

MAN 1: Six big elections here, two presidential, and a bunch of Texas [INAUDIBLE] elections at Lovett inn. And I can tell you, those cards are in demand. And I have people ask me. In the last presidential election, I was working the phones at the caucus office for two days prior to the election. And I had people-- well, I need the card, where can I get the card, where can I get the card. When I called him, I asked him, can we count on you to come out and vote, and oh, yeah, but where's the card, I need the card.

And so those cards are so important. Some people may say, oh, they're just a little piece of trash.

MAN 2: No, no, no, no, no, no.

MAN 1: They're not.

DEBORAH ROGERS: No, not at all.

MAN 2: No, because when it comes from the caucus, I know that these candidates have been interviewed and they have passed the test of the caucus. It's not that the caucus has just gone out and just given support willy nilly to people without-- yeah.

MAN 1: On our screening committee, we really do put their feet to the fire and we really do take our position in the screening very, very seriously.

MAN 2: And I depend on that.

DEBORAH ROGERS: And I think I think, too, when you have three to five people sitting across from a candidate, eye to eye, and getting the gut vibe of what it's like to talk to that person without a preconceived speech in hand or anything else, you get a better feel for how they might be and outside of the soundbites that they're usually giving or something and look them in the eye and see how you feel about it. That's one of the things about the screening process that I think really puts the extra touch on the endorsement at the end because you've had real people from the community sitting across from these people.

MAN 2: Yeah, it's not just a questionnaire that's been sent in.

DEBORAH ROGERS: Oh, no. No, it's a live interview. So it's an important part of what the caucus does. And yet, I would encourage strongly anyone who knows in the back of their head that the political process is important to them, but they shy away from being involved in it either because it gets them too angry, they get too frustrated, it's too much information, they've got other things in their lives that they need to prioritize, I can understand all those things. But if you just want to send us \$5 a month, that'd be great.

MAN 2: Or come for a mail-out.

DEBORAH ROGERS: Come for a mail-out.

MAN 2: I've done that and that was fun.

DEBORAH Oh, the mail-outs are fun.

ROGERS:

MAN 2: Yes.

DEBORAH Those are fun. You're sitting around, pushing paper--

ROGERS:

MAN 2: That's right. It's purely social.

DEBORAH It's like the old quilting bee socials, really.

ROGERS:

[LAUGHTER]

Everybody's sitting around. [MUMBLES]

MAN 2: That's right. And if you're not there, you're going to be talked about.

DEBORAH Definitely. Why isn't so-and-so here? Well, you know--

ROGERS:

MAN 1: And you know us Queens can talk.

DEBORAH And your sisters too. [INAUDIBLE].

ROGERS:

MAN 1: And don't forget-- you got a big talker here. You don't want to disappoint a newsman because I have the airwaves on Saturday night. I'll let your laundry out.

[LAUGHTER]

DEBORAH I think something that we've got to focus on-- and this is also an issue. There's two issues regarding the caucus that are very near and dear to my heart. One is we're approaching an election, which is what I call one of the glamour elections, OK? It's not President, it's not governor, but it is a big glamour election that we've got, potentially a controversial referendum coming up. We've got a mayor's race which always gets the city fired up, we've got numerous city council positions which gets people fired up, and that's what people are focusing on.

What I have to thump and preach and rant and rave about more than anything else is the importance of an individual's vote in local elections. Too often the excuse I get from people who don't vote is that my vote really doesn't count. And I'm going to tell you something- after the presidential election, that feeling really went up with a lot of people across the country. And when you live in a huge state like Texas, and you're voting for governor or state Senate-- I mean, the Congressional Senator-- federal Senator, you know what I'm trying to say.

When you're trying to replace Phil Graham, and you realize that you're having to vote against all those counties in East Texas and West Texas, you really feel like your vote is lost. I understand that. But I'm going to tell you, when it comes to a local election in the city or County races, your vote counts. It just has more of a punch than you could ever imagine because the margin by which some of these elections are won and lost can literally be by the tens.

WOMAN 1: Which is exactly why I thought the presidential election would have shown that up because the margin was so tight. The number of people who sat on that night could've definitely swayed it one way or another.

