

CYNTHIA: But you have no idea.

TROY: What's Michael's Latest project?

SPEAKER 1: Michael, what's your latest project?

MICHAEL: Oh, it's called blank my hole. And it's a video where I interview gay and bisexual men, queer men, period about the first time they were anally penetrated. And yeah, so that's what I'm doing.

TROY: Michael is advertising that at Sex is at the Rise Media Center. And I thought it was a great project. So I wanted him to gain that plug so to speak.

SPEAKER 1: In fact, I know that Michael has already interviewed at least one person.

TROY: Great

SPEAKER 1: It was me.

TROY: Oh, fabulous.

SPEAKER 1: And what a fun story, you guys.

CYNTHIA: I bet you had a lot to tell.

TROY: Oh Yeah, it was quite interesting. I can't wait for the movie to come out.

SPEAKER 1: Well, Troy thanks for calling in and letting us know what's going on with the switchboard.

TROY: OK, well, Thanks for talking.

BENNETTE: You bet.

TROY: Bye bye.

BENNETTE: Bye. And Cynthia, thank you for stopping by.

CYNTHIA: Thank you for asking me to talk on air.

BENNETTE: OK. Coming up we'll be-- in fact coming up like right away is going to be Diane with her guests.

DIANE: And I'm here.

BENNETTE: And surprise, she's here, yes.

SPEAKER 2: And I have lovely guests this evening, which I forgot to ask if I can use your real names and all that kind of good stuff.

DIANE: Do we have to.

DIANE: Come over here and sit right here where I'm sitting.

CYNTHIA: Come closer

DIANE: Come, sit right here. Do you hear that clanking noise? This is that clanking noise that follows you around when you're wearing freedom rings. It kind of gets annoying after a while, but it's a freedom ring thing. Well, hey girls, how are you?

GIRLS: Hey

DIANE: This is-- we have some lovely ladies in the house this evening. We have the lovely Bennette and Leanne. Say hi.

BENNETTE: Hi

DIANE: That's Bennette and say it deeper.

LEANNE: Hi.

DIANE: You don't need dates, you got them already. So quit trying to make nice with the viewers.

LEANNE: The era of viewers.

DIANE: Well, I can't hear a darn thing cause these ain't be working. But I wanted to specifically talk about-- one thing, I want to talk about Leanne, where we met. I wanted to just briefly say that Leanne is a volunteer with my own house. Yay, and we hope to wrestle Bennette to become a volunteer as well but

LEANNE: She is, tomorrow.

DIANE: Tomorrow, yeah. But I want to talk about what got you involved with that. How you first heard about, My Own House, that kind of thing.

LEANNE: Well, I heard about my house through an article in The Voice of Belief. And having both of my parents who are HIV positive really got me interested in trying to help the community as far as the straight or the Lesbian-Gay community because it definitely affects everybody. So you need to get off your bottoms and get out there and support places like the my own house and everything else.

DIANE: That's a pretty big incentive. Do you think that most volunteers volunteer because they know somebody or they know somebody specifically involved?

LEANNE: From the volunteers that I talked to at the Milam house, definitely. Everyone there has had someone who is HIV positive or has passed away from it. So it's a pretty powerful group, I mean as far as emotional attachment. So.

DIANE: For me, that's a big part of volunteering, period. I know that must have been hard for you, both parents are HIV positive. That's something you don't hear about very often, especially for a grown woman. And you know, you're a lesbian and everything. So did you know anybody else before that? Had you heard of it before that? What was your contact with HIV before you knew anything about your parents?

LEANNE: Just through our community. But I never in a million years would have thought that it would affect my family directly. But I was involved in different things just because of trying to help, since our community was affected by it so much. But it's amazing. It can definitely hit right at home, and I'm here as living proof.

