

SPEAKER 1: --culture, lesbians have a culture.

SPEAKER 2: Exactly.

SPEAKER 1: Bisexuals have a culture, and transgenders have a culture. And then--

SPEAKER 2: And straight people have culture.

SPEAKER 1: They do, and-- well, as minors a that may be. And then--

SPEAKER 3: Now, you don't have to approve. You just have to laugh.

SPEAKER 1: And then together we all have a culture, and each of our cultures blend to make that. It's a unique thing that's going on. So of course, yeah, you can write all you want. That way I don't to worry about it.

SPEAKER 4: I know exactly--

SPEAKER 1: It's really taking off.

SPEAKER 4: Matt, I know exactly how you feel because years ago-- wait a minute let. Me come in there.

SPEAKER 1: I can hear you. Barely, but.

SPEAKER 3: That's OK. We like him. He can come in here. Hi, honey.

SPEAKER 4: Yeah, I know what you mean because years ago, when this show started, it was like for gay men. I wasn't the originator of it. Someone else was. And then I inherited it in 1991, and I realized that I can talk about lesbian issues, but I ain't one.

SPEAKER 3: And you ain't never going to be.

SPEAKER 4: And I ain't never going to be.

SPEAKER 1: Exactly, exactly.

SPEAKER 4: And first of all, I probably don't have the correct information, and second of all, people are not going to pay attention to me talking about it.

SPEAKER 3: Your voice is too--

SPEAKER 1: But they will pay attention-- they'll pay attention to Jewel.

SPEAKER 4: It's that big, old faggy voice of mine, yes.

SPEAKER 1: But they'll pay attention to Jewel.

SPEAKER 4: Yeah.

SPEAKER 3: Oh, yeah.

SPEAKER 1: They'll pay attention to Jewel. They'll pay attention to Judy.

SPEAKER 4: And that's why it was important for that and for bisexuals, and transgenders, and--

JEWEL GRAY: --to get involved, yeah.

SPEAKER 4: Yes, yes.

SPEAKER 3: But now Jimmy is, in all honesty, an honorary lesbian. We did this for him years ago. But it's just not well-publicized, and it doesn't matter in the media end of it.

SPEAKER 4: But I know exactly what you mean. It's--

SPEAKER 1: --always difficult.

SPEAKER 4: Yeah, it is very difficult.

SPEAKER 1: If you asked me to write an article about-- well, any article that has anything to do with lesbian culture I would be just flabbergasted. I wouldn't know what to write. I'd have to go find somebody and say, look, write this. I don't know what to do, Judy, or Jewel, or something.

SPEAKER 3: So what you're saying is Jill's going to have to write the article for the Women's Festival.

SPEAKER 1: That would be correct, yes.

SPEAKER 3: OK, that's what I was hearing.

SPEAKER 4: But you did-- you did write a very good article about Judy.

JEWEL GRAY: But you know what I would write about if I wrote an article about the Women's Festival? I wouldn't say-- what wouldn't occur to me is to write about the music. I'd write about what I saw, what I experienced there.

SPEAKER 1: That's the point. That's the point.

JEWEL GRAY: I'm not a musician who can take--

SPEAKER 3: But that's what you need.

JEWEL GRAY: --be a critic-- I'm not JD Doyle. I could never do that.

SPEAKER 3: I want to hear who was there and what they said.

SPEAKER 1: Howard-- when you read Howard's reviews of the shows that he goes to, you don't just get this normal blah, blah, blah, blah, blah, kind of review. He lets precisely what he feels about it, as if you were--

JEWEL GRAY: And that's what I like.

SPEAKER 1: --as if you were there.

SPEAKER 3: If you're only interested in music, you're going to go.

JEWEL GRAY: I him to make me-- I want him to make me understand why I didn't like that either. I'm trying to find one.

SPEAKER 3: We can't hook him up.

SPEAKER 1: Well, the other thing, too, that you have to realize is that the Houston community is very unique in one regard, in that the different segments of it work together, the leather Levi, the transgender, the gays, the lesbians, and so forth to an extent that is absolutely unprecedented throughout-- as much as I traveled, when I go to someplace else and I tell them, hey, the drag community is working with a leather community, they said, hey, it ain't like that here.

And we have a unique community here.

SPEAKER 6: Oh, yeah. Houston is very unique, very.

SPEAKER 1: It really is. Houston actually-- in terms of GLBT friendliness, Houston is, in my opinion, one of the most friendly cities in the country aside from San Francisco and maybe New York. But Houston is extraordinarily friendly to our community.

We have problems. We have fights, and our older citizens have fought those fights. And thanks to them. That's why we are where we are.

SPEAKER 6: Yeah. The different segments of our community work together. That's the important thing.

SPEAKER 1: Yes, absolutely.

JEWEL GRAY: Well, I'm just so excited about this. I do want to get some-- and participate in some way. That festival would be a great way, actually. And I'm looking forward to seeing more. I'm just so eager. I'm just like-- want to send you notes on what I think you ought to be doing.

SPEAKER 1: Oh, that's right, yeah.

JEWEL GRAY: Would you [INAUDIBLE] this or, how about that?

SPEAKER 3: A suggestion box.

JEWEL GRAY: This has been going on a long time.

SPEAKER 1: Suggestions are welcome.