DEBORAH ROGERS: I was certainly hoping that that feeling would run too. I think it kind of runs both ways. But we've lost some of the momentum off of the presidential race right now. Until somebody really steps on their appendage again for the umpteenth time in a way that makes them howl loudly, I don't think anyone's going to be paying attention to that. And I think that first of all, if you can get people out in the glamour races like the mayor's race which is very high profile, it's going to prepare us for the thing that I'm really wanting the caucus to be the most prepared for right now, which is next year's elections when we're voting for judges.

MAN 2: Yeah.

WOMAN 1: Oh, yeah.

MAN 2: Because Ray Hill says, you're going to come before a judge, a local judge, a larger percentage of the time than you're ever going to meet a president.

DEBORAH ROGERS: Exactly. And people don't think through the importance of the judicial races because they think, I'm a law abiding citizen. I'm not going to be in front of Criminal Court and I'm not going to do this and this and this is. Wrong. I want to ask how many gay parents out there have had to deal with family court. I want to ask how many people out there have had to deal with probate court or civil actions or various other issues. And I'm going to tell you right now, it hits you a lot harder than you think because if it doesn't hit you, it's going to hit a family member or someone close and dear to you. And you have a great deal of impact on those judicial elections.

WOMAN 1: Yeah.

DEBORAH ROGERS: Now we are a nonpartisan organization. But I do believe in diversity quite a bit. And right now, in Harris County, we have an all Republican judiciary.

MAN 2: That's right.

WOMAN 1: Not only Republican, but conservator Republican too. And that's become a very sore spot in the transgender community because of the name change situation in Harris County.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

DEBORAH ROGERS: Exactly. I mean, there are too many issues out there that affect everyone across the board and the judiciary.

WOMAN 2: And I wanted to add-- it seems like that was a tactic of the right wing to fill up all the small, insignificant, quote unquote, "positions" and then head up the ladder to presidency--

DEBORAH ROGERS: That's exactly what they did. They've taken Lyndon LaRouche's page out of his playbook there.

MAN 2: But Kristen, like with all of these conservative Republican judges like Beth said, it's almost impossible to get a name change because the Republican Party has come down and said, we don't want any judges doing name changes.

WOMAN 2: No, it is impossible. Not almost, it is impossible on Harris. Right now, you can just forget it.

MAN 2: And that's what happens.

WOMAN 2: That's right.

WOMAN 1: That's the kind of discrimination that comes from one mindset controlling the entire judiciary.

MAN 2: And that's why when people say, why do we need all of these equal rights laws, it's because if we had the right judiciary, we wouldn't need the laws.

WOMAN 1: Laws or not, the diversity there, as Deb was saying earlier, would definitely help.

MAN 2: Yes.

MAN 3: You know what strikes me is that--

DEBORAH ROGERS: [INAUDIBLE]

MAN 3: I understand that-- what? [INAUDIBLE] What gets me is that, yes, I understand there are gay Republicans. And I'm a Democrat. I freely admit, I am a bleeding heart liberal--

MAN 2: Yellow dog. Yellow dog Democrat.

MAN 3: I'm a Democrat, and I realized there are gay Republicans and there are gay Democrats, and we need both.

MAN 2: We do. We do because-- and, well, we're going to have them anyway because we as queers, we cross all boundaries.

MAN 3: Exactly. My one thing is this-- for anybody who is willing to vote for the folks least likely to have a positive effect on our community as a whole, the entire community, I am constantly reminded of that little speech that was done at one of the marches, that little one that goes where will you be when they come.

MAN 2: That right. That Parker, he's the poet.

MAN 3: We sit there and we let these people tell us how to live and how to do things. And where will we be when they're knocking on our doors and marching us off to our little--

MAN 2: Yeah, by the way, yeah, where are-- yeah, when you go to the local voting here lately and there's judges, there's a lot of times that there's only one person running, and it's a Republican candidate running for the judgeship. So where are all of these Democrats that should be running there?

WOMAN 1: Well, one way or the other, I think the push card really helps a lot. In my experience, I know for a lot of years, I'd go, OK, it's a presidential election, I'm going to go out and vote for president, here's president. And there's 60 other people on the ballot for local judges and stuff like that. I don't have a clue who these people are.