DIANE: Yeah, well, we're glad you are. And we're glad you're at my own house. I know that it's a way of really empowering people. If you're sitting at home tonight feeling like you can't do anything, you can. And even if it's a phone call or \$1 to a friend or a local charity, that's great. I mean, that's a start. Do you think that being a volunteer has helped you with your own personal stuff? Besides the dating thing.

LEANNE: For every hour that you volunteer, you get back so much from the residents there. I mean, that is priceless. I just can't believe how much you get back. So I would definitely encourage everybody out there to do something.

DIANE: Yeah, so, Miss Bennette.

BENNETTE: Yes

DIANE: You sitting over there looking so cute and so quiet.

BENNETTE: I'm listening to this beautiful woman speak.

DIANE: Yeah, well how did you two guys meet? As if I didn't know.

ALL: Thank you, Milam House.

DIANE: It's true. It's true. And you know what, my girlfriend was a matchmaker. I just want everyone to know that Karen and I take credit for this relationship. A little bit later on, we're going to talk about the dating thing and how that's worked for both of you guys. But I want to specifically ask, what do you think about volunteering? I mean, have you ever done any kind of volunteer work? Have you ever done any kind of-- anything to do with any charity organization?

BENNETTE: Charity organization, I have probably-- I'm a, let's see, self-identified activist from probably about 2 and 1/2 years back. And I started out very bashfully--

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

BENNETTE: --things and wearing dark glasses and my baseball cap pulled way down over my face with Queer Nation and doing things.

DIANE: Which is where we met.

BENNETTE: Which is where we met. Diane and I go way back, and that's a lot in lesbian years. 2 and 1/2 years is a long time. It's equals about 12

DIANE: That's 10 in hetero years.

BENNETTE: Started out with Queer Nation, and timidly decided that was something that really was in my heart and soul, just like I think a lot of people probably would find out who are not doing things like that. I've seen it personally, and it's a really interesting process to watch people do that. And it was an interesting process to watch myself do that. Queer Nation, and then that kind of died out. What did I do after that?

DIANE: WACC?

BENNETTE: Yeah, I did WACC. I did--

LEANNE: ACT UP.

BENNETTE: I didn't ever do ACT UP, but I give money to ACT UP. They washed my car today. Yeah, every third Saturday of the month, everybody who's listening, please go by Heaven and go get your car washed. It's a really great organization.

DIANE: It's a tradition.

BENNETTE: Absolutely. But I guess that really has been my volunteerism. I had a really dear friend and upstairs neighbor, my little Jewish mother David, who died last March the 18th, not this past one, but the previous year in '90-- what would that be-- 3, who died of AIDS. And it was a very traumatic event. I got really, really close to him.

And it's a toughie. And watching Leanne do what she does, knowing that she's already lost one parent and she's still got a mom who, at some point in time, will-- unless something is done, the same thing will happen. And I just admire her mucho-- what's the word you use?

LEANNE: Mucho grande.

BENNETTE: Mucho grande. Doing what she's done. And I kind of keep using the same thing that I'm sure a lot of people out there use. That little excuse of it's very hard to get into something like that and then watch someone die. And death is a big thing. Abandonment is like a very common universal issue amongst us in the community.

And that brings up a lot of abandonment stuff. And that with David hit me very hard. So the whole thing with AIDS and HIV is still a scary thing. But I know that I need to release those personal self kind of interest problems and the demons, exactly. And then and go ahead and do that. Because people living with AIDS and HIV positive people need help.

And they need friends. And they need to know that their support out here for them within the community and within the world community. So that's my stand. Did you want me to talk further? Because I could probably sit here all night and just jabber on.

DIANE: And a word from the producer.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

SPEAKER 4: You're listening to *After Hours*, a continuing tradition on KPFT Houston.

DIANE: 90.1, radio for the people. World, OK, what else-- is there any more, Jim? Oh, he comes running back, yes.

SPEAKER 4: After Hours, the most popular gay and lesbian radio show that no one knows about.

