

JIMMY CARPER: Folks out there who don't exactly fit the picture of the models that you see in the magazines, this is for you.

PRESENTER 1: Oh my god, there's so many out there.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

Oh yeah, Swayed with-- yes, "Built For Comfort." Yeah. So we do have Dean on the line. And let's see if I can work these controls, I'm not always very good at it. Yeah, on air.

PRESENTER 1: There we go.

DEAN: Hello.

JIMMY CARPER: Hello, Dean.

DEAN: Hi, Jimmy. How are you doing tonight?

JIMMY CARPER: Great, great. I'm glad you called in.

DEAN: Yeah, I was wanting to present you a segment from *Cultural Baggage*, the new show, it's going to air next Monday.

JIMMY CARPER: That's right. That's right. We want to push that too, because you're going to have a whole hour to talk about--

DEAN: Yes, I am. We're going to follow Amy Goodman 10:00 AM on Monday. And tonight's report, if you will, to summarize the news, it's just the same old shift. More corrupt cocaine cowboy cops have been arrested, convicted, and imprisoned. More drugs than ever are being grown in South America, the Middle East and in the USA. And we're still arresting pot smokers at the rate of one every 42 seconds.

Now drug warriors like Asa Hutchinson, John Ashcroft, and George Bush are flailing their arms about hoping to look like they're doing something about the drug war, but state legislatures across the country still are continuing to pass new medical marijuana and hemp bills. And there's no stopping the truth.

Now there is a growing awareness and the public consciousness, and in the minds of state level politicians that the US federal policies towards the use of cannabis plants are based on bigotry, ignorance, and greed.

Now I made a trip to San Francisco for the NORML Conference last week, and I got a glimpse of the future, I think. Out there, the district attorney, Terence Hallinan, has decided to end the war on cannabis within the city and County of San Francisco. Now he even went so far as indicating that any amount of marijuana, should be at the very bottom of law enforcement priorities.

JIMMY CARPER: Good.

DEAN: Yes, it's time. And he even went so far as to say they better have a damn good reason if anybody is arrested for pot in his county.

JIMMY CARPER: Hey. Now that's a progressive thinker, yes.

DEAN: Yes, he actually was the lead speaker for the conference. And as he left the building, people were outside at every entrance smoking their medical marijuana. And he paused and greeted people, and went right on. He had no problem with it.

JIMMY CARPER: Good.

DEAN: You can walk down the streets any time of day, you run into the aroma and the open display of cannabis smoking. And there are even mobile marijuana providers that stroll the streets with little signs offering medical marijuana brownies for \$5 a piece.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, I heard you mention that it's not cheap, but it's good.

DEAN: Yes. Well, the quality--

JIMMY CARPER: There you go.

DEAN: --though it's expensive, it's available via the delivery services, shared gardens, or over the internet. It seems that Asa Hutchinson's efforts to shut down the 10 major medical marijuana providers there has brought about the creation of 10,000 new neighborhood clubs.

JIMMY CARPER: Wow.

DEAN: The people are teaching each other how to grow, how to clone, how to plant, how to stand for their own rights. Now you can take a 5 minute ride over to Oaksterdam, Oakland, and you can actually walk right into a cannabis cafe much like you would find in Amsterdam or now in much of Europe. And you can get a cup of coffee, a croissant, and a bag of buds.

JIMMY CARPER: There you go.

DEAN: And all you need is a medical marijuana card, and that's available through the local green sheet the doctor actually advertise. The bad news, yeah, and we were talking about this, the high grade stuff, it's up to \$55 per one eighth of an ounce.

JIMMY CARPER: But you're getting good stuff.

DEAN: Right. And that's the good news on that is a gram might last you a week, because this stuff is--

JIMMY CARPER: Now you said an 1/8 of an ounce, and then you go to gram. So I'm confused about--

DEAN: OK. That would be like 3 and 1/2 grams in that eighth.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh OK.

PRESENTER 1: Wow.

DEAN: So you could get a three week supply for 55 bucks, and that's cheap medicine in America.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, and that's so very important for AIDS patients and cancer patients, and anyone else with appetite problems.

DEAN: Oh, it's so true. That's what I like about San Francisco, you walk down the streets and there's dignity. There's people respecting one another, there's cultures and outlooks, all combined and progressing together.

And while there, I got to see a demonstration by Dr. Tod Mikuriya. And he has a vaporizing machine, and we've all perhaps heard of him. But his was a very extraordinary machine. He would put some cannabis into the heating element, it would then cause a bag to kind of rise above it. There's no smoke, there's just the THC, the molecules released from the cannabis and collect in this bag. He passed it around to the audience, and everyone who tried it commented how it was non-irritating and quite effective.

I think at the NORML Conference this year, the idea that got bandied about the most was concerned coming out of the closet. And they're saying if you're for drug reform, if you say you're part of the choir and you think the war on marijuana is an abomination, which I think many of us do, that it was time to stand and sing the praises of reform. And to tell your parents, your grandparents, your boss if you're lucky enough to be able to.