And having that push card-- I take the push card as a starting point. It gets me a place to start my research. OK, so caucus recommends this guy. Who is he? And I look into it from there and I find, because I'm neither Republican or Democrat and probably lean most towards libertarian lines, but even still, I find myself following that push card more times than not you bet because it's right.

MAN 2: Yep.

**DEBORAH
ROGERS:** It's right.

MAN 1: Again, I can say that those names that are on that push card-- trust me, folks, they have really been scrutinized very, very thoroughly.

MAN 2: OK. We've gotten serious here. Let's have some fun because I know that there are events at the caucus that are a lot of fun too.

MAN 1: Like a general meeting?

[LAUGHTER]

MAN 3: Excuse me. Just a second.

MAN 2: Oh, some of those general meetings-- they are [INAUDIBLE]. No, but there's social aspects. There are social aspects to being a member of the caucus too.

WOMAN 1: Oh, yeah.

**DEBORAH
ROGERS:** Yeah, we're working on those things. With a sudden influx of new board members, we've got all sorts of activities that we'd like to see coming up in the future. One of the things that we're working on was the brainchild of someone you all know here, Joel Gray, was the idea for a caucus cookbook that we're putting together.

MAN 2: I am so thrilled with that.

**DEBORAH
ROGERS:** It actually is kind of fun. We're collecting recipes from various dignitaries, social maladroits, and other people who are either in the GLTB community or friends of this community, which means we hope to be hitting up everyone from city council people to perhaps Mr. Carper over there and--

MAN 2: Yes, I'm going to give up my recipe for pie crust.

**DEBORAH
ROGERS:** Oh, boy. Ooh, that's a good one.

MAN 1: You are going to do that? Yep and I think if I play

**DEBORAH
ROGERS:** And one of our first donations already came in from former Governor Ann Richards.

MAN 2: Oh, good.

DEBORAH ROGERS: So we're also trying to solicit some celebrity recipes as well and collect this together for a cookbook that we would sell for a modest price with as much profit geared towards the caucus as possible. And also, in addition to that, before we launched the cookbook, a taste testing fundraiser where for a given entrance fee you could come in and try some of these recipes that have been cooked up in the Caucus Betty Crocker Kitchen of sorts.

WOMAN 1: Including Crusty Carper's Pie.

MAN 2: That's right.

DEBORAH ROGERS: That could be quite good. They rejected my onion cookies though.

[LAUGHTER]

If nobody has ever put an onion in a cookie and you suddenly have, you're going to have to ask yourself why.

WOMAN 1: Spring surprise.

DEBORAH ROGERS: Actually, I stole that idea of-- somebody I know was writing a cookbook for guests that have overstayed their welcome. Well, one of the caveats that we have added in letters to our celebrities is that we realize with their busy schedule, they may not have a favorite recipe. And if there is a recipe they just like to warn people about to avoid and not do, we would accept that as well for our 10 foot pole chapter. So I'm hoping that--

MAN 2: That'll be fun.

DEBORAH ROGERS: --you'll see a bit of humor interjected into the cookbook as well.

MAN 2: I'm thinking any recipe that has the word surprise in it--

DEBORAH ROGERS: I'll be honest with you, any recipe that calls for cream of asparagus soup is a definite no no.

MAN 3: Banana puddings with mushrooms-- I think--

DEBORAH ROGERS: I do have a recipe that a friend forwarded to me from a little cooperative in South Florida for a asparagus lime jell-o mold.

WOMAN 1: There are so many things wrong with that recipe. There are. I don't even know where to begin. Well look this card we've already gone over

DEBORAH ROGERS: We have that little project coming up. We finally have a website.

MAN 2: OK, now that's at least two things that should never go into jell-o that are thought about.

DEBORAH ROGERS: Oh, man. *The Joys of Jell-o*. I have that cookbook at home. Anyway, no, there are other things that we have. We have a website where people can donate their services to that. And we're going to have an election newsletter coming out as well. And in the fall, we'll be having our annual Gal-On awards dinner which I'm hoping this year will be rather entertaining for a change. And just little events throughout, sometimes events to help you meet the candidates or just meet other organizations.

