

SPEAKER 1: --because I know y'all had come to PFLAG asking if we wanted to join in on the rummage sale. And that was a big topic, whether we wanted to, because of that. And yeah.

SPEAKER 2: Yeah, because as long as what you're doing is not politicking--

SPEAKER 1: Right.

SPEAKER 2: --then you can do anything. But if you go down there and you start handing out flyers for a certain candidate, or you start doing some kind of campaign thing--

SPEAKER 1: Then it would be.

SPEAKER 2: --you don't have any problem with it.

SPEAKER 1: Right.

SPEAKER 2: As long as you don't campaign or promote a politician.

SPEAKER 1: I can't remember how PFLAG ended up-- which way they ended up going, but I remember that was a big concern that the president and vice president had.

DON: I'll respond to that and say I hope that they reconsider.

SPEAKER 1: Yeah, I thought that's the way they thought. I didn't want to say anything.

DON: Yeah. Which I understand and can appreciate their position along with the several other people that have raised the same issue. And I can respect that. And these organizations, they have a lot of people that are counting on their continuing existence as 501(c)(3) organizations. So I certainly appreciate the position.

And that's the reason why I sought out the answer to that question, because it would really be a shame for somebody to participate and then come to find out they couldn't. So I've spoken to several people, and every single one of them has come back and said the same exact thing-- because of the type of organization that we are, it is possible for every 501(c)(3) to participate in the First Semi-Annual Rainbow Donkey and Elephant Rummage Sale and Barbecue.

SPEAKER 2: This is much more a community event--

SPEAKER 3: When did it become semiannual?

SPEAKER 2: It's much more a community event than it is a political event. It's a community thing.

DON: Exactly. Exactly. This is an event that was created because all of these organizations are working for basically the-- they're competing for the same dollars. So what we've decided to do is try to work together as a community to be able to put this event on so that we can bring a large amount of people in so that all the organizations can benefit from one event without having to duplicate efforts of 15 different organizations doing the same exact thing, spending the same exact dollars. The Caucus is going to spend the money to advertise it, put it together. And all these organizations have to do is show up.

SPEAKER 1: Right. I'm trying-- my mother and I, we're trying to organize a PFLAG picnic, and we're getting-- we sent out 29, almost 30 different invitations, basically doing exact what you're doing, just having a picnic. And we have gotten so many negative responses. Oh, well, you're charging too much. Oh, well, we don't want to come. And we're just like, oh my god, you know--

SPEAKER 3: You're kidding.

SPEAKER 1: Yeah.

SPEAKER 3: You're kidding.

SPEAKER 1: I mean, the city wants \$460 for a permit to rent the park. And PFLAG's got to pay that, and got to get the porta cans and the trash cans. Everybody's saying, oh, well, your \$10 for barbecue is too much. And yeah, we're getting so many negative responses.

SPEAKER 3: Oh, I can't believe that.

SPEAKER 1: Yeah. I don't even think we're going to end up doing it.

SPEAKER 3: I thought it was quite reasonable.

SPEAKER 1: Right. Yeah, for barbecue-- brisket, sausage, and chicken--

SPEAKER 3: And plus you're doing it all. I mean, you're--

DON: Hey, send me one of those invitations, if you don't mind.

SPEAKER 1: Sure. I believe we actually sent one to you all.

SPEAKER 2: One of these days, we need to talk about this apathy that we've-- there's just this huge amount of apathy everywhere. It's smothering. It's getting to the point where you can cut it with a knife.

SPEAKER 1: Right.

DON: I don't know. Is that just Houston, or is that just everywhere?

SPEAKER 2: You know, I get a sense that it's everywhere.

DON: Well, I disagree with that, because Dallas-- Dallas, which has about the same size gay community we do, owns the community center. They have a permanent community center to where everything is based out of. And there is a community spirit in Dallas. And every other city that is as large as we are has a organized community in some form or other. We're the largest city that has a non-- that does not own their own community center.

SPEAKER 2: Yeah, I was fussing about that last year, about how easy it really would be if we just all get on the same stage, just for one brief moment, and figure something out where we can get some permanent kind of community center. We could do it. It could be done. And it wouldn't be painful if we could just all do it.

I mean, it's like that lady on the net just the other day they were talking about that wrote this kind of spam, of course, you know, and sent this email around to everybody she could send it to, dropped it off on boards everywhere, that said that her husband left her with three kids, the mortgage due, blah blah blah blah, send \$1, send \$0.50. That lady's got a million dollars now.

SPEAKER 1: If you contact the same-- I mean, enough people--

SPEAKER 2: We need to be able to do that. If we get a lot of people together, it wouldn't be painful to do some of these things.

SPEAKER 1: No, not at all.

DON: Exactly. And that's the reason--

SPEAKER 2: And you're right, one of the things I fuss most about around here is that we are all competing, that what's happened in Houston is that we've competed for that dollar. All of us are competing. And it's getting much like business, where it's cutthroat and people are actually being very ugly over these competitions to get that dollar. And it's one of my big complaints in this community, is that for some reason, we're starting to behave like animals, I don't know, where we just don't have empathy and consideration for each other.

And we don't-- there's no loyalty or trust. And you know, I'm just sick that we don't have that. I've been places where that was the basis, the root of the community, was that they were loyal to each other. You could count on people in your community. You can't count on people here. Not that people don't do things, you just can't count on it.

SPEAKER 1: Right. David Hinkle had came-- we're going to talk about him later, I think.

SPEAKER 3: Yes.

SPEAKER 1: He came, and that was one of the things-- he came for the HISD. And that's one of the things that he came out-- that was right about the same time when the city Prop 2 was voted down and everything. And he couldn't believe how Houston didn't stand up and say, no, this isn't right, and start rallying to get it changed. We're just sitting down and just, oh, well, you know, it happened. And that was one of his big concerns when he came to Hatch, like, come on, pull together as a community. And that's something that we don't do.

