

PARTICIPANT 2:The problem as I've seen it really until I met GiGi didn't even know BiNet existed.

PARTICIPANT 3:That's a very good question, and actually some of it is going to that although I wouldn't say to advertising. And actually let me go through the rest of the accomplishments aside from fundraising, and you'll see some of where that comes in.

PARTICIPANT 1:Before you do that, I want to do-- I do want to mention that one of the things that we're looking at from the national meeting is to become a bisexual voice for the world through the media. And one of the programs we are setting up is to train media people.

We've got media people on our board-- well, in our membership and our advisory board. And so what we're going to be looking at is working with organizations like GLAAD, building a huge outreach through the media, outreach and education.

PARTICIPANT 3:That's a very good point, GiGi, that really for this nine-month period, our focus is on institution building and building up BiNet to be a powerful and strong institution, and then after that or beginning at the end of this nine-month period, we will focus more on program activities.

In other words, we'll shift from focusing primarily on fundraising administration to focusing on doing the services that we want to do, which has to do with being a national voice for bisexuals and being a presence in the media, being available when the media want to learn about bisexuality, or find out how to react to something in the press that involves bisexuality.

PARTICIPANT 1:And I'd also like to mention that we're keeping a real strong grassroots connection to the local areas. In fact, we're going to be having volunteers work on reading newspaper articles and reading editorials and notifying us when we need to respond to negative press on bisexuality.

PARTICIPANT 4:It sounds good.

PARTICIPANT 3:Yeah. In fact, in our plan of action for the next 18 months is a task to survey bisexuals throughout the USA on their views, needs, and priorities in order to inform our media advocacy and coalition work and establish and nurture communications with US bisexual communities to develop an ongoing national dialogue on our agenda for action.

PARTICIPANT 1:And what gives me tingles is that we're becoming visible.

PARTICIPANT 2:Well, the other thing also that I would say having come through somewhat of similar experience with the transgender community is basically it's a function of education, educating people of not only what bisexuality and/or transgenderism is but perhaps more importantly what it is not.

PARTICIPANT 3:And that's what GiGi's has been doing every month on this program as I understand it.

PARTICIPANT 1:Oh, yeah.

PARTICIPANT 3:Oh, you bet. You bet. You bet. Now because-- and we're working on the gay and lesbian community because in so many areas, I am gay, and then I see that organizations will include bisexuality-- bisexuals in the talk, talking the talk, but they don't usually do it in walking the walk. So--

PARTICIPANT 1: Yeah.

PARTICIPANT 3: And you'll find that a lot of people in these communities-- in these organizations even though it says bisexuality, they don't even believe that bisexuality exists.

PARTICIPANT 1: Well, I come along.

PARTICIPANT 2: And in actuality, bisexuality, probably, is more prevalent than the other two alternatives--

PARTICIPANT 1: Yes.

PARTICIPANT 2: --whether-- just the problem is, is most people won't admit it.

PARTICIPANT 3: Well, yeah, and that's a very good point. I think, when people say bisexuality doesn't exist or they don't-- to them, it doesn't exist, we need to take them seriously, because ignorance is a big part of the problem.

PARTICIPANT 1: You bet.

PARTICIPANT 3: Ignorance is not bad. It's just how people are, until they're educated.

PARTICIPANT 4: Ignorance can be changed.

PARTICIPANT 2: That's right.

PARTICIPANT 1: Well, it's not just ignorance, because I know that, in the gay community, when a gay man comes out-- and many times, there are-- there's a stage where he will tell people he's bisexual or want to believe he's bisexual, so that there will be acceptance in the straight community. And then he gets over that. And I think that's part of the reason why many gay men don't believe bisexuality exists.

PARTICIPANT 3: No, you're absolutely right. And I can't say or how many gay men have told me that I'm not bisexual, because there are no real bisexuals.

PARTICIPANT 1: Yes.

PARTICIPANT 3: Because they know this, because they went through a stage, just like you said, where they said they were bisexual. They couldn't admit to others or themselves that they were gay. And therefore, they know that that's where I'm at.

And there's a cure for that. It only takes three words. And there's three words that people are often missing. And the three words are, people are different.

[LAUGHTER]

PARTICIPANT 2: And denial is not a River in Egypt.

PARTICIPANT 1: Why don't we know that as gay men?

PARTICIPANT 3: But it's natural for people to think-- take their own experience and use that to understand others. And in many cases, that works well. But sometimes, it doesn't.

PARTICIPANT 1: Yeah in this case, not only does it backfire but it really Hinders a lot of progress.

PARTICIPANT 3:Absolutely.

PARTICIPANT 5:Yeah.

PARTICIPANT 1:And I think that's where BiNet USA has a lot of work to do.

PARTICIPANT 2:Well, I see another problem in trying to educate people because, of course, in the case of transgenderism, in the case of gays and lesbians, they have tried to convince society as a whole that their sexual orientation or their gender conflict is not a conscious choice. And I think that the problem is that the straight community is going to say, oh, well, if you're bisexual, then you have a choice. Well, that's baloney, because that's something you're born with too.

PARTICIPANT 1:Well, actually, I did make a choice. I like both.

PARTICIPANT 3:Yeah, that's-- it's a very interesting--

PARTICIPANT 2:That's what I'm saying, it's not a choice. You don't decide, well, gee, I'm not going to be heterosexual. And I'm not going to be homosexual. I'm going to do both.

