

SPEAKER 1: The following program contains language or images of the frank or sensitive nature, which may be considered objectionable by some. Listener discretion is advised.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

(SINGING) After hours, after hours.

HOST: Oh, yes. You've tuned in to *After Hours*, queer radio with attitude, right here on KPFT Houston 90.1 FM. The crew of *After Hours* is ready to bring you news, interviews, dialogue, and music geared for gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered people and their friends.

Here at *After Hours*, we may be diverse, but we have one thing in common. We are all out of the closet and urge everyone to come out of their closets. That means standing up for yourself, taking responsibility for your own life, and being proud of who you are. Realistically, we know not everyone can do that because of age, job, or frame of mind. That's OK. We're here for you too. So sit back, relax, and enjoy this week's edition of *After Hours*.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

JIMMY CARPER: Hello, Houston in College Station and Sarasota, Florida and Vancouver, Canada and welcome to *After Hours* queer radio with attitude. I'm Jimmy Carper and this is the August 11th edition and a very special one it is too because for the first two hours, we're going to bring you, live from Vancouver, the--

[TONE BEEPING]

That's the EBS thing. OK, sorry, that was the EBS thing going off. It usually does at this hour of the night.

Anyway, you are listening to *After Hours*, and coming up-- we are expecting a call any minute now from GiGi, and he's going to be bringing us the highlights of the 2001 Bi-Net conference that's going on in Vancouver as we speak. He's got folks lined up and waiting to speak to the Houston audience and the world audience because, of course, we are on the net at www.kpft.org, O-R-G.

And while we're waiting for that to happen, how about the song by a bisexual artist? This woman was featured by JD Doyle in his latest Queer Music Heritage. She was in Houston just a few weeks ago, which is how we got the interview with her. And she has been openly bisexual since she was a teenager, and she's had a varied life and a wonderful career-- just a rich, full career. And now she can sing swing and blues like nobody's business. And a wonderful song especially for Bi-Net, this is Candye Kane.

Yes, Candye Kane, out bisexual with "She Was My Baby Last Night." And if we have time later, I might be able to play a little portion of the interview that JD did with her, JD Doyle from Lesbian and Gay Voices. And his segment, Queer Music Heritage is heard every fourth Monday right here on KPFT during Lesbian and Gay Voices. His segment comes on at 9. Lesbian and Gay Voices starts at 8. And, of course, as I said earlier, welcoming the world to KPFT, and you can do that by tuning into www.kpft.org.

And as I promised, GiGi is on the phone. We're going to go to him just as soon as I can get my engineering talents to do so.

GiGi!

GIGI: Hello, Jimmy!

JIMMY CARPER: Hey, how is Vancouver?

GIGI: Oh I am flying so hi baby. Guess who we have as our first guest?

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, who?

GIGI: Loraine Hutchins.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, man, Loraine.

GIGI: Yes. Unfortunately, she can't hear you, but she's on the mic.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, OK, no-- this is one of my favorite bisexual authors.

GIGI: He's saying you're his favorite bisexual author.

JIMMY CARPER: Can you hear me?

GIGI: Loraine can't, but I can. We're on headsets.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, OK. So tell me what's been going on? How long-- when did it start?

GIGI: The conference started yesterday. And the workshops have been so fabulous.

JIMMY CARPER: Really?

GIGI: Oh, yes. And I got to Vancouver a week early so that I could go to the Pride parade last Sunday.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, really.

GIGI: Yes, so I marched in the Pride parade. This is Gigi.

JIMMY CARPER: Good for you. Good for you. I didn't know you were doing that.

GIGI: Yes. And I want to introduce our other person in the room is Heather.

HEATHER: Hi there.

JIMMY CARPER: Hi, Heather.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

JIMMY CARPER: Fine. We've talked, haven't we?

HEATHER: Possibly.

JIMMY CARPER: OK, sounds familiar.