SPEAKER 2: No, and I just don't understand it. And I don't know who to look to find those answers, because when I talk about it, everybody looks at me like I'm dumb. But if you really think about it, if you really gave it some consideration, you'd see what I'm saying is it's happened. It's happened. And you know, I said years ago that AIDS did this to us, that somewhere inside us we don't want to connect with people as much as we used to. We don't have that innocent-- that innocence about relationships that we used to have. They're so cut and dry, and--

SPEAKER 1: Everybody's so scared now.

SPEAKER 2: --unemotional, you know? My friends, I can remember when I was young, my friends, we were very emotional about each other. There was some real concern for each other. And now the friends that I have, generally speaking, are just people that I see regularly.

SPEAKER 1: Like you said, it's more businesslike--

SPEAKER 2: We don't have that kind of emotional connection--

SPEAKER 1: A community.

SPEAKER 2: --that they can't come to me and ask me to help, because I don't know who they are. We're not friend friends. But people just look at me like I'm crazy when I talk about this, just like Jim is looking at me now.

SPEAKER 3: Yes, because I don't agree.

SPEAKER 2: He says, you can count on me.

SPEAKER 3: I don't agree with that, because I do believe there's an apathy in--

SPEAKER 1: What? He doesn't agree?

SPEAKER 3: --in activism. But I don't believe that about our family of choice, the people that we hold close to us. I think we're putting more attention into these people than into the greater good.

SPEAKER 1: Reaching out.

SPEAKER 3: Yes. I think we're looking more inward than we're looking outward. It's so easy here in Houston to pair off and go buy a house in the suburbs and live your life, because--

SPEAKER 1: Look at the Heights.

SPEAKER 3: Yeah. Yeah.

SPEAKER 2: [? Lithium ?] Heights up there.

SPEAKER 3: Exactly.

SPEAKER 2: Oak Forest.

SPEAKER 3: Once people get to know you, then, oh, yeah, they're the two women down the street. They're really nice. They have a bunch of cats, and they do bake sales and--

[LAUGHTER]

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

SPEAKER 3: --active in the church and all of that kind of stuff. They're really nice. Yeah. Yeah. It's--

SPEAKER 2: Birkenstocks.

SPEAKER 3: --that we're not doing anything for our community as a whole.

SPEAKER 2: Right.

SPEAKER 1: Right.

SPEAKER 2: No concerted effort.

SPEAKER 3: Yes, that's right.

SPEAKER 2: So what should we do about it? Does anybody out there have any ideas? What should we do? Don is trying to do something, but I see that he's not getting a lot of support in these things he's trying to do.

DON: Hold on, hold on. Can I say something real quick on that? Hold on.

SPEAKER 2: Let me-- I've been trying to talk to Don about that very issue.

DON: Hold up, I'm fixing to make a public statement.

SPEAKER 1: OK.

DON: I am sorry if I have pissed off anybody in this community to where they do not want to work with me, because not only do I lose out, but they lose out, and the community is going to lose out. And I sincerely apologize if I have stepped on somebody's emotions or feelings to such a point to where they do not feel that they can work with me.

SPEAKER 2: Well, what the hell do you expect? You're from Vidor.

DON: No, don't start--

[? SPEAKER 4: ?] Oh man.

DON: There we go with that again. You know what-- that's funny. It's funny. I swear, the gay gene is in the water in Vidor, because I know so many guys that are from Vidor that are gay.

SPEAKER 2: That's God's punishment on Vidor.

[LAUGHTER]

DON: I'm not sure--

SPEAKER 3: They turn gay and move away.

DON: I'm not sure it's so much a punishment as that--

SPEAKER 2: The punishment is that everybody-- every child is gay.

DON: Actually, I don't think that's the punishment for Vidor. I think that is God's making up for the fact that everybody is so damn ignorant there.

[LAUGHTER]

[? SPEAKER 3: ?] It's called karma.

[? SPEAKER 4: ?] Oh my goodness.

DON: Because at least we have fashion sense. At least we have fashion sense. They at least know how to decorate their mobile home properly.

[LAUGHTER]

SPEAKER 2: Well, I see that--

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

Oh, it's so funny.

SPEAKER 3: I see that you've got the men's gathering is in force behind you and putting out emails to their membership and everyone else.

DON: Absolutely.

SPEAKER 3: So who else do you have on board?

DON: That's a good question. There are several groups that are still working out the legal details of whether or not they'd be able to participate. And at this point, sadly, the Men's Gathering and Black Expo, which I believe is the same organization, is the only one that has given me an affirmative--

SPEAKER 2: And that's a disgrace.

DON: --and affirmative response.

SPEAKER 2: I'm ashamed. I'm ashamed.

DON: And as I'm sure several people know, I send out an email every day asking, look, is there anything I can do to be able to enable you to be able to participate? And I will also state right now, if it's my participation in this event that is causing people not to participate, I will resign.

No dead air.

SPEAKER 2: Dear air, dead air, dead air, dead air.

SPEAKER 3: I don't think that's good idea because the whole thing was your idea.

DON: But you know what? The thing is, the event and coming together is more important than whether or not it's my idea or somebody else's idea. It's more important that there be good coming out of it. And so I would more than gladly resign if that's what needed to happen to enable people to feel comfortable with working on this.

SPEAKER 2: And it's so petty. I'm just so ashamed that this is going on. I can't--

DON: I do apologize I caught everybody off guard on that.

SPEAKER 3: Well, no, because I'm thinking, that's not a good idea because you are the one organizing it.

SPEAKER 2: Right.

SPEAKER 3: And many, many ongoing things--

SPEAKER 2: Things that you're working on, they're your things.