PARTICIPANT 3:But it is a choice to be who you are, as opposed to trying to be what people want you to be.

PARTICIPANT 4:It's a choice to acknowledge it, yeah. But it's not a choice as to who you're--

PARTICIPANT 2:That's not a choice, yeah.

PARTICIPANT 4:--attracted to.

PARTICIPANT 3:No but it's also a choice what behavior you have. It's a choice to whether I'm going to be involved with this person or not.

PARTICIPANT 1:Yeah

PARTICIPANT 3:Now, I can't choose when I'm attracted to them.

PARTICIPANT 4:Yeah.

PARTICIPANT 3:Yeah.

PARTICIPANT 4:Or as I like to say, it's a choice of how you identify, because I had someone, one time, ask me, she said, I've-- she identified as a lesbian. She says, I slept with guys. And I enjoyed it. So why are you bisexual and I'm a lesbian? I said, because I call myself bisexual. And you call yourself a lesbian. She seemed to get that one.

PARTICIPANT 1:Well, I hope so, because, with gays, and lesbians, and bisexuals, and even transgenders, there's a lot of denial--

PARTICIPANT 2:Oh, definitely.

PARTICIPANT 5:--which then goes right into repression. And repression is never good for your psyche, never.

PARTICIPANT 1:And then, eventually, it transforms into biphobia.

PARTICIPANT 5:Well, yeah, either that or you join the Post Office and then go shoot up a McDonald's or something.

[LAUGHTER]

PARTICIPANT 4:Yep.

PARTICIPANT 1:On that note--

PARTICIPANT 5:Repression is not good.

PARTICIPANT 1:I do you want to talk a little bit about some of the exciting things coming up. We've got a-- we have set up for the next National meeting.

PARTICIPANT 3:Yes.

PARTICIPANT 1:Can you talk a little bit about that?

PARTICIPANT 3:Yes, I can. We're very grateful to the volunteers and activists in Canada, particularly in British Columbia, who have invited us to have our next annual meeting in Vancouver, British Columbia at the University of British Columbia. The annual meeting of BiNet USA, which happens once a year only, is going to be August 10 and 11, Friday and Saturday in Vancouver, Canada. And there's a lot of events happening that week.

It's actually the-- August 9 through 12 is the North American Conference on Bisexuality, Gender, and Sexual Diversity. August 5, the Sunday prior to that weekend is Vancouver pride. And I plan to go up and spend the whole week there.

PARTICIPANT 1:I think that's going to be so awesome.

PARTICIPANT 3:And for anyone who's interested--

PARTICIPANT 1:You can ask for more. --in BiNet USA--

PARTICIPANT 2:GiGi, start saving your pennies.

PARTICIPANT 3:The opportunity of coming to an annual meeting and being with the whole group of the membership and planning the organization for the next year, all you have to be is a member. You can join the organization. You can show up at the annual meeting. And you can be a part of making the decisions that will determine how the next year goes.

PARTICIPANT 1:And where do people go to find out more information about this.

PARTICIPANT 3:Well, they go to our website binetusa.org.

PARTICIPANT 1:Which really is looking good.

PARTICIPANT 3:Yes, thanks to our webmaster GiGi Raven Wilbur.

PARTICIPANT 4:Not that he's trying to toot his own horn or anything but--

PARTICIPANT 3:Can some would say incestuous here?

[LAUGHTER]

PARTICIPANT 2:I've heard of people fishing for compliments before. But I've never seen anybody use the worms like that.

[LAUGHTER]

PARTICIPANT 1:It's, just wait. I know how to use those squiggly things.

PARTICIPANT 4:Now, now don't get him started.

PARTICIPANT 3:(LAUGHING) Look what you've done now, GiGi.

PARTICIPANT 1:Oh, I know it. I always do this. We can turn something like a discussion of BiNet USA's mission statement or whatever into--

PARTICIPANT 2:Well, that's the other benefit of coming to Vancouver in August, so you get to hear my laugh again.

PARTICIPANT 1:And we also-- I think, another thing I want to bring out about this conference, it is the North American Conference.

PARTICIPANT 3:That's right. And they're expecting 500 to 1,000 people, I believe.

PARTICIPANT 1:Yeah.

PARTICIPANT 4:Wow.

PARTICIPANT 1:So it is really going to be an awesome Bi gathering, If you want bi space--

PARTICIPANT 3:I'm really very impressed with the organizers in Canada and what they've put together. And there's a website you can go to. And you can reserve rooms right now.

PARTICIPANT 1:And there is a link from the BiNet USA web page to--

PARTICIPANT 3:That's right.

PARTICIPANT 1:--Vancouver

PARTICIPANT 3:That's right.

PARTICIPANT 4:Good, good.

PARTICIPANT 3:Thank you, GiGi.

PARTICIPANT 1:Well, we've got to make these things clear.

PARTICIPANT 3:That's right.

PARTICIPANT 4:It's easier to remember one website than a couple of them.

PARTICIPANT 1:Yeah, and what was that website again?

PARTICIPANT 3:binetusa.org

PARTICIPANT 1:All right.

PARTICIPANT 3:Triple W, B-I-N-E-T USA.org.

PARTICIPANT 4:Or as my sister calls it, BiNet

PARTICIPANT 3:BiNet

PARTICIPANT 4:When you don't capitalize the N, it looks like a French term.