GIGI: But anyway, I'm going to give my headset to Loraine so she can hear, and that way, you have questions or maybe we can kind of share something--

JIMMY CARPER: Yes. Please, I'd like you to direct it, actually.

HEATHER: Or I can give my headset to Loraine.

GIGI: OK, why don't you do that.

HEATHER: You're just going to have to tell me if I need to know something.

GIGI: I'll do that. [INAUDIBLE]

JIMMY CARPER: I said we're working on two headsets, right?

GIGI: Yes.

HEATHER: Here we go.

GIGI: Standard KPFT radio stuff. But anyway, Loraine is going to do a topic, and I'd like her to introduce the topic.

LORAINNE First, I'd like to introduce myself just a little bit and say that I'm a proud fourth generation native of Washington,

HUTCHINS: DC, another Pacifica station.

JIMMY CARPER: WPAI, that's right.

LORAINNE No.

HUTCHINS:

JIMMY CARPER: No, no, no, no. Oh gosh, that's New York.

LORAINNE [INAUDIBLE] this is the--

HUTCHINS:

JIMMY CARPER: Oh gosh, I failed.

LORAINNE PSW. Anyway, also, in addition to doing *Bi Any Other Name-- Bisexual People Speak Out* as one of the co-editors

HUTCHINS: over 10 years ago now.

JIMMY CARPER: I know it's a bible, it's a bisexual bible.

LORAINNE Yeah, it has 76 people's voices in it speaking about coming out bisexual. In addition to doing that and also

HUTCHINS: contributing a piece to-- we're getting weird mic-y here, but she's working on it-- a piece on erotic spirituality to an anthology called *Blessed Bi Spirit-- Bisexual People of Faith*, it was just edited last year by Deb Kolodny that's also relating a little to the topic I'm going to talk about in a moment.

And the topic I'm going to talk about is a subtopic of what I've been studying for the past five years in a doctoral program. This topic is sacred prostitutes or sacred whores and bisexual women in those roles, and the overall topic, which is much bigger than we can do tonight, and which I'll come back and do another night, is queer feminist sacred sexualities in the US.

GIGI: Doesn't that sound [INAUDIBLE].

LORAINNE Currently broadcast in Canada, and not knowing anything about queer feminist sacred sexualities in Canada, and
HUTCHINS: waiting to read that book.

JIMMY CARPER: Wow, gosh. OK, I'm ready.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

GIGI: I've known Loraine for a long time, and we have corresponded by email. In fact, she has one of my mentors as a sacred slut prostitute priestess, and so this is one of my favorite subjects.

JIMMY CARPER: And Loraine's name is used often on the Bi-Net segment.

GIGI: Oh, yes.

LORAINNE Taken in vain?

HUTCHINS:

JIMMY CARPER: No, not at all. Between GiGi and Jay--

GIGI: Jay does bi book reviews.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, she does the book--

GIGI: I've had very little sleep. And she has done your books-- all the bi books, and a lot of trans books.

LORAINNE And would love to be invited to Texas to speak and do sacred sex workshops.

HUTCHINS:

JIMMY CARPER: That'd be great.

GIGI: But Loraine, tell us a little bit about the history of the sacred sex--

LORAINNE Prostitutes.

HUTCHINS:

GIGI: --and prostitutes.

LORAINNE Yeah, the history of sacred sex is huge. Well, maybe it is good to define sacred sex just briefly. A lot of times
HUTCHINS: people say if sex were really sacred, we wouldn't have to call it sacred sex. So this is a transitional term that we use as a way of reminding people that the body and the mind are connected and that spirituality is erotic and that sexuality is spiritual.

And that there seems to be a cultural increasing interest in connecting sex and spirit in the US today a lot, and that one of the ways that people do that, other than through their own kinds of understanding how their spiritual nature relates to their breathing and their meditation and their communication intimately with others is through, sometimes, embodying in themselves a sexual healer or an erotic priestess. And a shorthand way of naming that is to call them sacred whores, holy sluts, harlots for the queen of heaven, and various names like that.