[SNAPS]

DIANE: Snap for the queen. That's Diane's happy noise. That's for you honey, if you're listening. OK, we talked about Milam House. Volunteers are always wanted at Milam House.

BENNETTE: I'm volunteering tomorrow, by the way.

DIANE: There's going to be an anti-baseball party or something. What's happening?

LEANNE: You're in charge of that.

BENNETTE: You're the volunteer coordinator.

LEANNE: I want to let people know that it's not-- it's only like four to eight hours a month to volunteer. It's not like you have to give up your whole life to volunteer. So everyone has four hours that they either sleep in or go shopping at Foley's Red Apple sale. Do I get money for that endorsement? So get out there and come to the Milam House.

DIANE: And there's another volunteer training happening on August 27. So next Saturday, come do the volunteer training and be a volunteer. The number there, from 10:00 to 3:00 at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church at Woodhead and Alabama. The number, if you're interested, is 520-9248.

And the number here at After Hours is JAM-KPFT. Say it again?

ALL: JAM-KPFT.

DIANE: I love that. OK, now we're going to get to the good stuff. We're going to get to the goods. I want to know-- OK, before we talk about--

BENNETTE: Wait a minute. Can we have any disclaimers here?

DIANE: No, no disclaimers. Nobody's mom's listening, unless my mom happens to be listening, ha. If so-- I'm a lesbian, lesbian, lesbian, lesbian, lesbian. I just said that for my mother's benefit. I want to talk about the goods. I want to talk about coming out stories. Leanne, you first, when did you first realize, accept, come to know, et cetera, et cetera, that you were a lesbian.

LEANNE: I knew when I was six years old.

DIANE: Ooh, that's early.

LEANNE: Very early. And I came out to my parents when I was 18. But I honestly probably have not come out fully until, oh, about three months ago.

DIANE: And? And did it come out well?

LEANNE: Oh, it came out wonderfully.

SPEAKER 5: What does fully mean?

LEANNE: Fully?

SPEAKER 5: Yeah.

LEANNE: Coming out to my entire family instead of just a selected few. And family is the important thing to me.

DIANE: And Benee? Tell us the story, girl. I want everybody in here, I want everybody within hearing distance, I want every straight person, every bi person, every gay, lesbian, queer, et cetera, transgender person, listening on the radio right now to know that Benee used to come down and harass gay people in Montrose. I want everyone to know that I've just outed you saying that.

LEANNE: I have forgiven her for that, though.

DIANE: But I want everybody to know that because that's what happens. Because people that do that are often afraid of their own gayness. And I want people to know that and know that you can grow up to become happy and have a happy girlfriend, and happy house, and a happy little job. And blah, blah, blah. So tell us your story.

BENNETTE: And regret everything you did and pay penance. There's that word again. Let's see. I was probably about three years old. And I had an imaginary wife. So I would imagine if I knew what being a lesbian is, or what homosexuality-- isn't that a title of the latest John Secada tape or something?

I had no concept of anything like that. I truly thought that I was a boy. I mean, I knew I didn't have parts, plumbing. I'm not. I'm a girl. And I'm proud of it. Then you go through the little stages of playing with your little girlfriends and testing out parts and plumbing. And here and there, fourth grade, fifth grade, sixth grade. Then all of a sudden, people start saying you're a lezzie, lezzie, lezzie, lezzie, lezzie, you're a lezzie.

And then all of a sudden, you start curling your hair and growing out your nails, because you're scared as shit of what the hell.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

DIANE: Beep. That was a fecal material.

[INAUDIBLE] earlier.

No he said blank, didn't he? And boy, that Texas heat sure is hot out there. OK, go right ahead.

BENNETTE: So you grow up, and you start trying to cover that stuff up, stuff as opposed to--

DIANE: Fecal material.

BENNETTE: Bile. And so I knew it from then on, but dated boys and--

ALL: Ew. Boys.

DIANE: Me too.

BENNETTE: But at the same time, having crushes on all my best friends, just like probably about 50 million other people out there.