PARTICIPANT 3:We really prefer the BiNet, although we have nothing against the French.

PARTICIPANT 4:Yeah.

PARTICIPANT 2:BiNet is the one that invented the IQ tests.

PARTICIPANT 4:That's true. That's true.

PARTICIPANT 3:Well, I'm not sure that's good.

[LAUGHTER]

Maybe they'll come out with a new one, the BiQ test.

PARTICIPANT 2:There you go.

PARTICIPANT 1:Well Fritz Klein's kind of done that, with--

PARTICIPANT 3:That's true, yeah.

PARTICIPANT 4:Yeah, with his grid.

PARTICIPANT 1:Bisexual options.

PARTICIPANT 3:Yeah, no, I wanted to mention Fritz Klein a few minutes ago when we were talking about, what is my bisexuality? And how do you tell? And I think Fritz has really done the definitive work on what sexual orientation is. And it's really a variety of things.

It's not just who you sleep with. It's who you sleep with. It's who you're attracted to, who you fantasize about, who you notice, who you have-- who you are intimate relationships with. And then that could vary over your life and all these different dimensions.

PARTICIPANT 2:Well I have always-- I've contended for years that everybody has the potential to be bisexual. It depends on the person, the other person.

PARTICIPANT 3:Well, I have a similar theory that everyone has the potential to laugh. And some people just never get around to it. Actually, the thing is that-- my theory actually is that everyone has a variety of different laughs within them. And some people die with most of those laughs still trapped within them, which is very sad.

PARTICIPANT 4:Oh, very appropriate timing.

[LAUGHTER]

Very appropriate to the discussion here.

PARTICIPANT 1: Watch out. We're about to open another can of worms. I mean wiggly things.

PARTICIPANT 4: Down, girl, down. I was going to say, let's get on to a safer topic. But with Miss G around, there ain't no such thing.

PARTICIPANT 3: Well, you know, safe is my last name.

PARTICIPANT 4: This is true. This is true.

PARTICIPANT 1: Well, Barry, tell us a little bit about the plan for the next 18 months.

PARTICIPANT 3: Sure, so well, I read you one thing about that survey that we plan to do and to basically develop relationships with bi communities, local and regional bi groups around the United States, which we already have started to do, of course. And to learn about what their needs are, what they want a National voice for bisexuals to be saying and doing. We'll be issuing press releases.

We're going to establish a Rapid Response Network to respond to biphobia in the media, and also to support positive treatments of bisexuality in the media, and to increase the visibility of bisexuals and bisexuality in the press.

PARTICIPANT 1: Mm-hmm, we've got to stop for station break for a second.

PARTICIPANT 3: All right.

PARTICIPANT 5: It's a quickie. I just need to remind folks that they are listening to After Hours Queer Radio with Attitude, right here on KPFT Houston and KEOS College Station.

PARTICIPANT 1: OK, you're back on.

PARTICIPANT 4: We--

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

PARTICIPANT 1: Oh, yes.

PARTICIPANT 5: Yes, please.

PARTICIPANT 3: I took a moment to have to have a bite to eat there. So we're going to be issuing regular press releases, establishing a Rapid Response Network, building relationships with other social justice organizations to work in Coalition and expand the impact of our mutual efforts, and also representing BiNet USA at National policy roundtables.

We have a seat at these roundtables. BiNet was saved because of its work over the last 10 years has really established itself as a national organization. And unfortunately, because we haven't had a staff, we haven't been able to consistently participate in all the different forums that are available.

PARTICIPANT 1: Yeah, I like the way Lonnie put it. She said, we were too successful in our early days and grew way too fast.

PARTICIPANT 3: Yes, the level of our success had exceeded the bounds of our structure, yeah.

PARTICIPANT 2: Let me ask you this. Do you plan on having some sort of a speakers' bureau or perhaps educational information, and so forth, to provide to people at the local level that can go out to churches, and hospitals, and medical schools, and colleges, and what have you, speaking on the subject?

PARTICIPANT 3: Actually, we do. And in our vision for the future, which we see as being fully realized between 5 and 15 years from now, one of the items is an Education Network/Speakers' Bureau, educating people about bisexuality in hundreds of communities, providing support to groups such as PFLAG Glisten, Now, and others.

PARTICIPANT 4: Sounds good.

PARTICIPANT 1: And part of the reason we broken this down into the 18 month and then long range vision is that we tried, as an national organization, we tried to be too many things for too many people all at once. And we realized we needed to narrow our focus, really get solid, and then build on that.

PARTICIPANT 3: That's a good way to avoid total insanity.

PARTICIPANT 1: Yeah, and total burnout.

PARTICIPANT 3: Yeah, exactly.

PARTICIPANT 2: You try to do-- you try to do too many things once and you don't get anything accomplished. You're going off in all directions at once and--

PARTICIPANT 3: Exactly, it's very painful.

PARTICIPANT 1: And so, I think part of what's really come out of this October national meeting last year is that we've become very focused. And we're really getting on track on some things. In the past, we have a volunteer come in, work a program. The volunteer would leave. The program died.

PARTICIPANT 4: Well and now you've got goals to strive for, achievable goals, as opposed to doing good stuff or something like that. So that's--

PARTICIPANT 3: Yeah and Judy, it's absolutely right. I'm amazed at what we've been able to accomplish. One thing we just did a few days ago is, we submitted a grant application which, it may not sound like it's hard. But it is.