SPEAKER 3: The first year sucks, and then you build from there.

DON: Yeah. I just don't want to be a reason-- I just don't want to be a reason for there being divisiveness in the community.

SPEAKER 1: Well, don't worry, because I've gotten the same response. So it's not you.

SPEAKER 2: Yeah, it seems like those who want to move--

DON: Well, in that case I--

SPEAKER 2: --have to wade through those who think--

DON: --rescind immediately that statement. If that's the case, I rescind that statement now.

SPEAKER 1: Yeah, take it all back.

SPEAKER 3: Watch that enunciation there.

DON: I rescind that offer.

SPEAKER 1: The only ones that have responded to me that's saying that they're going to come is the Tennis Association, the Houston AIDS Coalition, I think, and one other-- I mean, we've only had three people out of 30-some-odd emails have responded and said, yeah, we're going to-- we'll come.

DON: Please send me that email.

SPEAKER 1: I will. I'll have my mom send it out. She's been doing all that.

DON: Great.

SPEAKER 2: And you know, in every organization I've ever been in and will ever be in, at some point, I point out that we need to connect with other organizations. We need to get somebody to go and tell people what we do at their meetings so that we can understand each other and have a knowledge of what we're dealing with. And for some reason, it seems like that's just the last thing anybody wants to do.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

SPEAKER 3: With the-- first of all, I need to remind people that they are listening to *After Hours*, queer radio with attitude, on KPFT Houston and KEOS College Station.

[? DON: ?] That's right.

SPEAKER 3: But what I wanted to put out there is that we are also one of the last of the large cities to have a community center. And therein is usually the heart of the community. The community center we now have, I've noticed the switchboard has blossomed since coming out of hiding and moving over to the community center.

[? DON: ?] Yes, it has.

SPEAKER 3: There are more-- we've got a lot more volunteers than we had in the last five years before we moved there.

SPEAKER 2: You're doing training this weekend, aren't you?

SPEAKER 3: Yes, they are. Yes. Yeah. Yeah, we are. And we got to know other groups who also rent space there. And so the groups that there are really knowing each other. If we had a much bigger space, we would have more space for more groups.

JUDY: Can I make a couple of comments?

SPEAKER 3: Please do.

JUDY: Thank you. I've been trying for five minutes.

SPEAKER 3: Oh, I didn't know that. I'm sorry.

JUDY: You kept on watching my mouth fly open.

SPEAKER 3: She keeps giving me these oral signs. I didn't quite know what she was up to.

JUDY: Never mind. Don't go there, darling. Seriously, I keep hearing about community centers all over the place. And that's true. It's my understanding, though, when you look at things-- like even if you go out on that horrible thing called the net and check things out and so on-- you find out that a lot of these cities donate these buildings or give some kind of real estate to the community as a whole, and they build their community center from there. Houston has not done that. Now, maybe that's where we need to start. We don't need to start with some building we're paying \$2,100 a month for.

SPEAKER 2: That's what I said. I said we need--

DON: There's this beautiful building--

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

DON: There is a building that is sitting vacant at the corner--

JUDY: There are buildings all over town.

DON: But this building--

JUDY: That's not the point.

DON: This building is sitting vacant and has been vacant for some time now at the corner of Montrose and Allen Parkway, which used to be the Sears warehouse--

SPEAKER 1: Oh, yeah.

[? SPEAKER 4: ?] Yes.

DON: --which would be an excellent place for the community center to be able to reside.

[? SPEAKER 4: ?] You could carve out your own space.

DON: Exactly. Exactly.

JUDY: There are hundreds and hundreds of places all over the area that would be great for that. The point is the city, in a lot of these situations, has donated the property, whereas in our case, we're-- or given money towards that.

DON: But see, the problem is, is this community is so divided at this point that-- I'm sorry. I'm sorry, I didn't mean to--

SPEAKER 3: She will finish.

JUDY: When you are.

SPEAKER 3: Yeah.

DON: No, no, go ahead. I'm sorry.

JUDY: No, go ahead and finish.

DON: This community is so divided that there's nobody that's really pushing the issue to the city council or to-- because we're so divided in trying to fight for our own little piece of turf that nothing's happening. We're just running in circles. And we're not getting any place.

And I'm sorry again. I did not mean to interrupt you.

SPEAKER 3: No, what were you-- finish. Finish up, Judy.

JUDY: Well, no one's brought up the point that we need to start attacking the city in this direction. Everybody says we need a community center, and the community's not doing it. So this gives us another avenue. This is my whole point, is let's look at a different way of doing this. Rather than all of us band together and say, well, we all need to go out and support this place on Hawthorne, we all need to get together and try to make the city do something for us for a change.

Look at Dallas. And everybody's going to be, don't look at Dallas. Look at Dallas. I went up there. I spent the entire day, and I was just in awe of that place and those people.

And I got news for you-- talking to those people, they didn't all work together. They were not great friends. They weren't this, that, and the other. But they were all in the same location, and they were there because of the city. And they all got along in their own little areas of the big community center special place.

So I don't have to be your friend. It's always nice if you are. You don't have to be mine. It's always nice if we are. But the point is, if we can get a location and get some financial assistance in getting that location, we'll get it, we'll keep it, and it'll be a great place. The other thing--

DON: But don't you--

SPEAKER 2: When is Janie going to start the meetings again?

JUDY: I'm sorry?

SPEAKER 2: When is Janie going to start the meetings again?

JUDY: Janine.

SPEAKER 3: Oh, I don't know.

SPEAKER 2: Janine?

SPEAKER 3: I don't know. They've been-- yeah, Janine. Janine Brunjes.

[? DON: ?] [INAUDIBLE]

SPEAKER 3: Right?