Now I'm asking your listeners to help us to better understand our elected officials and ways they can help. They can join NORML, they can join the Drug Policy Forum of Texas. They can be part of the Liberation Day events that are coming up May 4 at Fitzgerald's. And I love the new site, mapinc.org, M-A-P-I-N-C.O-R-G, approaching, I think it's 70,000 articles about drug reform.

JIMMY CARPER: Wow.

PRESENTER 1: Wow.

JIMMY CARPER: Wow.

DEAN: And I'm hoping that your listeners will join us on this coming Monday at 10:00 AM.

JIMMY CARPER: That's right. Monday at 10:00?

DEAN: Right. Our guest will be Keith Stoup, national president of NORML, Daniel Forbes, Ed Rosenthal, Mickey Norris, Richard Cowan, and the sounds of the war drums beating in the offices of noted attorney Tony Sarah out there. Quite a party I want to tell you.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

DEAN: To learn more about Liberation Day or Drug Truth or any of these items I mentioned, please visit www.cultural-baggage.com, C-U-L-T-U-R-A-I-B-A-G-G-A-G-E.

JIMMY CARPER: That's a hyphen, not an underline, right?

DEAN: Right. Right. A little dash in between.

JIMMY CARPER: Gotcha.

DEAN: And--

JIMMY CARPER: .com or .--

DEAN: .com.

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

DEAN: Yes, sir. I appreciate this. Our last show, I got a lot of calls. I think you'll appreciate the presentation of facts. We've got a lot to tell you, and I hope you'll join in.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, OK. I hope they all do.

DEAN: Me too, Jimmy.

JIMMY CARPER: Dean, thanks for calling in.

DEAN: Well, you bet. Thank you for this.

JIMMY CARPER: You bet. Take care.

DEAN: All right.

JIMMY CARPER: Bye.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

And KPFT will have a terrific entry that guys and girls have been working on that for weeks now. And it's going to be a big old bus with all kinds of signs, and all kinds of people walking in the bus. It's just going to be terrific. And that is tomorrow. That's right.

DOUG DECKER: Yeah.

JIMMY CARPER: Hey, hey hey.

DOUG DECKER: Then I'll be able to--

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, you're on.

[LAUGHTER]

DOUG DECKER: Oh, I'm on.

JIMMY CARPER: Sorry, yes.

DOUG DECKER: Hi.

JIMMY CARPER: Hi, how are you doing?

DOUG DECKER: How are you?

JIMMY CARPER: We are short on headphones, I'm sorry. I don't know what's been going on around here.

DOUG DECKER: We're making due. We're making due.

JIMMY CARPER: OK. We may have one more.

DOUG DECKER: I'll just have to remember next month.

[LAUGHTER]

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, bring your own. There, there's another pair.

DOUG DECKER: B-Y-O-H.

JIMMY CARPER: There you-- bring your own headphones, right. Doug Decker, how are you doing?

DOUG DECKER: I've been doing really good. We've been wedding planning at my house.

JIMMY CARPER: Whoa. Whoa. What's this?

DOUG DECKER: Well, Nate and I are going to--

JIMMY CARPER: Tie the knot, huh?

DOUG DECKER: Yeah, officially. And--

JIMMY CARPER: And what kind of knot is this?

DOUG DECKER: Oh, it's one about that big and long. No, actually, we're going to have a military wedding, and we're going to have it at MCCR. And a friend of mine who's a minister, Ralph Lasher, Reverend Lasher is going to officiate for us.

And the thing just keeps getting bigger and bigger and bigger, and it's a very simple-- we're having the ceremony and then we're having cake and champagne at the house afterwards. And an old family tradition type thing of plant the tree.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh that's very nice.

DOUG DECKER: And everybody gets to throw in their shovel full of dirt kind of thing.

JIMMY CARPER: OK. For folks who may not know your history. You were in the Marines.

DOUG DECKER: Nate was in the Marines, I was in the Navy.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, you were in the Navy, OK.

DOUG DECKER: Actually, I'm a retired veteran.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh.

DOUG DECKER: And--

JIMMY CARPER: So you were in the Navy?

DOUG DECKER: Mm-hmm.

JIMMY CARPER: Why did I think Marines? You just look like Marines.

DOUG DECKER: Well, Nate was.

JIMMY CARPER: You have that Marine look, you know.

DOUG DECKER: And Tom used to be in the Coast Guard if you remember Tom.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, I do. I do very well.

DOUG DECKER: And we found some loopholes for the VA thing, and we're going to be-- the attorneys come by tomorrow. So this is actually a semi-legal marriage.

JIMMY CARPER: Whoa.

DOUG DECKER: So we're doing some of these things, and we're tightening up some of the legal things, and straightening them away before they come after us and say no.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, all right.

DOUG DECKER: So this is actually--

JIMMY CARPER: That is incredibly.