SPEAKER 6: We were going to think about-- we were going to think about putting up kind of like a little form where you can just say what you think of the site and what you'd like to see happen on it.

SPEAKER 1: This is a site for the community. Whatever they want to see and here is what should be there, and so forth that goal is being accomplished.

JEWEL GRAY: Well, we need to-- if you don't have a computer, you need to get one so that you can tap into this because this is really a cool thing.

SPEAKER 1: We have right now-- I have to update the numbers because I just ran the traffic reports. We're running over 50,000 visitors a month.

JEWEL GRAY: Cool. Nice. Well, I'm one of those. I'm one of those several times over.

SPEAKER 1: Yeah. A lot of them are return visits, which is-- in terms of unique visitors, people-- different-- each individual person that's come has been up to like 6,000, 7,000. But what you want is the return visits, people who come back. I don't want them to just go one time and then, I don't want to go back there. I want return visitors.

JEWEL GRAY: You want it to be home page.

SPEAKER 1: And those are very high.

JEWEL GRAY: I'm looking forward to setting it up so that we can make--

SPEAKER 1: You can. It's set.

JEWEL GRAY: Well, it's-- well, it's a little limited so far for me for a home page. But I'm sure that it will grow into it.

SPEAKER 1: It will eventually, yes.

JEWEL GRAY: Well, I'm just so excited about it, and I think it's-- we just don't have enough of this kind of enthusiasm in our community. It's one of the things I've been bellyaching about a lot is that everybody wants to do the same old thing. Nobody wants to think outside the envelope and do something different.

SPEAKER 1: You have to do that.

JEWEL GRAY: Yeah, and let's put progress-- that's what progress is, moving beyond the envelope.

SPEAKER 1: Yes. I think what happens is people are afraid of stepping on toes, and you have got to get rid of that fear if you're going to connect with this community. You've got to get rid of that fear. You have to be willing to step on toes. You have to be willing to offend people to get the information that you need to give to the community at large because they deserve to have it.

It's just that simple, and that's the goal of OutBC is to dispense that information regardless of who does or doesn't like the fact that it's being dispensed.

JEWEL GRAY: And, well, like you said and like we talked about earlier, 50% of people aren't going to like it.

SPEAKER 1: Yes. Yeah, you can't win everybody.

JEWEL GRAY: But you know the funny thing is? They'll be checking it out even if they don't like it.

SPEAKER 1: Oh, yeah. Of course. Of course.

JEWEL GRAY: They're going to be looking at it to make sure they didn't like-- they don't like it today like they didn't like it yesterday, which still accomplishes your mission in the long run. They're going to check it out just to make sure that they don't miss something.

Well, I'm just so excited. I wish you guys well. I want you to come back on your first anniversary, and tell us how well you're doing, and set this chat thing thing again because we have a lot of listeners who listen via the computer over the KPFT website that are all over the world.

We have a lot in Scotland, and Ireland, and Australia--

SPEAKER 4: Australia.

SPEAKER 1: Oh, really?

SPEAKER 4: Yes.

JEWEL GRAY: --and a lot in England listen to his--

SPEAKER 2: They call us. They call us.

JEWEL GRAY: That's right, long distance. And we can set up a chat, and they wouldn't have to be calling us long distance at night.

SPEAKER 4: In London we're a morning--

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

JEWEL GRAY: --across the internet.

SPEAKER 4: --we're an early morning show.

SPEAKER 1: Visit the chat-- the chat room eventually will be permanent. I'm working on that. It will always be a localized site. That's the point. There's no way I can take this as a national website. There's [INAUDIBLE]

JEWEL GRAY: Oh, we just want you to do it for us one night.

SPEAKER 4: Next time we need to--

JEWEL GRAY: [INAUDIBLE] chat for our friends far away. And just because you want it to be local doesn't mean that some friends of ours in Ireland who want to keep tabs on the place can't--

SPEAKER 6: Oh, that's fine.

JEWEL GRAY: --that that's a great place to keep tabs on everything--

SPEAKER 1: Of course, of course, yeah.

JEWEL GRAY: --is the OutBC.

SPEAKER 1: Well, I've actually gotten some emails from people that are former Houstonians, and they say that they go to the website to kind of keep up with things that are going on here.

JEWEL GRAY: Well, I'll tell you frankly. I check the online gay media. It's just gotten so dry and cut-and-dry, and there's just no feeling in it anymore. It's just like national media. It's just, this is what we think you want to hear from us, and I am so tired of it. So I'm always looking for some-- yeah, right. And I'm looking for someplace that I can go and just find out what's going on and find out from somebody who, like me, is experiencing from the street level. I know. Isn't it huge?

SPEAKER 1: Well, I would like to--

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

SPEAKER 2: Isn't what huge?

SPEAKER 6: You didn't say we were going to be talking about that.

JEWEL GRAY: Really?

SPEAKER 6: Anyway--

JEWEL GRAY: How did that slip by?

SPEAKER 6: I'd like to talk about something else real fast. This weekend is Empower, a major event that we have here. And right now there's a poll. I put a new poll up tonight on ABC OutBC that I want people to go vote on. We need to get that thing going, the poll. Not many people like to vote.

SPEAKER 4: Oh, I love to vote.

JEWEL GRAY: Well, we need [INAUDIBLE] we need a [INAUDIBLE].