SPEAKER 2: Pardon?

SPEAKER 3: Janine Brunjes.

SPEAKER 2: Is he saying something to me? He looks like his lips are moving.

DON: Janine Brunjes.

SPEAKER 2: Yeah, that's who I'm talking about. Yeah. She had the meetings, the--

SPEAKER 3: Yes.

SPEAKER 2: --liaison meetings. When is she going to start those again? I know she stopped for the summer.

SPEAKER 3: I don't know. All I heard was she stopped.

SPEAKER 2: Yeah. Well, we'll have to find out.

JUDY: I mean, we're moving a new mayor in. This is the time to start.

SPEAKER 2: That's right. I agree.

JUDY: What are you going to do for us? Why should we bother?

SPEAKER 2: I agree. Let's get some of those people--

DON: Why should we vote for you?

JUDY: That's right.

SPEAKER 2: --we sent there to start doing something for us.

JUDY: Don't wait till they're in office, because it's too late. You get them before you vote for them.

SPEAKER 2: That's right.

DON: Let's find out what they'll do for us.

[? SPEAKER 3: ?] That's a good point.

SPEAKER 2: I'm going to-- I will take it upon myself to write Janine.

JUDY: I'll give you her phone number. She's great to talk to in person.

DON: It is Janine.

SPEAKER 1: You can't write to her phone number.

[? SPEAKER 3: ?] Write to her phone number.

JUDY: I said she's great to talk to in person.

SPEAKER 2: I don't have her phone number.

JUDY: Slap that child.

SPEAKER 2: I've just got her email number.

DON: You can try.

[? SPEAKER 4: ?] Also, community centers got their funding from foundations. If you remember--

JUDY: Some of it.

[? SPEAKER 4: ?] --one of the emails, or one of the queer bios that I put out, "The [? Court ?] Guy?"

SPEAKER 3: Yeah.

[? SPEAKER 4: ?] If you check out what he--

SPEAKER 3: The Gill Foundation?

SPEAKER 4: --what he has donated to, if you check out that site, it takes you a long time to scroll down to see how much money this gay guy has given to community centers all over the nation and other things.

JUDY: The other thing about--

SPEAKER 2: I know we got to have some rich gay Texan somewhere.

JUDY: They're all over the place. They just don't give their money out.

[? DON: ?] I think he's from Colorado, and the-- what is it? American Family Association?

SPEAKER 1: Have they been asked?

JUDY: Yeah, have they been asked?

SPEAKER 1: Have they been asked? I mean, some people aren't willing to just-- unless they're asked to come out.

SPEAKER 2: Well, then you get into a board situation, and the problem I see in this situation is there are a lot of ideas, but there are only four people that sit on the board, or five people that sit on the board. And they're the ones who make these decisions. And they can't process all these ideas if we don't give them to them. So I'm constantly sending ideas to Tim on the email, constantly. I know it drives him nuts, but it's an idea, you know?

DON: My understanding is that those foundations are not going to want to award money unless they already see that there is some financial commitment coming out of the community.

SPEAKER 2: Coming out of the city, too.

DON: Right. So what we need to do is we need to build a foundation of people that will pledge enough money to be able to reach those thresholds for the Gill Foundation and for the Hollyfield Foundation, for the different foundations, because there's a multitude of organizations, but they don't want to be the first one. And they don't want to give their money away unless they know that something actually is going to happen.

JUDY: The majority of these places, too, you have to be in business and up and running and doing things for three years before they'll even talk to you.

SPEAKER 2: Yeah, established.

JUDY: But it's kind of been-- now, this may be my imagination--

SPEAKER 2: They know gay people.

JUDY: I'm not the brightest bulb on the string sometimes, but I kind of get the impression by what I read on Han-Net and other places and in talking to people that there are organizations in the community that tend to take advantage of the community center. Well, we didn't pay rent because we only used the backyard. Got news for you guys-- using the backyard costs money. You're in and out. You're costing air conditioning, you're using the kitchen, et cetera, et cetera.

SPEAKER 2: Yeah, some people haven't been paying--

JUDY: And the community center, as much as I love a lot of the people on the board and probably would like the ones on the board that I don't know, I think sometimes they turn a little soft when somebody gives them a sob story. And that's not necessarily good for our community center, either, or our community.

DON: I believe there are-- aren't there, like, 60-something organizations that use the community center on a monthly basis?

SPEAKER 1: Could be.

JUDY: Yeah, and how many of those organizations actually give money?

DON: Exactly, because if--

SPEAKER 1: I know PFLAG paid a couple months in advance.

JUDY: Yeah.

DON: The Caucus also has had the same question on the community center, is that there are some organizations that are saying, we just don't have the money to be able to pay their fair share. So the other ones are having to pick up the slack. But if there are 60 organizations that are working with the community center, and each one of them just paid a hundred dollars a month, that's twice, or almost twice, what the lease is. We would be able to actually build a reserve to be able to actually do something positive. In a hundred dollars a month.

SPEAKER 3: Yeah. But I know a lot of those groups have got just, like, four or five members.

DON: Well, \$5 apiece.

JUDY: There's even a lot of flack over cable TV at the community center.

SPEAKER 3: Ooh, yeah.

JUDY: If they [INAUDIBLE] a special night and people want to come in and watch cable TV, drop a couple of pennies in a bucket.

SPEAKER 3: There you go.

JUDY: Pay the cable bill.

SPEAKER 1: And the phone bill.

JUDY: If you're watching enough movies, and you're using a phone, that's right.

SPEAKER 2: Or call in and donate the cable bill. That's what I was thinking about. God, how much is the cable bill? I mean, what's it going to be, 50 bucks?

JUDY: It's probably no more than 50, 60 bucks a month, yeah.

SPEAKER 2: They don't got the movie channels or nothing.