JIMMY CARPER: And is part of that taking back those words that have been used to hurt?

LORAIN Yes, and taking back the idea that a priestess, a woman of god/goddess can be both erotic and holy with no contradiction. So when GiGi--

JIMMY CARPER: It seems so simple to say that, but that's an astounding idea for the 21st century.

LORAIN It is an astounding idea.

HUTCHINS:

GIGI: I think it's a revolutionary idea.

LORAIN But really, it's a totally ordinary, natural idea that we've forgotten, or that we have just covered up with our own

HUTCHINS: fears.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, with the help of some religions too, I think.

LORAIN Well, yes.

HUTCHINS:

JIMMY CARPER: I'm not bashing religion here, I'm just saying that that has been a byproduct of it.

LORAIN So sacred-- it has been said in gossip and lore and imagination that sacred prostitutes were the people who were the princesses who attended the temple of the goddesses and that they were part of helping people learn how to be sexual in respectful and loving and deep, intense ways.

But I think the historical roots of that remain to really be verified, and that a lot of it is wishful thinking and exaggeration and fumbling around, but that the important thing is not whether there really were ever sacred prostitutes in the mideast or in various other cultures are not-- although we could go into that if we had more time, or if you read my book-- but the important thing is more that the image is capturing people's imagination right now, and why is that?

And Merlin Stone in the '70s wrote a book called *When God was a Woman*. And she said, you know what, I think that sacred prostitute, which is a term that's been used by white male European translators over the past 100 years was probably a missed translation, and really, what they meant was holy woman, but they couldn't imagine a holy woman who was erotic and autonomous without being defined by men. So they figured she must be a prostitute.

GIGI: And prostituting for the religion.

LORAIN Can you say what you mean, GiGi?

HUTCHINS:

GIGI: Well, as I've understood from the readings, basically, when the Catholic priests came in, they mistook the notion that they were trying to raise money for the church because that's what they did.

LORAIN So when you give a cash offering to the erotic priestess.

HUTCHINS:

GIGI: And that was really kind of prostitution for that religion.

LORAIN And there's a lot of stuff in the Hebrew Bible where the God of Israel yells at the Israelites for being disloyal and calls them harlots when they're not worshiping him. And it's kind of connected to people being pagan, or people worshipping goddess rather than God.

GIGI: And I know that you've done a lot of work with sacred sex, and I know I have to, and it takes a special spirit to get into that, and a lot of preparation. Can you talk a little bit about it-- what it's been for you?

LORAIN I feel like I know very well, even after-- I mean, what it is constantly working against my inhibitions. And I don't mean in a bad way, pushing myself in ways that I don't want to go. I mean, it's about uncovering layer after layer after layer of shame and embarrassment and fear and erotic phobia that I've internalized and we all have.

GIGI: One of the things I've found in some of the practice I do with sacred sex is that it's very healing, not only for myself, but for other people that are involved. And I've had some very powerful encounters around the Temple of Aphrodite during Beltane, and sometimes Samhain, even though they'd rather me not doing Samhain, and they want it to be a little more somber.

And what happens is people come into the tent, and they're very nervous at first. And then I open myself to them and allow them to touch me. And I invite them in, and I invite their child to come out and play. And all of a sudden-- and sometimes it's scary for me. But then all of a sudden the magic happens. And I start guiding their hands and showing them what I like and then I ask them to take my hand and guide it on my own body and show me what they like.

And then all of a sudden, I just let it kind of go where it's going to go. And all of a sudden, sometimes we wind up crying in it and laughing, and all of a sudden, we're like children playing again and rediscovering ourselves. And sometimes we're healing old hurts and old messages. It's very powerful.

LORAIN Did you know that Bertolt Brecht once said that at the end of the world, when the world is falling apart, the children will recreate the world through play.

GIGI: I think we do that.