SPEAKER 6: Yes, we'll get there and get there and vote. Well, I was talking to Ray Hill in our last session, and he said something that really struck me is true. We've come a long way as a community in terms of progress, in terms of the rights that we have. We've got a ways to go, but we've come a long way.

But there-- and we have cohesed as a community. But there's one thing that we have not truly done that would take us to the next level. I've always said, and I don't know if anyone else-- if I heard this somewhere or what, but where there's money there's a politician looking to get it.

JEWEL GRAY: Oh, yes.

SPEAKER 3: That's a great comment.

SPEAKER 6: And the way the I see it, we have all of these businesses at Empower. Right now we are an enormous market. We, on average, make more money and, on average, spend more money.

JEWEL GRAY: Yeah, PR companies are looking at us a lot closer these days.

SPEAKER 6: This is a fact. This is a fact.

SPEAKER 3: Not in my house.

SPEAKER 6: Not in yours. But--

SPEAKER 1: [INAUDIBLE] market.

SPEAKER 6: But we are, regardless of all of that, an enormous market where you've got all these businesses. Where-- what should we do? Economic unity. That's where we need to go.

We need to, as much as we can, spend our money with GLBT-friendly or owned businesses.

JEWEL GRAY: That is really our only power is where we spend our money.

SPEAKER 6: And whenever we start to do that, whenever our businesses begin to come together, and whenever, as a community, we begin to economically come together, we have financial power. And when you have financial power, politicians listen.

JEWEL GRAY: Oh, I've said that for years. We need to talk with our books and not with our signs and--

SPEAKER 6: That's right. And then you go to the next level. Then you take the next step. And I think Ray is right. I think that at that point we begin to see a lot of change and a lot of progress.

JEWEL GRAY: Well, we've seen be effective before where they have these little issues that come up, and people decide that they-- a big thing is the orange juice thing with Anita Bryant. That was 20 years ago. But since then we've done several like that [INAUDIBLE] for a while, and there were several organizations who we've--

SPEAKER 6: Randles.

JEWEL GRAY: Randles that backed down. Several organizations have backed down because of the power of the--

SPEAKER 6: [INAUDIBLE]

JEWEL GRAY: --gay dollar. That's right, the *Greensheet* was a big one, big battle.

SPEAKER 6: Because someone lost their insurance because they had AIDS.

JEWEL GRAY: That's right.

SPEAKER 1: Well, the other thing, too, that we need to do is we need to let our community know who are our friends.

JEWEL GRAY: That's right.

SPEAKER 1: And I think our OutBC does that.

SPEAKER 6: Great. Yeah, that is true we. Need to know that. We need to know each other, and we need to be not so distant from one another. And I think that we have, in terms of unity, come together, but I do think we need to take that next step and become economically unified as well. And then we speak not only with one voice but with one wallet.

JEWEL GRAY: Yeah, one wallet. And boy, I'm telling you that really matters because when it boils down to it, we can vote only once. We spend our money every single day.

SPEAKER 3: Tigger's talking to me.

SPEAKER 6: I have Tigger, I am a-- I'm a Tigger fanatic, so I love everything Tigger.

SPEAKER 7: Who says we can vote only once?

JEWEL GRAY: Oh, right.

SPEAKER 4: Yeah.

JEWEL GRAY: Well--

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

--in Florida you don't even get one.

SPEAKER 6: In Florida-- they can't figure out how to vote down there.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

JEWEL GRAY: And then they spent \$22 billion-- \$22 million to get it all straightened out.

SPEAKER 6: Well, here's the way that I think it's--

JEWEL GRAY: This is the fix.

SPEAKER 6: Well, in Florida they got these people in the ballots, and then they go. And they did have it manual. You marked the ballots with the pencil. They couldn't figure that out. And now they want to give them computers.

JEWEL GRAY: Computers. And then still no one knows how to use the computers so they can teach them how to use computers.

SPEAKER 4: Well, the funny part is they're asking John Ashcroft to come and help them

JEWEL GRAY: I think she should go to jail.

SPEAKER 4: --and oversee the election over there in Palestine.

JEWEL GRAY: I think she should go to jail. I was going to say, the election, voting, polls.

SPEAKER 4: Think about that while I remind folks that they are listening to *After Hours, Queer Radio With Attitude* on KPFT Houston and KEOS College Station.

JEWEL GRAY: I can't remember what it was.

SPEAKER 4: Well, Ben--

SPEAKER 3: And you're who we're listening to on *After Hours*. I listened the other night. I kid you not. I listened for about 40 minutes, and I knew the voice on the telephone. . And I knew it was going on, and it was like, they never reintroduced the guy.

SPEAKER 5: I know.

SPEAKER 3: I was like, who is this? So I just said, who are we listening to?

SPEAKER 5: I get so involved--

SPEAKER 3: You're wound up. I hear you.

JEWEL GRAY: Are we going to get a call for a normal guy? Is he going to call tonight?

SPEAKER 5: Yes, yes. He'll be calling. Yes.

JEWEL GRAY: I wish you would connect with this guy. He's a real big advocate for medical marijuana.

SPEAKER 4: Dean Becker.

JEWEL GRAY: Huh?

SPEAKER 4: Dean Becker.

