

HOST 1: They're afraid to tell their families that they're gay. They're having unprotected sex. They come out HIV positive.

That means that if they go to their parents or their families and tell them, I'm HIV positive, the first thing is like, are you gay? And they're not going to go, no, I had sex with a woman. So I said, they're still in the closet.

HOST 2: Yes, that's right.

HOST 1: And that's one of the things about the accuracy of this report. It's like, yeah, these people can say they're gay, but in reality, you still don't know, especially with our communities because we're so closeted that we're afraid. But yeah, you do have a point in saying how Dallas, as a city, is not doing really well with the gay community. There need to be an awakening there. And if they're not ready to take the chance, then perhaps we should give them a hand.

HOST 3: Yeah.

HOST 2: And you know that whole thing is-- it sticks in my head that I saw a report about Mexico and about gay people in Mexico. If we think gay bashing here--

HOST 3: Oh, I know.

HOST 2: They don't just beat you.

HOST 3: They kill you.

HOST 2: You end up dead. And so it's understandable because the culture says, OK, you are so bad, you have-- we're not just going to beat you up, we're going to kill you.

HOST 3: Overall, 12% of urban gay men in their 20s are infected with the AIDS virus, the ongoing study by researchers at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta found. That's very alarming, 12% of urban gay men. And most of this infection, new infection, is in young men.

HOST 1: But it's because, again, we're going into a different mentality. They don't want to-- it's like, "don't ask, don't tell".

HOST 2: But that doesn't work.

HOST 1: Yeah, but it's like--

HOST 2: That doesn't work. 10 years ago when I was with ACT UP, we marched into Black communities and said, please wake up. And they didn't. And now, you're hearing the ministers finally saying-- talking about HIV and talking about it in the pulpit. They should have been doing this 10 years ago.

HOST 3: How many people-- we're entering a whole new era, and yet we're seeing things happening in some ways--

HOST 2: Come over.

HOST 3: I bet you we have the med--

HOST 2: It's déjà vu.

HOST 3: We have medicines now, but we're seeing the infection rates and things go back to 1985.

HOST 2: That's right. That's right.

HOST 3: And that's insane.

HOST 2: That is so very alarming.

HOST 1: But it's because we're not being careful. We're being too careless. We're having too much unprotected sex. We're not having monogamous relationships.

We're sleeping with Pedro and tomorrow with Juan. And you don't know what Pedro or Juan are doing because you just go, oh, he's cute. He has a big one. I'm going to go ahead and have sex with him.

HOST 3: And they feel different.

HOST 2: Another reason is-- and I don't mean to trip over you-- is that the young-- well my generation has been decimated. But your generation, Sandy, the 20-somethings don't know of people who died. This AIDS thing is just kind of this nebulous thing. It happened to people you don't know.

HOST 3: I talked about friends of mine in their early 20s. And they go, well, I haven't known anybody yet.

HOST 2: That's right.

HOST 3: And I'm sitting there going, I've lost 36 friends.

HOST 2: Everyone in their teens and 20s feels like nothing-- they're invincible.

HOST 1: Because the younger generation they see AIDS as like, it's not going to be me. It's never going to happen to me. And then, whoops, it hits you. And then, what do you do? And it's like--

HOST 2: If you have insurance or you have money, you can afford the medications to keep you alive with incredible side effects.

HOST 1: And what they don't understand is you can have a really nice time with somebody with protection and just get to know the person. If you have been with this person for a long time, and you guys are ready for a monogamous relationship, make a commitment to each other.

We're not going to do anything with anybody else. It's just going to be the two of us, but we could do whatever you want. Until that time doesn't come, you need to be protected. You need to understand that we need to change this.

These numbers need to go down! And it has to happen soon. We need to see ourselves as-- it's like, we need to prepare ourselves for the future. It's not like it's written in stone, but if you go in and make a mistake, that mistake is going to be with you for the rest of your life.

HOST 3: For the rest of your shortened life.

HOST 2: Shortened life.

