

BIG ROY: Chris. You scooped them off, Chris.

CHRIS: In their defense, it happened on Thursday, and they-- the papers were already printed. And I stole it from FoxNews.com.

BIG ROY: But they didn't report it until later on in the week.

CHRIS: Yeah. One of the best sources while you were gone that I was using for a lot of stories was FoxNews.com. It's amazing how many gay stories you will find on a right-wing news organization's site. They're usually good for a story or two.

Helping employees out of the proverbial closet. A new State Department memo states that, quote, "Sexual orientation in and of itself may not be used as a disqualifying factor in determining a person's eligibility for a security clearance." Unquote. *The Washington Times* quotes the memo as that the Department worries about, quote, "Potentially exploitable behavior, not orientation." Unquote.

On the other hand, it adds that employees who try to hide sexual relationships run the risk of affecting their security clearance. The HRC, a gay political group, praised the Bush administration for continuing policies first imposed by President Clinton.

BIG ROY: Now, folks, I do want to say that this type of thing, this memo that came from the State Department, this is the very stuff that we have been screaming about since 1969 when we were considered a security risk. But we were not a security risk if we could be open. The only reason we would be a security risk is if somebody tries to be closeted, and then somebody's got the goods on you.

And let me tell you, I am a very out and proud gay person. Of course, being on the radio, and being with the caucus like I was, and being in the Gay Pride parade every year.

CHRIS: Honey, you blew the closet door off, and that room had been redecorated to a rumpus room.

BIG ROY: A long time ago. Let me tell you something. Anyways, being out of the closet is so much better, and it is so much easier on yourself. And it's a lot less strain, a lot less stress, a lot less worry. And, folks, if you're in the closet, come out. Come out because, I'm telling you, it's not as bad as you think.

And also, a lot more-- don't underestimate other people's power of observation. A lot more people know you're gay than you think.

CHRIS: Yes. And don't worry, we won't comment too much on the mothball smell that you have coming out of the closet, but you just have to be open with yourself. And make sure you're in a good place where you're at and come out and join that. It's one of those things that it takes a little bit of the weight off your chest.

BIG ROY: It takes a heck of a lot of the weight off the chest.

CHRIS: And it's a thing like when I came out to my parents, I had to go out to a bar that night. I had to drive into town, and go to a gay bar, and go, I just came out to my parents. And it was like,

BIG ROY: Yeah, that's how it went on.

CHRIS: Tide went on. I went home with seven glasses there. I started my--

BIG ROY: Your own club there.

CHRIS: Well, at that time, they were giving a glass when you purchased a beer, and that night, I took home service for seven.

BIG ROY: Lord have mercy. Well, I've never been in the closet because ever since I can remember, I was gay. If there was anybody ever who was born a fag, it is me. Every fiber.

I've never wanted to go for an operation, or get implants, or to take hormone pills, or anything. I've always been a gay male.

CHRIS: He was doing feng-shui in the crib, people.

BIG ROY: Let me tell you something. That's the truth. Moving right along here. The Shell Oil has donated to gay groups, and this is coming to us from this week's edition of *The Houston Voice*. Shell Oil recently made grants of \$3,000 each to Assist Hers and to the Houston Area Teen Coalition of Homosexuals. Excuse me.

Shell employee, Laurie Bain, who delivered the checks to Assist Her in Hatch, said that members of Seashell, which stands for support, equality, and awareness at Shell, the gay, lesbian, transgendered-- bisexual and transgender network within Shell nominated these groups for funding.

And this is a pleasant surprise, said Kevin Davidson, who accepted the check on behalf of Hatch. And this is not a grant that a group can apply for. A Seashell member had to nominate us. And so, we applaud Shell and Seashell for really stepping up to the plate and making these cash contributions to these groups.

CHRIS: I can give you a couple other names of some groups or-- if any Shell members want to put in people or organizations for nominations. In El Paso, city officials said that the decision by the Gap store to move its headquarters to Albuquerque, rather than El Paso, was influenced by doubt that--

I forgot my glasses tonight, so at least I have an excuse. Influenced by doubts about the quality of life for gays in the city, *The El Paso Times* reported. The company and city had initially said, the decision was based on quality of life considerations without any specific reference to the city's climate for gays.

I don't think anyone wants to talk about it. But I think it's real important that we address it, and that we know what the real situation is. So Roberto Franco, director of the city's economic development department, who was involved in the negotiations. Gap officials have denied the company's decision to move to Albuquerque over El Paso was made over quality of life considerations for Gap. For gays. The Gap--

BIG ROY: You're back to your first news show.