JEWEL GRAY: Yeah, Dean Becker. And he calls us on a regular-- that's the kind of things I'd like to see OutBC do is some of the stuff that we can't get the regular media to do is look into how close are we here.

SPEAKER 4: And so who are we, talking, to, Jewel?

JEWEL GRAY: Pardon me?

SPEAKER 4: Who are we talking to?

SPEAKER 6: Matt Macintosh.

JEWEL GRAY: I keep wanting to say McIntyre.

SPEAKER 6: No, no, no.

JEWEL GRAY: No, Macintosh.

SPEAKER 6: Macintosh.

JEWEL GRAY: Matt Macintosh.

SPEAKER 4: From?

JEWEL GRAY: Huh?

SPEAKER 4: From?

SPEAKER 6: Houston.

JEWEL GRAY: From OutBC.

SPEAKER 6: Outbc.com, O-U-T-B-C

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

SPEAKER 4: Yeah, OutBC.

SPEAKER 6: Outbc.com.

SPEAKER 2: And Judy is here and Jose.

SPEAKER 7: Baez.

JEWEL GRAY: Baez. Rainbow's here.

SPEAKER 7: Howard Michael.

JEWEL GRAY: Howard's here and--

SPEAKER 9: Jackie.

JEWEL GRAY: Jack. Well, is it Jackie or Jack tonight?

SPEAKER 9: Jack, whichever.

SPEAKER 3: He looks like Jack to me.

SPEAKER 9: I answer to both.

SPEAKER 4: And Chris and Jimmy.

JEWEL GRAY: And Jackie Thorne is here.

SPEAKER 6: Which pronoun?

JEWEL GRAY: I usually take the lead as how he comes dressed. That's my-- on what pronoun--

SPEAKER 4: And it's not nude night.

JEWEL GRAY: No, it's not nude night.

SPEAKER 5: No, it's not nude radio.

SPEAKER 3: Thank God.

JEWEL GRAY: Not nude night. Thank God. Oh, that was the funniest post on hand. That's something else I'd like you to discuss is not particularly [? Handnet ?] but that was something I was thinking about the other day is some of the discussions going on in town. What is the big talk? What are people talking about? Not necessarily what it is that they're discussing, what the things that they are discussing, but what is being talked about, maybe some kind of highlights so that people can keep abreast of what is moving through the community.

Not necessarily we want you to get involved with this or this is news but this is what's been heard talked about so that people can say just barely-- because I'm always out of the loop. I never find stuff out until it's already been done and it's over. And I'd like to see some place where I could go and find that.

SPEAKER 4: And not only that. Most of us here are on [? Handnet ?], and so we know what the activist network is doing, what the community is doing. However, we have no idea what the social communities of GLBT is doing. I am so out of the loop.

SPEAKER 6: Well, here's-- well, here's-- I talked to Brandon--

SPEAKER 1: The social calendar.

SPEAKER 6: I talked to Brandon Wolfe-- there are-- well, Jose just said social calendar. We also have-- if you go to outbc.com and click on this little calendar, it has a month by month-- an enormous list of everything that's going on. But another thing that I wanted to do with OutBC-- you have the activists in the community, the Rainbow, the clowns of the world.

SPEAKER 5: Oh God.

JEWEL GRAY: You are the activist--

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

SPEAKER 6: You are a hippie, yeah. But you have these guys and these folks, and you-- they're on [? Handnet ?]. You have the community at large, too. Where is the segue? Where's the connector? And I believe that I'll OutBC serves as a good connector because I get the information from him that I present to the community at large.

I go to the community at large, and I pull that on the OutBC as well, and [? Handnet, ?] obviously. A lot of the readers go to OutBC. As I go along, I want to serve as a connector between the two to put them together because if you don't have something to get the activists together with the people that aren't really activists, never the twain shall meet.

SPEAKER 3: That's right.

SPEAKER 5: I can go to Barnaby's or something, and there's a bunch of 20-somethings, 30-somethings. And I can listen in on conversations, and I'm thinking, I'm out of the loop here. I don't know what's going on.

And it's not just the social thing. It's maybe because I'm too much--

JEWEL GRAY: What else is on besides what we're talking about on [? Handnet ?] because we miss so much because we're so busy talking on [? Handnet ?]. And I don't have many friends who aren't involved and that kind of stuff, so sometimes I want to know what's going on with the rest of the community.

SPEAKER 5: Like the gossip like what [INAUDIBLE] used to do?

JEWEL GRAY: Well, not gossip. Well, no, not--

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

Something like that but not necessarily to that point where it's so that light-hearted. I'd like to see something a little-- not necessarily drama queen stuff, but I'm not looking for gossip. That's not-- because that's not it but mostly-- the festival is coming up this week. People are talking about the festival and who's going to be there, that kind of thing.

SPEAKER 6: But you're going to write an article for me.

JEWEL GRAY: Yeah, I'm going to get you something. I promise. I don't know if we'll be calling it an article, but I'll get you something that you can work with.

SPEAKER 6: Great.

JEWEL GRAY: But that kind of thing, that there's a festival going on, Women's Festival, and that people are talking about the-- comparing it with the Michigan Women's Festival and how much that image of women's festivals is not like what's going on in the Heights that weekend and that kind of stuff, tidbits, not necessarily gossip about anybody or anybody, who's getting the big [INAUDIBLE] or something.