We got in all the information into the packet and got it in on time. And now we wait to find out. And that part's easy. But--

PARTICIPANT 4: Yeah, that's not an easy process.

PARTICIPANT 1: Well, I do want to also bring up another important part of our program. And that's Project 381. You want to tell us a little bit about that?

PARTICIPANT 3: Yes, yes, actually, it's Project 387.

PARTICIPANT 1: 387.

PARTICIPANT 3: 387.

PARTICIPANT 1: Pardon me, I'm so dyslexic.

PARTICIPANT 3:That's all right. And the point of that is-- Project 387 is about people donating monthly to BiNet USA. And the idea is, OK, well, you've heard our mission, our vision. And basically that we want to become a national voice for bisexuals. If you think that's important, then we ask you to make that a part of your monthly budget.

And the idea of Project 387 is to find 387 people, each of whom will donate every month to BiNet USA some amount that they choose, between \$12.50 a month and \$200 a month. And if we can find 387 people who do that, BiNet USA will be fully funded.

PARTICIPANT 4:Sounds good. It sounds really good.

PARTICIPANT 3:And if you go to the website, you can find out all the info and where to send your check.

PARTICIPANT 1:Uh-huh.

PARTICIPANT 3:Yeah.

PARTICIPANT 1:And--

PARTICIPANT 3:This show could make the difference.

PARTICIPANT 1:Oh, yeah.

PARTICIPANT 2:And you do accept credit cards?

PARTICIPANT 3:We actually now accept MasterCard and Visa, yes.

PARTICIPANT 1:Yes.

PARTICIPANT 4:Yeah, I think we got ours on Visa, makes it so much easier on the donating end.

PARTICIPANT 5:Well, this show is on the net in real time.

PARTICIPANT 3:Yes.

PARTICIPANT 4:Yes.

PARTICIPANT 5:We have had-- while we were on the air, we've had calls from Australia saying, hey, I'm listening to your show.

PARTICIPANT 1:Oh, cool.

PARTICIPANT 5:And anyone can tune in at [www-- W cubed-- .KPFT.org](http://www.Wcubed.org), O-R-G.

PARTICIPANT 1:And I did put email out on that too all over the world.

PARTICIPANT 5:Oh yes.

PARTICIPANT 3:And I'd just like to give a shout out to all the bisexuals in Australia. I know some of you. I know there's a lot of you there.

PARTICIPANT 5:There's a lot of you everywhere--

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

PARTICIPANT 2:It's amazing what you can do with the internet now, the connections that you can make with people. When Jimmy commented about that I thought, my god, that's a hell of a skip. It tells how far back in radio I go.

PARTICIPANT 5:Yeah, yeah, no kidding but not only is that great, but it's good for getting people out of the closet.

PARTICIPANT 1:Well, Barry, I want to touch on another subject. What if someone wants to become a member of BiNet USA.

PARTICIPANT 3:We would like that. [LAUGHS]

PARTICIPANT 1:Well, yeah.

PARTICIPANT 2:Don't applaud, spend money.

PARTICIPANT 3:No and-- so a few things about that, first of all, anyone can become a member of Binet USA. You don't have to be bisexual. And you don't have to even say what you are. If-- actually, we do-- if you're a human or some people call that a biped, then you qualify.

[LAUGHTER]

PARTICIPANT 2:I don't know. I know some bipeds that I'm not too sure are human.

PARTICIPANT 3:Well, I know some humans that are not fully bipedal. But we'll leave that aside. In any case, you can get the membership form at the website, which again, is binetusa.org. You can fill that out and send it in.

And we ask that you-- we don't deny anyone membership for lack of funds. But we ask that you do donate as much as you can to support the efforts of BiNet USA. Although, BiNet USA is a membership organization. But it's not-- the point of joining is not necessarily to get benefits, because many people who are not members of BiNet USA benefit from our work. And you can benefit from our work, without joining or sending money. And that's fine with us.

PARTICIPANT 1:Yes, but for those by BiNet-- bisexual people who may still be in the closet, for whatever reason, they can support the organization with a check.

PARTICIPANT 3:That's correct.

PARTICIPANT 2:The programs that you have support them, even if they are in the closet.

PARTICIPANT 3:Absolutely and we certainly encourage them to support us with a check. And it's their choice whether they want to join or not. Even if they join, we guarantee the privacy of their information. We never share the list of our members. No one will ever know that they joined.

PARTICIPANT 1:I think I was about to go to-- we take great pains to ensure full confidentiality.

PARTICIPANT 3:That's right.

PARTICIPANT 1:When we do mailings, like with local Bi groups, what we do is have them send us the labels. We do not give any names out. So what we do is have them send us the materials. We stick our labels at it-- on them and stick them in the mailbox. Nobody ever even sees that database.

PARTICIPANT 5:That's good. And it's important that you keep it that way, because laws vary in different states. And there are states where just being found out you're bisexual, you may lose your children.

PARTICIPANT 3:That's right.

PARTICIPANT 2:Exactly.

PARTICIPANT 5:There's a reason that some people are in the closet. And we absolutely understand that.

PARTICIPANT 3:Oh, and we respect that. And when we mail to you, it never says BiNet USA.

PARTICIPANT 1:Yeah.

PARTICIPANT 3:It just has our PO box.

PARTICIPANT 5:Good.