DON: Yeah, it's not 50 bucks a month.

SPEAKER 2: I wish I could. That's the first thing I thought of. If I had the money, I'd just start paying their cable bill. I wouldn't say anything.

DON: It's basic cable.

JUDY: Well, but that's the whole point. People who do come in and use it because they don't have it at home, or if they pay a few pennies towards it versus paying a bill that they could just pay the whole thing at home if they wanted to--

SPEAKER 2: And there are occasional times where we want to see it as a community. When they played the--

JUDY: Yeah, as a group [INAUDIBLE].

SPEAKER 2: [? Armistead ?] *Tales of the City*. When they were playing that on PBS, and nobody-- these station and that station and all the hassle, nobody was going to be watching it, nobody was going to turn it on. And when Ellen did her show, they gathered around the TV at the community center.

SPEAKER 1: When Ray does his.

SPEAKER 2: There have been-- when we had the big march on Washington and people were gathered around TVs sets, and that would have been a perfect time for the community center.

JUDY: Pass the hat.

SPEAKER 2: And to talk about anybody-- I'm telling you, to talk about-- to fuss about people having basic cable is just the pettiest thing I have ever seen.

JUDY: But there are ways to pick up a few pennies here and a few pennies here that do add up--

SPEAKER 2: Instead of fussing, pay for it.

JUDY: --in those special things.

DON: Yeah. I understand that there have been people that have offered to donate that. In fact, the mortgage company that-- my mortgage company has offered to do that. And the response that I got back was that they had more pressing issues.

SPEAKER 3: OK.

SPEAKER 1: From the center itself?

DON: Yes. Yes. That was the statement that was made to me, was that--

SPEAKER 1: That's weird.

DON: Yeah.

SPEAKER 2: And that's the part I was talking about a while ago, is that you have five people sitting there who are doing the ones-- who are the ones to do all this stuff, and their decisions, those five people, are what shape our community center. I don't know those five people. I know Tim, so because Tim trusts, and Tim is involved, I trust that they're intelligent and caring people, because otherwise I don't believe Tim would be involved.

So I have to-- but we're stuck depending on them and those five people to put together something that belongs to all of us, to decide things about things that belong to all of us. We need to get down there and go to their board meetings and say things. If it's our community center, and we want something, we need to go down there and say something to these people. And I'm sure that they would listen. I just cannot believe Tim would be with people who wouldn't be open to that kind of thing. It's just that there's nobody doing it for them.

DON: But you know what? You say that, and I'm not going to mention who it was, but I received a message back from a board member on the community center's board member that stated to me that, yes, I'm on the board for the community center, but I have bigger and more important priorities than trying to work with the community center. And I've made that perfectly clear. Now, this is a board member.

SPEAKER 1: Why is he on the board?

SPEAKER 2: We need more people on the board, obviously. I am sure-- I'll bet not all their positions are filled.

SPEAKER 2: Well, I told Tim he was going to-- once I moved into town, I was going to get more involved. Maybe I really should get more involved. I sat on boards before. Nobody seems to like it when I sit on a board, because my outlook is that I don't care what else you're doing, the interest the minute I sign on is the organization that I signed on for, not the personalities that run it.

SPEAKER 3: Yeah.

SPEAKER 2: And you know, I want to know as much as I can. And I want to find out why this isn't working and why that isn't working. I don't-- it's not criticism. It's just I want to know where we stand so I can know what to do from there, how to think about the issues.

And too often, we get the runaround from these organizations. They just don't want to make it clear to you that, no, we haven't paid our bills in three months or four months. No, we can't access our funds because the last person took off with the checkbook. They don't want to discuss all this stuff, so all we hear is that, no, we can't do it. We just get the slip of the stories, and nothing actually gets done. What we need to do is we need to start attending these board meetings for these groups.

JUDY: You know, I'm almost ashamed to say it, but I don't have a clue when they are.

SPEAKER 2: As simple as that. It's not like you got to run around and commit 12 hours a month to these people, but to show up at a meeting once a month to help guide the place that's supposed to be yours along with everybody else, we should be down there. And we should be attending these board meetings.

SPEAKER 3: Does anybody know when the board meetings are?

SPEAKER 2: I know when Tim goes.

JUDY: My question is, are they open, or are they strictly--

DON: My understanding is they're open.

SPEAKER 2: I think they're open.

DON: My understanding is their board members are-- I mean, their meetings are--

SPEAKER 2: I think Tim said that to me once, that they were open.

SPEAKER 3: They should be.

JUDY: Then they should be announced.

SPEAKER 2: But they have special retreats and stuff that--

SPEAKER 3: When are they?

JUDY: Nobody knows.

SPEAKER 2: They're not?

SPEAKER 3: When are they?

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

SPEAKER 3: We'll find out.

SPEAKER 2: I don't know, but we should. And we should start doing a lot of this stuff.

DON: Ironically, I think they're this coming week.

SPEAKER 3: Because I've heard from more than one person, and I've said it myself, that for what we're paying over there, we could be paying a mortgage.

DON: Right. Which again--

SPEAKER 3: There's some kind of connection to that building.

DON: [? Carteret ?] Mortgage is more than glad to take care of that issue as well.

[LAUGHTER]

[? SPEAKER 3: ?] Well.

SPEAKER 1: With the community center aside, I know it was a topic of discussion at the last PFLAG board meeting-- I'm new into the community, so let me ask you all about the roundtable. I've heard different things about how the roundtable had fizzled out, and then it came back.

SPEAKER 3: That was Janine's. Janine's [INAUDIBLE]. She was our liaison.

SPEAKER 2: Yeah, she stopped during the summer.

SPEAKER 1: OK.

SPEAKER 2: She just took the summer off.

