

SPEAKER 1: Oh. OK.

FRANCISCO: That's like-- what size city-- it's one of the top five biggest cities in the world. It's humongous. It's very urban. Terrence just went there. I haven't been.

SPEAKER 1: Yeah, I haven't been there since the '70s but the lights were a very major thing and incredible displays.

FRANCISCO: Yeah. That must be a sight, just the whole city. It's phenomenal.

SPEAKER 1: They must have brownouts because this place were really involved and complicated, flashing and all of this kind of stuff before we ever had flashing lights here.

SPEAKER 2: Sounds fabulous.

SPEAKER 1: It was fabulous.

FRANCISCO: Well, like the border, the crossing to the borders, they would have a little Christmas. They'd have the garland up and some Christmas motifs going and maybe some stuff at some of the retail shops in the border towns, that kind of stuff. But rural Mexico really wasn't-- mostly it was the cooking. What did they cook? I don't remember exactly what it was called but as far as-- yeah.

SPEAKER 2: With the pigs, when they kill the pigs?

FRANCISCO: Yeah. What is that called?

SPEAKER 2: Chicharrones.

FRANCISCO: Yeah. We'd make charones, our tamales. That's it, tamales. I know how I forgot those. Ah. They cooked everything.

[LAUGHTER]

SPEAKER 1: You forgot tamales?

[LAUGHTER]

FRANCISCO: Because obviously my mind has been bunuelos lately because it's this sweet kind of crispy tortilla. You [? don't ?] get to decide if it's sweet, and cinnamon sugar on it, and all that fun stuff.

SPEAKER 1: Ooh.

SPEAKER 2: Yum.

SPEAKER 1: Yeah. That sounds good.

[LAUGHTER]

FRANCISCO: It's like those cinnamon sticks at Taco Bell but they're flat. Tastes much better.

SPEAKER 2: Oh. Taco hell.

SPEAKER 1: Taco.

SPEAKER 2: Taco hell.

SPEAKER 1: I was there once and it was really enough for me. What do these people know about hot sauce? The one with the fire is like--

SPEAKER 2: What do they know about food?

SPEAKER 1: --water

FRANCISCO: Yeah. And they call that like, you know.

SPEAKER 1: Yeah.

FRANCISCO: I hate to taste their mild sauce. Mild, or spicy, or fire. Well, I think it'll be a fire thing. That doesn't--

SPEAKER 1: You were saying something about the pig. And you used a term that I didn't understand.

FRANCISCO: Chicharrones?

SPEAKER 2: Chicharrones?

SPEAKER 1: Yes. Yes.

SPEAKER 2: That's are pork skin. Yeah.

SPEAKER 1: Oh.

FRANCISCO: They're just fried. And you know how Hispanics like to fry everything.

SPEAKER 1: I never had those until I came down here. They are addictive. They are so good.

FRANCISCO: Oh. But they're-- You've never tasted like the-- that's like-- oh.

SPEAKER 1: No, I've only had the packaged kind that you can--

FRANCISCO: Oh, those are nothing compared to--

SPEAKER 1: Really?

FRANCISCO: Yeah.

SPEAKER 1: Wow.

FRANCISCO: They're good. I'll have to make you some.

[LAUGHTER]

SPEAKER 2: You can because I'm not. You have to find a pig first.

[LAUGHTER]

FRANCISCO: Hit the SPCA if you're looking for a dog.

SPEAKER 1: I just got a call from JR in Baytown. Has been listening for two years and found out about this show through *Out Magazine*.

FRANCISCO: Really?

SPEAKER 1: Yeah, what a surprise. Boy, I didn't know--

FRANCISCO: Well, hi in Baytown.

SPEAKER 1: Hi in Baytown is right. Yeah.

FRANCISCO: I know two people from Baytown.

SPEAKER 2: Two people?

FRANCISCO: Yeah. One's gay. The other one's like a fag hag.

[LAUGHTER]

SPEAKER 2: A fruit fly?

FRANCISCO: Yeah, fruit fly.

SPEAKER 1: Ooh, ouch.

FRANCISCO: Yeah. [? Deanne's ?] like, oh, today. But Deanne's from Baytown.

SPEAKER 1: OK.

FRANCISCO: She beats me down every time I remind her of that but--

SPEAKER 1: Oh, what's wrong with Baytown? There's good people down there.

FRANCISCO: Oh, yeah. An interesting town.

SPEAKER 2: And by the way, last time I checked--

SPEAKER 1: Yes.

SPEAKER 2: It's not just any sort of Mexican or Spanish cuisine. This is Texas where cuisine is basically fry the sucker.

SPEAKER 1: Yeah, well that's true.

FRANCISCO: It's the South where we started frying turkeys.

SPEAKER 1: Yeah, exactly.