HOST 1: Yeah, because it doesn't go away.

HOST 3: Right, and the straight community looks at sex a little bit differently because a mistake there causes a pregnancy. And then, you have a responsibility for the rest of your life, if you accept it. But I think condom use is probably even higher in the straight community and needs to be even more so.

HOST 1: Because I think that Houston has gone down a little bit on that because of the fact that we are being more open or being more talkative. We're no longer turning our heads. It's like people are giving you condoms everywhere now.

HOST 3: That's right.

HOST 1: You cannot go to a club and not see condoms.

HOST 3: And I'm going to say something that's very controversial because all over the country in the last 15, 20 years the baths for men have been closed, from New York to-- oh, National Condom Week, well, what do you know, just coinciding with February 14, Valentine's Day. But--

HOST 2: How appropriate.

HOST 3: --what I mean by controversial is that all the baths had been closed in other cities, and they're just now being opened. In Houston, they have always remained open. And I have put forth that gay men, bisexual men are going to have sex, period. If you do not provide-- if there is not a space like a Club Bath where that can happen, it's going to happen in adult arcades. It's going to happen in the woods. It's going to happen--

HOST 2: In an alley.

HOST 3: --restrooms. Yes, and where there is absolutely no--

HOST 2: No protection.

HOST 3: --no protection. When you go to a place like the Club Baths, the first thing they hand you with your towel is a condom. And--

HOST 2: Oak trees out in the woods-- oak trees do not dispense condoms.

HOST 3: No--

HOST 1: Little leaves do not count as condoms.

HOST 3: --they do not.

[LAUGHTER]

Right, now, nobody can make anybody wear a condom. But in a place like that, they're available.

HOST 1: Places like-- if you find yourself-- it's like they just showed me this paper. And it's--

HOST 2: That newspaper there?

HOST 1: --the Houston Boys.

HOST 2: Ta-da!

HOST 1: And we have local news. The Condom Week starts February 14, which is an excellent day.

HOST 2: Of course it is, Chris!

HOST 1: Go out with your boyfriend. Grab a condom. Have fun. Be safe.

HOST 3: Yeah, put them in little heart-shaped packages--

HOST 2: There you go.

HOST 3: --or something.

HOST 1: One of the first things when I was in college that I always did, when I was in U of H, is when I carried my backpack, I always made sure that I had condoms in it, not just for myself, but for my friends because it's like, also, you need to be a good friend.

We need to start taking responsibility, not just for our own lives, but at least for making a difference in somebody else's life. If you go out to a club, take yourself a condom. You don't know. If you see somebody, just hand it over.

HOST 2: That's right.

HOST 1: And tell them, see, you might need it. And just keep going. Let's try to do that at least once a year to touch somebody. Pass the ribbon. Pass the condom.

HOST 3: There you go.

HOST 2: It's better than having to pass out the red ribbons. I'd rather have people pass out condoms. Chris, you wanted to say something?

HOST 3: Well, you were talking about having sex in the woods, but haven't you ever heard of a rubber tree?

HOST 2: Oh!

[LAUGHTER]

That's good.

HOST 3: It's made out of latex.

HOST 1: Are those the one you use?

HOST 2: Yeah.

HOST 3: I lived in a condominium.

HOST 2: Condominium? And we are in a wonderful country because the United States has the best condoms in the world, the most reliable.

HOST 1: (LAUGHING)

HOST 2: Really, buy American condoms. There you go.

[LAUGHTER]

Unlike your cars, buy Am-- (LAUGHING)

HOST 3: Can I say something about the condoms?

HOST 2: Please do.

HOST 3: OK, in 1987, 86-87-- see, I'm a clown. And in those days, it was very difficult to get the balloon animals. You know, the balloons for the balloon animals? And the reason for that is all these companies that are making latex balloons decided to do condoms.

HOST 2: Condoms.

HOST 3: And it was like getting balloons for these kids to blow up and make animals, it was very difficult. But when they brought them back, god, were they hard to blow up.