CHRIS: I don't have my glasses, and I'm sitting under the only light in the place here. And I've got-- it's behind me. The Gap, also the parent company of Old Navy and Banana Republic, has announced plans to move some of its back office functions from San Francisco. It was offering to transfer employees who wanted to retain their jobs.

BIG ROY: Moving right along to our next bit of homophobia. Residents of Gay Street in San Angelo has requested that the San Angelo city council approve a plan to change the name of the street to Grace Lane. The city's planning commission approved the name change last week. Residents said the new name will mean fewer pranksters and stolen street signs.

We had a resident die while waiting on an ambulance, which had difficulty finding the street because a sign was missing. As we speak, one of the signs is missing because it's been stolen. The signs have been removed or damaged at least three times in the past two years according to city record. New signs will cost the city about \$200. It's one of those names that has changed identities over the years, and kids have a tendency to take it. So the little kids are taking Gay Street and tacking it up on their bedroom walls or whatever.

CHRIS: I guess the next-- well, my brother always comes down to the Montrose because he wants to find a parking in the rear sign, and he figured this was the neighborhood to find one.

BIG ROY: He can come to my-- it's on my bedroom door. No, no, that was delivery.

CHRIS: But no, with-- what are these people next going to do? They're going to go over to the Smithsonian Institution there and try and put spray paint on the Enola Gay? What's the point of this? Are they going to start going after Rebecca Gayheart, the actress?

It's a word. This is as petty as city of Houston officials not wanting to build their new Grand Convention Hall Hotel on Dallas Street. So they're renaming that part of it to be Lamar Street, but no one seemed to tell them that there's also a Lamar, Texas.

BIG ROY: Yeah, but there's not the feud between Houston and Lamar that there is between Houston and Dallas.

CHRIS: Come on.

BIG ROY: I don't understand it. I've been here in Houston now for 18-- 19 years, and I do not understand the feud between the two cities. But whatever. Whatever.

CHRIS: Take him out to one of the clubs, and just drop them, and have a contest.

BIG ROY: There you go.

CHRIS: An organization where mixing gay men and boys is not feared in the Big Brothers. Unlike the Boy Scouts, Big Brothers accepts gay men who, like all volunteers, pass stringent background checks, qualifications. Institutions like the Boy Scouts that fear adult gays cannot have healthy, productive mentoring relationships with youth would do well to examine the experience of the Big Brothers, Big Sisters of America, which has welcomed gays as volunteers for over more-- for more than two decades despite a widely-held notion to the contrary.

Citing overwhelming data, the organization believes gays are at a lower risk than heterosexuals for committing sexual abuse on children. Founded in 1904, Big Brothers, Big Sisters, a federation of 50 locally-autonomous agencies, is the nation's oldest and largest youth mentoring group. And unfortunately, we don't have a phone number for the local--

BIG ROY: Chapter.

CHRIS: --chapter of that.

BIG ROY: I will say this, that you can call United Way, and they would have the number.

CHRIS: Yes, though they are a part of the United Way.

BIG ROY: And also, the Girl Scouts of America do not discriminate.

CHRIS: Yes, that's true. But the Boy Scouts feel that it's improper to have gay men around when they send the little boys off in short, short shorts and teach them leather-making, and arts and crafts, and camping--

BIG ROY: And tying.

CHRIS: Tying knots, and macrame, and all those other fun little things.

BIG ROY: And I don't know. It's so weird. They're afraid that-- one of the big fears is that if homosexuality becomes, quote, "Accepted" in mainstream society, it will endanger the family unit. As if being gay, having acceptance of gay people, are going to naturally convert to being gay as well.

Folks, that's just bad science. That's bad biology.

CHRIS: Well, no. The big thing is--

BIG ROY: Even in societies where homosexuality-- in ancient societies where homosexuality not only was accepted, but was encouraged like ancient Greece and ancient Rome, it was not the predominant thing of society.

CHRIS: When you look at the family value and all that, I always joke from the fact that I come from-- that I'm disadvantaged because I come from an unbroken home. My parents are not divorced. My parents have been married together for 34 years now.

BIG ROY: My goodness. You are a minority.

CHRIS: They met in high school in junior high and have gone out since then. So what family values were protecting? One out of two marriages ends in divorce, and I come from a strange family that doesn't have that divorce. We come from the quote unquote the Ozzie and Harriet family. Mother and father, married all these years, three kids, and they raised a queer.

So when you look at the family values and all that, it's hard to put that actually into a perspective in modern day society.