SPEAKER 2: Hello.

SPEAKER 1: They're really good.

FRANCISCO: They're great.

SPEAKER 1: Yeah.

FRANCISCO: They're great.

SPEAKER 2: One of these days, I want to try one.

FRANCISCO: You know how many kitchen fires started as a result of that though? There was an art-- I think NBC did a story on that. I think it was like 2020. They did a little sidebar on fried turkeys and the trend. And you really need to know what you're doing because so many people had to call the fire department, because they start fires because they don't know exactly how to fry a turkey.

[LAUGHTER]

Mostly in the Northeast. And they move up, they more and more-- they showed a map. They reported fires from trying to fry a turkey. And the further you went up north and northeast, the more like-- because people are in their apartments trying to fry a turkey.

SPEAKER 1: No, no, no.

FRANCISCO: And that's not what you do.

SPEAKER 3: Guys, I'm in a fire department. Please learn something about this because I don't want to show up and put out a fire because you tried to deep fry your turkey.

SPEAKER 1: Pay an establishment to do it.

FRANCISCO: Either that or here we have backyards. That's where you do that. You take it out back. You drop it in.

SPEAKER 1: Well, that's the thing. If you're up north, you can't-- this is not the time to be barbecuing.

[LAUGHTER]

No.

FRANCISCO: And a New York efficiency isn't the place to decide you're going to decide you're going to deep fry a turkey.

[? SPEAKER 2: ?] Gee, you know, I always thought that the only flaming turkeys here were the guys at karaoke night at [? Denar's. ?]

[LAUGHTER]

FRANCISCO: Guava Lamp, well, they have their little karaoke nights. But it's interesting. Deborah Duncan is doing a special coming up soon on karaoke, karaoke freaks. And she'll be at Guava Lamp tomorrow night.

SPEAKER 1: Wow! I didn't know that.

FRANCISCO: 9 o'clock. So if anyone wants to try to impress Deborah Duncan or--

SPEAKER 2: --want to start a singing career.

FRANCISCO: --or start a singing career, launch it here at Guava Lamp.

SPEAKER 1: There you go.

FRANCISCO: With Deborah Duncan.

SPEAKER 1: The problem is there are so many people who think they want to start a singing career, but they don't have one important aspect--

FRANCISCO: Talent? Vocals?

SPEAKER 1: --talent.

[LAUGHTER]

FRANCISCO: I have karaoked twice in my life. And on both times, I was drunk off my butt.

[LAUGHTER]

So it just sounded worse.

[LAUGHTER]

SPEAKER 2: Karaoke translates to tone deaf. OK.

SPEAKER 3: Now, if the room is completely silent when you sing, it doesn't always mean that you're good. OK.

[LAUGHTER]

FRANCISCO: They like me. They really, really like me.

SPEAKER 2: Wrong. They're shocked.

FRANCISCO: I'm sorry, if you can get a room full of gay men to shut up and stare at you--

[? SPEAKER 1: ?] Well, that's true. Yes.

FRANCISCO: You either look flawless or you're singing karaoke in a very bad way.

[LAUGHTER]

[? SPEAKER 1: ?] Like I've always said, there are only two kinds of drag, good and really bad. There is nothing in between.

FRANCISCO: That's right. That's right.

SPEAKER 1: Let's go to a piece of music.

FRANCISCO: Let's go.

SPEAKER 1: This is going to be cut number two off of that same CD. Right?

FRANCISCO: "El Año Viejo."

SPEAKER 1: Yes. Ah, what?

FRANCISCO: "This Past Year."

SPEAKER 1: OK. And you're listening to it on After Hours, Queer Radio with Attitude, on KPFT Houston and KEOS College Station.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

Ooh. I liked that. What was that one again?

FRANCISCO: "El Año Viejo," "This Past Year."

SPEAKER 1: Yes, I've not heard that one before at all.

SPEAKER 3: That sounds spicy.

FRANCISCO: Yeah. Christmas music you can actually dance to.

[LAUGHTER]

Without having to drink first because dancing to "Jingle Bells" is a little tough.

SPEAKER 1: Yes, it is.

FRANCISCO: Ask the people at JR's right now. They probably are, I can do that.

[LAUGHTER]

SPEAKER 1: Well, the people at JR's, if they're still there, they're in the parking lot.

SPEAKER 3: Right now they're at the point where they'll dance to anything.

SPEAKER 1: That's right. They'll dance to anything.

FRANCISCO: Like banging on the door at South Beach right now. Let me in.

[LAUGHTER]

Actually, they'll probably stop but still-- my legs stopped. No, I'm kidding. And speaking of bars--

SPEAKER 1: Yes.

FRANCISCO: That's New Year's resolution, at least one of mine. I got to stay out of them. I'm one of the barflies there.

