

**SPEAKER 1:** No.

**SPEAKER 2:** So how about them gay Muslims?

**SPEAKER 1:** That's right.

**SPEAKER 3:** Well, there are.

**SPEAKER 2:** There are some.

**SPEAKER 3:** But again, the interpretation-- it's like the Christian, it's the interpretation of scriptures.

**SPEAKER 1:** Right.

**SPEAKER 4:** And you know what really fascinates me that about that very thing? The interpretation of scriptures is-- what it is, there are two parts of the Bible, everybody knows there's an Old Testament and New Testament. The parts that condemn us and cause us the most harm, and most of the other things around the planet, the part is the Old Testament. It's the part that says spite your enemies.

**SPEAKER 3:** And a lot of those are mistranslations or are taken out of context.

**SPEAKER 4:** It's the part that OK's war in the righteous name, and it's the part that does the "eye for an eye" kind of stuff. But when people start discussing to me about how the Bible says this, and the Bible says that, I stop them. I say, wait a minute, are you a Christian? Well, yeah, yeah. Well that means you believe Jesus Christ came to do God's work. Yes, yes. Well then what makes you think that isn't what Jesus Christ came here to do. Was to tell you that they looked at what was going on using the first part of the Bible, they didn't like what it was, and he came here to readdress some issues. And those issues were, love your neighbor, don't kill them, accept differences, live amongst each other, and turn the other cheek. Those were the messages of Christ. But these people, that doesn't serve their agenda. That's what tells me this is not about religion. This is about finding an excuse to serve their agendas.

**SPEAKER 2:** I read an article on Handnet today. And it was talking-- something that Sue [? Knope ?] put out and she, it was, this family values newsletter or something. And somebody was talking about--

**SPEAKER 3:** Donald Wild Hair?

**SPEAKER 2:** Yes. About the "homosexual agenda" and that they wanted to return to the--

**SPEAKER 4:** The time that never existed.

**SPEAKER 1:** No, no, no. That's only an image. It's the [INAUDIBLE] image in their head.

**SPEAKER 2:** The teachings of Moses and Jesus that were against homosexuality. It didn't happen.

**SPEAKER 3:** Yeah. I read that also.

**SPEAKER 2:** Jesus never said a word about homosexuals.

**SPEAKER 1:** Neither did Moses!

**SPEAKER 3:** Yeah, well. The other thing about it is, also, you see, if they are in fact true Christians, Christ came to relieve us from the burden of the law.

**SPEAKER 2:** That's right.

**SPEAKER 3:** And, you know, and give us the opportunity for salvation through faith, rather than through works. But the problem with the fundamentalist religious extremist is they cherry pick--

**SPEAKER 2:** Right.

**SPEAKER 3:** --only those verses. I mean, for God's sake, it hasn't been that long ago that they wouldn't let Blacks into their churches, in the Southern Baptist church.

**SPEAKER 4:** I tell you, you can find more that condemns divorce in the Bible, then you can ever find about condemning homosexuality. Condemning divorce. God hates divorce. He says that, in the book. It says God hates divorce. He didn't say he hates gay people.

**SPEAKER 3:** Somebody came up on Handnet one time with a comment, saying that there was, I don't know they had made a study of it, or they found a study, where there were x number of citations regarding homosexuality, and there were like 30 times more citations against heterosexual.

**SPEAKER 2:** [? Lit ?] Laughner, lesbian.

**SPEAKER 4:** Oh yeah, I read that.

**SPEAKER 1:** And it is, the Bible contains six admonishments to homosexuals, and 362 to heterosexuals.

**SPEAKER 3:** It just means that they need a hell of a lot more supervision.

**SPEAKER 1:** That doesn't mean that God doesn't love heterosexuals, it just means that they need more supervision.

**SPEAKER 2:** That's right.

**SPEAKER 1:** Yeah.

**SPEAKER 4:** It's because, and what I don't understand, is how they're allowed to do that cherry picking. How, to me, it seems like people would say, no, that's not how it is.

**SPEAKER 3:** Because nobody challenges them.

**SPEAKER 4:** Nobody reads it. They sit in front of a pulpit and listen to somebody with their agenda tell you about it. They don't bother-- we're a lazy country. They don't bother to pick the Bible up and read themselves. They just follow some leader.

**SPEAKER 3:** Well, back when I was--

**SPEAKER 1:** Yeah, I got accosted on the bus by someone who felt the need to inform me that I needed to get right with God and all that hullabaloo, and all of this. And I'm like, and I looked at him and I said, you know, I have read that book. I may not be Christian, but I have actually read that book.

**SPEAKER 4:** I've actually read it.

**SPEAKER 1:** You know. And it's, one of the big things in there, it says this little, there's this little line that says, thou shalt not judge--

**SPEAKER 3:** Lest you be judged, yeah.

**SPEAKER 1:** Lest ye be judged, sort of thing. And then he started to go on this, yes, but in this I, this is the only thing in which I can judge, and you use that word, and I threw it back in his face. And I'm like, you're using the word that it says right there, you cannot use to say anything about what I do. And by the way, you haven't known me for more than two minutes. You know nothing about me.