BIG ROY: True. Moving right along here. Jack Valinski sent out an email saying that they need volunteers for the Pride parade. Please go to their website to sign up and volunteer your time for the upcoming Pride Parade 2001. They need you. T-shirts will be available from the website soon.

And you can skate with them in Memorial Park tomorrow around 2 o'clock, and they will be providing bottled water, fun, and family this coming Sunday. Weather permitting, they will be meeting with new and old friends to skate around Memorial Park South Picnic Lane, and that's the loop in Memorial Park just East of the baseball diamond and volleyball courts.

They usually meet at the second picnic area on the right inside the picnic loop. They ask you to wear your Lambda Roller Skating Club shirt, so they'll recognize you. And look for colorful Lambda Roller Skating Club banner like the one on the website. Well, how about that? I get two emails in one, one from Jack Valinski and one from the Lambda Roller Skating Club.

CHRIS: I think what that is is Jack Valinski sending it out to the Lambda Roller Skating, and they passed it on to their membership.

BIG ROY: Anyway, folks--

CHRIS: You've screwed up your 13 now.

BIG ROY: We probably won't get to it anyways, but there you go. And anyways, the Lambda Roller Skating website is www.LambdaRoll.org.

CHRIS: LambdaRoll.org.

BIG ROY: LambdaRoll.org.

CHRIS: And if you wanted to volunteer for the Pride committee, it is-- for the Pride parade, it's PrideHouston.org.

BIG ROY: And there you go. And Jack Valinski does need volunteers.

CHRIS: As any organization out here. Did you know this? That today is-- or Saturday was the end of National Volunteer Week?

BIG ROY: I didn't even know it began.

CHRIS: This past week was National Volunteer Week, and I mean, there's hundreds of organizations in our community that could use volunteers and need people's support. And it's a shame it didn't get heard enough that this time was coming, and that people need help. And so, if you've got some time to spare, contact one of your local organizations, and just find out what you can do to contribute.

Don't forget that Project LEAP, Learning, Empowerment, Advocacy, and Participation, is looking for people who are interested in advocating for funding and services for people living with HIV and AIDS. People who want to have a voice in determining how community needs are determined and prioritized.

This is a 100 hour, six-month course that participants will be thoroughly qualified to serve as advocates on the Ryan White Planning Council, Texas Department of Health Care consortium, and the community prevention and planning group, as well as various boards of directors for area HIV/AIDS projects. If you want more information, contact Rich [? Aaronshelt, ?] the project coordinator, at 713-522-5428 extension 28. Or you can go to ProjectLEAP-Houston.org.

BIG ROY: Moving right along. The Gay and Lesbian Breakfast Club is a diverse social organization. Their primary purpose is to promote fitness walking for the gay and lesbian community. The club also was created to give gay, lesbian, and straight people a unique opportunity to make new friends, and their events are open to all people, regardless of sexual orientation.

JIMMY: Contact Jimmy Brown.

BIG ROY: At 281-437-0636 or at 713-864-7299.

JIMMY: Jimmy Brown is a sweetheart of a guy. In fact, was on here a couple of-- several years ago, many years ago maybe, when he organized the movie club. And that was a group of folks that went out and watched a movie on Friday nights, and now, he's involved in this, the Breakfast Club. Taking a walk, enjoying nature among family, and then going out for breakfast. I think it's a really cool idea.

He's also looking for a ride to go to Austin for splash day. So you can reach him at that number for Breakfast Club or a ride.

CHRIS: Yeah. I was trying to figure out where this was going to be occurring but here *Further Tales of the City* by Armistead Maupin. There will be a discussion, chat session, on TalkCity.com on Sunday, April 29th, which is today. By the way, I said Sunday/

JIMMY: Sunday, Sunday, Sunday!

CHRIS: Starting at 8:00 PM and going till 9:00.

JIMMY: Yeah, and you can talk with Armistead Maupin online. I interviewed him many years ago.

CHRIS: In the old days?

JIMMY: It was my first interview of anyone famous, and I was just so-- he was like, oh my god, I'm talking to the God. And I think it's just lousy. It was horrible. But he was gracious. He was very, very nice. It was right here in this studio.

CHRIS: Well, he probably enjoyed breaking in a virgin. It's been a while since you could say that.

JIMMY: No kidding.

CHRIS: Chat with Armistead Maupin, author of the classic *Tales of the City* novels. Originally started in 1976 as a daily column in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, six volumes of *Tales of the City* became international bestsellers and instant classics. The third TV miniseries based on these books will be premiering Sunday--

JIMMY: Sunday, Sunday, Sunday!