[LAUGHTER]

HOST 2: A lot thicker, huh?

HOST 3: That first batch that first year back, oh my god, it was very difficult to blow up.

HOST 2: And--

HOST 3: And that is a true story.

HOST 2: And while we're on that--

HOST 1: Experienced by you, huh?

HOST 2: --if you run into somebody who says, oh, I don't like to wear them. They're too tight, you know? I'm so big. Blow up a condom, and if somebody is that big, you don't want to sleep with them.

[LAUGHTER]

You are thinking of putting that where?

HOST 3: OK, sad commentary on my life. Just to see how large those things really can fit. I wore one as an evening glove.

HOST 2: Ooh.

HOST 3: It fit my hand to about the elbow.

HOST 1: Well!

HOST 3: Not that I have--

HOST 2: Oh, don't go--

HOST 1: I don't even want to go there.

HOST 2: Don't do the fisting thing.

HOST 1: I don't even want to--

HOST 3: No, the only reason I came back in here because you're saying buy American condoms. It makes all the fun. They're looking for the Union label I guess.

[LAUGHTER]

HOST 1: Ooh--

HOST 2: Yeah, well--

HOST 1: It's getting hot in here.

HOST 2: Yes, it is.

HOST 3: And we're not even cursing.

HOST 1: Yeah, I know. He hasn't even pinched me because I said to many F-words.

HOST 2: Let's go to a musical break yes and calm down--

HOST 3: A musical interlude.

HOST 2: Jade Esteban Estrada openly gay dance music artist. And he's got an album out called *Angel*. I received it through the mail, which I thought was really sweet. They were sending it out to stations--

HOST 1: Where is he from?

HOST 2: I don't know.

HOST 1: Is he Houstonian or from somewhere else?

HOST 2: No, no, no, no, he's not Houstonian.

HOST 1: Where was the mail-- the return address?

HOST 2: I didn't look. I'll look while we're-- I'll send him a postcard.

HOST 3: This boy, he heard that name. And he was like, that was--

HOST 2: Well, he's so cute. Look at this guy. Look at this guy on the cover, isn't he cute? I could go there.

HOST 1: Did you hear what he just called me?

HOST 2: What?

HOST 1: He said that I was desperate.

HOST 3: I said desperation by name of Sandy.

HOST 2: Ooh, ouch. Anyway, this--

HOST 1: He's just cute.

HOST 2: Jade had a minor hit with this song in the dance clubs, so I am told since I don't go to very many. Anyway, let me just play it. We'll be back.

HOST 1: Yeah, let's hear--

HOST 2: You're listening to *After Hours*, queer radio with attitude on KPFT Houston.

HOST 1: --before I start crying, yeah.

HOST 2: Oh, this is Jade Esteban Estrada with the "Reggae Twist".

[MUSIC - JADE ESTEBAN ESTRADA, "REGGAE TWIST"]

Ooh, that's good, isn't it?

HOST 1: I know. It's very moving.

HOST 2: I do like that. I don't know what he's saying, but--

HOST 1: I sure do know!

HOST 2: It doesn't matter.

HOST 3: Who cares?

HOST 1: He's talented, cute, talented. Like I said before, I need his number.

[LAUGHTER]

HOST 2: There's another song on here I really like. There's a Spanish version and an English version. It's called "Bella Morena". And so I like it in both languages actually.

HOST 1: Well, you have really good taste, so I believe that.

HOST 2: Thank you. Thank you.

HOST 1: Well, perhaps, you'll listen to it later on.

HOST 2: Yes, probably as we're going out, I'll play it.

HOST 1: Well, we were talking earlier tonight. Or was it today? There was-- (LAUGHING)

HOST 3: Nevermind.

HOST 2: It's not tomorrow until you go to bed. That's it right there.

HOST 3: It's not tomorrow until you've actually gotten some sleep.

HOST 1: We were actually discussing a little bit of what's going on in Florida with the Boy Scouts.