PARTICIPANT 1:The other thing I want to bring up about being a member-- and this is something that's always touched me about BiNet USA-- is that all of a sudden, this is what I discovered. I have access to a lot of people in the Bi movement.

Everyone-- what impressed me so much was that I met people like Lonnie, Kamanu, Carol Queen, lots of big names in the Bi community who are just everyday people and have so much access to information about bisexuality that's not even written anywhere yet. There's a wealth of information in BiNet USA that's shared.

PARTICIPANT 3:Yeah and it's all available to anyone who asks for it, really.

PARTICIPANT 2:I would assume most of that information is also available on the website, is it not?

PARTICIPANT 1:Not a whole lot yet, we're still building--

PARTICIPANT 2:Still working on it.

PARTICIPANT 3:Yeah, a lot of it's there. But we're working to expand that.

PARTICIPANT 1:Yeah but the other thing is just getting on the listservs. We do have three listservs. One's for the leaders. One's for management. One's for regular membership. And basically, if you have questions, you can get on the listserv and ask, just throw it out there. And you'll get all kinds of different answers, and insights, and different ways of looking at things.

PARTICIPANT 3:Yeah and all you need to do is go to Yahoo groups and look for BiNet USA. And you can-- anyone can join our listserv. And when you join the listserv, not only do you get access to all the email conversations but there are files, there are documents that we put on the listserv for people to look at. And there's actually quite a lot more there right now than is on the website.

PARTICIPANT 1:Yeah, we've got-- in the file sharing area, we've got a lot of information stored away.

PARTICIPANT 3:And actually, I also like to put a word in there for the Bi Resource Center out of Boston.

PARTICIPANT 1:Oh, yes.

PARTICIPANT 3: And they have some fantastic information that we often refer people to. And you can go to BiResource.org. And they've got great brochures, and lots of links, and lots of info.

PARTICIPANT 1: And then, I always have to throw in the other side. If you really want to find a partner or get really kinky, Fritz Klein has free personal pages on his website.

PARTICIPANT 5: Oh, my.

PARTICIPANT 3: And is that Bi.org, GiGi?

PARTICIPANT 1: It's-- oh, goodness, it's--

PARTICIPANT 3: I think it's Bi.org.

PARTICIPANT 4: I think it is, yeah.

PARTICIPANT 1: We've got a link from the BiNet USA website.

PARTICIPANT 3: OK

PARTICIPANT 2: Is there a link?

PARTICIPANT 1: It's Bisexual Options.

PARTICIPANT 2: Oh, OK, but there's a link from the BiNet USA?

PARTICIPANT 1: Yeah.

PARTICIPANT 2: OK.

PARTICIPANT 4: Yeah.

PARTICIPANT 1: So it's real easy to find. I'm getting the wrap-up sign. Barry, I sure appreciate you being with us tonight. Time just flew by.

PARTICIPANT 3: That was wonderful. Thank you very much, all of you.

PARTICIPANT 5: Thanks for being here, Barry.

PARTICIPANT 3: OK

PARTICIPANT 1: Well, you have a good night.

PARTICIPANT 3: OK

PARTICIPANT 1: And say hi to everybody in California for me.

PARTICIPANT 3: I'll do that, bye, bye.

PARTICIPANT 1: Bye.

PARTICIPANT 5: OK, right now, we've got some people waiting in the hallway who want to put in a word about an event that went on tonight.

PARTICIPANT 1: Oh, yes.

PARTICIPANT 5: Come on in.

PARTICIPANT 1: Let's bring them in.

PARTICIPANT 5: Bruce and Judy Reeds are here.

PARTICIPANT 1: Hey.

PARTICIPANT 5: They are no strangers to these airwaves. Bruce has-- is a past co-producer of this show, as a matter of fact.

PARTICIPANT 6: Once upon a time, a long, long time ago.

PARTICIPANT 5: So once upon a time and Judy was, of course, is-- as always, was in the background doing all the work.

PARTICIPANT 7: That works.

PARTICIPANT 5: You've been to an event this evening.

PARTICIPANT 6 Yes we did. We went to Mr. Prime Choice Leather.

PARTICIPANT 7: Hello.

PARTICIPANT 5: 2001.

PARTICIPANT 6: The brain is gone.

PARTICIPANT 5: Yeah.

PARTICIPANT 7: I can see why. I saw who was in the room.

PARTICIPANT 6: The contest this year, unfortunately, only had one contestant. He did actually win. His name is Mr Crif Robinson.

PARTICIPANT 7: And what a wonderful contestant he was.

PARTICIPANT 5: Who happens to also be a co-host on this show. He does "The Leather Line" every fourth Saturday, second half of the show.

PARTICIPANT 7: Well, now he has a new title.

PARTICIPANT 6: Part of the-- one of the big judging parts of the contest has always been fundraising. Crif raised, I think it was right at \$4,100--

PARTICIPANT 7: \$4,101.

PARTICIPANT 5: Wow.

PARTICIPANT 1: Wow.

PARTICIPANT 6: --for the community.

PARTICIPANT 5: Very nice.

PARTICIPANT 6: So that was great. Tonight overall, raised in excess of \$4,600.

PARTICIPANT 5: Nice

PARTICIPANT 6: It benefits-- tonight benefits, basically, Stone Soup and Gulf Coast Archive and Museum, which is why Judy and I were there.

PARTICIPANT 7: A little side thing.

PARTICIPANT 5: That's right.