**SPEAKER 4:** Wow.

**SPEAKER 3:** Yeah. Well, a lot of the problem is the fact that if you are really a Christian, then you believe that God made each and every one of us exactly the way we did.

**SPEAKER 1:** Exactly the way you wanted us.

**SPEAKER 3:** And exactly the way he wanted us. Gave us the personality that he did. And, in my humble opinion, God doesn't make any trash. He gave me the personality that I have for a reason. I may not understand it. You know, and I may have a burden to bear because of the fact that there are other people that don't understand it, either. And don't want to understand it.

**SPEAKER 2:** None of the rest of us do either.

[LAUGHTER]

**SPEAKER 3:** Yeah. But you know, but by the same token, again, my attitude is, OK, if people have a problem with me, with who I am, what I am, what I do, that's their problem, not mine. You know, they need to examine why they have a problem with it.

**SPEAKER 4:** And I don't have a problem if they have a problem. My problem only happens when they do something about their problem.

**SPEAKER 1:** Yes. Well, mean people suck.

**SPEAKER 2:** That's right. There you go.

**SPEAKER 1:** So, how about that Harry Potter?

**SPEAKER 4:** What a segue.

**SPEAKER 1:** Speaking of things that Christians have a problem with.

**SPEAKER 2:** Oh, really?

**SPEAKER 1:** Yeah.

**SPEAKER 2:** Oh, man. It's a wonderful movie. I haven't read any of the books, but the movie won-- Four times.

**SPEAKER 1:** Little by little, I keep hearing about--

**SPEAKER 2:** I've seen it four times.

**SPEAKER 1:** --religious--

**SPEAKER 4:** Oh, in Australia they banned it. Some places in Australia they banned it.

**SPEAKER 1:** --children to see this movie.

**SPEAKER 4:** Because it promotes witchcraft.

**SPEAKER 2:** Big Roy.

**SPEAKER 5:** OK I was going to say the fundamentalist, I think they might be in cahoots with the film because every time that they say they're against it, it just like maxes out--

**SPEAKER 1:** They make more money.

**SPEAKER 2:** That's right.

**SPEAKER 3:** The Last Temptation of Christ.

**SPEAKER 5:** Harry Potter is--

**SPEAKER 1:** Oh, yeah. Great movie.

**SPEAKER 5:** The Lord of the Rings will be released

**SPEAKER 1:** Lord of the Rings, yes.

**SPEAKER 5:** And so Harry Potter is about to get dethroned.

**SPEAKER 1:** Now, you know, I haven't seen either one. And Jim says what we need to do is to see--

**SPEAKER 6:** Both of them on the same day.

**SPEAKER 2:** Jim. Jim.

**SPEAKER 3:** You heard you heard that they opened up a gay business on Diagon Alley there, you know, in Hogwarts. Yeah. It's called the Harry Pottery Barn.

[BOOING AND LAUGHTER]

**ALL:** Oh.

**SPEAKER 2:** It's time for bad news, bad jokes. It's time for bad news.

**SPEAKER 1:** There's something I have to say about Lord of the Rings. And I read this. Think about this. If Lord of the Rings becomes a huge hit, like it really looks like it could be, imagine this. Ian McKellen, Sir Ian McKellen, I--

**SPEAKER 3:** Who is gay.

**SPEAKER 1:** An openly gay man.

**SPEAKER 4:** Not only gay, but an activist.

**SPEAKER 1:** But an activist. Will be on the cover of every magazine and TV show on the planet.

[LAUGHTER]

**SPEAKER 1:** And he'll probably be at the Oscars.

**SPEAKER 2:** As Gandalf.

**SPEAKER 4:** Oh.

**SPEAKER 2:** OK. OK, time for fun music again.

**SPEAKER 6:** Now, now, maybe they'll get all these people straight, finally. I mean, because reading those--

**SPEAKER 1:** So to speak.

**SPEAKER 6:** Reading the reading those books, there's so many people! It's like, I don't care what they had to eat on the 42nd day of the journey, I really don't.

[LAUGHTER]

**SPEAKER 1:** Yes, dear.

**SPEAKER 6:** Boy, those books are tedious.

**SPEAKER 2:** It's time. It's time for fun music. And something that Jackie alluded to earlier, and I'm going to play it. It's the Bob Rivers group, from their album-- Twisted, Bob Rivers and Twisted Radio, actually is the name of the group. And from their album, *I Am Santa Claus*, this is the one you've been waiting for all night, folks. "Walking 'Round in Women's Underwear." And you're listening to it on *After Hours Queer Radio with Attitude* on KPFT Houston and KEOS College Station.