SPEAKER 3: Oh, I can give you a tidbit.

JEWEL GRAY: OK, a tidbit.

SPEAKER 3: I want to interrupt because [INAUDIBLE].

SPEAKER 6: I like that.

SPEAKER 3: I just wanted to say that today would have been her birthday. Yeah, and we just need to remember that today. I saw Wendy from *The Voice*.

SPEAKER 6: The thing is--

SPEAKER 8: Yesterday was my partner's birthday, too.

SPEAKER 6: The thing is-- why I brought up [INAUDIBLE] is because usually when, we did read *The Voice*, and when she did have the rat droppings that was the first page we went to.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

SPEAKER 3: Well, that's what I mean. I don't necessarily [INAUDIBLE]

SPEAKER 6: We don't have to get really into it, but just the gossip, what's going on.

SPEAKER 4: We're saying-- we're saying [INAUDIBLE]--

JEWEL GRAY: You can just set up yourself little tips line where people can just drop you a little note.

SPEAKER 4: I want people to know that this was--

JEWEL GRAY: You can decide if you feel like it's worthy of being put in the little tidbits.

SPEAKER 6: I'm working-- yeah, I'm working on a forum right now. That's always been my challenge. It's one of the easiest things to do for a lot of webmasters is to design a forum. It's the hardest thing for me to do.

There are so many different ways to do it, and you have to make sure you're-- there's a lot of technical stuff involved with it. As soon as I figure that out-- and because I'm not as much of a webmaster as a lot of people are. I don't know a lot of scripting languages or anything like that.

But as soon as I figure that out, then people will be able to submit suggestions, comments, information. Whatever it is that they want to submit they'll be able to do that.

SPEAKER 8: They can just do it by email now.

SPEAKER 6: Right. And now they can do it by email, just go-- click on Contact Us, and then there you go. There's a bunch of emails there to contact us. Get on the mailing list that we'll start this coming week is the *OutBC Gazette*, kind of a corny name, but it came to mind. It works.

You go to the main page, and you just sign up for the mailing list. And starting this Monday the mailing list will start going out, even more information that way. So there's a lot of things coming out.

JEWEL GRAY: Is it going to be-- the mailing list-- what are you going to send out on the mailing list? Because I get all my-- I don't have groups that send me email. People are always fussing about, oh, I get so much email because my group is getting so much volume and stuff. I don't do that. I read it right off the net.

SPEAKER 6: Me too.

JEWEL GRAY: And that way I don't have any email hitting my box and all that stuff. I just read right off the net. And I can ignore it when I want to, and I can check it out. And that interests me is how often do you refresh your information. Because I'm one of those people--

SPEAKER 6: Every day.

JEWEL GRAY: --who likes to check-- well, see, I'm one of those people who likes to check every other hour.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

SPEAKER 6: Oh, that's fine. What I do-- what I do-- you can ask either one of the two that are with me today, Howard or Jose. When I get up, the first thing I do is I boot up the computer, I go OutBC, check the mail.

SPEAKER 1: That's nice.

SPEAKER 6: And then--

JEWEL GRAY: You're not supposed to tell him-- you're not supposed to tell him that. The second thing [INAUDIBLE]

SPEAKER 6: And really, from then on through the day that's all I'm doing. As new event information comes across, it goes up.

JEWEL GRAY: So it's as current as--

SPEAKER 6: When new information goes up--

JEWEL GRAY: --the relativity of the information--

SPEAKER 6: It's as current as I'm informed.

JEWEL GRAY: That's right.

SPEAKER 6: That's how it goes.

JEWEL GRAY: Cool. That's what I wanted to hear.

SPEAKER 6: Yeah, that's what it is.

SPEAKER 7: What is the chat line like really? Is it-- it's new.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

What is your-- what is your mission with that? I'd like to know a little bit about what to expect from the chat.

SPEAKER 6: OK, well--

SPEAKER 7: Depends on how many people are on.

SPEAKER 6: Well, there are two separate things. The chat, the actual chat itself, is only up tonight. It won't be up other than tonight. That's the difficult thing to maintain it. A lot of people don't go to chat, so it's almost a waste of something to put on the website.

JEWEL GRAY: It is. I can't type fast [INAUDIBLE].

SPEAKER 7: What I mean is it's not a date-type thing--

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

SPEAKER 6: What I want-- what I really would like people to start participating in more or the message forums. This is your connector. You're a member of [? Handnet ?]. You want to know what's going on in the community? Go to the message forums. Find out. That's your connector. So that's what I want to become more active as a connector between the two. As far as chat, there are so many other chat mediums out there that people go to.

JEWEL GRAY: Rainbow is big on that. He can type fast. He can carry on--

SPEAKER 6: Rainbow--

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

Rainbow flies around on his webtv there.

JEWEL GRAY: I tell you he can carry on four distinct conversations with four distinct people at the same moment.

SPEAKER 3: He can carry on that many with himself.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

JEWEL GRAY: There's no way I could do that.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

SPEAKER 6: And he does often.

JEWEL GRAY: [INAUDIBLE] read two books at once.

SPEAKER 7: I invited her to a chat line. It was back in the days when [INAUDIBLE]

SPEAKER 3: And I think I got high, and by the time I finished my service they moved on five--

SPEAKER 6: They go on.