DOUG DECKER: --pretty exciting thing for us.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah. You called me and I've--

DOUG DECKER: I was trying to get your address and I finally got it.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, I'm in the book.

DOUG DECKER: Well, yeah, but it says any guest, because I didn't know your boyfriend's name or your other half's name, or-- so I don't-- however many guests you care to bring, just--

PRESENTER 1: The more the merrier.

JIMMY CARPER: OK, so that means that I can bring my lover and my boyfriend?

DOUG DECKER: If they get along, great.

JIMMY CARPER: They do.

DOUG DECKER: That'd be really great. But I couldn't hold off on filling out these envelopes anymore, so after a while, they just gets like, oh another envelope.

[LAUGHS]

And then we were looking through rings, and we decided one of the benefits is the base exchange, and it's online for the shopping. So this is actually really funny. So we're sitting there going through, and the jewelry section we found out they sell body piercing jewelry now.

JIMMY CARPER: No.

DOUG DECKER: So we found this whole section on the military websites for the online exchange for body piercing jewelry.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh right.

DOUG DECKER: And then we finally get down to the rings--

JIMMY CARPER: You're going to have matching PAs or something?

DOUG DECKER: It doesn't say that they're PAs or what they are but they are the rings with the balls on the ends, and they go all the way up to probably 10 and 8 gauge. So at least a decent gauge. And then we got to the ring section--

JIMMY CARPER: Scares me.

DOUG DECKER: --and we found this one ring. And I have to bring this up because this is really funny because you can't get into the website unless you have your Social Security number, your date of birth and your DEERS verified and DOD--

JIMMY CARPER: Oh yeah.

DOUG DECKER: --all this junk. And there are these rings, and it says the kissing dolphin rings. And you go to the picture and you blow it up, and it says anatomically correct kissing dolphins.

JIMMY CARPER: What?

[LAUGHTER]

DOUG DECKER: And it's these two dolphins, and they're bottlenose and they're nose to nose. But you blow up the picture and you can't exactly see what on them is anatomically correct. But the description says they're-- so we're wondering, are they like male and female or male and male? What is-- but it was just funny that was on the website. Anatomically correct kissing dolphins.

JIMMY CARPER: Well, you know fish don't exactly just hang out there.

[LAUGHTER]

DOUG DECKER: So the question was as long as it wasn't the orca one hanging off the ring, it might be OK, but--

[LAUGHTER]

JIMMY CARPER: Whoa.

DOUG DECKER: So--

JIMMY CARPER: That's exciting news.

DOUG DECKER: And then ordered-- we were having a problem with the sabres. Because it is a gay wedding, the Veteran Associations I belong to won't-- normally if you were enlisted Navy, your commanding officer would give you his sword during the wedding ceremony, and then you give it back afterwards.

And then in the Marine Corps, since Nate was not an NCO, they would normally-- his commanding officer would give-- if it was a heterosexual wedding-- would give him his sabre for the ceremony, and you give it back afterwards. If he was an NCO, he'd have his own sabre. So we're having to purchase sabres. And we'd gone to the local-- the new GLBT VA, the Gay and Lesbian, Bisexual, Trans.

JIMMY CARPER: Veterans Association?

DOUG DECKER: Actually, they've recently changed their name, they're now the American Veterans for Equal Rights. And I think that's a great move on their part for marketing and dealing with Congress. But the chapter here is so new they don't even own flags. So they weren't a lot of help in that department, but great support, not a lot of help when it came to the army guard.

JIMMY CARPER: Well, maybe you hit some guys holding writing crop, you know.

DOUG DECKER: But we've been able to provide them with information on places to go to get some decent sabres that are military approved at decent prices. So I think we found them as cheap as \$89. So they are replicas, they are approved replicas, but they're not the \$400 ones.

[LAUGHTER]

We don't need \$400 sabres, we're only using them once, so.

JIMMY CARPER: There you go.

DOUG DECKER: So we have these--

JIMMY CARPER: That's exciting.

DOUG DECKER: --as you said I have a parcel of people tonight.

JIMMY CARPER: You do, you do.

DOUG DECKER: So this is my parcel.

JIMMY CARPER: Hey.

DOUG DECKER: Can we say that? It is Sunday.

JIMMY CARPER: It is Sunday, Sunday, Sunday, Sunday. Yes, it is. Yes, it is.

DOUG DECKER: We have Eden and Alexy again.

PRESENTER 1: Hey, she's back.

JIMMY CARPER: Hello, mistress Eden.

EDEN: Hello.

JIMMY CARPER: And Alexy is there too with you?

EDEN: Yeah, his five minute call.

ALEXY: Yes, hello.

JIMMY CARPER: Hello.

DOUG DECKER: They have a new hobby.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh?

DOUG DECKER: They are now sick shooting people.

JIMMY CARPER: What?

DOUG DECKER: They do Western gun shooting now. Bang, bang, bang, bang, bang, bang.