LORAIN I wanted to say that I've written an article that will appear in the new *Journal of Bisexuality*, the women's issue, about the bisexual woman as sacred whore and the problematics and the issues around this from a feminist point of view, and that, because we're broadcasting from a bi conference, that it's important to say that bi people in particular, and especially bisexual women, are often the people who are most likely to be sexual healers, sex educators, and erotic priestesses and priests.

Because I think people project so much sexual energy and sexual questions and sexual expectations on us whether we like it or not, that we often find ourselves in the role of doing those things for society and figuring out, within our own limits and preferences, how to do it well and teach other people.

GIGI: And I know that-- well, I've spoken on *After Hours* many times about how I'm a little bit of both, male and female, and somehow, in sacred sex rituals, I think more of the female comes out in me and I get more in touch with it. I think sacred sex, for me, has been very healing in the sense of I grew up in a society that's male or female, and here I am a little bit of both, but I'm not allowed to be both and I'm not recognized as both, legally and, many times, socially. But when I ran the temple, all of a sudden, people become aware that I'm both. The female energy comes out.

LORAINA And that we all have both inside us if we're encouraged to express it and to integrate it. And that's what sacred sex teaches. I think it's important, though, to say that the issue about being a sacred whore-- it's very gendered in this society, unfortunately.

And that as long as sex is commodified and commercialized, and as long as women are not equal to men, which is still where we're at, it is problematic for one gender to be more associated with sexual healing than the other, or one to be the server and want to be the survee. And that's part of my ambivalence about identifying with sacred whores, because it's a problem.

GIGI: Can you tell me about any rituals that you performed that have stood out in your mind?

LORAINA You know how Margot Adler, in her book *Drawing Down the Moon*, talks about drawing down the goddess energy into yourself? In our small group, Sacred Flame, I worked on doing that with some help from my friends, and I spent the whole day bathing and touching myself, stretching, exercising, and then when we had our ritual in the evening, I really try to connect with god as energy coming through me and how I connected with the other people in the group.

It was hard and it wasn't easy. I don't think it completely worked because we're wounded healers helping each other unlearn all our stuff, and there was parts where I was just getting into it and I pulled myself back, or I get scared.

GIGI: Yeah, that can happen.

LORAINA So I'm sorry, I can't give you this soul shattering [INAUDIBLE] experience, but my experience is more little steps that I learn and keep trying with.

GIGI: That's what it takes. And sacred sex is in our culture and in our realm of consciousness because we have grown up with so much of the sex negative and so much of the garbage. A lot of times-- and you know, I've done a couple of rituals that I got started and the energy just didn't work. And when I came back to it and re-examined it, examined what happened in my life, all of a sudden I realized, it was all this stuff blocking me that I learned when I got slapped on the hand or when they caught me playing with other boys or when they caught me doing this or that and all the negative messages about my body and--

LORAINA Yeah, I mean I used to fantasize-- I know we need to wrap up, and so I'm going to-- but I used to fantasize when I was sitting in church that I wanted to run up to the altar naked and dance, and there should be nothing wrong with that. That is worship.

GIGI: Wow, but--

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

LORAINA That is worship, and there's even historical precedence for it. We just have to reclaim it. But because we have other people that are going to talk on other topics from the conference-- bring me back.

GIGI: Oh we will, definitely because we have a long ways to go on this topic. Well, this is GiGi live from Vancouver, and we have such a wild conference. We've got dancing going on--

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, really?

GIGI: We're doing six different topics for 20 minutes each. And we've got different speakers coming in and out at the dance to come and talk about their experience at Vancouver. OK, so why don't we go to a bit of music for a second, and then we'll come back with our next guest.

JIMMY CARPER: Gotcha. And while we are going to that next guest, let's hear a little bit from Robin Renee from her *CDn Progress*. I know you like it, and this is my favorite, "I Could Love You." You're listening to it on *After Hours*, queer radio with attitude, on KPFT Houston and KEOS College Station.