SPEAKER 1: What are your favorite bars?

FRANCISCO: Actually, my favorite bar would be JR's and Rich's, I would say, South Beach. Of course, I think everything is starting to overprice at South Beach. And a lot of the other people that go there can agree.

SPEAKER 1: I have never been there.

FRANCISCO: Really? It's nice. I enjoy it. I like it. It's a good atmosphere.

SPEAKER 1: But isn't it like \$10 to get in?

FRANCISCO: On the weekends, it's like \$7, \$10.

SPEAKER 2: I've only gone three times.

SPEAKER 3: Who makes enough social security to get in there?

FRANCISCO: It's good on the weekends. I've been about three times and it's been on the weekend. So you pay like \$10 cover. And the drinks are almost just as much. Drinks are like, wow. They're expensive as well. Yeah. Not going out to the bars as much, it's one of the New Year's resolutions.

SPEAKER 1: You're going to save a lot of money.

FRANCISCO: That's my second New Year's resolution.

[LAUGHTER]

So that's definitely going to help out there in saving up all that money. It's just there's a lot of others. And I'm sure a lot of other people have the same resolutions as I do. And of course, I say this every year. And every year, I'm back at some bar. It's the same one every weekend.

SPEAKER 2: Of course, lately, his strategy is to go a lot lately since he's going to quit the beginning of next year, thinking he'll tire himself out. I better go a lot because, starting January 1, I can't.

[LAUGHTER]

SPEAKER 1: But what's so bad about going to the bars?

FRANCISCO: There's nothing bad. It's just the same people all the time. You just need a new atmosphere. Yeah. It's just have to go do other things, and enjoy other things, and just go [INAUDIBLE] the bars.

SPEAKER 1: Do you go just to hang, as an entertainment venue, or do you go looking for a boyfriend?

FRANCISCO: No, I can find those at other places.

[LAUGHTER]

No. Actually, I just hang out with friends and stuff. I should say acquaintance, and just go and have some fun, have a couple of beers and mixed drinks, and go from there.

SPEAKER 2: So what would you be doing?

[LAUGHTER]

FRANCISCO: Don't ask those questions.

SPEAKER 2: Well, you've got to think this out. You're not going to be sitting at home twiddling your thumbs. I know that.

FRANCISCO: That's true and true. I don't know. Be in bed a lot earlier so I can get to work early.

[LAUGHTER]

SPEAKER 2: I don't go to the bars. I go to the chat room.

FRANCISCO: Bring the bars to me.

[LAUGHTER]

SPEAKER 2: Which reminds, I have to be somewhere at 1 o'clock tomorrow.

FRANCISCO: Yeah. Where is that?

SPEAKER 2: Oh, that's going to be fun.

[CLEAR THROAT NOISILY]

SPEAKER 2: Oh geez.

FRANCISCO: [INAUDIBLE]

[LAUGHTER]

And actually, I probably will be out tomorrow as well.

[LAUGHTER]

FRANCISCO: Speaking of, I will be out. And I was going to go out tonight as well. And I was like, nah, I'm going to stay home.

SPEAKER 3: You got to get in all that bar hopping and clubbing in before you actually commit to your New Year's resolution.

SPEAKER 1: Of course.

FRANCISCO: Exactly. It's a stage, a phase you got to go through.

SPEAKER 2: So what does not a lot mean? Like once a week, twice a week?

FRANCISCO: No. Like once a month maybe.

SPEAKER 2: Oh, wow.

SPEAKER 3: OK. So now he's refined it. Before, it was an open-ended definition, you see.

SPEAKER 1: That's really cutting down.

SPEAKER 3: Yeah, it is.

FRANCISCO: Saving a lot of money.

SPEAKER 1: Yeah, no kidding.

FRANCISCO: I want to do a little bit more traveling. So if I save up my money, that's where I'd be going, traveling.

SPEAKER 2: Do you go out of town to go to the bars there?

[LAUGHTER]

SPEAKER 1: Well, I think maybe that's different. It's not going out to the bars all the time to go somewhere else.

[LAUGHTER]

I know when I quit smoking I saved a lot of money. But that's been so long ago, it--

SPEAKER 2: Now you're really saving money.

FRANCISCO: Now you're really-- yeah.

SPEAKER 2: Yeah, no kidding.

FRANCISCO: It's about what, \$50, \$60 a night? And go Friday and Saturday.

SPEAKER 1: Wow. Wow!

FRANCISCO: Yeah, that's \$100 a week.

SPEAKER 1: Yeah.

FRANCISCO: That's a new outfit.

SPEAKER 1: At the very least. Wow. And in a month's time, that's a car payment.

FRANCISCO: Yeah. I don't have to worry about that. But yes.

SPEAKER 2: He got his paid off.