HOST 2: Oh, really?

HOST 1: Yeah, I was reading a lot of stuff this week on how United Way-- they're going to deal with the Boy Scouts of America in a different way now. They will no longer be handing out donations or be giving out donations. They will be paying for services.

That's the way I understood that they would receive funds for special projects unless they change their policies of anti-gay.

HOST 2: But that's just in Florida? There's no national--

HOST 1: Uh-uh.

HOST 2: Oh, it's a national policy? Oh, really?

HOST 1: Eventually, it's going to be a national thing because United Way has chapters all over the United States.

HOST 2: Yes, that's right.

HOST 1: But Florida is seeing the beginning-- the Boy Scouts of America better service. So I'm thinking--

HOST 3: Boy, Florida just can't catch a break this year, can they?

HOST 2: I'm really surprised at that because I think of Florida as being a very Catholic state because of all of the Cubans.

HOST 1: People, I mean, they're expressing-- what I notice in most of the articles is that they don't want their sons to stop coming to Boy Scouts--

HOST 2: No.

HOST 1: --because they do provide some--

HOST 2: Yes, they do.

HOST 1: --services. But at the same time, they just don't want-- the United Way doesn't feel that they should just hand them the money, just give them donations, when they have this policy that they no longer agree with. The United Way does not discriminate against sexual orientation, the Boy Scouts of America do.

So that what they will do is like they will be on a contract basis. They will receive funds faceless services. But they will no longer receive the amount of money that they used to get before. And that used to be at least \$500,000 per year. So what is being said in Florida is that they would lose at least \$100,000 per year to eventually just end up with \$80,000.

HOST 2: I've been reading on HandNet also about Boy Scouts. And there's a lot of areas that are saying that, OK, Boy Scouts you can have that policy if you want, but you can't meet in our schools anymore. Or in synagogues.

HOST 1: A few cities and a few states are also looking into that because if you-- New Jersey is also looking at that. If New Jersey happens to have a law that says you can discriminate against sexual orientation, then the Boy Scouts of America cannot get any state grants.

HOST 2: That's right. That's right. I'm mixed on this because I know that the Boy Scouts provide very good services. And so--

HOST 3: I have old friends who use to be--

HOST 2: --many gay men were Boy Scouts and Eagle Scouts.

HOST 3: I have a very good friend, who we all know, who was once an Eagle Scout.

HOST 2: Yeah, see. I'm really torn about it, but I applaud the people who are taking these steps. They're taking these steps, I don't think, to stop the Boy Scouts. I think they're taking these steps to get the Boy Scouts to rethink their policy.

HOST 1: I just received a note from our news person here that-- he's just been so wonderful. So I'm just throwing flowers here. (THROWING KISSES)

HOST 2: I have my tongue firmly in my cheek.

[LAUGHTER]

HOST 1: But he just handed me this note that the Boy Scouts of America just met with Governor Perry to try to-- because he was a voice got himself, to try to make sure that this doesn't happen here in Texas, to try to rally with him.

HOST 2: Well, it's going to be community by community. It's not up to the governor because if a public school, or a church, or a synagogue wants to say, hey, you can't meet here anymore, then he has no control over it.

HOST 3: I have a lovely t-shirt that I was given as a gift that has a picture of two Boy Scouts on it holding hands. One of them's kind of giving the other one a side-long glance, like, ooh, ain't you cute. And it says on it, "taking a stand against intolerance".

HOST 1: But it's right. It's right. It's like, we have to see ourselves as-- if you have a policy, if you're a state that has a policy against nondiscrimination, you cannot fund programs that--

HOST 3: That discriminate.

HOST 1: By the way, the Girl Scouts are clean. They will not suffer any lack of funds whatsoever because they--

HOST 2: They don't have any policy like that.

HOST 1: Yeah, they don't have any policy.

HOST 3: Why doesn't that surprise me?

HOST 1: Girls are more accepting.

HOST 2: Because the Girl Scouts are not worried about it. It's just not an issue. If there are lesbians there, OK, there's lesbians there.