SPEAKER 3: Gone, long gone.

SPEAKER 6: Yeah. I have-- I have some friends that are like that.

SPEAKER 3: Where it would have been impolite for me push that Enter button.

SPEAKER 7: [INAUDIBLE] at my family's house because we can all chat with each other, completely different conversations, and he's just sitting there, goes outside. He's like, I can't keep up, can't keep up.

SPEAKER 6: On chat I'm used to it, but in person it's one at a time, and it can get kind of hectic. It really can.

SPEAKER 3: So what would you like to see on the chat?

SPEAKER 7: My monitor is real big. It's a 27-inch TV.

SPEAKER 10: Size queen.

SPEAKER 7: TV set. I set in a big chair with a-- what do you call this thing? Keyboard?

JEWEL GRAY: Keyboard.

SPEAKER 7: That's all it is. No wires, no nothing. And I'm just sitting there with my underwear on, and just [INAUDIBLE]

SPEAKER 11: TMI, TMI.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

SPEAKER 10: I don't think that's what Bill Gates had in mind when he talked about--

JIMMY CARPER: That's a lot better than the old days when you used to listen to *After Hours* watching porno movies with the sound turned off.

[LAUGHTER]

SPEAKER 10: Those were the days. Now we got MPGs here.

JEWEL GRAY: That's right, MPGs.

SPEAKER 6: Now you have the computer to do all that.

SPEAKER 11: Who watches porno movies anymore? We got MPEGs.

JEWEL GRAY: Really.

SPEAKER 6: So go to the website, and get the news that you need, get the [INAUDIBLE] information you need. Go to the message forums and participate in that. Sign up for the mailing list, and just participate and read the news articles. Read the interviews. I want people to get to know-- I want people to get to know the personalities in our community that make it work. And like I said earlier, when you get to know the person, you'll get to know the organization.

JEWEL GRAY: Well, you can tell them how they make it work, or you can tell them what they did. And the real important thing is not what they did but how they managed to do it, to get it done.

SPEAKER 6: And even more importantly is who they are. And once you do that, the rest is just candy. It comes along with it.

JEWEL GRAY: Well, we appreciate you coming down, and I really mean it about coming down here on your first birthday. Come down here, and we'll help celebrate. We love celebrating birthdays.

SPEAKER 6: Well, OK, fine we'll be here--

JEWEL GRAY: We would love that. And if you got something-- if you get update and you're going to do something unusual, or you're going to add something to it, come down. Let us know. Just give us a call, and we'll set some time aside. Come down visit with us again.

SPEAKER 6: OK, we will do that for sure.

JEWEL GRAY: Good, good. Well, we sure appreciate you coming down. Don't we?

JIMMY CARPER: We do. We do.

SPEAKER 12: He's there.

SPEAKER 13: He's over here panting because he got something hot down his throat.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, Glenn just brought me some coffee.

SPEAKER 13: Oh, I see.

SPEAKER 14: I noticed the next turn in there, like hmm?

JIMMY CARPER: It was hot and black.

JEWEL GRAY: Oh, god, one of those hot and black conversations again.

SPEAKER 12: OK.

JIMMY CARPER: It's time for music.

SPEAKER 6: Man, oh, my.

JEWEL GRAY: Is it?

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, it is.

JEWEL GRAY: Usually, I go have a cigarette, but I gave them up.

JIMMY CARPER: Wow.

JEWEL GRAY: Last week, I gave them up.

SPEAKER 12: --so good.

JIMMY CARPER: Good for you.

JEWEL GRAY: Really.

SPEAKER 13: That's what we're doing--

JIMMY CARPER: So Lynn's got some coffee out there.

JEWEL GRAY: --last Sunday, Saturday actually, Saturday night.

SPEAKER 6: It's hard.

SPEAKER 13: Take vitamins?

JEWEL GRAY: Not really. It's just-

SPEAKER 6: How many did you smoke? How many packs a day did you smoke.

JEWEL GRAY: Two packs.

SPEAKER 6: Oh, wow.

SPEAKER 12: Is that all? I really thought you smoked more than that.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

JEWEL GREY: Are we still on?

SPEAKER 12: I really did.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, we are.

JEWEL GREY: Oh, my god.

[LAUGHTER]

JIMMY CARPER: They all know it now.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

JEWEL GRAY: No, it's not been too bad at all. It's just the habit-- because I use cigarettes as a segue. If I got to go do something else, from getting up off the couch to changing in to go do what that is, I have to have a cigarette. My dog wants to go out, I've got to get a cigarette before I go out with the dog. I'm washing dishes, I got to have a cigarette before I go in and make up the bed.

SPEAKER 6: I was telling [INAUDIBLE] that they really do control your life.

JEWEL GRAY: Oh, yeah.

SPEAKER 6: When you come to a restaurant, you want to know the first-- you don't know how good the food is. You want to know do they have a smoking section. And if they don't, you won't go there.

JEWEL GRAY: Yeah.

SPEAKER 6: That's why we're quitting because it really does. It controls your life.

JEWEL GRAY: It sure does.

SPEAKER 14: That, and it's \$4.50 a pack.

SPEAKER 6: It's just ridiculous because our government likes to do sin taxes. So fine, do it. But I am not going to pay for it. And it's just too much money.