LEANNE: There's only 1% of us out there.

BENNETTE: That's right, only 1%. Did you know that? According to the Parade Magazine.

DIANE: They lie.

BENNETTE: Anyway, blah, blah, blah, blah, blah, blah, blah, blah, blah, blah. Life goes on. I kind of halfway came out to a professor of mine in college. And she was like, everything's going to be OK. Everything's going to be OK. Excuse me. And then I truly came out when I was 24 years old and have had too many damn icky, yucky-- oh, there's another curse word. I'm sorry.

DIANE: You don't usually-- do you cuss this much?

BENNETTE: I've been cursing today. And it's because I'm PMSing. Cursing and drinking--

DIANE: Caffeine?

BENNETTE: So anyway, yeah, 24, I'm 31 now. That's what? Six, seven years. Wow.

DIANE: You've been a lesbian seven years now, knowingly and practicing.

BENNETTE: Practicing with things, yes.

DIANE: With things? What kind of things?

BENNETTE: Some things, practicing and that kind of stuff.

DIANE: OK, I want to know about dating. Did you guys, as far as dating women, have you-- tell us about a lesbian date. Specifically, tell us about a good lesbian date.

BENNETTE: A good lesbian date?

DIANE: Yes, what would be your perfect idea of a date with a woman? You guys are just giving each other both looks.

LEANNE: Our first date?

BENNETTE: Tell them.

LEANNE: We have been putting off, for a month now, our first date. And our first date will officially be September 16 in San Francisco. So officially, we have not been dating.

BENNETTE: We just decided to fall in love and plan our lives together, and marriage, and children. But--

LEANNE: Not have a first date.

DIANE: Well, see, the first date, you had a double date, I think. And the first date--

LEANNE: It was a lovely couple. It was a setup that I was not fully aware of, thank you.

BENNETTE: I was.

DIANE: You were. Well you were probably-- I think that Karen and I-- Karen was trying to set you up and have you both know about it. And I was trying to get her to shut up long enough so that you guys would find out about it before we did. But her method worked. So we give her all the credit. So?

BENNETTE: In a haphazard way.

DIANE: So?

BENNETTE: Perfect lesbian date? I've yet to have it. And I'm going to have it, probably, on September the 16th, that weekend.

DIANE: You think lesbians are more romantic than gay men?

BENNETTE: Absolutely.

DIANE: You think so, really?

LEANNE: Yes.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

BENNETTE: Well, I've heard some stories.

DIANE: How many gay men do you know?

BENNETTE: I know a lot of gay men. And men are-- men have a completely different culture within themselves, even gay men. Now, I know a lot of really absolutely, extremely romantic gay men. But I don't come from their experience. So I can only speak from my own. That I don't know that anybody can feel this type of intimacy, and romance, and fire, and passion, and chemistry that two women can feel.

LEANNE: But not every lesbian couple is romantic, either.

BENNETTE: No. We just came from the Ranch. And believe me, you're righth.

DIANE: 526-5738, tell us about it.

BENNETTE: The Ranch, where the women-- where the men are men. And so are the women.

DIANE: That's enough.

[LAUGHTER]

OK, do you think that gay women are more romantic than straight women?

LEANNE: Yes, definitely. Because we're allowed to be romantic. We can-- we have the freedom to set up dates. And we have the freedom to go out and buy flowers and pick a restaurant. And I mean, that's what we're supposed to do.

BENNETTE: Look at heterosexual couples. I mean, usually, it's the woman who's the most romantic and who's always trying to carry the relationship, do all the stuff--

LEANNE: But she's not allowed to do.

BENNETTE: Buy the edible panties, the whole shebang.

LEANNE: Shaboom.

BENNETTE: Shabing bada bing.

DIANE: Well, let me tell you this story real quick. One of Karen's friends who is a straight woman, who has a personal ad in-- I don't even know what paper it is, in some paper. She's meeting guy after guy after guy. Well, one guy she met, who-- she talked to him on the phone. And she told him where she worked and everything.