[MUSIC - BOB RIVERS AND TWISTED RADIO, "WALKING 'ROUND IN WOMEN'S UNDERWEAR"]

**SPEAKER 2:** And that was The Vandals doing that little number there. And I've got another great number by them, that I think I might as well do right now. The Vandals is probably, they're probably not a gay group. They look kind of punkish looking. Hunky, but punkish. So,

**SPEAKER 6:** Not to be confused with the Vandellas.

**SPEAKER 2:** Not, no. Not-- this is The Vandals, not The Vandellas. So here is another song from that same group. And I hope you enjoy it because I really like it.

[CUTS TO SONG]

**SPEAKER 2:** Oh, yes. That, especially goes out to David and John who are listening. That's The Vandals with "It's Christmas Time for My Penis." And you know, gosh--

**SPEAKER 6:** By the way, before anybody thinks that we're going to sit here, we're actually sitting here and bashing religion--

**SPEAKER 1:** No! What do you mean?

**SPEAKER 6:** --like this. Wait a minute

**SPEAKER 4:** We're not bashing, we're just having intelligent discussion.

**SPEAKER 2:** Yeah we simply take issue with religion--

**SPEAKER 4:** --how it's used on people.

**SPEAKER 2:** How it's used on people. No, because, especially in the queer community, religion is very, very important. We all probably grew up with a religious background, or most of us. And for most of queer folk, religion is very important. At least spirituality is. And that's why MCCR is so popular, because here's one church that has everything that you had growing up in a Christian church, except for the gay bashing. I mean, I mean--

**SPEAKER 4:** I'm all for people having whatever belief they want. I'm all for them preaching and I'm all for them spreading the word in their church. In their church. Not being invasive. My biggest fear when Bush took office, was his faith-based initiative stuff. Because I have been witness all my life, not just once, not just twice, but all the time, to how religion coerces people by denying them services that they're giving to other people, by suggesting that you are less than if you don't agree with their policy.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

**SPEAKER 2:** What did I do here?

**SPEAKER 4:** Whoa. That was cool

**SPEAKER 2:** Careful there.

**SPEAKER 4:** That was cool. And it's that coercion, it's that intimidation that irritates me. If you want to go out and get converted, stand on a street corner, I don't have a problem with that. But the minute you start reaching out and invading other people's space or spirituality. Because Christians think that all the other religions are less than. It's not just us. And that's the thing I think that a lot of people out in La-La Land, in this country, are not aware of. They think, well it's OK as long as the religions are chasing around chasing after faggots, and prostitutes, and things like that, it's OK. But they don't realize, that they'd be on their tails too. And these religious people moralize, or "holier-than-thou." That "thou" could be you, too. Not just gay people.

**SPEAKER 2:** I think a big problem is that people forget that this is a country that allows for religious freedom. It's not necessarily a Christian country, because we embrace all religions here.

**SPEAKER 4:** And we should. That's the word, "embrace" all religions, all philosophies. Not only-- there are a lot of things that people believe in that aren't qual-- they don't qualify for the religious status. And we should honor those people, too. And just because they don't believe with you, what you do, has no reason to fear them or to loathe them, which is generally what happens is somebody gets on a pulpit and makes a couple of statements, and says that they're child molesters. That's the key. You know, they're child molesters, so ergo that means, let's, it's OK to do whatever we want. And it's not. And you know, I've never met a child I molested. Ever. In all my life. Have you?

**SPEAKER 2:** Well, 90% of the child molesters, well all child molesters are pedophiles, right. And that is entirely different from a gay, or straight, or sexual orientation. Right. It's something else. Right. That is something else. Right.

**SPEAKER 4:** And they don't care what sex the child is. It's the child they're after. And that's why you often find men chasing after small boys. Because it's not about them being a homosexual child molester, it just happens that child is available, or has piqued their interest at the moment.

**SPEAKER 6:** Just yesterday I was explaining my beliefs to somebody and I told them, I believe that anybody who-- that all religions have their validity to the people who believe in them. It is when those beliefs invade other people's right to believe what they believe. That's when it becomes a problem. There is, I believe that if, it's God, if it's Yahweh, if it's--

**SPEAKER 4:** When they do anything to force their belief on you.

**SPEAKER 6:** Gaia, whatever. When they try to enforce those beliefs on to people--

**SPEAKER 4:** See there are a lot of pagans in this country. They're kind of like we were 15 or 20 years ago, really in the closet. And they're beginning to speak out these days. You know, I've been noticing a lot more pagan newsgroups on the air, and a lot more groups that are catering to pagans, a lot more financial businesses that are catering to pagans. Instead of just having menorahs and Christmas decorations and stuff, they also have candles and certain straws and things like that that pagans used to celebrate the solstice, and the holiday seasons. And that's what they call it, the holiday seasons. So, what else do we want to talk about? There was something else I wanted to talk about. What was it? I told you earlier. You're on.

