

SPEAKER 1: You know, and it's because I have a Coke in my hand. I can have a rum and Coke. I can have a jack and Coke. I can have anything. But the bars now, they're trying to cater to the people who aren't drinking.

SPEAKER 2: OK. Say, for instance, if someone opened a gay bar in Montrose and just served all non-alcoholic beverages and-- I think Scott and I would even talk to this that would not be popular because there are many nights, where-- or a gay bar in Houston offer no alcohol for a night. It would not be popular. What do you think the urge is in the need to drink?

SPEAKER 1: To relax.

SPEAKER 2: In our culture?

SPEAKER 1: To get over that edge. To get over that inhibition to be comfortable with yourself. A lot of people aren't comfortable with themselves, so they have to drink to ease down and unwind. There's a lot of people out there who aren't comfortable with themselves.

SPEAKER 2: So is that society's fault or is that all personal choices?

SPEAKER 1: It's society's fault, but I cannot-- my aspect of it was total personal. That's me.

SPEAKER 2: Did you denied the fact that you were an alcoholic? Did you ever think to yourself, maybe, oh, I drink a little bit too much, but I'm not an alcoholic.

SPEAKER 1: Oh. My major drug of choice was cocaine.

SPEAKER 2: OK.

SPEAKER 1: When I went-- I've been in and out of the doors of AA, and CA, and all that stuff. And when I went in, I went to-- I forgot what place it was, but I went into this one place, and it was just get off cocaine and everything. And I went back. And I said, OK. I went back, and I smoked some pot. And I drank some beer and everything, and then it just totally progressed where I was back into doing cocaine.

SPEAKER 2: As you look back, is there anything in your life or anything in your rehabilitation process that you'd like to change? Is the message not getting out? Is the education not there? What would you like to see happen in the future?

SPEAKER 1: I think the education is there. There's a lot-- there's PDAC, there's CDAC counselors. There's all these places. Harris County Psychiatric Center, they'll put you in there and get you sober for free. It's not what society can do. It's what you can do for yourself. You have to want it. If you don't want it, you're going to stay out there, and you're going to use.

SPEAKER 2: There's been a lot-- I have a lot of friends who are alcoholics, and they tell me that they're afraid to be sober.

SPEAKER 1: There's nothing to be afraid of. They're afraid of themselves.

SPEAKER 2: From being scared, where does that come from, do you think?

SPEAKER 1: They don't want to lose their best friend. I mean, when I became sober, I went through a mourning period, where I grieve the loss of my drugs because I couldn't live without them because I was a totally different-- I'm a totally different person without my drugs.

SPEAKER 2: Do you like yourself now?

SPEAKER 1: I love myself now.

SPEAKER 2: Well, you loved yourself before, didn't you?

SPEAKER 1: No.

SPEAKER 2: Why?

SPEAKER 1: I was just unhappy. I was miserable. I couldn't make up my mind. I couldn't do what I wanted to do. I was always out, trying to please other people. And now, I'm out to please me.

SPEAKER 2: Once again-- and I'd like to get back to our young listeners because I think what happens is that because these young people, nowadays, they think that alcoholism and drugs are the answer to find life, is there anything that you can say to them right now, to that young person who's sneaking out drinking alcohol and can't wait that he's 21 to drink. Is there anything that you can say to that person, perhaps, that would change his mind? You're an educator now.

SPEAKER 1: You know, I would love to just give words of wisdom for them, but I think that you just learn. I mean, you learn for everything that you do. I learned, and I got my ass kicked. And it came down around me. But a lot of people can just go out and have a couple of drinks and have a good time.

You know, I wish I could. I wish I can go out and have a couple of drinks with someone and have a good time, but I'm afraid that it's going to just go in from one thing to another. And I can't do that.

SPEAKER 2: Does these rehabilitation processes, do they teach you tolerance? Do they teach you-- or do they teach you complete abstinence?

SPEAKER 1: Complete abstinence. I cannot have anything. I cannot have anything, nothing.

SPEAKER 3: You can have Howard Nye.

SPEAKER 2: Yes.

SPEAKER 3: No calories and lots of fun.

SPEAKER 1: Double overdose.

SPEAKER 4: And a half hour later, you're hungry again.