SPEAKER 1: Because she came back to be PFLAG asking for a spokesperson from PFLAG to be back on the board. And we nominated someone to be there. So I was just wondering about that. Maybe that's an avenue to pull the community together, because it was supposed to be a wide variety--

SPEAKER 3: The problem at first is that they were being held at, like, 5:30 in the afternoon. And it's like, who the hell can be there?

DON: Here's the thing.

SPEAKER 1: Yeah, who's not off work yet.

DON: Here's the thing. Somebody needs to reach out and say, look, let's do this. And in fact, Brenda Thomas sent out a message two weeks ago to a bunch of people, most of the gay organizations here in Houston, saying, look, let's get together. We're all competing for the same dollar, so let's all sit down and work together. And let's just build a coalition of the groups and build sort of like a gay United Way.

[? SPEAKER 3: ?] There you go.

DON: That's a wonderful-- it's a wonderful idea that she had.

JUDY: I was one of the recipients of that email, and I responded that we were more than excited about attending a meeting like that to see what we could set up. And the very next thing-- I mean, and she sent it out with your information on it, et cetera.

DON: Right. And--

JUDY: The next thing I know, there's this barbecue and rummage sale thing.

DON: Yes.

JUDY: I mean, not a meeting, but a rummage sale. And it's like, wait a minute. You know, I was getting ready to go to a meeting that I could go to and represent my organization and then go back to them and tell them what I found out. But I couldn't sign on for a rummage sale.

DON: It's funny you mention that, because it was your email-- your response back was the reason why we decided to do it the way that we did it, which was, if you remember my response back on that-- and it's funny. She and I know the emails that were going back and forth. Nobody else does.

But the email-- my response back to everybody is, look, we're all busy people. We can do this. We can communicate through email. There's no reason why we absolutely all have to sit face to face to be able to get this done.

Now, it would be nice to be able to sit down with everybody and get it done. But we're in a technological-- we're in the age of technology. We can do this by email. Most of the information can be shared by email.

And yes, you're absolutely right, because I know you're thinking, well, there's no input from all the other people. Well, this was just-- this was an attempt on the Caucus's part to be able to get the ball rolling. This was an attempt by the Caucus to say, look, all of these organizations, we will go ahead and make the event that we were scheduled-- that we were going to have an event for the entire community so that the entire community could participate without having a lot of committees formed and a lot of other things, because we're taking it on ourself to do this. And all the organizations have to do to participate is show up. Gather the rummage-- [LAUGHS].

[LAUGHTER]

SPEAKER 3: Yes.

DON: Gather the items, set up the table, and then sell it.

SPEAKER 3: If you're not getting a lot of response on the rummage end, then focus on the barbecue end.

SPEAKER 2: Yeah.

DON: Yeah, well, the thing is there is more than enough-- there's enough stuff there to be able to have a very successful rummage sale.

SPEAKER 3: OK.

DON: But my idea-- and I'm talking personally. I want to be able to include the entire community in this.

SPEAKER 3: Sure.

DON: This is important. It's important to me that the entire community be involved. We can do this without other people, but I want it to be a community event. And that's what-- and that's the reason why it sort of came off that way. And I do apologize, Judy, that it may have come off as that people were just jumping into things without any forethought.

JUDY: I know I read more than one that said, I'm not willing to attend-- to start attending a lot more meetings because I'm busy. And I was one of those.

DON: Right.

JUDY: But I was certainly willing to go to an initial meeting to see if we all had like minds on what we wanted to do. But like I said, to go from that to a rummage sale, I didn't have time to get with even the board, much less the body, of GCAM and plan anything.

DON: The offer still is extended that you all can participate.

SPEAKER 3: OK, Don, also, I don't know if you have gotten contact with people who may not be on Han-Net, like--

DON: No, no, these emails are not--

SPEAKER 2: You mean there are people who don't read Han-Net?

SPEAKER 3: I know it's hard to believe.

DON: Actually--

SPEAKER 3: But like, people like the court--

[? SPEAKER 4: ?] Some of us don't even own computers.

DON: We actually have--

SPEAKER 3: There's a library.

DON: The emails that were sent out-- and Judy can attest to this-- there's probably 30, 40 people's emails that it was sent to their email. It was not sent through Han-Net. Now, I have since started sending it to Han-Net, [? Hop ?] [? On, ?] and also blind carbon copying all of the email addresses so that everybody doesn't wind up with everybody's email addresses.

But you're right. My concern was that, well, there are some people that might not be getting this. Well, I have contacted-- and I really am not trying to point accusatory fingers at anybody. But I asked somebody who should have good knowledge of multiple organizations for email addresses phone numbers so that we could contact people. And guess what happened?

SPEAKER 2: What?

[? SPEAKER 4: ?] Don't know.

DON: Nothing. No response at all.

SPEAKER 3: Well, then you take the next avenue.

DON: And believe me, I am doing everything I can to try to be able to get the word out that--

SPEAKER 3: Because let me tell you, those [INAUDIBLE] girls can fill up several tables with goodies.

JUDY: They can eat a lot of barbecue, too.

SPEAKER 3: Yes, that Royal Sovereign Imperial Court of the Single Star and also the Imperial Court of Houston. We have two courts.

SPEAKER 2: Well, what do the bisexuals think?

[LAUGHTER]

Are they going to be at this rummage sale?

DON: Probably.

SPEAKER 2: Probably.

DON: Yeah.

SPEAKER 2: Yeah.

DON: Get a table.

[? SPEAKER 4: ?] You'll see somebody out there.

SPEAKER 3: Will you be selling things that are legal?

DON: In this state? Oh, man. Maybe legal in some state.

SPEAKER 2: Oh, you can sell wine, but you can't sell [? cigs ?].

[LAUGHTER]

You can get laid with one, but you can't have an orgy.