[LAUGHTER]

**SPEAKER 4:** You're on. You got that Beaver shirt. You know that bothers me.

**SPEAKER 6:** It's an otter. Otter.

**SPEAKER 4:** Otter beavers.

**SPEAKER 6:** Otter shirt. It's not a beaver.

**SPEAKER 4:** We go through that every time you wear it. You know, I was looking for a Christmas present for him the other day. And I thought, you know, actually, to tell you truth, I thought about buying him a t-shirt. And I thought, you know, how big, how big is he? I'm wrapping my arms around. How big is he? And I grabbed this guy that was next to me and I said, let me, will you turn around so I can put my arms around you?

[LAUGHTER]

**SPEAKER 4:** And he, didn't find it as amusing as Jimmy did. But I had to give up because I just didn't know what size he wore. Rose said, just get him extra large. Everybody wears extra large.

**SPEAKER 6:** Yeah. Heck Yeah.

**SPEAKER 4:** There you go. I'll remember next time.

**SPEAKER 6:** Yeah. Two X.

**SPEAKER 2:** Big Roy has something here.

**SPEAKER 5:** Oh, for the Christmas season, the Christmas spirit. For all the sweet teeth. I got from the AP newswire, I just ran it off from the newswire, from the AP newswire. The fruitcake capital of the world is in Calxton, Georgia.

**SPEAKER 4:** Claxton, Georgia?

**SPEAKER 5:** Yes. They have 2,200 people who live near there and they take their fruitcake very seriously, folks. They have more fruitcake there than anywhere else, and they even have cards that have "attack of the killer-fruitcakes, and they use them for doorstops, and all kinds of things.

**SPEAKER 4:** I bet they have an archive of fruitcakes, too.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

**SPEAKER 2:** --build the houses in that town?

**SPEAKER 4:** The house that fruitcake built.

Now let me tell you about fruitcakes.

**SPEAKER 4:** I do, too. Toasted. Oh yeah.

**SPEAKER 5:** We're not talking about the people who work here.

**SPEAKER 4:** No, no, no, no. That's a whole--

**SPEAKER 1:** I like fruitcake that doesn't have raisins because I can't stand raisins.

**SPEAKER 4:** Oh, I love the raisins.

**SPEAKER 1:** I think they're disgusting. And do you know how hard it is to find a fruitcake without raisins?

**SPEAKER 4:** You'd have to almost make it.

**SPEAKER 1:** Just about. I've only found one in my life.

**SPEAKER 4:** I like it sliced real thin and toasted.

**SPEAKER 5:** Oh yeah?

**SPEAKER 4:** Oh, yeah. I like that--

**SPEAKER 1:** Toasted fruitcake? I hadn't heard of that.

**SPEAKER 4:** Slice it just about to fit in your toaster and toast it up. It's great.

**SPEAKER 2:** Well I forget what movie this is, but it has Johnny Depp in it and he plays this really, kind of, very strange mental person, that he goes around imitating old

**SPEAKER 4:** Is that Jenny and Bejune? Or *Benny and June*?

**SPEAKER 2:** Yeah--

**SPEAKER 4:** Where he does the--

**SPEAKER 2:** Yeah. Yeah, does the thing with the--

**SPEAKER 4:** Roll thing with the chaplin?

**SPEAKER 2:** Yeah, the potato dance that-- but anyway, there's a woman, there's a woman in the movie who says she hates raisins because they're just humiliated grapes.

[LAUGHTER]

**SPEAKER 1:** Oh, that's a wonderful line. It's, I've always thought they've looked little rabbit turds.

**SPEAKER 4:** I make-- I got a bread maker a couple of years ago. I've used it about five times.

**SPEAKER 2:** Like everyone else.

**SPEAKER 4:** Yeah, and about, actually I've used it a little bit more, but every time I've used it, I've wanted to make raisin bread. And I've probably made it 2/3 of the time, make my own cinnamon raisin bread. I love it. Yeah. I make my own cinnamon raisin bread.

**SPEAKER 2:** Now what's the name of that movie again?

**SPEAKER 4:** *Benny and June*.

**SPEAKER 2:** *Benny and June*. I got to get that one because, it's a wonderful movie.

**SPEAKER 4:** His girlfriend is slightly retarded or something.

**SPEAKER 2:** Oh, yeah. She's a nut.

**SPEAKER 4:** Yeah. She's not retarded, she's mentally unstable. That's what it is.

**SPEAKER 2:** They're both nuts.

**SPEAKER 4:** They're both nuts. Yeah.

**SPEAKER 2:** I mean, he makes, he makes grilled cheese sandwiches with an iron.

**SPEAKER 4:** With an iron. I've done that, haven't you? Come on.

**SPEAKER 2:** No.

**SPEAKER 4:** A bachelor like you never made a grilled cheese sandwich with an iron?

**SPEAKER 2:** With an iron?

**SPEAKER 1:** It's a time-honored tradition.

**SPEAKER 4:** I made one with radiator once. I made one on a radiator once.

**SPEAKER 6:** You know, there's an appliance for, to make grilled cheese sandwiches and it's nothing but two irons, really.