PARTICIPANT 6: There was also a little story told about a pink t-shirt and a leather bar--

PARTICIPANT 7: Yes.

PARTICIPANT 6: --that we will--

PARTICIPANT 7: It was wonderful.

PARTICIPANT 6: --to you later.

PARTICIPANT 7: You're in deep trouble, James.

PARTICIPANT 6: You got very lucky tonight that you were not selected from the crowd and talked about. There were-- it was actually something that happened to Don Gill, many, many years ago, before he became involved in the [INAUDIBLE].

PARTICIPANT 7: And he was telling on himself. That helps.

PARTICIPANT 5: Well I figured. I'm going to a leather bar, how do I stand out? And I wear my trademark pink shirt.

PARTICIPANT 7: Kimmi, I keep telling you. You stand out no matter where you go, no matter what you do, and no matter what you're not-- I mean, you are wearing.

PARTICIPANT 6: There were a couple of things that were of interesting import that were announced tonight. The first and foremost of which, for the Prime Choice contest was the fact that, beginning this year, it will only be an every other year contest. So Crif will actually hold his title until 2003.

PARTICIPANT 7: Three.

PARTICIPANT 5: OK, so that means that he goes to Mr Gulf Coast Leather two years.

PARTICIPANT 6: Well, he'll go this year. I don't know. I don't really know.

PARTICIPANT 7: They didn't give us those details.

PARTICIPANT 6: I don't know what the rules of those contests are. So he may only be able to participate in Gulf Coast Drummer once.

PARTICIPANT 5: Oh, OK, Gulf Coast Drummer, OK, sorry.

PARTICIPANT 6: And that's coming up in Dallas the first weekend in May, I believe.

PARTICIPANT 5:Yes, yes.

PARTICIPANT 6:And actually, it's rather interesting, because he and a very good friend of his, Jim-- I never can remember.

PARTICIPANT 5:Nixon.

PARTICIPANT 6:Jim Nixon will both be competing in Gulf Coast Drummer.

PARTICIPANT 5:Yes, yes.

PARTICIPANT 6:So they will be competing against each other.

PARTICIPANT 5:Because Jim is Mr. Lone Star Drummer.

PARTICIPANT 6:OK.

PARTICIPANT 5:Lone Star--

PARTICIPANT 1:Yeah.

PARTICIPANT 4:Yeah.

PARTICIPANT 5:OK, Lone Star Drummer.

PARTICIPANT 6:So it's fascinating the different ways everything works out. So that was a major announcement tonight. Another major announcement tonight--

PARTICIPANT 5:This is exciting.

PARTICIPANT 6:--was that-- I'm sorry. Am I stealing your--

PARTICIPANT 7:Go ahead, no go ahead, dear. No, you're not stealing my thunder, just all the time.

PARTICIPANT 6:It was announced by Don and Bob Bouton that one of the big things in Lady Victoria Lust's Estate was that she wanted to create a special foundation. And they've basically been holding off on creating that foundation until they knew for sure that the PWA Holiday Charity's fund was on a secure footing and was in no danger.

And so, as soon as the paperwork comes back from the estate with the official incorporation papers, the Wishful Thinking Foundation will become a reality in Houston. And well, you talk a little bit about that.

PARTICIPANT 7:Well, that's kind of about it. Bob Bouton will be in charge of that for now.

PARTICIPANT 5:What is the-- What is this group?

PARTICIPANT 7:Well, it's kind of like the Make-a-Wish Foundation. Only it's on a neighborhood scale, so to speak. HIV positive people who are sick or stuck at home for whatever reasons and their form of entertainment, whatever that may be, they're going to make sure that those people are able to maintain a lifestyle that any human being would want to maintain.

PARTICIPANT 5:Oh, cool.

PARTICIPANT 7: They're not going to put them in palaces and castles and such. But they are going to be able to make sure those TVs, and VCRs, computers, whatever are running. Whatever their entertainment is, whatever makes them happy is going to be there for them as much as possible.

PARTICIPANT 5: That's important, because right now, as we all know-- and Bobby's right here behind me. He understands that when you're on SSI, it's not a lot of money.

PARTICIPANT 7: It's not pretty.

PARTICIPANT 5: And every time you turn around, there's more money going for some new medication. So there's a lot of PWAs that have to think, let's see, medication or food, which will it be? That's not a way to live, folks.

PARTICIPANT 7: And they don't have an option between medication and computer, or medication and television. It's just never even in the running.

PARTICIPANT 5: Yeah.

PARTICIPANT 6: So--

PARTICIPANT 5: And when you consider how many people are on more medications than Medicaid, and the backup insurance's and programs will cover--

PARTICIPANT 7: Yeah.

PARTICIPANT 4: That's true.

PARTICIPANT 6: Yeah.

PARTICIPANT 1: That's tough.

PARTICIPANT 5: It's insane.

PARTICIPANT 6: Yeah, so and then there was a third major announcement tonight, which I had the privilege of making.

PARTICIPANT 5: Yes?

PARTICIPANT 6: Which is that, as of May the first, Gulf Coast Archives and Museum will be located officially at 1,609 West Main Street in Apartment Number 4. And we are very, very excited about that. And basically, on a real note, what that means is if you haven't seen our current exhibit, which is entitled Sports, Scouts, and the Military, you have two more weeks-- three more weeks to do.

PARTICIPANT 7: Approximately, the 29th.