JEWEL GRAY: It's too much money.

SPEAKER 14: Well, that's the beauty of living close to Mexico. You just run down there, you come back with a couple cartons.

SPEAKER 15: --the best way of quitting smoking.

JEWEL GRAY: Putting them down. Don't pick him up again.

SPEAKER 15: Well, something else you might want to consider doing is going to the dentist and having a full cleaning of your teeth. It takes three times.

SPEAKER 12: That's a gift?

SPEAKER 15: Because you get rid of all the tartar, which--

JEWEL GRAY: No, that's not going to stop, honey. Sorry, it ain't going to work, no.

SPEAKER 12: Did you mention music?

SPEAKER 15: And then you take orange juice and lots of vitamins. You take your vitamins, and you won't go back.

SPEAKER 12: But more importantly, you're going to find out you're healthier.

JEWEL GRAY: I do have some spare patches if I get a bad time. The last time I tried to quit, the patches didn't work. They didn't work.

SPEAKER 12: You won't catch as many colds and as much crud.

JEWEL GRAY: I could-- suck on them for a little while.

JIMMY CARPER: In order to do it, something has to click inside the head.

JEWEL GRAY: That's right.

SPEAKER 12: You have to be ready to do it.

JIMMY CARPER: Until that clicks inside the head--

JEWEL GRAY: That's what I told people. They'd say, Jewel, you smoke grass? I say, well, occasionally. And you're a drug counselor? I'd say, look, there's a big difference between abusing drugs and using drugs. Recreational use and then abusing drugs is a big difference. A joint now and then is not abusing drugs. So that's not the same. And to get somebody want to get off drugs, they have to want to do it.

JIMMY CARPER: That's right.

JEWEL GRAY: It's not like I walk in the room and tell people, oh, you're smoking. You need to get off. It wouldn't be any good. It wouldn't work anyway.

JIMMY CARPER: That's right.

JEWEL GRAY: They've got to come to you, and they got to want it. So that's--

SPEAKER 12: Kind of like saying if you counsel people on birth control, you can't have a baby. Come on. You do what you do.

JIMMY CARPER: Let's go to that piece of music now. OK. You're listening to *After Hours*, queer radio with attitude on KPFT Houston and KEOS College Station.

[PHONE RINGING]

[CHEERING AND APPLAUSE]

NARRATOR: *Technology Bytes*, a call-in show about computers and technology airs here on KPFT 90.1 FM Wednesdays 8:00 to 10:00 PM. Here with a celebrity endorsement, the Bit from Tron.

[TONE]

What do you think about *Technology Bytes*?

[TONE]

OK, do you like *Technology Bytes*?

[TONE]

Do you listen to *Technology Bytes*?

[TONE]

Oh, that was a bust. Oh, well, tune in anyway. That's *Technology Bytes*, Wednesdays 8:00 to 10:00 PM here on KPFT.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

MADISON GRAY: Hi, I'm Madison Gray, and I'm a member of the GLBT Chamber of Commerce. I'd like to invite you to come out and support the community that supports you and attend the sixth annual Empower Business Community Trade Show at the George R Brown Convention Center on Saturday and Sunday, September 21, and 22.

Join me and our sponsors for fun, networking, a job fair, health fair, artists, seminars, and so much more. See you there.

(SINGING) Some say love

[APPLAUSE]

JIMMY CARPER: The Kinsey Six, ladies and gentlemen. Yes, indeedy. Gosh, I've had-- this group has such wonderful music. I remember someone writing me and saying that they heard something that the group had sung and almost drove off the road.

And in order of, we had MCI. We had "The Rose," and we had "Gay Sera, Sera." Yes, indeedy. A couple of things I want to put in your ear before we get our weekly call-in from Dean Becker. And first of all, the Notorious CHO, Notorious CHO is playing at the Greenway Theater. It started last Friday September the 13th. And it's a landmark, Greenway. You know where that is.

Those folks over there were really sweet and sent us over some CDs and books to give out. We did that, and we've got a couple of more that we'll be giving out during the membership drive.

Oh, OK, Dean's on the air. Well, he's not on the air yet. He's on the phone. So you want to do that? Hey, hey, hey, Dean Becker.

DEAN BECKER: Hello, Jimmie.

JIMMY CARPER: Hey, how you doing?

DEAN BECKER: I'm doing real-- when is the pledge drive?

JIMMY CARPER: That's the first week in October.

DEAN BECKER: First week in October.

JIMMY CARPER: I believe it starts October the second.

DEAN BECKER: OK, OK, well, I appreciate that. This is your *Cultural Baggage*, Drug War News Report. Friday, I reported on The 420 News that the November ballot referendum for medical marijuana in Washington, DC had been approved by the courts. Now comes word that late Friday an appeals court reversed the decision, just in time to force it from ever making the ballot this year.

The advocates of medicinal marijuana collected enough petition signatures to put the issue on the general election ballot. But when it appeared, it was supported by more than 75,000 DC voters back in '98. But they tagged an amendment on it back then, on the DC appropriations bill. This was by Bob Barr.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, yes, the infamous.

DEAN BECKER: Yes, and he made it illegal for the district to spend money processing the initiative. So you can vote on it, but we're not going to let it happen one way or another.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

DEAN BECKER: Congress has kept the Barr Amendment on the 2000, 2001, and 2002 versions of their appropriations bill. Now Mr. Barr, who was defeated, as we mentioned a couple of weeks ago--

JIMMY CARPER: Yes, and happily.