CHRIS: --May 6th on Showtime, the latest queer network we have.

JIMMY: No kidding.

CHRIS: I think it's coming on after the *Queer as Folk* episode, or they may be going into hiatus now. Also, they've had an idea of local chat sessions. If you want more information on that, contact TalkCity.com, and that's their website. And find out more about other events that are coming up. I believe they also handle the just monthly discussion with Janine Bruñez.

JIMMY: Yes.

CHRIS: The mayoral liaison to the community.

JIMMY: Yeah, Talk City.

BIG ROY: OK, folks, well, that's all we have for this week's edition of *Afterhour News and Views*. I'm Big Roy. I want to thank Chris, and Jimmy, and for all of our listeners being out there. And as always--

CHRIS: If you want to send us news, information, stories, tidbits, love mail, hate mail--

BIG ROY: Dirty pictures!

CHRIS: --you can email us at AfterHoursKPFT@Hotmail.com.

BIG ROY: And that's a wrap, folks.

JIMMY: Thanks. Thanks, guys. Coming up, it will be Creath Robinson and Jim Nixon and with their version of the leather line. Before we get into that, I'm going to play a little cut from a guy who was here in the studio, and we interviewed.

I forgot to mention the music that I played at the beginning of the show. I opened up with Nancy Ford doing her version of *We Didn't Start the Fire*, and you know what, I keep telling Nancy we need an updated version, honey. But that's all I got, so I'm going to play it. And after that was the top twins.

These are two women from New Zealand. They have a CD out called *Grass Highway*, and that was *Unforgettable Girls*. And then, of course, right before the news, I prayed-- played *Pride* by John Gilbert Leavitt. That was the song-- the queer song for night-- for the year 2000.

BIG ROY: No. Just before the news, you did *The Bitch is Back*.

JIMMY: Of course, *The Bitch is Back*. Of course. Yes. And now, I'm going to play a song by a group called Whatever, and this group comes out of England. I interviewed the lead singer, Aiden Shaw, which many of you will recall from his male adult movies.

He was in town a couple of weeks ago, and we sat down and talked for a little bit. And he played some of his stuff, and we had fun. And this is one of the things that we played. And right after that, we'll be with Creath Robinson and Jim Nixon. For right now, Whatever with *Killing Time*, and you're hearing it on *After Hours* queer radio with attitude on KPFT Houston and KEOS College Station.

The group is called Whatever, and it's a group of three starring Aiden Shaw, a name you might remember from adult films. And I was just thrilled for him to be here in Houston a couple of weeks ago, and I got to interview him. And that's the latest from him. And now, it is time for the leather line. Hi, Creath.

CREATH Hello, Jim.

ROBINSON:

JIMMY: How are you doing?

CREATH I'm doing great.

ROBINSON:

JIMMY: Good, good, good, good. So you got somebody with you?

CREATH I certainly do. We have Jim Nixon, Mr Lonestar Drama with us tonight.

ROBINSON:

JIMMY: Good.

JIM NIXON: Thank you. Glad to be back.

JIMMY: Always good to have you here.

CREATH Absolutely. Absolutely. This is your first official show all by yourself.

ROBINSON:

It is, and I'm just-- I'm overwhelmed. I certainly am, and I want to welcome all of our guests tonight. And I hope that I live up to Jim Songrini's absolutely outstanding shows that he's done in the past.

JIMMY: He's done some very good shows.

CREATH Hopefully, we can do something equally as good, if not better.

ROBINSON:

JIMMY: Everyone is different, and so each person brings their own personality to the show. And that's what we look for.

CREATH Well, we're in store for a lot, I hope. One message to Jim if he is listening tonight. Jim, you're not off the hook. You

ROBINSON: will be back. I promise you.

JIMMY: He might enjoy it being on the other end of the mic.

CREATH I think that might be a fun show, actually. I really do. It's one of the things that I wanted to do when y'all

ROBINSON: confronted me about doing this, was actually interview Jim.

JIMMY: That's right. Nobody has ever interviewed him.

CREATH Well, I think we should plan on that in the future. We certainly should. We'll make a show out of that.

ROBINSON:

JIMMY: Good.

CREATH I think that'd be a neat idea.

ROBINSON:

JIMMY: But you've got a lot of stuff to cover tonight.

CREATH Yes, as a matter of fact. Most recently, there's a couple of different things that have gone on recently. For those

ROBINSON: of you that are not aware, I was running for prime choice 2001.

JIMMY: Yes.

CREATH And the competition was brutal. Just brutal.