Well he, after not even meeting, we heard that kiss on the air, I want you to know. After not even meeting, this guy sends flowers to the place where she works. Then they set up a date to meet. They meet and he has flowers for her, flowers again. So they set up a date to go to his house.

She lives far away. So she's going to go and spend the night. But she's already told him that she's not going to have sex with him. She's just going to go and spend the night. And he's like, OK, that's great. She gets there. There are rose petals all the way from the front door to the bedroom. On the bed there's like a bottle of wine and more flowers. He has dinner prepared and candles are going. And this is a straight guy who is from League City or someplace.

BENNETTE: He's not straight.

DIANE: [LAUGHS] So I don't know about that. That's just one story that I've heard. I don't know who's more romantic or not. I think that you're right about we're allowed to be. It's OK for women to be more romantic, and gosh, romantic to the second power. You've got two women.

LEANNE: You go, girl.

BENNETTE: I will.

DIANE: And you went. And The Ranch tonight? How was the Ranch?

BENNETTE: Packed. It was packed.

LEANNE: It was fun.

DIANE: Were people there being romantic on one another?

LEANNE: We were too busy.

BENNETTE: Yeah, we were. That's all that counts.

DIANE: Yeah, there you go. So if you were going to go out for a lesbian night on the town in Houston date, what would you do? Just the two of you?

BENNETTE: Tell them, honey.

LEANNE: Well, we would start off by going down to the Transco Tower to the Wall of Water, before we got dressed up, that is, just for like a little picnic snack type deal.

DIANE: Which is the first place Karen and I ever went.

LEANNE: Really? And then we'd go home and get dressed separately. So we wouldn't know what each other was wearing.

DIANE: Oh, I like that.

LEANNE: And then, so someone would sneak out and pretend like they were coming to the front door with probably roses--

DIANE: To pick the other person up.

LEANNE: Exactly.

DIANE: Toss a coin that night.

LEANNE: A real car date.

DIANE: Toss a coin that night. Is that the deal?

LEANNE: And then we'd go for a nice romantic dinner to-- can I say the restaurant?

DIANE: Sure, why not?

LEANNE: [FRENCH] and probably have tickets for the symphony.

DIANE: Symphony's good.

LEANNE: Then afterwards, we'd go out for coffee and dessert. And then we'd go home for better dessert.

[LAUGHTER]

DIANE: And so where would you go for coffee and dessert?

LEANNE: Tupie's

DIANE: The new lesbian-- the new lesbian place to be.

BENNETTE: Plug, plug, plug.

LEANNE: You owe us big.

DIANE: OK, cool, well, if you can think of a better date for a gay male, I want all you gay boys, gay guys out there, call us up, queerbos. Call us up right now and tell us, 526-5738, what your best date would be. Now, we know you did this husband hunt thing. We are not on a husband hunt.

We don't have any men here for you to date that I know of. I don't know if there are any guys out there in the lobby that want a date. But I just want to hear what the dates might be like. And if you are married, come call us up and tell us what your best date was. I know there's a couple of you out there, I think you might know who you are. Call me and tell me what your best date was, your best evening with your beau.

Meanwhile, I got some more news. I got some new stuff in the mail. We'll get back to this in a minute. I got some new stuff in the mail from Lambda Rising, which is the-- Lambda Rising bookstore in DC, Washington, DC. And there's all kinds of new stuff happening.

One of the neatest things I thought is that they're having a drawing for a gay and lesbian library. So that is just the weirdest thing. It's like \$1,000 worth of gay and lesbian books. And it's an order form, you just kind of sign it up, and it's a drawing. So go figure. As always in this catalog, they're laughing. They're laughing here.

And always in this catalog, there's everything from magazines, gifts, videos.

BENNETTE: Toys.