HOST 3: Ooh, wow, big deal.

HOST 2: Yeah, if a person is straight, they're straight. If they're gay, they're gay. And I've had sex with more women than many of my straight friends. And guess what? It did not turn me straight.

[LAUGHTER]

(INTERPOSING VOICES)

HOST 3: We are eternally grateful of that fact too. And so are they.

HOST 2: Great reviews, great reviews.

HOST 1: I think you just like your lover better.

HOST 2: Yeah, it's like your orientation--

HOST 1: He just touched you in more ways than one, huh?

HOST 2: Your orientation is your orientation. Men are pigs, so they can stick it anywhere.

HOST 1: And--

HOST 3: Well, that was a colorful note.

HOST 1: I hope you know what--

HOST 2: Sorry.

HOST 1: I better change this subject--

HOST 2: Yes, please do.

HOST 1: --really quickly.

HOST 3: Now would be a good time, yeah.

HOST 1: Well, another thing that I was really looking into it-- it's in Massachusetts. You know that they're trying to pass legislation to define what a marriage is.

HOST 2: Oh?

HOST 1: And I know they tried it two years two years ago to actually define-- because their Constitution-- the Commonwealth doesn't have a legal definition that said marriage is between a man and a woman, which is what they're trying to do and try to deny, create a clause, that would set up a marriage with a man and a man of the same sex will not be legally binding.

So that would mean that anything that-- all the partners' benefits and all that stuff will not be happening at all in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts if it's allowed to happen. So I'm hoping that when the legislature meets, it's just not going to do it. But in this life--

HOST 3: You never know.

HOST 1: Yeah, and I'm really thinking that this is coming along because of the fact that Vermont being so close to Massachusetts. The East Coast is starting to feel a little bit of the freedom and acceptance that Vermont has. I'm thinking that that's their fear, that it's going to spread.

HOST 3: My thing is this. I'm waiting for all the legal challenges-- since straight marriages are obviously, if you're married in one state, you're married and all of them.

HOST 2: Well, you see, this is not a marriage. This is a not a marriage in Vermont.

HOST 3: But I'm waiting for that challenge if marriage bills start happening.

HOST 2: There's a national, and there's so many states doing the DOMA thing. And Vermont doesn't have a gay marriage. They have domestic partnerships.

HOST 1: It's--

HOST 2: And any state can have that. I don't think there's any state that bans domestic partnerships or civil unions between two people.

HOST 1: But the problem is with civil unions being so close to a national legalization of two couples being-- two couples of the same sex being together. It gives people an idea. And what I liked about that is that at least people are getting to see the fact that we can be that committed. You and I can be committed--

HOST 2: Sure.

HOST 1: --to actually go you know to city council and get that little license to be together with one another.

HOST 2: I know many couples who have been together for many, many years.

HOST 1: And that's what people are afraid to realize, that this is not a phase.

HOST 2: No, it's not.

HOST 1: This can go on and on and on.

HOST 3: That's right. Look at Jimmy.

[LAUGHTER]

And these are people that have been together short times like Newt Gingrich, three wives in eight years.

HOST 2: Three wives in eight years. I've been together with my lover for 23. Coming up this Pride, will be 23 years.

HOST 1: But Jimmy, what happens is that one of the saddest things about our community is that-- the fact that some of us do want to be monogamous. Some of us do want to share our lives with somebody. But the fell majority just wants to fool around. And that's what's making this very difficult for us to actually get together and actually support something like this because it's like my friend who said he doesn't believe in getting married.

HOST 2: Well, I think a lot of gay people feel that way.

HOST 1: And it's fine. But the problem is it's not about believing. It's about actually making the final commitment to one person.

HOST 2: Well--

HOST 1: That is one scary part.