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

DOUG DECKER: Yeah.

PRESENTER 1: Please elaborate.

EDEN: Everybody needs a hobby.

DOUG DECKER: Shoot outs at dawn.

JIMMY CARPER: Well, I saw your last hobby and--

EDEN: I still prefer my last hobby.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, woo wii.

EDEN: I was going to bring more toys tonight, but--

JIMMY CARPER: All the electric stuff and--

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

DOUG DECKER: I showed up at a shop, and the guy wasn't real sure who he was and he pulled out of the closet, he says, if you've seen one of these, I just got these in. I said, I've had it on my radio show.

[LAUGHTER]

He says, it is wonderful.

EDEN: For those of you who don't know what we're talking about, it's the male g-spot. And they sell them at DareWear now too.

DOUG DECKER: Tree sells them.

EDEN: Hmm?

DOUG DECKER: Tree sells.

EDEN: Tree sell them, DareWear sells them, everybody is selling them I guess now. But they are these wonderful little-- it's called an aneros, but it's male g-spot thing. But my new toy that I got since then it's a skeleton double header dildo. It's got like a vertebrae skeleton inside of it, and it's really cool. Because--

PRESENTER 1: It looks nice.

EDEN: --as it clicks, the vertebraes click. So it's in one end, the other end. You can feel what the other person's doing, and oh.

JIMMY CARPER: Wow.

EDEN: Oh baby, oh baby.

DOUG DECKER: Speed bumps.

JIMMY CARPER: Does it glow in the dark?

DOUG DECKER: Don't.

JIMMY CARPER: No?

[LAUGHTER]

No, but they do.

[LAUGHTER]

DOUG DECKER: And on the other side, we have Chris Bodett. He's this year's Mr. Lone Star Drummer 2000, and his boy, boy Danny. And he is Lone Star Leather Boy 2000. I'm sorry, 2002. I forget what year we are anymore. 2002. And--

JIMMY CARPER: Welcome.

DOUG DECKER: So these are all the guest.

CHRIS: Thank you.

JIMMY CARPER: Welcome.

DOUG DECKER: They'll be going off next month for South Central Leather Boy, and-- Leather Sir and Boy weekend in Dallas, which is the new weekend that took over for Gulf Coast.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, OK. OK.

DOUG DECKER: So it's no longer Drummer--

JIMMY CARPER: I can't keep up.

DOUG DECKER: It's no longer Drummer, it's Leather Sir and Leather Boy. And they'll be competing, and that's the weekend of May--

CHRIS: May 17.

DANNY: 17th.

DOUG DECKER: May 17 and 18 in Dallas. I can't keep all that correct anymore without a calendar in front of me.

JIMMY CARPER: We announced that a couple of weeks ago, I had a sheet on it.

DOUG DECKER: Yeah. So it might be exciting this year, it looks like they're going back to the old format where they're starting to close it back up. So you have to be-- from the application, we could tell you had to be a local title holder to enter the regional now. So they went back, they're going back to the old format.

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

DOUG DECKER: So that's kind of exciting.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah. I mean, I think it lends legitimacy to it.

CHRIS: Yeah because it used to be an open contest and anyone could enter it. And my personal opinion about it is I think it should be closed. I think the title holders should be just for title holders.

JIMMY CARPER: You bet, you bet. I mean, you worked your--

CHRIS: So I agree with that.

JIMMY CARPER: It's working your way up, yes.

CHRIS: Yes. Those people have earned it.

DOUG DECKER: You spend your year working to get to that point, and these other people walk in the door and just-- way too many times. So. But we're not here to talk about titles tonight.

JIMMY CARPER: I mean, we talk about titles and so many people think, oh, just a beauty contest, but, no, it is not.

DOUG DECKER: Not anymore, it's changed.

JIMMY CARPER: No, it has changed. And you really have to work.

DOUG DECKER: You have to work.

JIMMY CARPER: You have to work for those titles.

DOUG DECKER: You have to have a resume anymore.

EDEN: I'm holding out for the title of goddess of all things. Kinky, but it's just not-- nobody's come up with that yet.

JIMMY CARPER: You got my vote.

DOUG DECKER: Maybe you can start your own contest.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, you know. You have to resurrect fist is what you need to do.

EDEN: I don't think this would work, I think I'd have to be a tiara.

[LAUGHTER]

DOUG DECKER: You're giving me some great ideas for the reception after the wedding.

[LAUGHTER]

DANNY: And you could wear a little crown on your shoulder.

DOUG DECKER: And it's all about me having fun that day, right?

JIMMY CARPER: Yes. Yes, it is. Yes, it is.

DOUG DECKER: I think I'm scared now. Oh it's at everybody's expense, most of all the military.

DANNY: Count me in.

JIMMY CARPER: That's right. So

DANNY: Next army here

JIMMY CARPER: Wow, OK.

DOUG DECKER: So anyway, we're here to talk about tonight, Eden and Alexy, co-chair?