I tell you, the second focus that I was going to get to about what I feel very strongly about for the caucus also fits in with this in that it is imperative in my mind that the caucus reach out to other organizations in the city and even outside of the city. I mean, one of the things that I would love to see and that I would like to make a goal and a priority for us is to literally have almost-- you know how some neighborhoods have block homes where allegedly they have blocked home written in their little window. And if you ever have an emergency you can run to that house to call your mother or whatever, something like that.

And what I envision is because we are so spread out as a community now, we're not all in Montrose anymore, we're in the Heights or wherever, to have almost a [? cause ?] yeah. Well, hey, I'm out in Bear Creek. What can I say?

MAN 2: [INAUDIBLE] who live out in BFE.

DEBORAH ROGERS: Let me tell you something-- it's interesting. Well, that's--

MAN 2: [INAUDIBLE] lives in Katy.

DEBORAH ROGERS: Well, yeah. Yeah, we're just down the highway from each other. But--

JOULE: [INAUDIBLE] is where?

MAN 2: Needville. Hi, Joule.

DEBORAH ROGERS: Hey, Joule.

MAN 2: Why they ever named the town Needville, I don't know.

DEBORAH ROGERS: Because they knew they needed-- they needed something.

WOMAN 1: Down the street from Wantville.

DEBORAH ROGERS: But I'd like to see the caucus have pods in different parts of the city where you have a caucus member who is like a representative for that area and occasionally-- yeah, and occasionally has like little socials or salons for discussion for people say in the Northwest or in the Southeast or various other places. And then occasionally even possibly move a caucus meeting to those areas to attract other membership for people in the outlying areas.

We focus a lot so much on the city races. I'd like to see a point where we're also focusing equally on the County races so that we move outwards and really show the variance and location of the GLTB vote.

WOMAN 1: Being outside of the Houston City limits but inside the Harris County line, I would very much appreciate something--

DEBORAH ROGERS: I would too. It's ironic, but as caucus president, I do not vote in the city election.

MAN 2: I don't either.

DEBORAH ROGERS: I work in the city. So I'm obviously very concerned about what happens with the city. And with the way the city has a tendency to annex things, I think we all have to be concerned about what happens with the city. But as goes the city sometimes, it affects the County and the county's decisions to do things. And so these are the things I'd like to see the caucus do to move out and address more people because we all know there are different paths and enclaves of the city where there are heavy concentrations of our population and there are other places where we have people in our community who are just out there by themselves.

I mean, there are times when I'm convinced I am the only lesbian in Bear Creek. I know that's not true because I do have a few friends out there. But I mean, I can't wait for National Night Out where everyone's supposed to meet their neighbor. And I think it's some night and the first week of August or something, you're all supposed to sit out in your front lawn with your little cookies and lemonade and meet your neighbors and get to know each other. And where the hell's with the rainbow stickers on the bumper cars.

But yeah, I think it's important for us to reach out that way because if we keep putting all of our eggs in one basket and getting all of our votes out of 7 out of 6, we're going to be sunk.

MAN 2: Yeah. We've got to realize that in this city, there's three to 400,000 queers. And there's just not that many people living in Montrose.

DEBORAH ROGERS: I heard that there's actually some in the Woodlands too. Oh, yeah.

MAN 2: Oh, yeah. Actually, I know a couple. Yeah, we're everywhere. And I've often said that it's easy to be queer in the Montrose. I mean, it's the male couple and the female couple who are out in the suburbs, living their lives, who are the real activists.

DEBORAH ROGERS: That's true. And the other thing-- the flip side of that is that it's amazing how easy it is to be queer in the suburbs too--

MAN 2: Really?

DEBORAH ROGERS: --because most people really don't care about what you're doing.

MAN 2: No, they're more interested that you keep the lawn mowed and how you treat your neighbors and--

WOMAN 1: We're two women raising kids in the suburbs. And the most important thing to our neighbors is that we're good to our kids and we're good to their kids.

DEBORAH ROGERS: Exactly.