HOST 2: It can be a very scary thought, and it would be for me too because I've always liked being gay because we can create our own relationships. We don't have to mimic a straight relationship. If we want to not live together, if we want to see other people sexually, if we want to--

HOST 1: But then, you're going to a whole different thing of which I do not agree. You see, I'm having a relationship with my partner, I'm not-- the minute he tells me he wants to see other people, that means that I'm not satisfying him. I'm not providing those kind of needs he needs.

So that means that it's not-- our relationship is not as spicy for us. What does that mean to me? A slap on the face. The minute he comes out and tells me that, I'm like, I'm sorry. This relationship is through.

HOST 2: OK, well, that's the way you feel.

HOST 1: And that's the way I feel.

HOST 2: I have emotional ties to my lover that nothing, nothing can change, nothing.

HOST 1: I don't know. And that's one of the things--

HOST 2: And he grounds me. I really depend on him. I just can't imagine living my life without my lover, although I do like to fool around.

[LAUGHTER]

HOST 1: Oh, god.

HOST 2: I had to say it.

HOST 3: Different people have different definitions of what relationships are.

HOST 1: But it's like--

HOST 3: For me--

HOST 1: But at the same time--

HOST 3: I am a person who believes in till death do us part. I believe in having a relationship with one person, but I am not going to disassociate myself from somebody who feels that, yes, they can have somebody they call their husband and somebody they call their lover, and have those be two different people.

HOST 1: But then, by acting that way, we're actually saying yes to the heterosexuals when they say that we cannot be together.

HOST 2: Oh, wait a minute. Oh, no, no, no, no. Oh, no, no, no. Heterosexuals have had it over us for too many years now. And it's the vicious circle. First of all, they tell us we're immoral because we don't have long term relationships, but they deny us the legality of having a relationship. Honey, you can't have it both ways.

HOST 1: But then, you have the relationship.

HOST 2: Yes, I do.

HOST 1: You still feel the need to fool around once in a while, you know? And it's like--

HOST 2: Because I'm a pig.

HOST 3: I have straight--

HOST 1: OK, case closed. He's a pig.

[LAUGHTER]

HOST 3: I have straight friends--

HOST 1: I don't think I can win that argument.

HOST 2: No, because when we got together, I said I can promise you a lot of things. Fidelity is not one of them, sexual fidelity, emotional fidelity, yes. And I'm not going to promise anything I don't-- I might not be able to fulfill. Now that doesn't say that I just go out and do stuff all the time. It's that it might happen.

HOST 3: Besides, though, at your age, that's just not pretty.

HOST 2: At my age, it gets harder and harder than anything.

HOST 1: I think it varies between people. I'll agree with the fact that we do have unique--

HOST 2: We do.

HOST 1: --perspectives with unique opinions, unique ways to see life. And that's what makes our lives very exciting and at the same time difficult because you meet them out of your life. And then, you're so into each other. And then, you find out that he wants to be-- he's a little flirty, and you're not.

And then, it's like, how much are you willing to compromise? And how much are you willing to give in? Or how much are you willing to accept? But eventually, if the love is really there, I think something can be worked out.

HOST 2: I do too.

HOST 1: And you know--

HOST 2: Oh, I do too, yes.

HOST 1: I know I made this comment in one of the programs. You can go back and check because I did say something-- I'm going back to the actual talk-- to the fact that when Bush was elected president, the election that was stolen from us. I don't want to the word--

HOST 2: I think that's been mentioned--

HOST 1: --stolen--

HOST 2: --before here tonight.

HOST 3: I think that was tonight, last week.

HOST 1: But I did I did say that I'm not going to be able to do anything with him, then let's move to the states. And it's like we need to take the battle to the states. And we just had a really major battle here in Texas with the Senate. Did they pass the bill.

HOST 2: The hate crime? I don't know.

HOST 3: It just got out of committee, I think. It just got out of committee, and I think they're going to vote on something next week. They want everybody to--

HOST 2: Will it include sexual orientation?

HOST 1: Yes, the hate crimes.

HOST 2: Will it include gender identity?

HOST 3: I don't know. All these words-- I know it.

HOST 1: All of these words.