DIANE: Yeah, there's some-- I don't know-- there's not too many toys I would say in here. There's gifts. So music, I don't think there's too many-- OK, here we go, men's erotica and women's erotica. That's what I was looking for. Yeah, a couple of videos. But it's not as intense, I suppose.

BENNETTE: Kind of like the stuff that you can read in the back of Cosmo?

DIANE: A little more than that, I would imagine. I would imagine a little more than that. So what do you think about the wave of women's erotica? Do you read erotica? Would you read erotica? Would you read erotica to each other and that kind of thing? Watch it on TV?

BENNETTE: I think you make your own erotica. And that's the one-- that's one of the problems-- let me get my soapbox-- of the world today. Is that people are trying to find that stuff outside of their homes when they're in relationships, when they need to just get creative and try those things inside of their homes. And more people would stay together longer if they would start getting more intimate. And once again, I'm going to say that word-- and be more creative with, and communicate.

DIANE: Communicate's a good word.

BENNETTE: And then there's the people who are single who go out and do those erotica type things and don't use things to protect themselves or the ones they love. And I think--

DIANE: Elaborate.

BENNETTE: Well, I think in that--

DIANE: Lesbians who don't have safe sex, you mean?

BENNETTE: Lesbians, gay men, homosexual people in general who do not have safe sex. And because our community, here's the soapbox again, promotes sex, sex, sex, sex, sex, and all we're trying to do is say but we're not people who are to be judged or looked at because of only our sex. We are people before we are sexual beings. And trying to fight that whole cause about people having problems, Pat Robertson and the whole religious right people, and blaming us, and hating us for our sexuality.

And then there's erotica, erotica, erotica, adult bookstores. Right down the street there's these little 15, 18-year-old guys who go and prostitute themselves. And men from River Oaks come in on Saturday morning and say, honey, I'm going to the hardware store. And they come down right in front of my house picking up hustlers.

I mean, that whole thing is just-- we were talking about that this morning. The whole erotica thing, I love it. I will do it with my partner and we will do all kinds of wild, and crazy, and fun, and--

LEANNE: Time to go, honey.

BENNETTE: I think when it gets to a level of that it's not an intimate act, that it's nothing but to try and make yourself-- trying to appease yourself or degrading someone else or whatever, or trying to come out of the closet and then go run back in, I think that's when it's inappropriate.

DIANE: So what do you think about it for the old phrase, for educational purposes, or to relight the flame or any of that stuff? Do you think that it can be a tool or a device to be used to help save a waning sex life, that kind of thing?

BENNETTE: Yeah, sure. I think I'm getting conservative in my old age.

DIANE: I think you are, too. But I think that that's OK. I mean, people tend to do that.

BENNETTE: But I still have a tattoo, damn it.

DIANE: And I was there. I was there when you got it. I want to tell you my knuckle bones are still hurting from when you were trying to hold my hand. Face down, I just want to say that.

[LAUGHTER]

LEANNE: And she's sitting on her tattoo.

DIANE: It's true. OK, one more question about-- specifically, you mentioned-- I don't know how to phrase this. That's why I'm trying to take my time. All the youth that's right there, that you were talking about, the kids that are hustling in front of your house and stuff like that. A lot of people do that for a reason. Do you think that it's right for any reason? Or what do you think-- when do you think that that's OK? Do you think that's OK?

LEANNE: Well, I think we as a community have ourselves to blame, because we don't give enough support to our youth. We don't give them the opportunity for role models as much as we should. So we need to start doing something to help our youth before they get into too much trouble.

DIANE: OK, as we were talking about earlier, did you-- were you listening earlier when we were talking about what would happen if they had a lesbian bathhouse in town? You were listening, the eyes perk up. For a long time, we have-- and we still have gay bathhouses. Would you care to talk on that subject, Jimmy? We have them in town.

SPEAKER 4: Yes, gay bathhouses. We have two of them.

DIANE: And I know a lot of people that are listening-- they're not places you go and take baths.