**SPEAKER 4:** On top of each other. Yeah.

**SPEAKER 2:** But he puts it on an ironing board.

**SPEAKER 4:** That's all the foreman grill is. Two irons, on top, that close and clamp everything in.

**SPEAKER 6:** Well, that's true.

Chr-- Makes grilled cheese sandwiches in the frying pan.

**SPEAKER 6:** Well, yeah. Doesn't everybody?

**SPEAKER 4:** No. You can make them on the radiator.

**SPEAKER 2:** Seems like a logical place to me. And I don't like grilled cheese, but.

**SPEAKER 6:** Anyway--

**SPEAKER 4:** I was going to make a gingerbread house this year. I don't think I mentioned to you, but last year--

**SPEAKER 1:** No you didn't.

**SPEAKER 4:** No, I didn't. Last year, we got an exceptionally wonderful Christmas prize. One of our children, Andrew, who's 16, he's autistic. He's--

**SPEAKER 1:** I've met him.

**SPEAKER 4:** Yeah, he's a real charming little, good-looking kid, and--

**SPEAKER 1:** He is cute.

**SPEAKER 4:** Yeah. And he doesn't communicate. His longest word is, his longest sentence is, "woulda, woulda, woulda." And that's if he's in a bad mood, it's "woulda, woulda, woulda." If he's in a good mood it's, "ling, ling, ling, ling." So he-- we took him in, when I took him in he was 13, he was not potty trained, and we really went through some-- he'd been in an institution for five months, specifically for them to train him, potty train him. And you know, changing a 13-month-old baby is one thing, changing a 13-year-old boy is an entirely different story.

**SPEAKER 1:** Wow, I bet.

**SPEAKER 4:** And so we worked really hard to get him potty trained. He expected to be fed. We worked really hard in feeding himself. He's doing an excellent job, using a knife better than I do.

**SPEAKER 1:** Whoa.

**SPEAKER 4:** And, you know, how to eat, and how to be social. He'd really not had anybody sit down consistently and try to train him to be more acceptable. He was just generally wild. Well, his grandparents, now, can have him. Can spend time with him and enjoy their time. They're not, like, working in a group home when they get him home. They can actually enjoy his company and enjoy him. And he can enjoy them, because his behaviors and his routine is all established, and he's really, turned out to be a really great kid. And they just think Rose and I walk on water for what we've done for him.

So last year, they brought us a Christmas present. It was one of those bag coolers, you know, insulated bags. It's a-- carries a couple of 2 liter bottles. And in each side of the bag there's a pocket. And each pocket had a card, one with my name, one was Rose's name on it. Well they gave us the bag. We thanked them very much. It was very nice. And had a few minutes conversation, and then they left. Well, as I was getting ready to put the bag up I opened the card with my name on it. I popped open, pulled it out of the envelope, lifted it up and there's a \$500 check.

**SPEAKER 1:** Oh my God.

**SPEAKER 4:** It said, thank you for the work you've done with Andrew. Well, then Rose opened her card and there was another \$500 check. Thank you for the work and effort you've put into Andrew. So we got an exceptionally large, very nice gift last year. And we were thinking that we wanted to-- they thought enough of us-- and we care about them a lot. You know, they've become part of the family as much as Andrew. They're so involved and they want to learn so much. So, we decided we wanted to do something for them. Now these people are mega wealthy. They have a 300-acre ranch up in Brenham that would make really rich people wince. I would say the ranch itself is probably a \$4-million ranch. That's just-- and they're building another house, on another place. So you know that they are very, very wealthy. And there's just no way I could compare with \$1,000 gift at Christmas. So I thought that the only thing I could give them was something I made. Priceless. If you make it, it's priceless.

**SPEAKER 2:** That's right.

**SPEAKER 4:** There's no money you can-- To me, I don't care if they give me \$5 million, if they made something, it would have meant the same thing to me. To consider, well, I don't know, \$5 million that, I could become pretty merciful, but you know what I mean. So I thought that we would make something. And the first thing we thought about was a gingerbread house. You know, something they could eat.

**SPEAKER 2:** And I need to remind folks that they are listening to *After Hours, Queer Radio with Attitude* on KPFT Houston and KEOS College Station.

**SPEAKER 4:** But, we got to looking at Martha Stewart's home page and we decided that we were just not up for a Martha Stewart kind of thing. So we went to--

**SPEAKER 2:** Well, good God.

**SPEAKER 4:** We went to Women's Day, which is much more like my mom's stuff. And they had a nice little house, and we started talking about laying these houses out and making every piece. You make it over a period of days. You don't make it one day. You lie to let your gingerbread harden up so that it won't wilt on you, and then you make-- then you put it together with your icing and you let it set. And then you decorate the outside. You have to wait. It's kind of like putting a model together.