[LAUGHTER]

SPEAKER 1: Well, can a new car be in the future once the old car gets paid off?

FRANCISCO: Definitely. Definitely. There's always room for a new car. That has room for new anything, even a new man.

SPEAKER 1: Ah. Is there an old one?

FRANCISCO: There's several old ones.

SPEAKER 2: Starting to sound like Sandy's back. [LAUGHTER]

SPEAKER 1: Yeah. It's like every month, Sandy had a new boyfriend. It was really great.

SPEAKER 3: He'd [? go on to these ?] stories like, so what happened to that last month? Oh, different guy now.

FRANCISCO: I'm not in love with them anymore. Or he couldn't pay my car note.

[LAUGHTER]

So now it's time for a new one.

SPEAKER 1: Well, Francisco, since you are probably going to have the same boyfriend, what about your New Year's resolutions?

FRANCISCO: I don't know. I've just been so swamped with tons of stuff recently. I haven't had a chance to focus either on the holidays or a New Year's resolution. Probably one everyone's probably trying to get back to the gym a little bit more.

And I was actually doing well. And I can actually say some of it really wasn't my fault. But I just gave up trying to park downtown to go to the Y. And so I'm just going to get a new membership somewhere else. And getting back to the gym won't be a problem because I just quit going because parking was insane.

I think the irony behind that is a lot of my friends go to the Y. And I just stopped going because of that. And we just laugh amongst ourselves because the irony is if you're going to go work out, what's wrong with walking a couple of blocks to get to the gym to spend an hour and a half of working out.

SPEAKER 1: Exactly.

FRANCISCO: So we're willing to get there if we could just basically walk to the front door, work out an hour and a half in air conditioning, shower, sit in the sauna, relax, and then walk out, be in the car in a block.

SPEAKER 1: Yeah. You need to go to Fitness Exchange then. And they've got this half a block of parking there right next to the building.

FRANCISCO: I guess I'll make that part of my resolutions. I'll find a new gym. But see, I like the Y. It's an older gym. But they always have pretty good equipment. And I like the fact that they've got a racquet ball court. And they've got a basketball court. And they've got the track upstairs. And it's hard to find that in so many other gyms.

SPEAKER 1: Don't they have a swimming pool, too?

FRANCISCO: They have a swimming pool.

SPEAKER 1: Because my neighbor's next door go. And they talk about using the pool a lot.

FRANCISCO: Yeah. They got a great pool. It's Olympic-size pool downtown. And they've got a little cafe there as well. And they have great classes in terms of fitness classes and great instructors. It's hard to find that in a gym.

I guess it was built so long ago that providing all these facilities was just I guess expected. Nowadays, you have places like 24-Hour Fitness, one of the places I was shopping around for to try to find a new gym. Some locations have this. Sometimes they don't. None of the gyms that I've run into [? across ?] have all the facilities that the Y has.

SPEAKER 1: No. I'm going to say this. And I know the reaction I'm going to get. But the club, have you looked into that?

FRANCISCO: I've been there for other reasons.

[LAUGHTER]

Exactly. Not to check out--

SPEAKER 1: But I mean the brand new one is absolutely beautiful.

FRANCISCO: I didn't know it had a new one until I was driving by.

SPEAKER 1: Oh my god.

FRANCISCO: I was driving by this past week. And I saw this like-- it's like, didn't the club used to be there? And so I was just interested like, OK, did this place get shut down or what.? So I drove back around and it was like, no, it was the same parking lot but it looks like maybe it's two or three stories now. And it's big. And it's very nice.

SPEAKER 1: \$1.9 million went into that.

FRANCISCO: That's a lot of my money.

[LAUGHTER]

SPEAKER 1: And it's packed full with equipment. And it's got--

FRANCISCO: I bet.

[LAUGHTER]

SPEAKER 1: And stuff you can work out on, too. Yeah. Yeah.

SPEAKER 3: OK. Thank you.

SPEAKER 1: I was there for the pre-opening. I've not been there since they actually opened it up.

FRANCISCO: Oh, I love this community. We have preparties and then preopening parties. Then we have the grand opening party to sex clubs. You got the anniversaries.

SPEAKER 1: Yeah. But they're trying to downplay the sex club part and upgrade the workout part.

FRANCISCO: So they really have a gym-gym?

SPEAKER 1: Yes. There's a serious, serious gym.

FRANCISCO: Yes. And you can get a year membership for \$300 something. \$350 or something for a year. You can go in a lot of times. Now I'm just asking this for our consumers out there.

SPEAKER 1: There are rooms upstairs. That's it. There's no orgy rooms or anything like that. That doesn't exist anymore.

FRANCISCO: No.

SPEAKER 1: But the steam room is 3 separate rooms. It's just one room off to another. And I'm telling you, my lover has looked the place over. And he wanted to get a membership. And he wouldn't step foot in a sex club. Loved the place.