ROBINSON:

JIMMY: And they didn't let you forget it for one minute.

CREATH Not a moment. Not a moment. Honestly, for those of you that are not aware, I was the only contestant. So needless to say, I do have the title of Mr Prime Choice 2001 and 2002 as it is becoming a two-year contest. And to date, so I'll carry that title for two years.

And I will tell you this, though. I don't ever want to do another contest as only one contestant. Because the judges' wrath was incredible, absolutely incredible.

JIMMY: And you will never mispronounce Bob [? Bouton's ?] name again.

CREATH Never. Ever. That is so stuck in my mind.

ROBINSON:

JIMMY: I was there when they were doing that. Ouch, ouch, ouch.

CREATH But well-deserved. I've only known Bob for, what, two, three decades?

ROBINSON:

JIMMY: Yeah, I know.

CREATH And bless his heart, he's never said a word to me about it. So he waits till I get on stage.

ROBINSON:

JIMMY: In front of all these people.

CREATH So it was very well-deserved, but it'll be a mistake that'll never be made again. I promise. So I'm very proud to have that title and look forward to serving that title well in the community. One of the things that I do have, and I believe I said this on the show while I was a candidate.

In the past, many of the Prime Choices have not gone on to raise funds past the time that they receive the title. They have done things in the community, obviously, but that's the one thing I want to do. At least quarterly, I do want to go out and raise more funds in the community as Mr Prime Choice and not as a candidate.

JIMMY: You certainly have a history and a background of fundraising. The different groups you've been with.

CREATH I've done my share.

ROBINSON:

JIM NIXON: Quite a few.

JIMMY: And from this Mr Prime Choice, I know that the-- I don't have the exact number, but the Gulf Coast Archives and Museum is over \$600 richer because of that.

JIM NIXON: Absolutely.

CREATH I'm glad we could help with that. Actually, I will tell you this. My campaign was very short as far as the fundraising. I didn't actually start until [? Louis ?] weekend, which was 30 days before the contest. So within 30 days, I raised \$4,101 for five different charities. So I'm more than happy to help in--

JIMMY: That's humping it.

CREATH There's more in store. Believe me, there's more in store, and that was without any type of corporate sponsorship.

ROBINSON: So looking forward to making it bigger and better.

JIMMY: Listen, these over 40 guys can still put out, let me tell you.

CREATH I'm over 40? That's right, I forgot. Moving along. Enough about Prime Choice. I would like to add in case anyone's not aware. Of course, Knight in Black Leather was last month, and they finally have gotten a total. I don't have the exact total, but I know it is over \$17,000.

JIM NIXON: Wonderful job.

CREATH So hats off to Don Gill one more time--

ROBINSON:

JIMMY: He is incredible.

CREATH --for doing an exceptional job with that. The entertainment was so great, and, of course, the public turned out as always. So thanks to all of them, and Colt 45's Stone Soup now can probably rest a little easier.

JIMMY: For a little while.

CREATH For a while. Absolutely.

ROBINSON:

JIMMY: I don't know what kind of arm twisting that man does, but they keep coming back for more because he raises that-- lots of money every year.

CREATH Lots of money. He certainly does, and this being his last year to actually organize Knight in Black Leather, which

ROBINSON: we're sorry to see. But he still-- believe me. I know Don too well. He will still have his hand in the pie somehow.

JIMMY: I hope so.

CREATH And I'm sure that that's going to probably give him the ability to maybe be in the background and organize a few

ROBINSON: more of the people to come in, raise funds--

JIMMY: Because his presence adds a lot.

CREATH Absolutely. So he's not totally done with either. And also, we have one other person with us tonight, and that is

ROBINSON: Tiffany Pin. She was with us last month, and Tiffany has-- her title has actually changed since then. And Tiffany is now the new president of NLA [INAUDIBLE] Chapter. Congratulations.

TIFFANY PIN: Thank you very much.

JIMMY: She thought she was going to sneak in here and be able to eat her French fries.

TIFFANY PIN: I know.

CREATH Oh, well.

ROBINSON:

TIFFANY PIN: Never go to the Jack in the Box at 2 o'clock in the morning. I've learned that tonight.

JIMMY: That's scary, isn't it?

TIFFANY PIN: I'm glad they're open 24 hours, but geez, that's a line.

CREATH And I asked Tiffany to stop by and give us a little bit of a wrap up in a minute on Spring and Equity 10, which was

ROBINSON: a great success last weekend, the 10th anniversary. So we can get to that in a moment. So go ahead and have your midnight snack.