MAN 1: There is so much to what you all are saying. The security firm that I've been working for has been doing double duty in addition working as part of emergency flood relief where there's a lot of construction people. Now there is this very nelly guy, very gay, very open who's operating a crane with a hardhat. There is another construction person--

MAN 2: Yeah, I know. I saw him in the Village People.

MAN 1: Wait.

[LAUGHTER]

Wait, wait. But there's another construction person hard-- there's another construction person, another hard hat person, right, electrician in there. He is undergoing transition. And he's got the breast--

WOMAN 1: Well, that would make her undergoing-- but anyway--

MAN 1: I can't be politically correct all the time. But he still has some of the male voice left, but not all. And then there's another kid-- and then there's another kid, right? And he wears his T-shirt. On the front of it, it says, because daddy said so. On the back of the T-shirt, you see this naked kid on all fours, down on his knees on all fours, a beehive sticking up in the air, and then there's an S&M daddy with a paddle and the thing over there-- thank you, sir. May I please help another. And you would think that these people who are very out--

MAN 2: I wouldn't that shirt in Montrose.

MAN 1: Wait, you see the people like this who are very out, you would not find any macho male thing like construction.

MAN 2: We got rainbow the clown living in a trailer park at the West Mount Houston and working for the city.

MAN 5: And picking up trash.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

WOMAN 1: We don't care about your dating habits.

MAN 1: --and The Houston judges still can't get the message about transgender.

MAN 2: We're everywhere. We are everywhere. That's the point, folks.

DEBORAH ROGERS: The thing is we have to have to-- the thing we have to remember, though, in all of this is that while we know in our heart of hearts and living our lives day to day, 99% of the population really doesn't care what we do as long as we're maintaining ourselves as model citizens with everybody else. It's that 1% who raises a ruckus and starts the hate speech that makes the rest of our lives a living hell.

MAN 2: Like that bigoted Lutheran minister who has sent out a letter about the referendum coming up. And it's like, how can you be a religious leader and be so bigoted. I just don't get it.

DEBORAH ROGERS: I think what we sometimes forget is that religious people, however you define that, are also people too. And as such, they're going to suffer the same flaws that people are prone to.

MAN 2: Boy, you're a whole lot nicer than I am.

DEBORAH I have to be. One of my dear friends is a Methodist minister. And her denomination does not allow her to be out.

ROGERS: So I try to look at these things in stride and just remember that they belong to the human population as well. And since we know our population, being as diverse as it is, has some real Lulus in it, it's going to hit their population as well too.

MAN 3: Yeah, I have a really good friend who is bisexual and kind of early in his discovery of himself. But he works in a very male macho construction type position. And to one or two of those people, they know. But to others he's-- there are others there who he's afraid they're going to drop a girder on his head or something simply because of who he is.

DEBORAH Yeah. There's a lot of fear in the world.

ROGERS:

MAN 2: Yeah.

MAN 3: I think we, as a community, need to be there for those people too. That's why we should be doing all this and putting people into office-- helping to put people into office who help us--

DEBORAH Maintain a safe space.

ROGERS:

MAN 3: Yeah, be who we are and--

WOMAN 1: Well, Deb, you kind of bounced off this a while ago. If we do end up with a referendum-- we've had referendums in this city before, and they didn't go very well. What plans or what-- where are we going to go with this thing? Do you have anything to talk about on that yet?

DEBORAH Well, the simplistic knee jerk answer that I'm going to give you start off with is first we go to the voting booth.

ROGERS:

WOMAN 1: Yeah.

DEBORAH The bottom line with all of this stuff is that it's a numbers game. We can romanticize it as much as we want, but the bottom line is whoever brings out the most vote on a given day is who gets to play the ball next. And that's the real issue is who's going to get out the vote on that day. Now the last time something of this nature came up was back in 85. And it was defeated soundly for a number of reasons. One was the climate of the time, the political and social climate of the time. The other was that the other side got out their vote, and they rallied, and they did it.

The difference this time, I'm hoping, is that we have more people who are progressive enough to just want to see the city move beyond this and not have to deal with it anymore. And I'm hoping that not only our community, but the progressive community at large will get out its vote. I'm also thinking that the social climate has changed drastically. And I'm also hoping, more than anything, that we can get out the message that this is not just a social issue anymore, people. This is also an economic issue.