FRANCISCO: Very nice. OK. So I'm asking this for our consumers out there.

SPEAKER 1: That's right. And I'm not getting-- we don't get anything for this. This is a PSA.

FRANCISCO: Public service announcement.

SPEAKER 1: That's right.

FRANCISCO: Get buff and laid.

SPEAKER 1: That's right.

FRANCISCO: So if you get a membership for the gym, and it's \$300 a month or whatever, you can go any time you want.

SPEAKER 2: Any time you walk, you don't pay to use the door?

SPEAKER 1: It's something like \$300 a year.

FRANCISCO: Yeah. And you can go anytime.

SPEAKER 1: Yeah.

FRANCISCO: And they provide you a locker?

SPEAKER 1: Yes.

FRANCISCO: To replace-- I'm not sure. If he says yes, then OK.

SPEAKER 3: So go there and get buffed.

[LAUGHTER]

FRANCISCO: And it's a convenient location.

[LAUGHTER]

You say boffed or buffed?

SPEAKER 3: Oops.

SPEAKER 1: Shine that thing.

SPEAKER 2: Is that buffed or boffed.

SPEAKER 1: Woo.

SPEAKER 3: Oh.

SPEAKER 1: My, my, my.

FRANCISCO: Well, that's interesting.

SPEAKER 1: Yes.

FRANCISCO: Oops.

[LAUGHTER]

SPEAKER 1: Oh, my god. He's tearing apart the equipment here in the studio first.

FRANCISCO: Because that's only \$30 a month.

SPEAKER 1: Yes.

FRANCISCO: I'm paying \$26 at the Y.

SPEAKER 1: See?

FRANCISCO: Well, for \$4 more--

SPEAKER 1: Yeah. I mean, you know, I don't know what the Fitness Exchange is. That was another one that I was--

SPEAKER 2: That one's pricey.

SPEAKER 1: Is it?

SPEAKER 2: I think it's pricey. I heard it was pricey.

FRANCISCO: I looked into Bally's. And they were kind of-- it wasn't pricey. But they have restrictions. They have all these tons of different kinds of membership levels.

SPEAKER 1: Oh, really?

FRANCISCO: The Y is-- I mean, the president's first lady is just--

SPEAKER 1: I wouldn't even consider going to a gym unless it was Fitness Exchange where a gay-owned thing or something.

FRANCISCO: Yeah. I always think it's ironic when you hear a straight man saying, I wouldn't shower with a gay man. It's like--

SPEAKER 1: You do already. Hello.

FRANCISCO: What gym do you belong to?

[LAUGHTER]

SPEAKER 1: That's right because no matter where you go--

FRANCISCO: Because the buff guy's you're looking at, wondering like, I want a body like that. Well, they're probably gay.

SPEAKER 1: Yeah.

FRANCISCO: I have heard a lot of stories from people that work out.

SPEAKER 1: Yeah.

FRANCISCO: Things going on. At the Y, it's going on.

SPEAKER 1: Anywhere.

FRANCISCO: Anywhere.

SPEAKER 1: Anywhere.

SPEAKER 2: You know, a lot of my friends tell me, oh, well, this guy this. And he said he's straight. And this is what happened. And I just hear these crazy stories.

FRANCISCO: The first time I got cruised in a gym--

SPEAKER 2: Like, wow, I better get-- I got to get my membership.

FRANCISCO: The first time I got-- the first time I got cruised in a gym was when I was in Clear Lake in the Bally's there.

SPEAKER 1: Really? Were you surprised?

FRANCISCO: I was surprised. I wasn't expecting it. I was pretty young. I was like, 20, 21, or something.

SPEAKER 1: Anybody can get cruised when they're 21.

FRANCISCO: But it's not something you expect.

SPEAKER 1: That's true.

FRANCISCO: I mean, it was the middle of the day too. I mean, you know, I was a student so it's just like you get up late, go to the gym, eventually make it to school, all that stuff. So I'm sitting there. I have my workout. I'm sitting in the steam room just kicking back, relaxing. Somebody walks in and--

SPEAKER 1: Good old steam room. Oh, yes.

FRANCISCO: OK. This is the key for Jimmy to turn on the porn music in the background. So I'm sitting there in the steam room. And you know, I was like-- someone comes in. He sits down. I pay no attention, you know. I'm not expecting to get cruised. I'm not looking to get cruised in Bally's in Clear Lake. And next thing you know--

SPEAKER 2: Oh, Clear Lake.

FRANCISCO: Next thing you know, as this guy's walking out, and he, like, leans over and starts sucking on my neck.

SPEAKER 1: Oh. I thought I was going to have to pull your volume down there for a minute.