PARTICIPANT 6: It closes on April 29. It is open by appointment only. So if you're interested in doing that, you need to call during reasonable daylight hours at 713-227-5973. And talk to myself or Judy. And make an appointment to come by and see our exhibit before it shuts down.

And then, we'll be back on the show the 21st of May, I think it is, to talk about our upcoming new exhibit and--

PARTICIPANT 5: At the new location.

PARTICIPANT 6:--the fun and excitement that that's going to be having.

PARTICIPANT 5:At the new location, yeah.

PARTICIPANT 6:We're just-- we're very excited about these big steps forward for all of our organizations. And it was just really a fantastic night.

PARTICIPANT 5:And one of the reasons that we got the space that we did get is because Don Gil and Bob Bouton did Live 2,000.

PARTICIPANT 7:Live 2,000.

PARTICIPANT 5:Live 2,000 and provided the money so that we can--

PARTICIPANT 6:They raised over-- in excess of \$3,000 for us in the fall.

PARTICIPANT 5:Yes

PARTICIPANT 6:We'll be getting some money from tonight as well. And we're just-- we're thrilled to death with all the money that we can get. You can never have enough money. If you're not a member of Gulf Coast Archive and Museum, it's \$25 a year.

PARTICIPANT 7:We can work it out. We can put you on a payment plan if we need to.

PARTICIPANT 6:And we can-- any-- every little-- every dollar helps.

PARTICIPANT 5:Oh, yes.

PARTICIPANT 6:One of the things that we were talking about just last week was, we're having to spend \$200 to be in the parade this year. We're having to spend \$500 to build new shelving for the new apartment, so that we can actually move into it.

We would dearly love to be able to spend \$600 on a film scanner so that we can get with Dalton DeHart and start scanning his massive 6,000 rolls of film into our database and ultimately be able to put those online, so we can start having people identify those pictures, while there are still people alive that can do that.

PARTICIPANT 5:And we're not talking 6,000 pictures. We're talking 6,000

ALL: Rolls.

PARTICIPANT 6:36 exposure rolls of film, right, we're talking in excess of--

PARTICIPANT 5:That's a lot.

PARTICIPANT 6:That's a lot of film.

PARTICIPANT 7:He's got them all. And he took more tonight, I will say.

PARTICIPANT 6:That's like--

PARTICIPANT 7:He was there.

PARTICIPANT 6:That's in excess of 200,000 pictures that we're talking about.

PARTICIPANT 7:I'm ready for him.

PARTICIPANT 6:It's going to take a while to scan those.

PARTICIPANT 5:Yes.

PARTICIPANT 1:Yes, no kidding.

PARTICIPANT 7:Can I brag for a minute?

PARTICIPANT 5:Go ahead.

PARTICIPANT 7:Oh, you're so good to me. I have to say that, in the last couple of three weeks, the Gulf Coast Archives and Museum has managed to take in over 200 boxes.

A lot of those boxes are starting with Volume 1 or Edition 1, whatever you want to call it, of *The Houston Voice*, all the way through *The Montrose Voice*, *The Houston Voice*, whatever its name was back then. It changes periodically. But we now have about 99% of all of the Voices at the museum. We're not through going through them yet. But we're having a ball doing it.

PARTICIPANT 5:That's right.

PARTICIPANT 6:And in addition to that, we have-- we've had for several months, a fairly complete-- I think it is a complete set of *OutSmart Magazines*.

PARTICIPANT 7:It is the complete.

PARTICIPANT 6:We also got a relatively complete set of *The Eclipse*--

PARTICIPANT 7:M-hm yeah.

PARTICIPANT 5:So we're working on it.

PARTICIPANT 6:--that we just picked up in the last week or two.

PARTICIPANT 1:Wow.

PARTICIPANT 5:OK.

PARTICIPANT 6:The only thing we're really lacking at this point, from a Houston publication standpoint, are the *This Week in Texas* magazines.

PARTICIPANT 7:Oh, you're going to make me cry.

PARTICIPANT 6:Our-- we just most recently found out that the collection that was housed at *This Week in Texas* here in Houston has, in fact-- is probably slated to go on eBay for auction to the highest bidder. We had done everything in our power to try to convince the owner of that building to donate them to our organization. And unfortunately, because of the amount of money he was at in rents, he just felt like that was not an option. And so, he's going to try to sell them.

So if there's any kind soul in the world that sees those on eBay at some point, if you wanted to bid for them and donate them to the museum, we would be most happy to have them in our collection. But obviously, we're not in a position to buy a collection like that.

PARTICIPANT 5:Not-- no, no.

PARTICIPANT 7:I worked on that with the attorneys, et cetera, for several weeks and really didn't get very far on it. But I worked on it and got responses from them, et cetera. But I do want to take two seconds out to say thank you to Carolyn.

She-- better known as Quiverlyn back in the old days. Yeah, she doesn't go back at that-- anyway, Carolyn was helping me out with that, talking to Victor and everything. And she did a lot of work and legwork for us to do that. So thank you anyway, Carolyn. It was a wonderful try.

PARTICIPANT 5:And thank you too, for being here and sharing all of that.

PARTICIPANT 7:Jack's hiding in a corner.

PARTICIPANT 5:Yeah, I see.

PARTICIPANT 7:He wouldn't talk. By y'all. Thank you for having us.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

PARTICIPANT 1:You bet. And I do want to give one last reminder about BiNet, Houston.