EDEN: We co-host.

DOUG DECKER: Co-host the Poly SIG for HPEP.

JIMMY CARPER: Mm-hmm. Poly SIG?

DOUG DECKER: Polyamorous.

EDEN: Special Interest Group.

JIMMY CARPER: Special Interest Group, oh OK.

EDEN: We also used to do the polyamory discussion group at the Lesbian and Gay Community Center that met once a month. But that group has-- matter of fact, they had a munch tonight, and they're trying to get a little bit reorganized. We can only host so many things. So we had to restrict a little bit.

DOUG DECKER: And Chris and boy Danny have two other partners. They have a full house--

JIMMY CARPER: Wow.

CHRIS: Who are home listening, I love you Jerry and Steven.

DOUG DECKER: Oh, they're probably home like my other-- they're home in bed, asleep by now. You want us to say, yeah, we heard it, great show.

CHRIS: You better be listening.

DOUG DECKER: And yeah most people know I've had various households over the years too, so we thought this would be a good topic.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

EDEN: And Jimmy, you're poly.

DOUG DECKER: And you're poly.

JIMMY CARPER: I'm very poly, yeah, for many years. Yeah.

EDEN: I think that--

JIMMY CARPER: And my lover is poly. He has a lover in Seattle as well as me, and I have a boyfriend who is bisexual who has a girlfriend, and it just goes on and on. And it's the emotional attachment.

EDEN: Oh, definitely. Well, I think the key to understanding poly is that people connect on different levels.

JIMMY CARPER: You bet.

EDEN: You can connect with a person spiritually, emotionally, physically. I'm missing one. Intellectually. And it may be with some person you connect on all those levels, on other people it's only one or two of those levels. But all those connections are valid and they're great, and they need to be cherished. And there's all kinds of models for poly. There's--

I'm getting some kind of joke over here.

DOUG DECKER: Oh, no. I looked at the screen, there's something up here from the last-- the phone conversation that's just happening.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, from *Cultural Baggage* show, yes.

EDEN: No, but there's different models. I mean some people like to think of it as a Vee. In the het community, there's the het couple looking for the hot bi babe syndrome.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh yes.

EDEN: And they think that's the only model of being poly and it's not. There's H's, there's triad, dyads, there's group marriages, there's line marriages. I see in the leather community more the line, the linear type of poly. The analogy that I like best is bubbles.

JIMMY CARPER: Bubbles?

EDEN: Bubbles. You think of a whole mass full of bubbles in your tub, some touch, some don't. Some pop and become one bubble, some touch multiple people, and some are just kind of out there by themselves. And it only takes one prick to pop it.

DOUG DECKER: And bubbles were meant to be blown.

[LAUGHTER]

JIMMY CARPER: Oh we are on a roll early tonight.

DANNY: I love the way we've put that.

EDEN: Early?

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

DOUG DECKER: OK. So with that in mind and you just gave a really good description, how is your household set up? Because I've known you and Jerry for years.

CHRIS: Right.

JIMMY CARPER: Before you get into that, I need to tell people, because it's a legal thing that they are listening to *After Hours*, queer radio with attitude on KPFT Houston and KEOS College Station.

DOUG DECKER: On Sunday.

JIMMY CARPER: Sunday, Sunday, Sunday.

PRESENTER 1: That's right. That's right.

CHRIS: Well, basically, our household is four people. Jerry and I have been together a little over 11 years. We basically got into this looking more for a permanent playmate, and then it went further than that. We decided we were going to start looking for a boy.

About two years ago, we started interviewing, which was a nightmare. And thank goodness we wound up, Danny, came into our life about a year ago. He's been with us a year, and we reach--

DANNY: And what a year it's been.

CHRIS: Yes, it has.

JIMMY CARPER: Good, good.

CHRIS: Yes, it has he's made a lot of positive changes in his life and, Jerry and I have been a direct influence on him. Things changed again in our relationship, and recently about a month ago, we decided to add another boy. So there's four of us. Basically, Steven, hello Steven. He is my partner's boy, and Danny is mine.

DANNY: My half pie.

CHRIS: Yeah. But we are a leather family, we do work together as a unit. We live together, we share. Just it's wonderful. It really is. And I'm noticing a lot more of that, especially with a lot of people that I chat with on AOL. A lot of triads and also a lot of quads, it's just amazing.

DANNY: And we're not going to sit here and say it's easy.

CHRIS: No, it's not.

DANNY: Because it is work.

CHRIS: It's a lot of work.

DOUG DECKER: It is a lot of work.

DANNY: Because it's communication times four. It's communication-- you just have to communicate.

CHRIS: And that's something that I've continuously preached not only in my household but to other people. It all boils down to communication. And if you don't have good communication skills, it's not going to work. On top of trust and all of those things.

DOUG DECKER: But that's any relation. I mean, any relationship. That's just--

CHRIS: You one-on-one or--

DANNY: Like you see when it's--

CHRIS: --you have to have the communication. But it gets worse because you have more people that you involve.