**SPEAKER 1:** Then what? You spray it with lacquer?

**SPEAKER 4:** Well, you can if you're not going to eat it. Or you can just eat off, munch off of it. And those people who want to spray it, they don't feed it to anybody and they just use it over and over. But we wanted to make one because we know that they're going to be doing-- they have a lot of friends and we thought that this would be a nice thing. So we were planning on doing that. But we just could not get this icing thing down. So we have a ton of gingerbread laying around the house.

**SPEAKER 2:** Should of brought some.

**SPEAKER 4:** --in great sheets.

**SPEAKER 1:** Wow.

**SPEAKER 4:** Oh, no. It's hard as a rock. He's dunking, it's coffee dunking.

**SPEAKER 5:** There you go. That's good stuff.

**SPEAKER 4:** It's like a gingerbread cookie, not like a gingerbread cake.

**SPEAKER 5:** Like a snap.

**SPEAKER 4:** Yeah, like a snap. Only there about this thick.

**SPEAKER 5:** A big, thick snap!

**SPEAKER 4:** There about this, that thick. So we decided not to do that. I wanted to tell you that what we did was, that we liked so much what I'm going to give you for Christmas, we gave them one. So.

**SPEAKER 1:** So when you get it you'll know. You'll know. OK.

**SPEAKER 4:** We like it so much. And let me tell you, it took everything I could do to give it to you because I like it so much. But we made it. I want you to know that. We made it.

**SPEAKER 2:** I haven't had a gingerbread house since I was a little.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

**SPEAKER 4:** We made all our gifts this year. Well, almost all of our gifts. But we made all of our gifts. Actually, what we did was make much, much, much smaller version of what we made for you for everybody else. So you got the big one. You got the big one.

**SPEAKER 3:** I got to get my gingerbread story out here. When we, Carp and I went to, and Lois, went to the Nutcracker. Oh Yeah.

**SPEAKER 4:** How is Lois?

**SPEAKER 2:** She's fine. She's-- her son and daughter have moved up to Seattle and so she's planning on moving up next year.

**SPEAKER 4:** I know you're going to miss her.

**SPEAKER 2:** Oh, I know it. I know it. She's my best straight friend.

**SPEAKER 4:** Yeah. OK, sorry.

**SPEAKER 3:** They had this humongous gingerbread house. And they had the list of ingredients that went into this gingerbread house. I mean, even the windows were clear gelatin. It was just incredible.

**SPEAKER 4:** You can actually, when you do this, and I was looking at Martha Stewart's home page, actually when you do this, you cut the window sills out when you start. Then you pour sugar into it, a little sugar water syrup with a little food coloring in it, and then it cooks up just like a sucker, like a lollipop, hard, crystallized sugar in the windows and you can make them like stained glass with different colors. Yeah, boy, I'm telling you. Martha Stewart's got one--

**SPEAKER 3:** Well, yeah, of course. But you got to grow the ginger yourself.

**SPEAKER 4:** Oh, yeah.

**SPEAKER 3:** Of course.

**SPEAKER 2:** What?

**SPEAKER 4:** Martha Stewart, you got to grow your own ginger for the chimney.

**SPEAKER 3:** My God.

**SPEAKER 1:** Martha Stewart. The MacGyver of the home culinary--

**SPEAKER 3:** I kind of see her more as Norm Abrams, really. When she's like putting together a gingerbread house, you know. Sure, with \$50,000 worth of equipment, you can produce a gingerbread house.

**SPEAKER 4:** Similar, or not, to the one I have here.

[LAUGHTER]

That's what I always laugh. Similar or not.

**SPEAKER 3:** That's what I always thought about the New Yankee Workshop was, he would say, yeah, let's build us a cabin--

**SPEAKER 4:** That's who you remind me of, Norm.

**SPEAKER 3:** --with like, he has \$100,000 worth of woodworking stuff up there. Sure, you can do all that

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

**SPEAKER 4:** --like everybody's got a planar right there in their backyard. If it can be done with a screwdriver and a hammer, I can do it.

**SPEAKER 3:** And then Bob Vila, that no-talent hack.

**SPEAKER 4:** Oh, wait a minute. He can work an Allen wrench in 2002 different ways.

**SPEAKER 3:** Oh no, Bob Vila would just say, let's watch,

(WITH AN ACCENT) naw, I'ma build an entire house.

**SPEAKER 4:** That's right.

[LAUGHTER]

I didn't know he was from Australia.