PARTICIPANT 5:Don't worry about it, OK, yeah, because we've got Rich Aronshield coming in. [INAUDIBLE] one last part of your show, because I want bisexuals to know about what he does too.

PARTICIPANT 1:Oh, OK, Go ahead. You're on.

PARTICIPANT 5:You go ahead.

PARTICIPANT 1:Oh, oh, OK, I got you. Yes BiNet Houston, give us a call. We meet every Wednesday evening from 7:30 till 9:00 up at Oscar's Creamery. And you can reach us. Call the BiNet Houston phone line at 713-467-4380. And BiNet USA's website is binetusa.org.

PARTICIPANT 5:That's it, rich?

PARTICIPANT 8:Good evening, Jimmy. How are you?

PARTICIPANT 5:I wanted to get you on at the end of GiGi's segment where all those bisexuals who were listening in and may tune out by the end of it, because what you represent, what you're doing, we want all aspects of the queer community involved.

PARTICIPANT 8:I think so. Let me just introduce myself to those of you that haven't heard me since the last time I was here. I'm Rich Aronshield. And I currently work for the People With AIDS Coalition in Houston. And I run an advocacy training program called Project LEAP, which stands for Leadership Empowerment Advocacy and Participation.

So-- and Jimmy and--

PARTICIPANT 5:What does that mean? What is it that you do? I know how I told the listeners earlier. But I want to hear, just what is this?

PARTICIPANT 8:Project LEAP, it's a one of a kind program. There are no-- there's no other program like this in anywhere, anywhere in the United States. There's one program that's kind of similar to it in Philadelphia. But we here in Houston, about five or six years ago, there was a guy named Stephen Bradley who, some of you may have remembered. He was an advocacy advocate here in Houston.

And he looked around and saw, in the HIV community, primarily, that there were not many HIV positive people involved in the process of determining the allocation for funding and services for folks with HIV and AIDS.

And so, he, and Mike Ross from the UT School of Public Health-- who is one of the most brilliant epidemiologists and behavioral scientists in the world-- and a guy named Jim Halloran got together and decided to create a program, whereby, they would teach folks the ins and outs of HIV funding and service delivery, because the way that HIV is funded on the federal, the state, the county, and the local, and the city, in those manners, it's a very complicated process.

And what was happening is, five or six years ago, is that bureaucrats that worked for funding agencies were basically the ones who were involved in determining what resources went where. Did they go to child care? Did they go to transportation? Did they go to drug therapy? Did they go to food pantry? Did they go to case management?

So what Steven, and Jim, and Mike Ross decided was, let's get HIV positive folks involved in this process. Let's get them familiar with the lingo and the territory. And let's let them become part of the decision makers, regarding this process.

But in order to do that, you have to take the mystery out of it. You have to demystify all the funding streams and all the agencies involved, all the governmental entities involved. And so, they created this curriculum. And in so doing, they allowed HIV positive folks to come into the process and to sit at the table.

And what's happened is, that has-- in the last five years, this has grown and matured into what is probably the single best curriculum for HIV folks and advocacy in the United States.

PARTICIPANT 1:Wow.

PARTICIPANT 5:I want to get--

PARTICIPANT 1:It sounds very grass roots.

PARTICIPANT 5:I want to get the news on here. And we're going to talk to you more in the second half of the show and get some more information. But can you give me the basic information right now?

PARTICIPANT 8:The basic information is that this class it is for both HIV positive and HIV negative folks. Of course, our target audience is HIV positive folks. But we are looking for members of what we call the affected community.

Now it's a hundred hour curriculum. So it spans six months. We meet once a week for four hours for six months. We're going to be beginning classes in the next couple of weeks. And we are currently taking applications.

Those applications are available at our headquarters, the People With AIDS Coalition headquarters, which are 3400 Montrose, either on the ground floor or on 107. They're available at our Fifth Ward office. They're available at Thomas Street Clinic. They're also-- you can also print our application online, which is ProjectLEAP-Houston.org.

You can print that out, all the information to mail or fax that application is on the application. So we encourage folks to make application. And then we'd like you to sit down with everybody who's interested, and talk to them, and then start the class.

So we're ready to roll. We're ready to move with this. And we're here tonight to make sure that we cover everybody, even the late night birds on--

PARTICIPANT 5:You bet.

PARTICIPANT 8:The Wednesday class doesn't start until 10:00 AM. So you can stay up until one or two and still make it to class on time. So that's the-- those are the main particulars.

PARTICIPANT 5:OK, sounds good and we're going to be bringing the news on in just a couple of minutes. GiGi, I want to close out with you, since it's your set. Now that we've got some Bi's, in knowledge of Project LEAP, which is what I wanted to get in on. I heard you going oohing and ahing when you heard that it was 100 hour course. And so, it sounds like you think it's very thorough.

PARTICIPANT 1:Yeah, well, what I was-- what was touching me was the grassroots nature of it.

PARTICIPANT 5:Yeah.

PARTICIPANT 1:Getting people involved that-- in the funding stream that the funding is going to affect, because they're the most expert at where it should go. And it sounds like a really dynamic program.

PARTICIPANT 5:Yes, OK, GiGi thanks very much.

PARTICIPANT 1:Oh, you bet.

PARTICIPANT 5:We'll see you next month.

PARTICIPANT 1:I want to do a little closing--

PARTICIPANT 5:Oh, yes.

PARTICIPANT 1:--from the vision--