big article on it this week. It's just really interesting. Talking about the backlash of feminism, yes. Probably because Susan Fulani has Fulani Saturday. Faludi yes has written a book called backlash. Yes. But there's a wonderful quote by Rebecca West about what a feminist is, because I'm not sure I really have a good definition for myself what a feminist is. I mean, I know that that the feminist principles are things that I very strongly believe in, but I couldn't sit down and say, Hey, this is what a feminist is. But Rebecca West said, I, myself have never been able to find out precisely what feminism is. I only know that people call me a feminist whenever I express sentiments that differentiate me from a doormat or prostitute. Like that. Isn't that wonderful? Do you know what she said? That 1913 really? Yes. Wow. Uh huh. So this has kind of been an issue for a long time. Yes. Although feminism as a movement has really been in the last 2025 years. Yes. Gloria Steinem was talking about backlash in this time article. And one of the things she said was we've reached the point where the movement is powerful enough to make jobs for anti feminist women. You don't get works, selling out of movement until there is a movement. I used to think that. Think about that with Phyllis Schlafly. Well, I thought at least she's got a job.

J

Jeff Mackey 30:25

This is true. Yeah, this is true for someone who, who seems to think that homemaking is the way to go. The only way to go for women she seemed to be very active in a lot of other things.

K

Kay Harper 30:35

Yeah, one of the things that I find real interesting is that a lot of these these very pro family, pro, anti feminist kinds of people are the ones who are out there working who put their kids in daycare, who aren't there to cook the macaroni and cheese or whatever the traditional dinner pot roast pot roast takes longer

J Jeff Mackey 31:00
casseroles with green beans.

K Kay Harper 31:02
Yes. There's there's things with the crumpled up onions on top. But anyway

J Jeff Mackey 31:14
yeah, there's there's been a lot of progress made, but there's still a long way to go. It really struck me. Last night, I went to price to see Much Ado About Nothing, I'm very good production. And there's a whole sequence where Beatrice is railing against her lot in life as a woman, she's very sharp tongued and strong willed and very, not very much not in the traditional role of women at the time. And, you know, it's the thoughts are nothing new, but the struggle is still continuing.

K Kay Harper 31:54
Yeah, I just got to note that Kathleen is doing a program this morning called Women in the blues. She's going back as far as 1880 with her music and that need lots of blues on Sundays. Yes, at least this Sunday. And that's at 9am and it's going until noon. And I wanted to play one last song before we went away tonight. Libby Roderick again and her song Rosa