SPEAKER 2: It's so funny because because I think alcohol and drugs have touched all of our lives and messed them up. And if there's one message that I can scream out to Houston tonight and all those people listening to us is that it's not the answer.

SPEAKER 1: It's not.

SPEAKER 2: OK, then, why does society push it so much?

SPEAKER 1: It's everywhere. It's everywhere. It's not just in our community. It's everywhere.

SPEAKER 2: So do you think that some people are less tolerant, some are more tolerant, some can handle it, some can't?

SPEAKER 1: Yes. Yes. Yes. That is definitely true. I mean, I wish I could handle it. I honestly wish I could, but I can't. And I have to admit that. When you see the signs, you have to totally stop it.

SPEAKER 2: Now that you're off alcohol and drugs completely, do you see-- where do you see yourself in five years? Where do you see yourself growing?

SPEAKER 1: Well, I will be alive. I will definitely be alive. The way I was going, I would have been dead by now, the way I was living. I mean, I was doing a lot of cocaine, a lot of cocaine. I mean, there were nights where I just-- I pulled wood off my door hinges because I was so high and my heart was just pounding.

And I was just going-- and just holding onto things and just ripping them off. And that's not the way to live. I'm happier now. I do things. I run three miles every day. I ride my bike, you know. I'm taking care of myself. I mean, I was gross when I was out there doing drugs. I mean, I could care less all. I wanted was the drugs and the alcohol.

SPEAKER 2: Yeah. I'm sure there are kids in our audience, who are listening right now, and they're going, yeah, , yeah, yeah, I've heard it all before. This is all crap. It's just a bunch of adults telling us that we shouldn't do things. What's the most scariest point that you realized from drugs and alcohol, your bottom moment, the thing that scared you the most?

SPEAKER 1: Just riding through Montrose.

SPEAKER 2: That scared you the most?

SPEAKER 1: Yeah. I mean, I'm just almost OD'ing. I mean, I've seen people OD. I've seen people die. I've seen people have heart attacks in the house. And you know, yet that drug just came back up and made me go back in and use again.

SPEAKER 2: They are going to be-- there are going to be people in our community, there are going to be people out there in the whole world who say, well, there's no place else to go. If I want to have fun, I've got to drink. If I want to go see my friends, I have to go where there's alcohol. I mean--

SPEAKER 1: I go where there's alcohol. I go out, and I go dancing. And then it's a major--

SPEAKER 2: Do you feel segregated?

SPEAKER 1: No, I don't feel segregated because there's a lot of-- I see a lot of people from AA in those bars. But you know, when I go into an AA meeting and someone-- you know, I'll say, I went out the other night, and I had a really good time. And I talked to some friends, and I've seen some-- I've seen some people go back out and all that stuff. They'll corner me in the AA meeting, and they'll say, you shouldn't have gone out to that bar last night. That's the devil. And I'm like, get away.

SPEAKER 3: Not because they're not strong enough or--

SPEAKER 1: I don't know. You know, I'm a drug addict more than I'm an alcoholic. And I know where I used to get the drugs and that I will not go into that one bar. I will not go into that one bar, and I will never-- I will never cross its path again.

SPEAKER 2: Do you think people who are stuck in that ditch, they want you there also? Have you--

SPEAKER 1: Oh, yes. Oh, yes. Oh, yes. Oh, yes.

SPEAKER 2: Why do they want you in that ditch with them?

SPEAKER 1: Because you're losing a friend. They're losing a drug buddy. They're losing a drinking buddy. They're losing someone that they had fun with, and they're mad. They're mad. I've lost a lot of friends. I lost a really good friend over this.

SPEAKER 3: How much fun is it? I have a good friend who's an alcoholic who admits that they're an alcoholic and drinks until they are stumbling drunk, then goes into these weird fits of depression, and crying, and screaming. And I mean, how much fun is that?

SPEAKER 1: It's no fun at all.

SPEAKER 3: So why is it every night that that person is back at that bar, drinking until oblivion again. I mean, the next night, to be back down there drinking 10 more cocktails in a two-hour span to where there's-- literally, they're having to have the bar hold them up, so they can go through it once more again.

SPEAKER 1: It's their addiction. I mean, there's something in there that's bothering them. And neither you nor can tear this person apart and figure it out.