FRANCISCO: Not a Sandy Lopez here. And so I'm like, at first, and I'm in shock. And then he just leaves. Like he was attractive. I wasn't expecting, like--

SPEAKER 2: He left, and you followed.

FRANCISCO: No. I was just still sitting there in shock. It was the first time I'd ever been cruised in a gym. And you know, I wasn't really totally out. I was probably coming out [INAUDIBLE] comfortable with who I was. But it just wasn't-- it was a whole experience. It was just new. I was like, wow. So I worked a lot out during the day after that. And unfortunately, that never happened again.

SPEAKER 1: Never happened. And it never happened again.

FRANCISCO: No. So next time I went, they were having--

SPEAKER 1: Oh, I must be ugly now.

FRANCISCO: They were having-- I always [INAUDIBLE] I [? got ?] to the pool, of course. That was the day they had water aerobics for senior citizens, and the [INAUDIBLE]

SPEAKER 1: Oh. My, my, the over 60 group doing synchronized swimming. Is that it?

FRANCISCO: It was interesting. So another New Year's resolution, stay away from the [INAUDIBLE].

SPEAKER 1: No. But you see, it can happen anywhere, you know. So why limit yourself?

FRANCISCO: OK. And so this \$300 a year membership, can you pay that in monthly installments?

SPEAKER 2: I have no idea. I don't know. I want to look into it because I want to get a membership. I'm sure it'd be cheaper for me but--

SPEAKER 1: Well, let's see if I have any information on this.

FRANCISCO: Well, I know that also, I'm not sure but I think there was some barbecue or something on Sundays.

SPEAKER 1: Sunday, Sunday, Sunday.

FRANCISCO: I think. I'm not sure. Don't quote me on that.

SPEAKER 1: Yeah.

FRANCISCO: But I think that's what it was. I've heard of people going there, you know, and drinking and having some barbecue.

SPEAKER 1: Having some beef. My, my, my.

SPEAKER 2: Chickens on Tuesday nights.

SPEAKER 1: Yes, you can do that per month.

FRANCISCO: And you know what the amazing thing is? There are people right now glued to the radio thinking, OK, I wonder if-- and we're answering these questions this week. This is Republic Radio. This is KPFT, one of your five hours of gay and lesbian programming once a week.

SPEAKER 1: That's right.

FRANCISCO: So next time, we have our pledge drive you'll remember you're listening to your radio very intently right now getting very valuable information.

SPEAKER 1: That's right. That's right. And you can do that monthly thing at the club.

SPEAKER 3: Yeah.

SPEAKER 1: And that's right over there behind the bus station.

FRANCISCO: Yeah. Imagine that.

SPEAKER 1: So to speak. Yes.

SPEAKER 3: And go to the steam room.

SPEAKER 1: Yes.

SPEAKER 3: Renew your vigor for daily exercise.

SPEAKER 1: Woo.

FRANCISCO: And they're open 24 hours, right?

SPEAKER 1: Yes.

FRANCISCO: Yes. Seven days a week?

SPEAKER 1: Yes.

FRANCISCO: That would be 24-hour fitness.

SPEAKER 2: That would be 24-hour fitness. See?

FRANCISCO: Wow.

SPEAKER 1: Yeah. And when I say serious machines, they're serious machines.

FRANCISCO: Yes, they are. They're very nice.

SPEAKER 1: And there's a lot of them. Yes. Lots of equipment.

FRANCISCO: Well, not too many people use them.

SPEAKER 1: They hadn't done the swimming pool when I was there. So I don't--

FRANCISCO: The swimming pool is very nice as well.

SPEAKER 1: Is it?

FRANCISCO: Yes.

SPEAKER 2: Is it heated? Is it outside or inside?

SPEAKER 1: It's outside. But it is heated. I think it is. I've only been there when it's like--

SPEAKER 2: By find the guys in there or by-- is it a really heated swimming pool?

[LAUGHTER]

SPEAKER 3: OK.

FRANCISCO: So is Midtown doing any renovations?

SPEAKER 1: I don't think so. I've not been there in a couple of years.

FRANCISCO: There's a third place in town now, right?

SPEAKER 1: That is more-- that's definitely a sex club.

FRANCISCO: OK.

SPEAKER 1: Yes.

SPEAKER 2: Where is this?

[LAUGHTER]

SPEAKER 1: The Meat Rack.

SPEAKER 2: Yes. I heard of that. I heard of that.

SPEAKER 1: Have you been there?

FRANCISCO: No, I haven't.

SPEAKER 1: OK.

FRANCISCO: I hear it's near Rich's but I've never seen anything.

SPEAKER 1: No. Well, it's in an old house.

FRANCISCO: OK.

SPEAKER 1: And it's-- and Chris is writing something down here.

FRANCISCO: Oh, no.