And Robin Renee with "I could love you" from her album *In Progress*. And we are in progress with GiGi in Vancouver with the 2001 Bi-Net conference.

GIGI: It is so wonderful out there. We've got our next guests, Debbie and Gale. And I'm going to let them tell you a little bit about their experience with the conference, just a sentence or two. And then I'll have Debbie introduce her topic.

DEBBIE: Well, my name is Debbie, and this is my first time at a conference like this. And I can tell you I'm having the time of my life, and there's been the most fascinating people here. It's just a great time. Everybody who's never been to one has to go.

GIGI: Oh, yes. It's that bi energy.

GALE: And you get so excited and so energized, and in a town like Vancouver, the weather's so nice. What can you say. This is the place to be and the time to be here. Oh, Vancouver a beautiful town. We're having fun.

JIMMY CARPER: I had the pleasure of being in Vancouver once, and it's just a beautiful town.

GIGI: Oh, it is gorgeous-- mountains all around, and the sea.

JIMMY CARPER: And the rather moderate climate.

GIGI: And after the conference, we even get to go to the nude beach.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh my [INAUDIBLE].

GIGI: I am looking forward.

DEBBIE: The bi-becue.

JIMMY CARPER: The bi-becue! [LAUGHTER]

GIGI: Well, Debbie what would you like to talk about tonight?

DEBBIE: Well, actually, one of the reasons I came here-- not the only reason, but one of the reasons-- is I happen to be a master's student at the University of Lethbridge. I'm a human resource major in the faculty of management, which to most people probably has nothing to do with this type of thing, but actually it does. What I'm doing my research on for my master's thesis has to do with employment discrimination for those who are transgendered because in Canada, unfortunately, the law really does not protect that group of people here.

JIMMY CARPER: It doesn't anywhere, actually.

DEBBIE: Well, that's too, actually. I am doing a comparison against different US states, different countries across the world in terms of what their protections are, what the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights offers, and all those kinds of organizations. in doing comparison, I want to make recommendations to the various federal provincial governments and other agencies involved that this is the way it is, this is the way it should be kind of thing.

GIGI: This is great work.

JIMMY CARPER: I mean, no kidding. I wish somebody in the States were doing something like that.

GIGI: Well, it's amazing. I've been walking through this conference and meeting some of the most incredible people here. I mean, Canada rocks.

JIMMY CARPER: Well, Jackie Thorn is here also-- you're talking about transgender issues and I just saw her just kind of-- I know she's dying to say something.

GIGI: Oh, well put her on.

JACKIE THORN: Well, one of the things that I would suggest as a resource might be for the-- look up the International Conference on Transgender Law and Employment Policy. There was about five or six transcripts of the conferences, and 6 different years of things. But they had an employment handbook for people who were transitioning and so forth, as well as a lot of other related employment law and so forth like that. And I think that might be of great help to you in your research and so forth for the thesis that you're working on.

DEBBIE: You bet. I do appreciate that, but I actually do have it.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, good.

DEBBIE: I do.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

JIMMY CARPER: You're familiar with [INAUDIBLE]. We're really proud of her here.

GIGI: Debbie, can you tell me-- you're about to have a data collection and surveys?

DEBBIE: Yeah, right now what I'm doing-- and it is geared to Canadians because of the-- my PhD will probably go beyond this at some point in time. But I do have a website where there is a confidential survey for those who are transgender, and there's questions-- there's only about 14-15 questions that are asked in terms of your employment experiences as a transgender. And the web address for that survey is www.edu.uleth.ca/transgendered.

JIMMY CARPER: OK, wait a minute here. I'm going to be writing this as you repeat that. So that's w cubed--

DEBBIE: [www.edu.uleth--](http://www.edu.uleth.ca/transgendered)

JIMMY CARPER: U-L--

DEBBIE: E-T-H, which is U Leth, University of Lethbridge, .ca/transgendered. I mean, completely confidential, completely voluntary, but the feedback is appreciated.