DANNY: --people one-on-one don't realize how really strong communication is, and so many one-on-ones break up because they're--

EDEN: Well, I think with the communication, it's important that it be brutally honest.

DANNY: You bet.

EDEN: We have a policy that's brutal honesty and full disclosure. And if you want to know, ask and be prepared to accept whatever it is. And you hit landmines on a regular basis, it's a lot of work. I have a question for you and that's, in your quad situation that you have going on, is everybody poly? Is everyone free to explore their feelings towards anybody else that may come along?

CHRIS: No, that's one thing that we have decided it is a closed family. It is just between us four. That's it.

EDEN: I see. We don't have that. We're different in there in that we're all free to do free--

CHRIS: More free form.

EDEN: More free form, like I said our bubble. So I think what that song is--

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

DOUG DECKER: Well, I have noticed that a big difference between a lot of the gays and a lot of the pansexual type households that on the gay households, primarily most of it involves sexual relationships too. And on the pansexual side, especially when we go to like the HPEP stuff like Nate and I will go, a lot of it is just play, or DS but not nec-- and I don't mean play as in sex, I mean play as in BDSM play. So like this is my girl, but we don't have sex, but--

EDEN: We have a DS relationship.

DOUG DECKER: We have a DS relationship. And I see a lot more of the DS relationship stuff than--

CHRIS: There's definitely that aspect.

DOUG DECKER: --and that doesn't mean that the sex isn't there, it's just not as-- I just don't think it's readily as-- it's not as visible. It's not--

JIMMY CARPER: It's not as prevalent.

DOUG DECKER: --it's not as prevalent.

EDEN: Well, I have to agree and then disagree. Yes, that's there, but I also think there's within the pansexual community that it's more than sex. I mean, there are within the poly community outside of the BDSM realm. I mean there's a lot of people that are raising kids together. They're having all kinds of interests structures--

DOUG DECKER: Well, I know of some--

EDEN: --and it's just amazing. I've never met any two poly families that are the same.

DOUG DECKER: I mean, there are some predominant people within our community-- I don't have permissions to bring up names, so I won't. But I know of one triad that's been here for a number of years, and they major, major influence on the city and the community.

The one woman is one of the founders of Life Like. And they raise five kids and a big house. I don't remember where the house is, out in the country. They raise dogs, they raise dogs. And their relationship has been there for years, and it is outside of the BDSM community because they're not even closet BDSMers, it's just that doesn't come into it. For them it's just a poly relationship.

EDEN: Well, one of the things that we've noticed at the Poly SIG, last month we had 23 people that came. Every single person there had a different view of what they wanted and what they needed and looked for. Some people had-- there was a het couple looking for the hot bi babes, and then there were some people who were several women together. We still haven't had-- you keep saying you and Nate are coming, but you haven't shown up yet. So.

DOUG DECKER: I think we've put that on hold until after some of the legal--

EDEN: I understand.

DOUG DECKER: And actually, we had a couple we interviewed, and they've come to the house for a weekend and we sent them off packing. Really bad experiences.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh really?

DOUG DECKER: So you think things are going real well and you finally meet them, and it's like, oh no, this is not going to work. You're going home.

EDEN: Well, but the other thing, poly isn't just about-- yes, about committed relationships, but it also means that you're free to explore. We both have other people in our life that we interact with on different levels sexually and emotionally that we're very bonded to. And that's something that you can have without all the legalities and without the formality.

DOUG DECKER: Oh yeah, no I agree.

EDEN: I think the formality is great, but I think there's a big tendency to rush into it with a lot of people, and then they wonder why it self-destructs. Because those people have other people in their life that touches their lives as well. And then the next thing you know, you've got a cluster screw going on.

CHRIS: See that's with my partner too because he was married at one time and he has a 17-year-old son. And he's still active in his life, and it's very important to him, so.

DOUG DECKER: Well, I know you guys had some bad experiences before Danny.

CHRIS: Yes, we-- yeah. The one thing I have--

DOUG DECKER: We're not bringing up names.

CHRIS: No.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

CHRIS: The one thing I have to say is that there's a lot of people out there with misinformation about the lifestyle. There's also a lot of people that--

DANNY: We tend to cross a lot of people who look for free rides.

CHRIS: Exactly.

DANNY: It happens an awful lot.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

CHRIS: And Jerry and I have-- Jerry and I have been used and all of that other stuff. We had one boy go off with the collar and a few other things and has never returned it. We don't know where he is, but those kind of things happen.

EDEN: I think it's different, we don't move everybody in right away. I'm poly but I live by myself.

CHRIS: Well, no, we didn't with this one either. We felt very good about him after the second visit, we decided to go ahead and collar him. He had plans to move in a couple of months, he couldn't because of his job. We took a chance on him but it didn't work out. But there's a lot of people that are misinformed.