DEAN BECKER: Yes, he's on his way out. But he stuck us in the eye one more time before he left. He left a comment on the 20th. He said that putting the medicinal marijuana initiative on the DC ballot would be an attempt to move the drug legalization process forward and would ultimately be harmful to America's war on drugs.

So he got us one more time. Here's some totally different news. Out of the UK comes the call to legalize all drugs worldwide. Now this is following on the heels of the Canadian report a couple of weeks ago that called for the legalization of marijuana.

Last week we had Senator Nolan of that panel on. I urge all to tune in this coming Friday. We'll have Kevin Zeese to talk about the actions in California. I have a little bit more on that in a minute.

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

DEAN BECKER: But Mo Mowlam, the former cabinet minister there in the UK, who was responsible for drugs policy, called for the international legalization of drugs as a part of a more effective drive to combat terrorism. There's just ultimate truth in that. And we like to fight multiple wars and stretch our budget to the max.

JIMMY CARPER: Exactly.

DEAN BECKER: Rather than bombing civilians-- this is Mo Mowlam-- rather than bombing civilians in various Muslim countries, the United States and Britain should begin to take a more intelligent approach, namely, to legalize it internationally. She points out that the drug trade is worth about \$400 billion, B, billion a year, representing about 8% of world commerce.

JIMMY CARPER: Wow.

DEAN BECKER: Yeah, she suggested legalization and regulation of the trade requiring international action would isolate the terrorists, take away their funds, and help to end the war on terror. But here in the US the word is not legalize, it is terrorize.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

DEAN BECKER: We send jackbooted thugs to steal the medicine of people dying of AIDS, suffering with cancer, and otherwise dealing with pain. And despite the positive, highly-scientific and accurate information that issues forth from nearly every other government on Earth, the US drug warriors prefer their felons to be holding a Bud instead of a gun.

JIMMY CARPER: Yes.

DEAN BECKER: Or a bomb. The enormous waste of taxpayer money, law enforcement hours, and the almost demonic waste of national priorities is a disgrace. And in support of the growers and providers who were 100% legal, supported by their local government officials, and who were busted, nonetheless, by the DEA, we will be holding a candlelight vigil at the Federal Building. This is at 515 Rusk at 8:00 PM Sunday night, tomorrow night. Or this evening. 8:00 PM Sunday.

JIMMY CARPER: If you haven't been to bed yet, it's still Saturday night.

DEAN BECKER: Yes. Bring a guitar. Bring a drum. We're going to read poems. We're going to have an open mic. We want people to talk about freedom. And then Monday at noon we're going to gather up our best representatives, Republicans in suits, by god. We're going to have everybody there.

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah.

DEAN BECKER: At noon, and we're going to have a rally. We want everybody to bring pictures, posters, and prayers for the totally non-violent growers who now face 10-year minimums-- minimums, damn it-- in prison for growing medicine.

Now folks, this is not a test. This is not a drill. This is our battle of Gettysburg. Thousands will stand nationwide for the return of compassion. And I'm hoping that the listeners will please join. We must stand for the truth or the truth will no longer be able to stand for us.

And again, this is Sunday, 8:00 PM or Monday at noon, 515 Rusk, the Federal Building.

JIMMY CARPER: OK.

DEAN BECKER: That's my report for tonight, Jimmy. I thank you.

JIMMY CARPER: That's great. Thanks for calling in, Dean. I really appreciate this week's edition of *Cultural Baggage*.

DEAN BECKER: All right, Jim, bye, bye.

JIMMY CARPER: Bye. Whoops, turned off the wrong one.

[LAUGHTER]

Oh, I spent too long at Empower today. I'm turning off my mics instead of Dean's. OK.

CHRIS Well, that's what you get for playing around at the convention.

ARRISON:

JIMMY CARPER: Yeah, I know it. I know it. I know it. I got another piece of music we can go to.

CHRIS That's good. Ste--

ARRISON:

JIMMY CARPER: You have something?

CHRIS Well, Steven's on his way.

ARRISON:

JIMMY CARPER: Steven is on his way.

CHRIS We called.

ARRISON:

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, he's not here.

CHRIS No, not yet.

ARRISON:

JIMMY CARPER: Well, OK, well first--

CHRIS So in other words, stretch it and pull it and make it last longer.

ARRISON:

JIMMY CARPER: I can do that. Houston area Bears are having their eighth anniversary dinner party, and that is next Sunday night, September the 28th. Sunday, Sunday, Sunday, 6:00 PM at Brady's Landing. I thought they were closed.

CHRIS Brady's Landing, so I guess it's going to be like a salmon dinner for the Bears.

ARRISON:

[LAUGHTER]

JIMMY CARPER: He went there. He said it. I did not say this. OK, that was Chris, Arrison said that, OK?

CHRIS Yeah, just growl over at me, all right?

ARRISON:

JIMMY CARPER: There you go. If you can't make it at Brady's Landing at 6:00 PM next Sunday night, then stop by Mary's for--

MAN: Naturally.

JIMMY CARPER: Naturally, for the party at 9:00 PM next Sunday night. Jack Adams wanted me--