SPEAKER 3: There you go.

DON: It's a health massager.

SPEAKER 3: Yes. Does a double ended count for two?

SPEAKER 2: Mine is huge. I wouldn't one of those--

[LAUGHTER]

--phallus symbols. Those are so-- that's a waste of time. Get one of those huge back massagers, the one that goes the wand over your back like that? It's got those big attachments, you know?

DON: Oh, yeah.

SPEAKER 2: Oh, yeah.

DON: Oh, yeah.

[LAUGHTER]

SPEAKER 3: She went there. She went there.

DON: Yeah, yeah.

SPEAKER 3: And sharing with a friend.

DON: Now I understand why this show is on from 1:00 to 4:00.

[? SPEAKER 4: ?] Yes. I have heard those are pretty good.

SPEAKER 2: The ones with the infrared heat are even better.

SPEAKER 3: What do you mean you've heard they're good?

[? SPEAKER 4: ?] Oh, well--

SPEAKER 2: I had a young lady go [EXCLAIMS] one night.

[? SPEAKER 4: ?] Actually, they heat up on their own pretty dang good.

SPEAKER 2: No kidding. She got an electrical charge from it.

[? SPEAKER 4: ?] Especially when you use duct tape.

[? SPEAKER 2: ?] What about those little fingertip massagers?

[LAUGHTER]

[? DON: ?] OK.

SPEAKER 2: That's why I picked up all the free condoms at the [INAUDIBLE] clinic.

[? DON: ?] Barbecue to sex.

SPEAKER 3: OK, I can see we need to wrap this segment up.

SPEAKER 2: Oh, are we done?

SPEAKER 3: Yeah, we're done.

SPEAKER 2: Oh my god, we're done.

SPEAKER 3: You got something else to say?

[? SPEAKER 4: ?] No.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

[? SPEAKER 4: ?] There's one thing. There's one thing I wanted to talk about that I wanted to talk about last time. In one of the gay publications, there was a guy who made Bert and Ernie gay.

SPEAKER 2: Oh, yeah.

[? SPEAKER 4: ?] And then the--

SPEAKER 3: Nobody made them gay. They always were.

SPEAKER 2: Yeah, they always have been.

[? SPEAKER 4: ?] No, no, no, no, Bert and Ernie are not gay. They're just two guys-- they're just-- it's a kid show. They don't care if people are gay or not.

SPEAKER 2: OK, they're pregay.

[? SPEAKER 1: ?] Two single guys who have lived together for 35 years.

[? SPEAKER 4: ?] But it's just the-- he got upset when the children's workshop people got upset that they're doing these things to their characters. And I'm sorry, I'm on their side on this one. I don't think a person should have the right to take Bert and Ernie and do stuff with them, make them-- you know, take their characters.

SPEAKER 2: But *Saturday Night Live* can take the president and take his character.

JUDY: That's different.

[? SPEAKER 4: ?] Well, yeah. I mean, well, look at-- Dennis Miller got his show taken off because he--

SPEAKER 3: So what you're saying is you don't like the idea of outing Bert and Ernie.

[? SPEAKER 4: ?] Yeah.

DON: Because everybody knows that two single men living together--

SPEAKER 1: I'm sorry, no straight man of 35 is going to play with a rubber duckie--

SPEAKER 2: For 22 years.

SPEAKER 1: --in the bathtub.

DON: For over 20-something years, and you never hear them talking about their girlfriends or their wives or--

[? SPEAKER 4: ?] Well, it's a kids show. Nobody talks about girlfriends.

SPEAKER 3: OK.

[? JUDY: ?] Didn't they have--

DON: Real quick, before--

SPEAKER 3: Yes.

DON: For those people out there who have not received the email, my email address is DonBrown@alltel.net. That's A-L-L-T-E-L dot net.

SPEAKER 3: Don Brown.

DON: DonBrown@alltel.net.

SPEAKER 3: Very simple.

[? SPEAKER 1: ?] Yeah, gotcha.

DON: Send me an email, and I will be more than glad to get back with you with all the details. And if somebody has a better idea, I'm listening.

SPEAKER 2: Right. Right. Somebody's got a better idea, somebody's going to do something better than this, then OK. Let us know about it.

JUDY: I'd be interested in knowing how many responses you get in the last 24 hours before the actual thing takes place, because one of the things I've noticed with a lot of groups is you can talk to them for six months, but you're not going to get an answer out of them until 24 hours before it actually happens.

SPEAKER 3: Absolutely. It's a gay man's thing--

DON: Yeah, that's true.

SPEAKER 3: If I can't get a date for that night, OK, I'll go to your thing.

JUDY: That's right.

SPEAKER 3: Exactly.

DON: Oh my goodness.

SPEAKER 3: Another one thing is weather--

SPEAKER 2: You think it's just a Houston thing?

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

SPEAKER 2: Is it just a Houston thing? Are we just dim-witted in Houston?

[? **SPEAKER 1:** ?] It's the heat.

SPEAKER 2: Even the gay people?

[? **SPEAKER 4:** ?] It's the heat.

DON: But the rummage sale, again--

SPEAKER 3: A lot of people are concerned about weather.

DON: --is September 14. The rummage sale is September 14 from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM. That's a Saturday. And hopefully, it'll be sunny skies.

SPEAKER 1: At 803 Hawthorne at Stanford. Now, 8:00 in the morning--

DON: You know what? You know what? That wasn't my idea, OK? I said gay early is 10:00.

SPEAKER 3: That's right.

DON: Gay early is 10:00.

SPEAKER 3: There's a reason that businesses in Montrose don't open till 11:00.

SPEAKER 2: Let's see you get volunteers that early.