JIMMY CARPER: Good, we'll pass--

JACKIE THORN: The thing in as far as employment and being transgendered is to be self-employed, like I am. I don't have to worry about getting fired.

DEBBIE: Yeah, but some of the contacts you come in with will be with clients and customers and that type of thing.

JACKIE THORN: That's true. [INAUDIBLE]

DEBBIE: And coworkers, whatever.

JIMMY CARPER: OK, we'll pass that on too.

DEBBIE: Thank you very much.

JIMMY CARPER: You're welcome.

GIGI: And what kind of other work are you doing on this issue?

DEBBIE: On this issue? You mean, what other areas am I looking at besides the legal side of it? Oh, the whole sex-gender argument.

GIGI: You want to tell me a little bit more about that? Well, there's so much out there on the sociological side of things, where gender is socially constructed to a large degree, obviously, and some people believe that. Some people don't. So that argument is in there. I'm looking at the fact that we are dichotomous gender, where there's only two, male and female, and that's totally out of line, obviously. So that's another area.

There's also the medical side of things, looking at, OK-- because there's a lot of misconception about there. And everybody probably knows this, that we're talking to right now, but there's a lot of misconceptions to definitions and what it actually means. Some people still are way out in the dark ages in terms of how they perceive this.

JACKIE THORN: I had a very interesting conversation with an individual earlier this evening who has had a chromosome test and is XXY. And she was telling me that it's very interesting because she can claim to be XX, which is the male pattern, and therefore, entitled to marry a genetic female, an XY, or she can claim XY, which will entitle her to be married to an XX, which is a male.

So I think something like that is ultimately going to destroy this idiotic decision that was made by the court here in Texas, in the Littleton case.

GIGI: I think Gale wants to say something here.

GALE: But doesn't the right to be ourselves and make our choices for ourselves belong to us and only us?

JIMMY CARPER: It should.

GALE: It's such a simple idea.

SPEAKER 2: Simple concept, not always well done in practice in this country, when we're still judged by what we are physically, what we physically appear to be. When we stop going by that, laws can change.

GALE: Well, we're very hopeful that the laws, not only in Canada, but the US, will reflect what the people's needs are and not what the government's needs are.

GIGI: Oh, I so second that.

DEBBIE: Well, what can we say? This is such a lovely chance that we have to move forward, and a conference like this allows people to get together and share ideas. And just because I'm transgender doesn't mean I have to fit any specific stereotypes that anybody has.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

DEBBIE: I love being who I am, and so I'm out as a bi person. Bi and transgendered-- wow, what a way to live life.

JACKIE THORN: I have always contended that the transgendered are actually gifted because we're able to look at both sides of situation.

DEBBIE: I agree with that.

GALE: Well, not only both sides, but all sides, maybe more than two.

GIGI: Definitely.

JACKIE THORN: That's true.

GALE: Why should we be in that narrow little box? Let's just have the great big world to play in.

JACKIE THORN: Well, I use the word both because society unfortunately tends to use bipolar or dichotomous definitions.

GIGI: Well, we're about out of time here.

JIMMY CARPER: Whoa, so soon.

GIGI: [INAUDIBLE] come in.

JIMMY CARPER: OK, I'll tell you what, I'm going to play your favorite song and just have it in the background so we don't have to--

GIGI: But before we go to music, I want to ask Debbie if she had any last few words she wanted to contribute? My words are just general words about discrimination. It's horrible, it's wrong, and we need to educate ourselves and then our community, our children, and go on from there to eliminate that in this world.

JIMMY CARPER: And our judges, because if you all you really need is one anti-discrimination law, and if the judges apply it equally, then that would work.

GIGI: Well, I want to thank you Debbie and Gale.

JIMMY CARPER: Thanks Debbie.

GALE: Our pleasure.