And I would counter to say that having nondiscrimination in your basic corporate policy and business policy is a good thing. If it wasn't a good thing, I don't think Continental Airlines, Compaq, or Enron would have it as part of their-- or Shell-- would have it is part of their policy. They're not going to do something--

WOMAN 1: And many others.

DEBORAH ROGERS: Exactly. They're not going to do it simply out of the goodness of their heart. They're going to do it because it's good business.

WOMAN 1: Yeah. Well, Exxon's been getting some bad PR over not having that happen.

DEBORAH ROGERS: Exxon is an unusual animal. I have very odd feelings about ExxonMobil because on one hand, I feel so sorry for the people at Mobil. I really do. Mobil is a very progressive company. It was one of the major benefactors of the arts in this country. And it already had the policies in place before they were merged and swallowed up by Exxon.

I feel very empathetic towards ideas of boycotts to Exxon or something like that. But in my mind, Exxon is the Al Capone of corporations.

[LAUGHTER]

MAN 2: No, that's a really good way of--

DEBORAH ROGERS: It really is. I mean, for years, the government tried to catch Al Capone on the things that they knew he was doing. But they couldn't catch him on things like murder and loan sharking and racketeering and so forth. They couldn't catch him on that. What did they catch him on? Income tax evasion. And I'm thinking that's what's going to have to eventually bring Exxon down, not necessarily income tax evasion because they do that all the time and--

[LAUGHTER]

They're more than willing to pay whatever fines if necessary and that sort of thing. It's going to have to be some other weakness or glitch that we find collectively and bring to their issue. One of the things that surprises me is that we don't have more corporations focusing on that. For example, Shell is an excellent corporate sponsor and a friend towards the community and so forth. And I think if they realized just what kind of brand loyalty really is in the community and went after that and realized just how angry people are at Exxon, that'd be a start. That'd be a start.

I always caution on boycotts and things like that because you have to really examine who is it going to hurt the most. Is a boycott really going to hurt Exxon? I don't know. I'm not going to answer that question. I don't know. However, I know that when I drive by to get gas in my neighborhood, unfortunately, the cheapest gas station by at least \$0.05 a gallon is always the little Exxon station.

Now do I sacrifice what I need for that or do I float on the air of my principles or whatever? That's a personal argument that everybody has to answer for themselves. Some days, I do, some days, I don't. I'll be honest. I mean, I'm not perfect. But you really have to look at where the best impact's going to be. And I don't know that we found it yet. I don't know if it's going to take a little bit of everything or what. But that's one of those enigmatic questions. That one really bugs me, I got to admit.

MAN 3: I think that falls into a great part that's about if you try to hit for the heart of a company, you're going to miss every time. If you aim for the pocketbook of a company, that's going to hurt a lot more. And I think that's when they snap up and take notice, oh, guess what, they're a part of the people who buy our stuff too.

WOMAN 1: Well, that certainly worked with the whole Dr. Laura thing is playing, oh, quit with the derogatory remarks and all the other characterizations and everything like that and it fell on deaf ears. But when they contacted the sponsors of the show and said, look, we're not going to buy your products because you advertise with somebody that is just--

DEBORAH ROGERS: An outspoken bigot.

WOMAN 1: Yeah, basically. And there was a response. When you have a large segment of the community saying, look, if you're advertising on so-and-so program, we're not going to buy your stuff. And now the *Dr. Laura Show* has been canceled and so that definitely is an effective technique is hit them in the pocketbook.

DEBORAH ROGERS: That's true. But when you're dealing with someone like Exxon whose pocketbooks go beyond anything you could imagine in your wildest life, that's where you have to be very strategic in your hits. And that's a challenge before us, it really is, as a community in terms of what is-- not just the GLTB community, but any community that is trying to affect change within corporate America, whether it be based on race, religion, orientation, gender, identity, or whatever. We all need to really look at the best way with some of these companies in different ways because some of these companies have now gotten to the point where they're basically as an independent nation. That's the sad reality.