SPEAKER 1: Instead of just speaking into the mic.

FRANCISCO: They can't see you through the radio, Chris.

SPEAKER 1: www.meatrack.org and--

FRANCISCO: Org for orgy, or for organization?

SPEAKER 1: Organization. Believe it or not.

FRANCISCO: Orgy, orgasm.

SPEAKER 1: But it's an old house. And it's like Carolyn or something, one of those streets over--

FRANCISCO: OK.

SPEAKER 1: Yeah.

FRANCISCO: I'm going to have to drive by there. It gives new meaning to this old house.

SPEAKER 1: No kidding. No kidding. I don't have the address here. But I'll have it next week, because I'm going to ask my neighbor who's been there. And that, also, was 24 hours. But there is no workout equipment.

SPEAKER 3: I thought a sling would be considered a workout.

SPEAKER 1: A sling is not considered to be [INTERPOSING VOICES]

[LAUGHTER]

SPEAKER 3: Come on.

FRANCISCO: I think it depends on what--

SPEAKER 1: No, no, no, no.

FRANCISCO: Is that aerobics exercise or is it workout?

SPEAKER 1: Well, when it's swinging, it is.

SPEAKER 3: Oh, yeah.

SPEAKER 1: And if you get in that sling, you will get a workout. Guaranteed. Yes.

FRANCISCO: Wow.

SPEAKER 2: Is there a-- what's the charge or--

SPEAKER 3: Had me getting all this information now.

SPEAKER 1: I have no idea. I have no idea.

FRANCISCO: I will go to that website.

SPEAKER 1: But it's owned by a couple. And they're trying to make a go of it. It's in a rough neighborhood. That I can tell you.

FRANCISCO: Wow. You know, we've got to revitalize Midtown.

SPEAKER 1: There you go. There you go.

FRANCISCO: And god bless them for trying.

SPEAKER 1: No. How did we ever get down this road?

FRANCISCO: We were talking about Christmas--

SPEAKER 1: Yes.

--and traditions, and New Year's resolution.

SPEAKER 2: We're talking about .org

SPEAKER 1: Now we're talking about--

SPEAKER 3: That's-- that's the trouble there.

FRANCISCO: About working out every muscle in your body.

SPEAKER 3: Oh, my goodness.

SPEAKER 2: We went from sleigh bells to sling balls.

FRANCISCO: Yes.

[LAUGHTER]

SPEAKER 1: Oh, my. I need to try that.

[LAUGHTER]

SPEAKER 3: Well, that is just a small change.

FRANCISCO: Yeah. Add to my list of resolutions. Try new things.

SPEAKER 1: So where else do you want to go with it?

FRANCISCO: I think we've been everywhere we could tonight.

SPEAKER 1: That's OK.

FRANCISCO: I bet there's people heading over to Club Houston right now.

SPEAKER 1: Right, right now.

FRANCISCO: That's right.

SPEAKER 2: [INAUDIBLE] enthusiastic endorsement.

SPEAKER 1: It's a magnificent building. I mean, it's like marble--

FRANCISCO: It's definitely improved.

SPEAKER 1: Yeah. I mean, they spent the money on it.

FRANCISCO: \$1.9 million. That's amazing.

SPEAKER 1: Yes, yes.

FRANCISCO: Is that more-- no, well, how much did they spend at South Beach?

SPEAKER 1: About the same.

FRANCISCO: You think?

SPEAKER 1: Close to the same. Yeah. Yeah. Yeah. And you can't take your clothes off there.

[LAUGHTER]

FRANCISCO: Yeah. That's a crime.

SPEAKER 2: Or you can get a workout. But you can't take your clothes off.

[LAUGHTER]

SPEAKER 1: Wow.

SPEAKER 2: OK.

SPEAKER 1: So tell us about South Beach while we've got you here. You've been there.

FRANCISCO: Oh, plenty of times.

SPEAKER 1: Because I keep hearing about this nitro--

FRANCISCO: Oh, the smog thing, the smog thing.

SPEAKER 1: That lowers the temperature of the dance floor.

FRANCISCO: That's way overdone. Yeah. Actually, it's a nice place. You know, you're dancing. It beats Rich's in a way. But you know, it's just totally different atmosphere.

SPEAKER 1: Mm-hmm. More sophisticated?

FRANCISCO: Yeah. You could say that. You do get your older crowd at South Beach.

SPEAKER 2: We prefer sophisticated.

[LAUGHTER]

SPEAKER 1: I was just going to ask you about the crowd. Do you know what kind of folks--

FRANCISCO: It's very-- it's straight and gay. There's a lot of--

SPEAKER 1: Oh, really?