**SPEAKER 2:** What?

**SPEAKER 4:** He's Australian.

**SPEAKER 2:** Who?

**SPEAKER 4:** Bob Vila.

**SPEAKER 2:** Why doesn't he go back?

**SPEAKER 1:** I don't know.

**SPEAKER 4:** He's either Australian or Offland, I can't remember.

**SPEAKER 3:** But they're always doing the shows in New England.

**SPEAKER 4:** One of those countries down there, and I'm not sure. My-- New Zealand. I think he's from New Zealand.

**SPEAKER 5:** But they always said,

**SPEAKER 4:** Hey, there is some room to grow in New Zealand. Do you know New Zealand is about the size of Texas, and you know how many people they have in New Zealand?

**SPEAKER 2:** No.

**SPEAKER 4:** Less than the number of people in Houston.

**SPEAKER 1:** Oh my goodness.

**SPEAKER 2:** Whoa.

**SPEAKER 4:** There is room for growth.

**SPEAKER 2:** No wonder it's still so pretty there.

**SPEAKER 4:** That is room for growth. And it's still wild and pristine country there. They haven't had lagers come in and ranchers and stuff. Did I show you my new toy here?

**SPEAKER 2:** Obviously that's why they film the Lord of the Rings in New Zealand.

**SPEAKER 4:** --my phone numbers.

**SPEAKER 2:** Is that a touch ring? Wow. Neat-o.

**SPEAKER 4:** I was going to buy this for someone, the bus driver, and decided I liked it too much. And it gave him the cologne that I got last year.

**SPEAKER 1:** That's the thing is you don't want to get gifts too good because you want them.

**SPEAKER 4:** That's right.

**SPEAKER 1:** I'm not giving this thing--

**SPEAKER 4:** So I gave him the cologne from last year.

[LAUGHTER]

**SPEAKER 2:** We were talking about inclusion of religion a little bit ago. And I wanted to expand on something I said at the very beginning of the show. The men's network, The Men's Gathering.

**SPEAKER 4:** That's an odd little collection of people, The Men's Gathering.

**SPEAKER 2:** The Men's Gathering?

**SPEAKER 4:** Uh-huh. It's an odd little collection people, it's really interesting. I like the fact that it is an odd little collection of people because you get a real diverse picture, and not just the stereotypical image of what men's issues are.

**SPEAKER 2:** Yes. Yes, you're right. And it's primarily a Afro-American group. And their next dialogue meeting is Saturday, December the 22nd, 6:30 to 9:30 PM at the Community Gospel Church.

**SPEAKER 4:** And they have some interesting discussions. Well, I remember not too long ago, and I wondered about this, they discussed what lesbians do. So, I need to go there. What do lesbians do?

**SPEAKER 2:** I don't know.

**SPEAKER 4:** No one told me. Now they're telling the men. I just had to figure it out. They're just giving it to them.

[LAUGHTER]

**SPEAKER 1:** You've been doing it wrong all this time.

**SPEAKER 4:** And The Men's Network showed me how.

[LAUGHTER]

No, but you know, I've watched some of the announcement they make, and they have some interesting discussions, stuff that I would like to attend.

**SPEAKER 2:** Yeah. Yeah. This is, come and join for this special year-end meeting. We will spend some time talking about reflections of Christmas and Kwanzaa. This is also a networking opportunity meeting. Members will talk about their special interest, and have a chance to share them with the group. Last but not least, we are asking members to bring a gift that you might use in a sexual situation. Let your imagination soar.

**SPEAKER 4:** Oh, I've got to go to this party.

**SPEAKER 2:** Only those who bring gifts will have a chance to participate in the gift-giving and receiving. So that is the Community Gospel Church, 4305 Lillian. And you can find out more if you go to [www.communitygospel.org/mat.htm](http://www.communitygospel.org/mat.htm).

**SPEAKER 4:** I'm sure you can learn a lot more if you take that sex toy down there.

**SPEAKER 2:** Oooo, my, my, my. Betch ya can. Something else that's coming up that I want to mention, like every week, is that the Pride 2002 Grand Marshal nominations are opening. And it's only open until like January the 5th, I believe. So you got to get them, no, no, no, no, no. January 11. You got to get those nominations and now.

**SPEAKER 4:** I was talking to Troy about that the other day. I was talking to Troy about that, actually at the mixer. Boy, I'm telling you that mixer was really something. I was talking to him at the mixer the other day and he was telling me about how they're going to be doing this and how I was asking about nominating someone. I think Deborah Rogers, who's taking over the caucus, who pulled off all the things that needed to be done for this election in an absolute wonderful manner.

**SPEAKER 2:** Yeah, I do too. I think she is excellent.

**SPEAKER 4:** I think she deserves to be acknowledged in this community for the work she's done, especially knowing the situation she was left holding. But I was asking about nominating her, and he said that the way you do that is you fill out this form, you tell a little bit about this person, and then you get them to sign it.