MAN 1: OK, Deborah. I have some other questions I want to move along here. We've only got a few minutes left. The GLAAD Media training is coming up. Do we have people from the caucus that's going to be attending that?

DEBORAH ROGERS: Oh, definitely. I think utilizing the media and on an efficient fashion is something that is always important to make our presence known and to make sure that it's a positive presence at all times.

MAN 1: This is another thing that people who want to be really effective in the community or-- I would strongly urge you to attend this GLAAD Media event because we need people who have the heart for activism, and the caucus could use you. And when you're involved in the caucus stuff, because of the nature of the caucus, you wind up a lot of times in the media, and we do affect change.

And I think the caucus can be pretty proud of the fact that most of the positive changes that we've seen here in the Houston area have come about because of the caucus. And in spite of all the diversity that there may be at the general meetings and at board meetings, it is once we come together and we make a stand in a commitment, we do make a positive change in the community. And I think this time, we may see a different outcome with this referendum.

I know I, myself, have taken it upon myself to talk to as many people as possible concerning the referendums. And I'm not talking about talking to just gay people, but I'm talking to people out in the minorities out in the wards and whatnot because the same arguments they used again, they're using against us was used against Black folks back in the early '60s and the '50s. The exact, I don't want to be in the same shower!

MAN 2: Yeah, yeah, yeah. OK. I hate to cut it off, but we're quickly running out of time.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

**DEBORAH
ROGERS:** That happened in a news story, I think. Well, before you--

MAN 1: Cut it off or pull it off?

**DEBORAH
ROGERS:** Before you wind up the show, I did want to plug Yes the shelter in Galveston for gender variant individuals. If you would like to help support us with either a donation of a kitchen table and some chairs or a monetary donation of any size, you can send that to Capital Bank which is-- it's the 52nd Street house fund. And you can just call them at 713-529-0001. You can also contact Cats at tghelp@yahoo.com.

And I wanted to plug one other thing, which is the yard sale that Cats and the Lesbian and Gay Community Center is doing together August 18th at 7:00 AM. And if you have anything you would like to contribute to that yard sale, call us at 281-585-8089, and we will schedule a pickup for that.

MAN 2: OK, thank you.

**DEBORAH
ROGERS:** I just wanted to clarify-- if you're wanting to donate kitchen table and chairs, don't bring those to Capital Bank. That's not--

[LAUGHTER]

WOMAN 1: Call the phone.

MAN 2: Yes.

MAN 1: Deborah, what's the caucus website?

**DEBORAH
ROGERS:** The website is hglpc.com.

MAN 1: If you haven't visited it, is quite a sight. You did a magnificent job on it.

**DEBORAH
ROGERS:** Thank you. We're about to update it again here.

WOMAN 1: Yee-haw!

**DEBORAH
ROGERS:** And also, if you'd like to email us we are at voter-- that's V-O-T-E-R-- --@hglpc.com.

MAN 1: Phone number?

**DEBORAH
ROGERS:**

OK, if you have to call us-- [LAUGHS] sorry, I'm the one that gets the calls. 713-521-1000.

MAN 2:

That's it. Yes, that famous number. Deborah Rogers, thank you for being a guest on After Hours.

**DEBORAH
ROGERS:**

Thank you.

MAN 2:

Melanie and Kristen and Beth are always welcome. Alison, I'm getting to you because Alison's probably be going to do a new segment of Book Reviews coming up in September. We'll be hearing from Alison.

MAN 1:

Welcome aboard.

MAN 2:

Yes, thank you. Big Roy, thank you as always.

MAN 1:

All right.

MAN 2:

Coming up at the top of the hour is the *Early Morning Groove* with Rob Love and the governor, good grief. And they are both here right now. And I'm telling you, it's just too much for this poor old gay man. Anyway, in the background, you're hearing Dallas singing Star Mark Allen Smith who I, say--

[LAUGHTER]

MAN 1:

You butchered that one.

MAN 2:

I sure did. And I should shut up because the music is too good. It's one of my favorite ones-- "His Eye is on the Sparrow," Mark Allen Smith. And we'll see you next week. Take care.