EDEN: One of the things that I get asked a lot and that is, I'm a fem-dom, and I'm also poly. I'm poly before I'm a fem-dom. It's more important to me that all of my partners are happy. And excuse me, I think that in order to be poly, it takes a whole lot of self-involvement, and you've got to be aware of who you are and comfortable with who you are.

And I think that to me loving a person is about what makes them happy, and you want them to be happy. And therefore, if they're happy with other people, I accept that. And sometimes that conflicts with being a dom, because being a dom I want what's best for me.

CHRIS: And I agree with you on that.

EDEN: Like I said, still want that title of goddess, but it just hasn't got there yet. But I think it's so important that people understand that if you really truly love a person and care about them, their happiness is so critical important.

And if that means for them to go off and be with other people and not be with you, or be with you but also be with other people, you have to encourage that. And there's a big conflict with being poly and being a dominant because as a dominant you want to say no, you're not going to do that. You're going to do what I want.

DOUG DECKER: Well, you also have to be honest with yourself to know that if you are or not comfortable with that situation too. And a lot of people will come out and they'll say, yeah, I'm comfortable with it. And they'll go along with it, and they'll encourage it. And then that Green Monster jumps in there, and they don't want to admit it, and the situation just-- it'll do a 180 because they don't want the-- they're not being honest with themselves and they're not being honest with the partner, and they're not being-- and then it becomes a mess.

ALEXY: Well, I think you've hit the nail on the head talking about the Green Monster because I think that anybody involved in poly has to be by their nature less of a jealous type person and more secure than someone who's in a monogamous relationship where they can feel like they own the other one's feelings.

And I think that a lot of what you see in the different poly structures, if people are honest up front about I do have some of these jealousy feelings, it's that they build these structures to cause themselves to feel safe. And so that's why you see all these different styles.

DOUG DECKER: Well, I mean with the jealousy I think if you're honest about it and you talk to the partner about it, if everybody's on the same level as far as the communication goes, you can bring it out in the open and discuss it, and you can resolve those issues. You find out that they're really not issues.

EDEN: There's a wonderful book that we recommend to everybody getting started in poly. The first one we recommend is, *The Road Less Traveled* because it talks about helping you define your own idea of love. There's a book called *Radical Honesty* by Blanton Blanford, and I think it's Richard Robert Blanton. And it's all about brutal honest communication.

And he talks about how jealousy is basically a sign of your own insecurities. And as soon as you realize that it's your own insecurities-- and I mean, I get jealous. I admit it, not that often though. There are times, though, when something will happen in a landmine, you'll hit that landmine, and you never know when you're going to hit it.

And oh baby, when you hit it, you think the world is crumbling. But you've got to be able to have the introspective to look at yourself and say, OK, I'm reacting this way because this is a trigger for me, this is an insecurity, but it's my problem, and I have to deal with it. It's not my partner's problem, it's mine.

CHRIS: And I agree with you. In my relationship, there are some issues going on. It's things that we are working on and we've agreed to be bluntly honest, and the communication to talk about things. We've tried to set up like a family night to where we all sit down, everybody airs their feelings. If there's any issues, we talk about it, we discuss it.

And when you have more than two people, with our situation that's going to happen because there has been some jealousy and different things like that. But like I said, it all comes down to communication, and you sit and work it out. And if you really love each other and care about each other, you do it.

DANNY: No matter how long it takes.

CHRIS: Exactly.

EDEN: One of the other things that I wanted to point out about poly is, is there's a difference between-- a lot of people when you say I'm poly, they go, oh you're a swinger. And well, been there, done that, and I still do it on occasion. I think there's a-- we prefer the term more ethical sluts.

ALEXY: I love that term.

JIMMY CARPER: Nothing wrong with being a slut.

ALEXY: That's right.

EDEN: We're friends with the author of that book, both of-- that book. There's two authors, Dossie Easton and Catherine Liszt. And they wrote this wonderful book called *The Ethical Slut*. And I am proud to say I've earned the title of slut, and Alexy here is the world's greatest slut, the chairman of the sluts local union number 69.

ALEXY: I have heard that.

[LAUGHTER]

PRESENTER 2: Oh geez.

DOUG DECKER: I don't think our wedding will be-- our reception will be as interesting as that one.

[LAUGHTER]

CHRIS: Now that you mention that, I think my partner's got a slut award for something he got, so embarrassing you.

DOUG DECKER: Yeah, as I recall, he does.

EDEN: A lot of people are poly and they don't admit it. A lot of my friends that are swingers and consider themselves more swingers are poly. The difference between, to me, between poly and swingers is polys do breakfast.

[LAUGHTER]

DANNY: That's very good.

EDEN: And we may do lunch again. I mean, it's a continuation.

DANNY: Do you find that the people who are more in the closet about being poly or even BDSM because they have children?