SPEAKER 2: And that's what somebody else told me that's a recovering alcoholic. He told me that nobody can help that person but themselves. I said, what can I do? He has told me he's an alcoholic. He admits he's an alcoholic. He knows that he is. What can I do now? They said, there's nothing you can do.

SPEAKER 1: Nothing. I mean, yeah, you can drag them into Spring Shadows Glen and detox them all you want, but until they want to do it for themselves, there's nothing you can do. You have to want this. If you don't want this, you're not going to get it.

I want this. I want to live. I mean, I love my life. I've seen a different side of it now, and I'm enjoying myself. I'm laughing again and having a really good time. I'm going to counseling, and that's what's helping me. I'm learning to deal with this. What I did was I ran from my feelings.

I did not want to feel the hurt of my mom's death. I don't want to feel the hurt of my sister's death. I don't want to feel the hurt of my father's death, so I ran away and I used the drugs. And the drugs made me stronger. So I thought. And now, when these feelings come up, I'm able to deal with them. I'm able to cry.

I'm able to be sad at times and deal with it, and be upset, and get mad, and scream and holler. That's a lot of fun to me now because when I was on drugs, I was holding things in. I wasn't crying. I was using my drugs, and I was just being a total sex addict on cocaine.

SPEAKER 2: Does alcoholism and drug abuse, does it center around any-- center around any age?

SPEAKER 1: No, it's everywhere. It's all ages. I mean, yeah, you can start-- I started when I was 14. I started drinking when I was 14. I had 14 years of drinking and drugging. I'm 28.

SPEAKER 2: Where is it taking you?

SPEAKER 1: Where's it taking me?

SPEAKER 2: The bad route.

SPEAKER 1: It's taking me nowhere. I got kicked out of school. I'm just, you know-- I still kept my job. You know, they've hired me back six times.

SPEAKER 3: Oh, thank god for Julie Deering. She never did have any sense.

SPEAKER 1: She never did. She loves me.

SPEAKER 4: I thought married a Jewish dentist.

SPEAKER 2: Neal, thanks for coming down and sharing your insight. You're going to stick around for our next segment on masturbation, aren't you?

SPEAKER 1: Oh, yes.

SPEAKER 2: So we're going to play a song, and then we'll be back for a segment on masturbation. Don't go anywhere.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

SPEAKER 2: OK, that was a new song by Rush. No, it's it's called "Nobody's Hero," and it's a song about aids. I'm going to be playing that a whole lot more. One of the guys from weightless brought that over to After Hours. Some guy, Doug-- yeah, some guy. Next, what have we got?

SPEAKER 3: Well, next, we're going to-- [LAUGHS] cash only in this lane, buddy. [LAUGHS]

[SIDE CONVERSATION]

I tell you, please. Next, we're going to do a new song that you're not going to hear anywhere else. It's new, unreleased stuff from Fem2Fem. And it's just kind of wild, crazy stuff. And we're going to use it to intro our talk on masturbation.

NEIL: Say hello then.

SPEAKER 3: [LAUGHS] This is Fem2Fem.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

HOWARD: It sounds like a tribe somewhere in southern Africa.

SPEAKER 3: So does this remind you of masturbation, Howard?

HOWARD: No, it reminds me of the eighth grade.

[LAUGHTER]

Back when my hormones were flowing. So was the Mississippi back then, the wrong way.

SPEAKER 3: Been there, done that. Hated it. Uh-huh.

HOWARD: OK.

SPEAKER 3: [LAUGHS] So Howard--

HOWARD: Yes.

SPEAKER 3: --what do you think about when you masturbate?

HOWARD: There's this cute little dachshund down the street.

[LAUGHTER]

SPEAKER 3: We don't want to talk about your neighbor. Last time, Vince knew who he was.

HOWARD: Oh, [INAUDIBLE]. Yeah.

[LAUGHTER]

SPEAKER 3: Inside joke.

HOWARD: Seriously, can you hear me on this? Because I can't hear a word I'm saying.

SPEAKER 3: It's just kind of staticky.

HOWARD: I know. It must be a lightning storm. To tell you the truth, after 25, I don't masturbate anymore.

SPEAKER 3: So you haven't masturbated in, what, 15, 16 years?