TIFFANY PIN: Thank you so much.

CREATH She's been bartending at the Ripcord tonight, so I know she's probably in need.

ROBINSON:

JIMMY: She deserves it.

JIM NIXON: Most definitely.

CREATH Absolutely.

ROBINSON:

JIMMY: If nothing else, just to soak it up.

CREATH Absolutely. And also, while we've got--

ROBINSON:

TIFFANY PIN: No, no, no, no more drinking behind the bar. Thank you [INTERPOSING VOICES] No more drinking behind the bar.

CREATH That's true. Gary's crack downed. And also, while we're announcing titles, Jim Nixon also has a new title. He is

ROBINSON: now the President of the misfits.

JIMMY: I didn't know that!

JIM NIXON: Just a small little group of unknowns.

CREATH Now, need I go into--

ROBINSON:

JIMMY: I've got royalty surrounding me.

CREATH And he was actually looking for something that he might have a little more time, spare time on his hands. And

ROBINSON: believe me, it's not going to happen. It's not going to happen.

JIM NIXON: Not at all.

CREATH So at this time, I would like to go to Jim and start off with what's getting ready to happen next weekend, which is

ROBINSON: going to actually involve Jim Nixon and myself now that I am Prime Choice. We both will be going to Gulf Coast Drummer, which is in Dallas at the Dallas Eagle may 4th and 5th.

And that's a regional title, which from there, I believe, goes on to the International title--

JIM NIXON: In Florida.

JIMMY: Now, is it always held in Dallas?

CREATH So far, it has been, but from what I understand, there's maybe something in the works. I talked to Don Gill recently, and he said that he's tried to work out a deal with Mark Fraiser in Dallas to possibly switch these contests off every other year and maybe bring Gulf Coast to Houston next time. Which we hope will happen.

JIM NIXON: Would be nice.

JIMMY: Yeah, it would be.

CREATH Absolutely. Absolutely. But that's coming up next week at the Dallas Eagle, and there's a public meet and greet.

ROBINSON:

JIM NIXON: On the 4th, May 4th.

CREATH May 4th.

ROBINSON:

JIM NIXON: At the Dallas Eagle.

CREATH Absolutely, and the contest is at 8 o'clock on Saturday night.

ROBINSON:

JIMMY: What do you have to do?

CREATH Well, I'll tell you what. Jim, why don't you explain to us a little bit more about the contest and what all is involved?

JIMMY: Now, wait a minute. You both are in it, right?

CREATH Oh, I know, but I'd love to listen to him say it.

ROBINSON:

JIM NIXON: Yes, we are, actually. We are both competing against each other as that goes or competing together. The contest consists of several different categories. This is a regional level, which will go to Florida for the Suncor Resort for International Drummer. The winner will go to compete for the Gulf Coast region, and the contest consists of--

Of course, you have interview with a panel of judges, and then you will have your more or less the contest, the stage performance portion of the contest. Where you have a jock portion where we come out and do our question and answer. And come out and see the beefcake part of the contest.

We also have a on-stage fantasy, which we perform. This year, they've changed the format where each region has a theme, and for the Gulf Coast region, we are doing locker room this year. So our themes will be around the lock-- the word locker room, which leaves you a lot of ideas of what you can do.

JIMMY: No kidding.

JIM NIXON: So that will be entertaining to see, and the reason for that is when the different regions go to International Drummer in Florida, that way, there's always a difference in the different regions. And it's more entertaining for that value. Plus it's more creative to have different types of fantasies in that portion.

And then we have the Drummer image, which is always important, and speech, which is a chance--

JIMMY: What is the Drummer image?

JIM NIXON: Drummer image? Well, you have to go back to for each contestant, they have the opportunity to show what they believe is the Drummer image. With Drummer as an ideal of masculinity, BDSM or kink, and sexuality. It's a little different than some of the other contests that you see, some of the bar contests and local titles.

I guess the word I'm looking for is it's the sexuality in the leather lifestyle, and BDSM, and kink that you can actually get up and express yourself.

JIMMY: As opposed to what beauty--

JIM NIXON: Yeah. That. Exactly.

CREATH One thing that is different from Drummer than other contests, male contests, is the fact that Drummer is more of
ROBINSON: a sexual title. And they do pursue that in the judging category.

JIM NIXON: And so do the contestants.

JIMMY: Well, I've noticed that people involved in it are maybe not the most handsome men, but they certainly exude a masculinity as sexuality.

CREATH Exactly. And it also requires a great deal of knowledge about the Drummer history.