SPEAKER 4: No, they're places you go to to either work out, relax, because there are facilities there, steam room, sauna. And the other reason is to have sex with other men.

DIANE: You have video rooms or-- large, single dwelling video rooms or large rooms?

SPEAKER 4: Both, there's a large room with videos going on. And there are lots of private rooms that can be rented for this purpose.

BENNETTE: I wonder how much is safe.

SPEAKER 4: About 99%. The management of the clubs nowadays are really strong about safe sex and condoms. When you walk in, you're given condoms immediately and encouraged to have safe sex. Now, it has not been my experience-- and I don't go to bathhouses that often, so I can't say, but the last time I was at one, there weren't people going around with flashlights and checking.

I mean, there's signs and encouragement all over to have safe sex. And when you consider that a lot of the patrons of bathhouses are married men, because that's a place that they can go and just have sex and leave--

BENNETTE: Be gay for an hour.

SPEAKER 4: Right, right, that this is probably a whole lot better than the alternative, which is public toilets, or woods, or the cemetery, yeah. Where there's no chance of finding out about safer sex. I have to say that I'm pretty much for it. Plus, it also keeps alive the idea that sex is a fun and enjoyable activity.

And when Diane was talking about bathhouses for women, I had mentioned it because in the idea of if there were bathhouses for women, then women's sexual attitudes would change and that--

DIANE: We would do some growing up about sex pretty quick, I think. We'd have to if--

SPEAKER 4: Not just-- not you, but women and men totally.

DIANE: So if there was a bathhouse or anything for-- even if you were single?

LEANNE: No. And I don't know if my attitude would ever change. And I don't think my attitude would want to change. I mean, there's no way. I mean, I like a monogamous relationship.

BENNETTE: I would have to consider myself monogamous. Even if I was single and that existed, I don't-- I mean, I'm not even a bar goer. So that, to me, would not be something that would be in my social realm of activities. But, hey.

DIANE: But what do you think-- what do you think about the difference between the idea of it denigrating women and we're just sex objects, all that stuff, versus the idea of sexual freedom for women?

BENNETTE: Well, there's a totally-- there's a big difference. I mean, objectification and denigration happens to both sexes, men and women. And it happens to heterosexual people and homosexual people. And that, to me, is the negative aspect of sex. Sex, you're right, Jimmy, is fun. And it can be recreational. It can be intimate. It can be anything, as long as it is not degrading to anyone.

And that, for some people, is a wonderful thing. And that's probably their own-- how they need to get their inner emotions out, or how they can play, or whatever. And I prefer to do other things to play within a relationship, as far as sex goes. I don't know that I would frequent one.

DIANE: Do think a lot of women would?

BENNETTE: I really don't think so. I think especially here in Houston, women are just so bizarre. I'm sorry. That really sounded awful. But I mean, after we just left the Ranch, there's just a completely and totally different regional, social thing about women here in Houston.

DIANE: Is it a Southern thing, like Southern etiquette?

BENNETTE: It is a major Southern thing.

DIANE: That's what I said. Too.

BENNETTE: It just transcends Southernness.

SPEAKER 4: I think if it were possible, it would be here.

DIANE: Yeah.

BENNETTE: I mean--

DIANE: We're all having a moment of thought surrounding the issue.

BENNETTE: I'm trying to picture--

LEANNE: I'm bathing right now.

BENNETTE: I'm trying to picture one. And I'm just trying to see all these women with their straw hats and everything.

DIANE: Piece of hay sticking out of their mouth, is that what you're trying to say?

LEANNE: And a bar of dial in their right hand.

BENNETTE: Yeah, just like, hey, how are you doing? And they're scrubbing their pits and things. I just don't see women here-- now in Europe, perhaps, sure, absolutely. Or somewhere up in the Northeast area like P-Town, or in San Francisco. But Houston, no. Dallas, no. Austin, maybe.