DON: But two people that were trying to be very helpful suggested 8:00 AM because we're going to be advertising in *The Green Sheet, The Chronicle*, putting ads-- putting the little signs--

SPEAKER 2: That's right. Make the straight people pay for our community center.

[LAUGHTER]

DON: On every major intersection in the Montrose area to try to encourage anybody and everybody. And yes, bandit signs. We are talking bandit signs on that morning--

SPEAKER 2: But you promised to remove them later.

DON: And we will remove them later that day.

[? SPEAKER 4: ?] Not on public property.

SPEAKER 3: OK.

SPEAKER 2: We'll tack them up on cars.

DON: Whatever is the case, because I'll have somebody following behind you putting them right back up.

SPEAKER 2: [INAUDIBLE] rummage sale people around at 8 o'clock.

JUDY: I want to know--

DON: But the important thing is--

[? SPEAKER 4: ?] I'll make sure the city is working that day.

DON: --there are a lot-- there are a lot of-- there are a lot of people out there who would be interested in the items that we would be selling.

SPEAKER 2: Just a big yard sale. I'd love that.

DON: My understanding is they shop earlier than whatever sign you set up anyway.

SPEAKER 2: They're crack of dawn.

[? SPEAKER 4: ?] Oh, yeah, those serious garage salers.

SPEAKER 2: Oh, yeah, crack of dawn.

JUDY: When I did garage sales, I did them early, too. But I want to know what time these two volunteers that suggested 8 o'clock actually get there.

[LAUGHTER]

DON: The irony of it is they have said that they unfortunately will not be able to participate.

JUDY: Oh, please.

[LAUGHTER]

SPEAKER 2: Somehow we knew that.

SPEAKER 3: Don, thank you for being on *After Hours*. Jewel--

SPEAKER 2: Somehow we knew that.

SPEAKER 3: Where are you going?

SPEAKER 2: I'm leaving.

SPEAKER 3: OK.

SPEAKER 2: You threw me out, didn't you?

SPEAKER 3: Well, not yet. You didn't say goodbye.

SPEAKER 2: Goodbye. See you next month.

SPEAKER 3: Judy, thanks. We've got-- I'm going to put something in your ear, then I'll bet that Dean Becker will be on the phone with this week's edition of *Cultural Baggage*. So listen to this.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

PRESENTER: If you're a guy living with HIV/AIDS, chances are you're on the cocktail. Aware Talk Radio, Montrose Clinic, and GlaxoSmithKline are teaming up to bring you Heart With Soul. It's a program designed to give you the latest information on living your life while sticking to your meds. Join us for an evening of food, music, and candid discussion as local doctors, people like yourself, and treatment educators talk and answer questions about the latest tricks and trends for living on the cocktail. And it's all free of charge.

So join us for Heart With Soul, Tuesday, August 27, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM, at Sonoma, 1415 California, one block north of Westheimer, just behind Slick Willies. For more information or to register, call Montrose Clinic at 713-830-3006. That's 830-3006. Heart with Soul, Tuesday, August 27, from 6:00 to 8:00 PM at Sonoma, 1415 California, one block north of Westheimer, just behind Slick Willies.

SPEAKER 3: Ah, yes, an event coming up that you sure don't want to miss. That's going to be pretty exciting. I'll be there. So right now, if you will hit Air-- thank you, Bobby, and-- yeah. And--

[? BOBBY: ?] There you go.

SPEAKER 3: Dean Becker should be on the line. Hello? Dean? Hello, Dean. Dean? Whoa, what happened here.

[? BOBBY: ?] I don't know. He went away, apparently.

SPEAKER 3: Whoa. He got cut off. I'm sorry, Dean. Call back, please.

[? SPEAKER 1: ?] He's obviously-- I bet he's on line 2.

SPEAKER 3: OK. We'll see you in a minute. But right after that, we've got David coming in and talk about the Hinkle thing, controversy. Yeah, the young--

[? SPEAKER 4: ?] I only caught part of that. I was--

SPEAKER 3: Young kid who sued the school.

[? SPEAKER 4: ?] Yeah.

SPEAKER 3: You're on after Dean.

[? DAVID: ?] OK. Super.

SPEAKER 3: As soon as--

[? SPEAKER 4: ?] Sued the school for--

[? DAVID: ?] I don't remember how much, but they got \$451,000.

SPEAKER 3: Yeah. Yeah. Exactly.

[? BOBBY: ?] Well, that's him again.

SPEAKER 3: Good.

[? BOBBY: ?] I'm willing to bet that's him.

SPEAKER 3: Why don't you answer it?

[? BOBBY: ?] Yeah. KPFT.

[? SPEAKER 4: ?] See?

[? BOBBY: ?] See, that's how we work things around here. Put them on hold, then put--

SPEAKER 3: Hello? Hey, how you doing? Hold on a second. OK, now Air, and then the button. And Dean Becker should be on the air. Hello, Dean Becker.

DEAN BECKER: Hello, y'all hear me?

SPEAKER 3: Yes. Oh, yes, very well. Sorry. I didn't have the right buttons pushed last time.

DEAN BECKER: Oh, this modern age. What are we going to do?

SPEAKER 3: And we lost you. Yeah. So how you doing? How are you doing?

DEAN BECKER: I'm doing quite well. I'm happy to see some good information hitting the media, and that some of it is mine.

SPEAKER 3: Good. That is terrific.

DEAN BECKER: I had a couple of letters published in the last couple of days. I'll read one of them to-- a short one to your listeners here in just a minute. But this is your *Cultural Baggage* editorial tonight. And I'm quoting the great Jerry Garcia-- "What a long, strange trip it's been."

Folks, the drug war is over. The prohibitionists, though still bayoneting eating the wounded, are out of ammunition. The day you say the war is over, it's over. But what we have in place of truth and reality is rather an 88-year history of--