EDEN: Yes and no. I think children are a factor, but I also think that we're so socialized that this is not acceptable. Everywhere you look it's monogamy, monogamy, monogamy. And people laugh because-- I mean, I'm like, well, I got lots of boyfriends and I've also got lots of girlfriends. And they're like, oh well--

The other day I said something to a friend of mine. I said, oh one of my boyfriends is coming to take me out to lunch. And the first thing as I said because Alexy is my primary partner, and they go, what's he going to say? And I'm like, he said-- I said, well, his response usually is let them take you to the expensive restaurants, honey. Get it out of your system now. But it's one of those things.

One thing that is very important to me is all my-- everybody I'm with knows about everybody else. I don't hide it, I don't ever pretend that they don't--

DOUG DECKER: Well, that goes with the honesty.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes. Yes.

DOUG DECKER: I mean, there goes with the honesty.

EDEN: But also they have to like and respect everybody. If someone new wants to come in to either one of our lives, we have an agreement that they have to accept the fact that we're already here. And you get wrapped up in something called NRE, which is New Relationship Energy that we all love. It's addicting, it's the stuff that makes you wet, it's the st-- wakes you up at night and just gets your juices going. And we all know it wears off in time, but it also--

DOUG DECKER: Yeah, but there better be something after breakfast the next day.

JIMMY CARPER: That's right.

DOUG DECKER: And--

JIMMY CARPER: That's exactly right.

DOUG DECKER: There better be something. There better be enough to bring breakfast the day after and the next day and the next day.

EDEN: And traditionally, NRE last about six months, and then it wears off. And there's people who are addicted just to NRE. And every six months they're in a new relationship because they want that excitement, oh they're tingling and all that stuff. And that's just fine and dandy, but--

JIMMY CARPER: I've been in a relationship for 24 years. And the comfort level of being with someone for a long time is really a hell of a lot better than that new tingle.

DOUG DECKER: Well, I know like-- and I've gotten to that point with Nate too like I can go home and I can talk to him about anything. And it doesn't matter what-- I mean even if it's something that he's going to get pissed off, we can talk about out and get through it, and he's not going to be slamming out the door.

DANNY: And I think after a year now, I'm beginning to get to that point now as well that I can-- it's very difficult to get to that point.

CHRIS: And I understand also about that comfort level because it's taken me almost 11 years to finally-- that sink in especially with us bringing the new boy in. It just hit me in a lot of things, you know, now reality about it, so and dealing with it.

One of the things that I've experienced is my partner and I have been criticized a lot for the type of relationship that we have. And it's coming from these people who claim they're monogamous but yet--

JIMMY CARPER: They play around.

CHRIS: --they're each out at the bookstore, and all this other stuff.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, what's that about?

CHRIS: And they're ridiculing us--

DANNY: They're off behind each others back.

CHRIS: Yeah, they're all behind each other's back and-- so--

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, but you're being honest.

CHRIS: --what makes that right?

JIMMY CARPER: Exactly. Exactly.

EDEN: Well, there was an episode of *Ally McBeal* this past week where Heather Locklear was married to two different people and then she had a girlfriend on the side or something like that. They never called it poly, they were calling her a bigamist and everything else. But how many times do you--

I mean, there isn't a day that goes by where there's something on a TV show or something where you see people where they're attracted to both people. Who say both people can't be in your life and they can't have value? And you may choose to have sexual relationships with both of them or you may choose to have sexual relationships with one of them and an emotional relationship with the other.

The biggest cause of divorce right now, the new causes in divorce is internet, and people have any-- because, oh, he's having an affair over the internet or whatever, and it's like--

DANNY: No, it isn't that, it's insecurity.

EDEN: It's exactly it. It's all about insecurity.

CHRIS: And on that same kind of note there, there's just-- I guess I was born without a jealousy gene or something because I want my partners to be really happy and fully fulfilled. And if other people can help me do that, then I'm all for it. And so if she is off with somebody and does something really hot, I want to hear about it. And if it's really, really hot, I want Polaroids.

DANNY: I agree.

JIMMY CARPER: You bet, you bet. Yes, yes.

DOUG DECKER: No, if it's really hot, I want to be holding the camera.

[LAUGHTER]

EDEN: Yeah, that works. That works.

ALEXY: Yeah, well I think that more people need to loosen up and not listen to society in general. And look inward and look and see what it is that they look for and what they really want from people. Because I think a lot of people just won't admit that it takes more than one person sometimes to make you happy.

EDEN: Oh I don't believe one person can meet all your needs.

ALEXY: I agree.

DANNY: I'm with you on that.

EDEN: And I said this the last time I was on, I said, the basic sexual unit is one. And you have to be a complete unit by yourself and be happy with who you are before you can be with anybody else. Once you're that way, there's no limit to who you can touch.

People who have children, you love all your kids, you're capable of loving them all. You love them all differently though. Your relationship with all of them is different. The way you communicate with all of them different. The same thing applies to loving--

JIMMY CARPER: That's a very good analogy.

EDEN: Are any of y'all familiar with Robert Arthur? Bob Arthur? He used to be an MCCR--