FRANCISCO: --straight people go there as well. It's different. I mean, it's fun. It's expensive. But everyone went to JR's on Saturdays and went to Rich's on Saturdays afterwards about midnight. Now, they go, you know--

SPEAKER 1: Now they go to [INAUDIBLE]

FRANCISCO: Right across-- right next to the-- and just party there.

SPEAKER 2: I haven't gone out much in the past year or so. But has the crowd at Rich's died down because of that?

FRANCISCO: Yes, it has. Yes, it has. But you know--

SPEAKER 2: Sure.

FRANCISCO: The gay community is very big. And there is-- you get different crowds in different areas. And everyone's spread out now.

SPEAKER 2: Mm-hmm.

FRANCISCO: I mean, everyone's just going through the different-- And it's just whatever you're in the mood for, what kind of music you're in the mood for and the crowd because it's all different.

SPEAKER 2: Mm-hmm.

FRANCISCO: It's just very different.

SPEAKER 1: How about meteor?

FRANCISCO: Meteor is very nice.

SPEAKER 2: I like Meteor.

FRANCISCO: Yes.

SPEAKER 2: Do you just get like a-- you go in. You go for a drink. You can hang out. No cover charge. You just drive up, have a drink with friends.

FRANCISCO: And just hang out. And it's no cover.

SPEAKER 2: Yeah.

FRANCISCO: I guess JR is a little nicer, a lot nicer.

SPEAKER 2: The JR?

SPEAKER 1: Really?

FRANCISCO: Yes.

SPEAKER 1: Oh. I always thought JR's was nice.

FRANCISCO: Yeah. Very contemporary.

SPEAKER 1: Is it?

FRANCISCO: Yeah. There's a video bar. And they play music, show videos.

SPEAKER 1: Do you know what that place used to be?

FRANCISCO: No. No, I don't.

SPEAKER 1: Mm-hmm.

FRANCISCO: What was it?

SPEAKER 3: [INAUDIBLE] is just-- oh.

SPEAKER 1: Back in the '70s, it was a place called the 2306, which was a sex club for the leather set.

FRANCISCO: Ah.

SPEAKER 1: And as a membership, you got dog tags with a number.

FRANCISCO: That's interesting.

SPEAKER 1: I still have mine.

[LAUGHTER]

SPEAKER 2: Ah, the memories.

SPEAKER 1: No.

FRANCISCO: That'll teach you to buy a lifetime membership.

SPEAKER 1: There you go. I've not been a leather crowd-- but I mean it was the first time I saw a sling and the first time I saw it being used.

SPEAKER 2: Do you remember that far back?

SPEAKER 1: Oh, my gosh. That was real-- oh my. That was an incredible experience. Yes.

FRANCISCO: I yet have to see that. I see it in porn, but that's about it. It just looks interesting.

SPEAKER 2: Wow.

SPEAKER 1: Yes, it is. It is. Anyway, I think we need to wrap this up.

FRANCISCO: You can't buy them at Walmart. We need to move on.

[LAUGHTER]

SPEAKER 2: That would be good. Yeah.

SPEAKER 1: Francisco, thank you.

FRANCISCO: Well, thank you for having us. We liked that thing very much.

SPEAKER 1: Look for you again.

FRANCISCO: Stay tuned. And we'll see what you have in store next month.

SPEAKER 1: That's right, the fourth Saturday of every month.

FRANCISCO: Second.

SPEAKER 1: The second Saturday of every month.

[LAUGHTER]

FRANCISCO: I didn't get that memo.

SPEAKER 1: Oh. What am I thinking?

SPEAKER 2: You know, Christmas was [INAUDIBLE]

SPEAKER 1: Oh, gosh. It should be. Anyway, the second Saturday of every month, second half, 1:45 exactly.

FRANCISCO: We'll be here.

SPEAKER 1: We'll get you on. OK.

FRANCISCO: Sounds good.

SPEAKER 1: Thanks for being here.

FRANCISCO: Thank you.

SPEAKER 1: [? Rihanno. ?] [? Rihanno. ?]

SPEAKER 2: Yes.

SPEAKER 1: OK. It's a new word for me.

FRANCISCO: And Daniel Haywood has got the fan mail, too.

SPEAKER 1: Yes.

FRANCISCO: Sandy will get it to him.

SPEAKER 1: Good, good. Thank you very much.

FRANCISCO: Have a Merry Christmas, Daniel.

SPEAKER 1: And we'll see you next month.

FRANCISCO: We'll be here.

SPEAKER 1: You've been listening to *After Hours*, queer radio with attitude, on KPFT Houston and KEOS College Station. I've got a piece of music coming up your way. And stay tuned at the top of the hour for the early morning groove with Bobby Fats and the Governor. Good grief. This is requested music from Baytown. And we'll see you next week.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

(SINGING) All right, kids. Are you ready for me? I know I look good. But there's always room for improvement.

[INAUDIBLE]