HOST 2: Sexual orientation is not gender identity. And I'll bet it doesn't include gender identity--

HOST 3: As we're so fond of saying.

HOST 2: --which means, OK, it's against the law to beat up a fag, but it is against the law to beat up a transgender. I'm not saving your ass this time. We'll talk about it the News and Views.

HOST 3: As we're fond of saying--

HOST 1: Well--

HOST 3: --of having to do one battle at a time.

HOST 1: And that other point, we're also having elections on the 14th, right, in here? Valentine's Day, right? For City Council.

HOST 3: Oh, that has been--

HOST 2: No--

HOST 1: What is that? What is that going to be?

HOST 2: The City Council vote on domestic partnership?

HOST 3: I'm not sure if that's going to be on the agenda again. It's wording and stuff. It could be on there--

HOST 2: It could be.

HOST 3: And if it is, it probably will be tagged.

HOST 2: Watch them some BS their way around that one.

HOST 1: Yeah, because I wrote to my councilman-at-large.

HOST 2: Who is it?

HOST 1: Mr. Vasquez and Mr. Orlando.

HOST 2: Oh.

HOST 3: He's one of the guys that's against it.

HOST 1: Well, I told him, do you want to go back there? Then, when you run, you better think about it because I sent him a whole letter, where I told them, both of them, the same thing. If you're going to vote, vote on your conscience. Don't vote on how much-- whether you want to be reelected or not. If you want to make a difference, think about it. Don't bring religion into the issue. This is not a matter of, I love God. You love God. We all love God.

HOST 2: Of course, it's a matter of do you want to make Houston a 21st century city?

HOST 1: Yes, it's a matter of having an open mind. It's a matter that we as a Hispanic community have turned our heads too long, too much. And we just need to see that we are better than what we are supposed to be.

I told that to Mr. Vasquez. And he sent me a really nice note saying that he agrees with everything I said. And I feel very proud of him. And Mr. Orlando Sanchez hasn't returned my email, but I will be sending him another one.

[LAUGHTER]

HOST 2: Good for you! And it's your activism that counts, and it matters.

HOST 1: Because I told him--

HOST 3: Give them hell until they listen.

HOST 1: --not only do I work for the city now, what happens if I decide I'm a gay man, and I want to help my partner? I want my partner to have the same coverage that I have because I get paid very--

HOST 2: As a city employee, you're not getting rich.

HOST 1: I don't want to go there on what I get paid as a city employee. But the benefits are really good!

HOST 2: Well, there you are.

HOST 1: At least I want to make sure that if I ever get a partner that he also-- he's covered.

HOST 3: Let's just say he won't be retiring to a tropical island anytime soon.

HOST 2: No.

HOST 1: And I think I told him, if you go against him, and you start raising the money from the community, make sure that you don't do it from-- because it's just going to be \$100,000-- \$200,000 to implement the whole change?

HOST 2: 1% of 1%--

HOST 3: Which comes out to-- a million and a half people? \$0.14, 0.3 because that was on the HandNet this week. Per year, 14.3 cents.

HOST 2: My question that I don't think has been answered was, how much are we paying for non-married heterosexual couples who are now getting those benefits?

HOST 3: Yeah, common laws.

HOST 2: So Chris is there with his headphones on ready to go.

HOST 4: You were asking about the domestic partnership hearings. It's scheduled for either the 13th or the 14th. If you wish to speak on the-- at the City Council chambers, you must sign up prior to the session. But it looks like it's going to be sometime this week, the 13th of the 14th. And Councilmember Gabriel--

HOST 1: Vasquez.

HOST 3: Vasquez will be appearing at the Harris County's Democratic party's Brown Bag Lunch on the 13th. And so that's an opportunity to talk to a person who is one of the supporters of the bill.

HOST 1: Woo-hoo. I get the hate on him.

[LAUGHTER]

HOST 3: I'd like to correct--

HOST 2: What does he mean by that?

HOST 3: Jimmy, I'd like to correct him on that.