ROBINSON:

JIM NIXON: Absolutely. And leathers, leather orientation. There's a lot of information that, in our interview portion of the competition that we're asked information that we need to know. Not that the title is a foregone right to leadership in the community, things like that. But it is a level of responsibility as a contestant. You should know why you're there, and the history of Drummer, and, of course, the origin of Drummer magazine, which is not a published magazine now. It's an online magazine.

JIMMY: I didn't know that.

JIM NIXON: Yeah, actually.

CREATH They've just started that recently, and it's great. Jim, do you have that website?

ROBINSON:

JIM NIXON: Actually, yeah. You can go to www.Drummer.com for the Drummer magazine, online magazine, and it's Drummer.Contest.com for the Drummer contest schedule as far as which regions, when they're scheduled, their themes. All of that's online.

CREATH Very interesting web page. Very interesting.

ROBINSON:

JIMMY: I'll bet.

CREATH And you can pull up a lot of history on Drummer.

ROBINSON:

JIMMY: Wow. And so, they're not publishing it anymore?

JIM NIXON: Right. At this time, not. There was some talks about the publishing rights to be transferred over a while back. That apparently didn't work out. And so, at this point, they are going slowly online.

JIMMY: Wow. Do you know how that affects the value of the older magazines?

JIM NIXON: Very much. Very much.

CREATH Run across any old Drummers, be sure and stick them away because they will be of value.

ROBINSON:

JIM NIXON: And if you don't want them, send them to me.

JIMMY: And if you have extras the Gulf Coast Archives and Museum. They're very happy.

CREATH Most definitely. Most definitely. And also, I have another question. I don't know how many people are aware of the fact that there is another contest tomorrow, which is Mr Texas Drummer. That will be at Mary's tomorrow evening at 6:00 PM.

JIMMY: I'm confused here.

CREATH Exactly. So that was my next question, was to get Jim Nixon to explain to us the difference between Lone Star Drummer versus Texas Drummer.

JIM NIXON: Right. Well, actually, there's not a lot of difference other than the production company. Both of these are local titles, local contests. With Drummer, you have basically three levels. You have a local title, which represents basically either a state or another title that has been licensed to be produced through Mike Sole or, in our case, with Mark Frazier in Dallas.

And Bulldog Productions put on my contest, which was Lone Star Drummer. There's a contest now, which is also for Texas, which is Texas Drummer. They're basically the same. From the local level, they go to the regional, which is Gulf Coast. Which is four states. Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas, and--

CREATH Louisiana.

ROBINSON:

JIMMY: So they're two different titles, but they all--

JIM NIXON: But they both represent Texas, and so, we will meet as-- myself being Lone Star Drummer will go and compete with Texas Drummer in the Gulf Coast, which is the regional level. And from the regional levels, all over the country will come together an international Drummer. And, of course, Florida, I think, October-- is it 14th?

CREATH I've heard two different dates. Actually, I've heard the first weekend in October, and I've also heard the second or third weekend in September. So I'm not sure exactly--

JIM NIXON: The first week in October.

CREATH --but I will get back to you in the future on those dates because we do have some time there. One other thing. I believe, if I'm not mistaken, the Texas Drummer contest is considerably older than the Lone Star Drummer contest. Which is another major difference.

JIM NIXON: And it's with the Texas Drummer, which, of course, was held this weekend here, and it's being held at Mary's. The contest takes place tomorrow at 6 o'clock. I will be a judge for that contest, and Creath is MC'ing with Tiffany. It'll be a fun day.

If you've never had the opportunity to see Creath and Tiffany on stage together, you definitely need to come out. So it's very, very intense.

JIMMY: I remember Tiffany and Bob Bouton, so I can imagine.

JIM NIXON: And Tiffany stretches so well.

CREATH Very well.

ROBINSON:

JIMMY: She sure does.

CREATH I have pictures.

ROBINSON:

JIM NIXON: Absolutely.

TIFFANY PIN: There are a lot of pictures of me.

CREATH There certainly are.

ROBINSON:

JIM NIXON: And they keep turning up for some reason.

CREATH Absolutely.

ROBINSON:

JIMMY: And I was so happy to hear about your body parts raising so much money.

TIFFANY PIN: Oh my gosh. My boyfriend, bless his heart. We'd been dating for two weeks.

JIMMY: No.

TIFFANY PIN: Yes. We've been dating for two weeks when Louis comes up. And as if we hadn't just wrecked him enough that weekend, he took it so well. Bless his heart. And so, it came time for this whole surprise Tiffany showing various parts of her body for money. And he was quite taken aback, and yet, he still took it very well.