DIANE: Do you think that there-- I think that there's a subculture-- I think there's many different cultures and subcultures of lesbians in Houston specifically. And I think there's a whole group or groups of women that will go and do that for a certain amount of time.

BENNETTE: And then go have sushi.

DIANE: Well, maybe not even-- or go have raw meat somewhere.

[LAUGHTER]

BENNETTE: Well that would be to--

LEANNE: Go to steak night. Redundant, is that what you were going to say?

[LAUGHTER]

BENNETTE: Raw meat, uncooked. OK.

LEANNE: We got comments on that one?

DIANE: Well, the radio-- the radio's still happening. The telephones are still working. And we have had calls, by the way. I have seen them light up. I just have not gotten any message back here as to what they've said. So Jimmy, I know you got some stuff happening for us. Care to care to do that now?

SPEAKER 4: Oh, OK. Yes.

DIANE: I don't know what it is.

SPEAKER 4: Are we changing here?

DIANE: Yes, sure.

SPEAKER 4: OK, I've got a piece of music coming up from a local group with a gay member, Michael. And the name of the group is Violent Blue. And you heard it here first. It's-- they've got a couple of songs out on the new Manifestation 6 compilation. And we're going to hear cut number 10 called "Shadow Fall."

DIANE: I love that. I love that. I do. I just love that.

SPEAKER 4: That was Violent Blue, name of the group, local group with a gay member. And the name of the tune was "Shadow Fall."

DIANE: You know, it sounded very much to me like-- what do you have in your hand?

BENNETTE: I have a plug.

DIANE: OK, hold that plug. Sounded very much to me like a-- a kind of a cool, hip, happening understandable Cocteau Twins kind of thing.

SPEAKER 4: Yeah.

DIANE: And I liked it.

SPEAKER 6: It also sounds like some of them the mid-career New Order kind of stuff. And also a little Lush.

DIANE: It kind of sounds like Cocteau Twins doing New Order.

SPEAKER 6: Cocteau Twins doing New Order doing Lush.

[LAUGHTER]

DIANE: No, I like that. I like that. And you have a plug?

BENNETTE: Yes, I have a couple of very dear friends, activists in the community for all kinds of issues. They are part of a really cool, hip, rock nouveau retro group, quite Merchant-ish in style. That's a reference to 10,000 Maniacs. The name of the group is called Black Dresses. They are going to be appearing at the Orange Show, their premiere public performance.

DIANE: And they're hot and fine.

BENNETTE: On Saturday, September 24 from 7:00 to 10:00 PM. That's at the Orange Show. They're a wonderful group. It's lesbian operated. There's one man. And I think he's heterosexual. But I'm sure he could be classified as a lesbian if--

DIANE: Honorary.

BENNETTE: Yeah, sure, honorary.

DIANE: Lame lesbian.

BENNETTE: Sure they do that. Do you want a phone number?

DIANE: Sure.

BENNETTE: 956-6368.

DIANE: And that's Black Dresses.

BENNETTE: The Black Dresses is the name of the group. They're really cool. They're very hot.

DIANE: Well, you guys are really cool and really hot, too. And I really, really thank you for coming on. Thanks for talking about Milam House, and volunteers, and dating, and sex, all important issues.

LEANNE: De nada.

DIANE: Yeah, it's something. It really is something. So thank you. And I want to hand this over. Did you hear it squeak? I didn't quite hear it squeak it.

SPEAKER 4: We're going to do a transition here.

DIANE: Transition. And here is the ever lovely Jim with the queer--

SPEAKER 4: No, no, no, not yet. We're doing a transition. You don't understand.

DIANE: OK, I don't. Transition. I thought we were doing a transition, meaning that I was transitioning into you. But see how that happens.

BENNETTE: Can we have a big see ya?

SPEAKER 4: Yes, will you please say goodbye to your guests?

DIANE: Thank you, Benee. Thank you, Leanne. Come back and join us again.

BOTH: See ya!

[MUSIC PLAYING]