HOST 2: Yeah, please do.

HOST 3: The 13th is the day you can speak. You must sign up by 1 o'clock if you want to speak. I would suggest you sign up for 3 minutes because that means you'll be-- if it's on the agenda, you'll be the first ones to be called. And then, if you take--

HOST 2: What time do you get to speak? When is this?

HOST 3: It usually starts at 2 o'clock. They have an opening session. They might have special guests--

HOST 1: It's the times like this where I wish I had no job, and I could go.

HOST 3: And 2 o'clock is when they start the speakers session. That doesn't mean you're going to start at 2 o'clock.

HOST 2: Yeah, it's a government thing.

HOST 3: That is on Tuesday. Now, on Wednesday morning is when they do the voting.

HOST 2: The voting?

HOST 3: If there's a vote to come out of this, that's when they would do it. If there's a possibility, they say the first time it comes up it could be tagged and then voted on the following week.

HOST 2: That the big R word has been bandied about a lot, the referendum.

HOST 3: If you had to vote on it, then there could be a referendum possibly in May depending on the day or--

HOST 2: And the referendum alone will cost a hell of a lot more than--

HOST 1: But--

HOST 3: The one thing that's came out.

HOST 1: That's what's going to happen. But that's what's going to happen. It's going to vote, and then they're going to take it to the people. And then, the people are going to go nope.

HOST 4: No, actually, what's probably going to happen first is Tatro is going to take it to court like he takes everything else that happens in the City Council chambers.

HOST 2: Oh.

HOST 4: --and then go on from there.

HOST 2: Tatro, isn't he the one that I read who's in the back pocket of John Lindsay?

HOST 1: He needs a makeover.

HOST 4: Oh, jeez, well, it depends on what back pocket you're talking about. It could be a rough time. So I don't know.

HOST 2: It's like--

HOST 4: But Tatro was talking about how much it would cost. And it is negligible. That's been brought up--

HOST 2: Yes, it is.

HOST 4: --at \$200,000 compared to-- if you compare Channel 13 this week, the \$7 million they paid for a right-of-way building that has not been used for three years for trucks and everything, you figure out-- what are the people concerned about? A \$200,000 negligible thing which costs each taxpayer probably \$0.14 per person? Or the \$7 million right-of-way building that--

HOST 2: Amazing, isn't it?

HOST 4: People and their--

HOST 1: Yeah, that's Houston. Oh well.

HOST 3: Pennywise and pound foolish.

HOST 2: Yes, very much.

HOST 1: We don't do stuff the easy way.

HOST 4: We just don't spend money at all. The reality--

HOST 1: But we wouldn't like it if it weren't like that either. We just like to have our say on everything.

HOST 2: Yes, we do. Well, it's coming up to that time.

HOST 1: I know. I was about to say that. It's like, gosh, four more minutes and I'm out.

HOST 2: In just three more minutes. Yes, you have been listening to *After Hours*, queer radio with attitude right here on KPFT Houston and KEOS College Station. It sometimes seems that the second half of the show gets shrift. But I try to play less music in the second half than I do in the first half to try to even out the amount of time.

HOST 1: Yeah, well I had fun. I always have fun.

HOST 2: Good, good.

HOST 1: I enjoyed it.

HOST 2: And we touched on a lot of good topics I think.

HOST 1: Yes, hopefully Francisco will be back next month, then I get to pick on it.

HOST 2: There you go. In the background as promised, Jade Esteban Estrada from his CD *Angel*.

HOST 1: Are we closing after this song?

HOST 2: This is "Bella Morena".

HOST 1: OK, everybody have a good night. I'm going to bed. I hope you are too.

HOST 3: OK, rest up, dear. Thank you.

HOST 2: Coming up at the top of the hour, the man is here, the man, the large and in charge Rob Love. And he's got a CD in hand. Here we go. See you next week.

HOST 3: Bye bye.

[MUSIC - JADE ESTEBAN ESTRADA, "BELLA MORENA"]