JIMMY: That's for charity.

JIM NIXON: Absolutely.

CREATH Absolutely. Wonderful person.

ROBINSON:

TIFFANY PIN: In fact, he ended up bragging to all of his friends. He said, you should have seen how much money this woman raised in a crowd of gay men.

CREATH Too right. It was well over \$1,000. That was my first fundraiser on choice, and I'm forever indebted to it. Most

ROBINSON: definitely. Well, getting back to the Drummer category. There's another part of Drummer that I think most people are not aware of, and that's their baskets that each one of the contestants are asked to bring to Lone-- or to Gulf Coast Drummer. Were you aware of that?

JIMMY: No, not at all.

CREATH Jim, do you to go in--

ROBINSON:

JIM NIXON: Sure. This takes place, actually, in the regional level, at this point. And what it is is it's an opportunity to generate funds for the travel fund for that contest. So the winner who wins Gulf Coast will need a travel fund to carry them to Suncor as well as other places to represent the region. And as part of that, each contestant is responsible for bringing a basket for auction.

And in that basket can be any aspect of your personality, what you can raise, what you want to put in it that you bring. My basket that I'll be taking with me is actually a basket based on Houston. It's a fantasy weekend since Drummers--

The contest always has that secret part of the fantasy, which is always the exciting part for a lot of people. What I ended up doing was I did a fantasy basket, which is a trip to Houston. And there's going to be a lot of people from Houston, but it benefits either way.

And what I ended up including-- and all of these items are actually donated by either local companies or people who have sponsored me to go-- have provided these things. And my basket will include two nights at the Love It Inn. Which, if anyone's had the opportunity to ever be there, unbelievable. A wonderful place to stay.

Dinners for two at Barnaby's. Two-day pass at the Houston gym while the weekend-- while they're here. Two free massages at the Houston gym. Champagne provided by Tree Beers, which will be included in the basket. Don Gill was gracious enough to include a haircut for that fantasy weekend.

CDs by SIEM sound, which is John Sims, a DJ who spins here at Mining Company. Beauty products by Don Gill. Leather play toys because it's a fantasy weekend. Most definitely provided by Leather by Boots in Dallas. And a few other surprises that will be coming available hopefully between now and Thursday when we leave for Dallas.

And, unfortunately, Patrick, who is Lone Star Drummer boy, couldn't be here. He is actually at boy camp in Dallas. Something else that--

JIMMY: He was very excited about getting to go there.

JIM NIXON: Very, very much. Very, very much, and he's learning a lot. I've heard calls coming back from Dallas, saying how much they're enjoying that and learning. But he will be there as well, and his basket is-- because his persuasion, he has a puppy basket.

I've seen his basket. It's very entertaining, and it's going to do very well. That's all I can say about his basket at this point. But I think the best thing is that all that money that we do raise in the auction takes place there during the contest goes back into the contest to bring those people to the national level, the international level. So it's a very important part of it.

CREATH Everything that goes into those baskets really goes in for a good cause and brings a lot of money. Of course, the **ROBINSON:** more attractive the basket, the more money it brings.

JIMMY: There you go.

CREATH Obviously.

ROBINSON:

JIM NIXON: And, of course, Creath has a basket as well.

CREATH I knew we were going to get to that. Well, since I do have the ability to be able to support Big Dog Leather, which **ROBINSON:** is my business. Big Dog is doing a basket in total. So it will be a leather basket, and it's going to consist of harnesses, a sling. It's going to have Sam Brown.

There's going to be armbands. There's going to be just a variety of different things. Lube, the leatherman's handbook. And there's no telling what else I'm going to have in there before we get off to Dallas on Thursday. So I'm really excited about that.

And it's something different. Every one of them is a little bit different, so it should be very attractive for everyone. I believe those are going to be auctioned off on Friday night.

JIMMY: We need to have this in Houston some night.

CREATH I think we do too. I think we do too. Well, hopefully, one of us will bring this title back, and we'll have a little bit of **ROBINSON:** pull with Mark Frazier as well.

JIM NIXON: Let's hope so.

CREATH But Don Gill is going up.

ROBINSON:

JIM NIXON: He'll actually MC, co-MC'ing the show, the contest.

CREATH And it's going to be a number of entertainers from Houston that are going to go up and entertain for this. It's **ROBINSON:** going to be a great show. It really is. I can't remember at least in the last two years as much hype locally about Gulf Coast Drummer as there has been this year.

JIM NIXON: But we have three contestants. Of course, the winner of Texas Drummer will go--