GIGI: Enjoy the rest of the conference. And please, while you're here, we want to have you just totally enjoy yourself. And there is a group of us going kayaking tomorrow morning. We like you to join us.

JACKIE THORN: And GiGi, you behave yourself.

GIGI: Oh, that's not going to happen.

SPEAKER 2: That'll happen in his lifetime.

JIMMY CARPER: GiGi's going to have a good time. Thanks for being on *After Hours*.

SPEAKER 2: We love you.

GIGI: Thank you. You know me.

JIMMY CARPER: OK, so let's have a little of you know what.

GIGI: Oh, yes.

JIMMY CARPER: GiGi?

GIGI: Hello. Woo, girlfriend.

JIMMY CARPER: We're just going to keep that in the background a little bit there. And who do we have next?

GIGI: Let's see. We have Steven. And before we go to your topic, I want you to tell me what is your highlight of the conference so far.

STEVEN: I guess it was the party last night.

GIGI: They had a BDSM party.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, did GiGi have anything to do with that.

GIGI: Actually, I went, but-- I didn't bring any of my play toys because I was kind of skittish about going to [INAUDIBLE] customs.

[LAUGHTER]

HEATHER: [INAUDIBLE] such a bad rap.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, but you should see his toys.

GIGI: [INAUDIBLE] but the other thing was that I had so much other stuff I had to bring up for the national meeting [INAUDIBLE] pack anything more. I mean, I even had to sacrifice an outfit or two. [INAUDIBLE]

JIMMY CARPER: I can't imagine.

SPEAKER 2: I threw on a pair of shorts. My stuff was already taken care of.

GIGI: Well, Steven--

JIMMY CARPER: His whole wardrobe was-- he packed it in a baggy.

GIGI: Pretty much.

SPEAKER 3: Little Ziploc baggie, quart size.

GIGI: I'm going to let Heather do the interview with Steven. So Steven, why don't you introduce your topic, and I'll pass my headset to Heather.

STEVEN: All right, well, for the next short while, what I was interested in touching on was the various kinds of bi communities, whether it's national, whether it's local and regional, or whether it's online.

HEATHER: Well, I was just going to say, because online is something that you are particularly large expert in, having basically founded the Bi-Net Canada listserv. So why don't we start by talking a bit about that?

STEVEN: Well, the Bi-Net Canada listserv has been around for about 2 and 1/2 years. And it was something that, in time, created what we now have as Bi-Net Canada, which had its first meeting just about five hours ago.

HEATHER: Right on.

STEVEN: So we have a brand new national Canadian bi activist group. We're in the midst of looking to incorporate, hopefully, as a non-profit organization and move on and hopefully be to Canadians Bi-Net [INAUDIBLE] what the USA is to US bi people.

JIMMY CARPER: Actually, I hope you can exceed.

STEVEN: We really [INAUDIBLE] do that.

HEATHER: So talk a bit about the start of Bi-Net Canada two years ago and what prompted you to start the listserv, and talk a bit about the growth of it over the last couple of years and what brought you here today.

STEVEN: Well, it was a national group that was founded by email, of all things. It was an email I got from the other cofounder in Vancouver who wanted to know more information about the Toronto bisexual community. So I emailed back. And then I got another one, so I emailed back again. And then another one back, and it became email tag, going back and forth.

HEATHER: And what was it? It was just kind of like, well, we're here in Vancouver. What are you doing in Toronto? And maybe we should start something nationally.

STEVEN: It was actually more than just that. It was also-- we were finding people in other parts of the country, found in people in Halifax, and finding people in Winnipeg who have an interest in creating activist community. So in time, we found enough people that seem to go across Canada enough to think of creating something to see where it can go. And that became a listserv called by Bi-Net Canada.

HEATHER: And since you started the listserv, how many people have joined, and how many people are sort of actively involved in this vision of creating a national bisexual organization?

STEVEN: It's a big difference in numbers. There's a hundred