HOWARD: I don't know. But--

SPEAKER 3: [LAUGHS]

HOWARD: --it isn't as intense as it used to be.

SPEAKER 3: Really?

HOWARD: Yeah.

SPEAKER 3: Women say just the opposite. But we're not women.

HOWARD: [INAUDIBLE] could have fooled me.

SPEAKER 3: Neil, you're over 25. Is it less intense now?

NEIL: Oh, no. Oh, no.

SPEAKER 3: Oh, it's better.

NEIL: Yes, it is.

SPEAKER 3: So what do you think about? Maybe Howard is thinking wrong.

NEIL: Well, I did see that dachshund, and I don't agree with him.

[LAUGHTER]

HOWARD: I saw it in your basket on your bicycle [? bin. ?]

SPEAKER 3: [LAUGHS] Yeah, but at least he wasn't riding it. He was riding the bike, OK, Howard?

[CHUCKLING]

NEIL: You ordered it. I brought it to you.

HOWARD: Can you remember the first time you masturbated? The very first time?

SPEAKER 3: Yes.

NEIL: Yes.

HOWARD: How old were you?

NEIL: 12.

SPEAKER 3: Yeah, I think I was 12 as well.

HOWARD: Oh, I was in eighth grade. I'll never forget it. I was in a bunk bed in Detroit, Michigan.

[LAUGHTER]

So were the rides that year, but what the hell. I used to plug up my father's tub. I'll never forget it. He came in screaming one time. He said, the bathtub is flooded. I said, what the heck? I didn't do anything. I thought he was going to catch me.

NEIL: Quit flattering yourself.

[LAUGHTER]

HOWARD: Oh, it hasn't gushed like that in years.

SPEAKER 3: Uh-uh-uh.

HOWARD: Why are we talking about masturbation tonight?

SPEAKER 3: I don't know.

HOWARD: It sure is a scary situation.

[LAUGHTER]

The last 10 times I've had an orgasm, I've been the only one in the room. And I know you have been also.

SPEAKER 3: In the room or alone?

[LAUGHTER]

HOWARD: Not with me in the room. You know what? It is real interesting to talk about masturbation, because what happens is that, once again, our audience is real young. And it is so new and just so wonderful when you find out that your body expels this stuff. And it is a wonderful, erroneous feeling. Do you know what I mean? It's kind of like stubbing your toe and enjoying it.

[LAUGHTER]

And chocolate doesn't do it, kids. Let me tell you.

SPEAKER 3: I'm telling you. So the message here is, masturbation good, Jesse--

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

NEIL: --chocolate.

SPEAKER 3: --Helms bad.

[CHUCKLING]

Masturbate with chocolate in the other hand. That's the message here. Eat the chocolate while you're masturbating. That's our message.

HOWARD: Do you make noises when you do it?

[LAUGHTER]

SPEAKER 3: Sometimes.

SPEAKER 4: [INAUDIBLE]

SPEAKER 3: Sometimes. It depends on if I use Jeff. [LAUGHS]

HOWARD: I was just going to ask that if you use certain things, because when I was in eighth grade, I didn't use anything but my hand. So what happens now?

SPEAKER 3: You use other things which require to use both hands.

NEIL: Oh. Mm. And batteries.

HOWARD: Like a fast-forward button?

[LAUGHTER]

SPEAKER 3: Sometimes.

HOWARD: Well, heck, this masturbation has [? drive ?] me crazy.

SPEAKER 3: I tell you.

HOWARD: Where are we headed tonight?

SPEAKER 3: The Ripcord.

HOWARD: What for?

SPEAKER 3: Ain't masturbation, baby.

HOWARD: [INAUDIBLE], baby.

SPEAKER 3: Hey, listen.

HOWARD: Yeah.

SPEAKER 3: We're going to move on and talk about personal ads and finding a lover. And we're going to kick it off. We're going to do a song and then come back and talk about it. This is off the CD from the motion picture *Philadelphia*. And it's by Sade. It's called "Please Send Me Someone To Love."

HOWARD: Okay.

SPEAKER 3: Just a little down, kind of relaxing--

HOWARD: Send me someone to hit.

SPEAKER 3: --kind of Sade kind of music.

HOWARD: [INAUDIBLE]

[MUSIC - SADE]