**SPEAKER 2:** Yep.

**SPEAKER 4:** Did they do that with you?

**SPEAKER 2:** Yes.

**SPEAKER 4:** See, to me, I can't do that.

**SPEAKER 2:** No, no. They just did that. This is new.

**SPEAKER 4:** I can't do that. Take this over and let Deborah read it, and let her sign it. But I understand his point. Is that they want to make sure that the person who is going to be doing the grand marshaling, who'd be picked, would be able to attend some of the functions that are necessary for the grand master to attend. And be in the parade.

**SPEAKER 2:** There is, when the nominations come in, there is a committee that meets once a year, and that is former grand pride Marshall's, grand marshals from the Pride parade, who sit and go over all of the applications to make sure that everything's OK, and that the people are fit, and all of that kind of stuff. It's not, it's not like we X them out, but it's, just want to make sure that everything is OK. Because there are certain things,

**SPEAKER 4:** Qualifications they need to meet.

**SPEAKER 2:** Yes, there are certain qualifications--

**SPEAKER 4:** --and they have an obligation when they say Yes, I'll run, to be able and make themselves available for the various functions that they would be part, honored. And if you can't be there, well, it's hard to give you honor.

**SPEAKER 2:** And they look for people who have done more than just one thing. Have been active in the community for quite a while, in different aspects. There was one time that I know the committee turned down one application because the person was being nominated because of all of the wonderful work they'd done in the AIDS community. But as it turned out, that was the person's job. So--

**SPEAKER 4:** It's not really a outstanding achievement for somebody if that's your job.

**SPEAKER 2:** It's a tough situation. But--

**SPEAKER 4:** I was nominated once.

**SPEAKER 2:** Yes. Yes. Yes.

**SPEAKER 4:** I was really [INAUDIBLE]. That was enough for me. I mean, that's a tall list right there, to be nominated. It wasn't, I was perfectly happy to celebrate for somebody else. Because the truth is, I don't think I would have been available for all the stuff that was necessary to be grand marshal. But I was nominated. That really was one of my highlights, one of my peaks.

**SPEAKER 2:** Now there are four grand marshal positions. For the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender pride parade, that's the official name. Two grand marshals, one male, and one female. An honorary grand marshal, and an honorary grand marshal organization. The male grand marshal title is awarded to a self-identified gay, BI, or trans man. And the female grand marshal title is awarded to a self-identified lesbian, bisexual or transgendered woman. Both must be residents of Harris or its surrounding counties. The position of honorary grand marshal is awarded to a self-identified heterosexual, non-transgender man or woman who has shown outstanding dedication to gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender causes. Sort of like a Sue [? Knoll ?] or her husband. Or to the GLBT community. There's no residency restriction. So people can be nominated who may--

**SPEAKER 4:** --live in another county.

**SPEAKER 2:** Yes, or another state. The honorary grand marshal is an organization, may be any organization that has significantly contributed to the positive image or outlook of, and supported, the Houston GLBT community for more than two years. Grand marshals should be seen as role models to the community as a whole, not just one segment of the community. This should be shown in the contributions they have made to the community. You see, that's where I was coming in with that. To nominate an individual or an organization, completely fill out a nomination form and return it to the Pride Committee of Houston. Or fax it by January 11th. You can bring it to the December 18 general meeting, which will be held at 7:00 PM at the Metropolitan Multi-service Center, 1475 West Gray. A committee of former grand marshals will review all nominations and candidates will be announced on January 15. That means they're due in by the 11th, we have to meet and have this all done by the 15th. Voting will take place by a mail-in ballot that can be downloaded from the Pride Committee. So,

**SPEAKER 4:** Yeah, I voted last year with the mail-in ballot.

**SPEAKER 2:** If you want some more information, you can email [info@pridehouston.org](mailto:info@pridehouston.org).

**SPEAKER 4:** And I hear, I was fortunate. I'm one of those people that Jack has value for my opinion, and I know you were too. I am just waiting for him to finish up this resource list he's putting together.

**SPEAKER 2:** I am so excited about that.

**SPEAKER 4:** I was looking at it the other night when he sent us the--

**SPEAKER 2:** Isn't that incredible?

**SPEAKER 4:** Yeah. I think that's perfect. And the fact that we'd be able to access it from out here, to fill in dates, and to update things, and to change things on, that it's not something that's going to be somebody down there getting information sent to them by the mail or fax, that you will be able to access it. Different organizations, different members of organizations will be able to access it, and alter, and add, and change things, and keep it up-to-date.

**SPEAKER 2:** With him moderating, of course.

**SPEAKER 4:** Right, right. Making sure that no one's hacking or anything.

**SPEAKER 2:** But it's always been a problem with out-of-date information. And to do it by mail, and all of this, Jack has to send out mailouts 3 and 4 times a year. And as an organization, you feel like, gosh didn't I just fill out this form.

**SPEAKER 4:** And you need almost somebody full-time to keep everything up-to-date and there is so much going on. Since I edit it out, and make it down, break it down for a week, I get to really get a sense of how much stuff is in there. And it's a lot of effort--