

**CAROL:** So they took a ton of time, and you really get to see this human scale of penetration with somebody who's new at it. Which is great, because when people watch porn-- porn is fabulous and there are lots of things to like about it, but it isn't always done on human scale.

It's not always the positions you'd really use because you've got to get that camera in there and get those close-up shots. And it doesn't always use real time. You don't always see the people getting the lube out or fumbling. They cut all that stuff out, or they get trained professionals who don't do it at all. So really getting to see actual humans have sex the way they do is a great thing, and not every porno out there is created equal in that way.

So Good Vibes actually has begun to make its own porn too. There's a first ever video, a bi video, that also has some *Bend Over Boyfriend* action incorporated in it. It's called *Slide by Me*. It's a romp at a picnic, and it features a slip and slide, one of the sexy features.

**HOST 1:** Cool.

**CAROL:** Think of the last picnic you went to. Keep the red gingham. Keep the slip and slide in the jell-o mold, but then take everybody's clothes off and stick them on the slip and slide with a lot of lube on it. I hope I'm not giving away too many secrets about the movie, but it's wild. It's also got a very diverse cast, which is wonderful.

So Good Vibes is going to be making both educational and erotic movies from here on out that try to really give you that sense of, oh, real human beings having real sex the way they have it.

**HOST 1:** Well, for people that haven't seen the movie, what are some do's and don'ts as far as anal sex?

**CAROL:** Well, certainly, the things that I mentioned before about avoiding paying are big dos for any kind of anal play. They're relaxation, communication, lubrication, taking your time. And some don'ts would obviously be the opposite of those-- going too fast, using insufficient lube.

Every once in a while, you hear a total horror story about people who try not using any lube at all, and it takes an extremely, extremely sexually proficient person to relax enough to have a good experience with anal play without some lubrication.

It's imperative-- we might as well just say it doesn't happen at all just so people can wrap their minds around the need to have that lube in their pocket at all times. You never know when you're going to want to do something.

**HOST 1:** Well, one thing I learned with anal sex was that a lot of people tend to get in a big hurry to get something in.

**CAROL:** Oh yeah, oh yeah.

**HOST 1:** And I think one thing that helped me a lot was playing on the outside a little bit, because there's a lot of sensitive tissue out there that feels really good.

**CAROL:** And it really helps to promote both trust and relaxation to start on the outside and stay there for a while, especially for someone who has not had anal penetration much or has maybe had bad experiences with it in the past.

So if the person's body gradually learns-- we've got a brain in our head, of course, which is smart and can learn things quickly, but the body has a memory and an awareness of its own, and it needs to learn how to trust what's happening as well as us being able to say, oh yeah, I trust you, baby. The body needs it. The butt itself needs to believe it too in order for it to be a good experience, so that's a totally good point.

And of course, people often are paranoid about dirtiness, the cleanliness issue. Is anal sex inherently unclean? And the fact is that for most people, there will be enough additional cleanliness just by making sure that people are showered and washed on the outside.

Although, some people choose to do an anal rinse as well, getting a bulb syringe or a rinse bag and rinsing out the inner contents so they're squeaky clean inside and out. You can overdo that, so you need to be kind of cautious about that.

And of course, the biggest don'ts besides watching out for ragged fingernails, and sharp-edged toys, or things that can break, be involved. Don't try to be in too much of a rush, trying to be too goal-oriented oriented with it, because if you lose touch with the sensuality and the exquisite pleasure that can be had from anal play, it's very easy with this sexuality to slide over the edge into a pain that most people just don't eroticize.

**HOST 1:** Yeah, and I think the other thing that I discovered long ago-- in the past, I had boyfriends that were into the size thing, and it's like, you don't have to start out with this big, humongous thing first off. You can start with the pinky finger.

**CAROL:** Great thing about finger scraping about sex toys, you get to pick your size, and you can work your way up if you decide you want to go up at all.

**HOST 1:** Yeah.

**CAROL:** Some people want to stay with the pinky, and that's just fine with them, and there's no reason that they have to go any bigger. It's what you like to do.

**HOST 1:** And I'd like to talk a little bit about the anatomy of the anus a little bit because I think there's a lot of misconceptions about what the anus is, and its functions, and the pleasure it can bring.

**CAROL:** Right, right, well, a couple of fun facts, of course, the anus is the other end of the tube that begins at your mouth. And if you stop and consider it, the mouth, which is so richly endowed with nerve endings, has a pretty close match in that to the anus.

There are a few parts of the body that are more richly endowed with nerves. The head of the penis, the clit, those are right up there too. But when people ask, why would anybody want to do that? Because you can feel just incredible. The nerves, when you rub them right, are very erotic and very pleasurable.

And right there, there are two sphincters. There's an inch and a half or so of tight sphincter tissue there before you get into the more open space or potentially open space that is the rectum. And the anus and the anal sphincters are surrounded by-- all the genitals are surrounded by a figure eight of muscles called the pubococcygeal muscles. We call them PC muscles for short, and that can be confused with other sorts of political correctness.

And then there's the anal sphincters, the one that is under voluntary control, which is the ones that our parents tried to make us keep tight control over when we were little kids, traumatically or not, depending on our toilet training experiences. Fortunately, a few of us can remember back that far, so that's probably all well and good.

And then another one that is not under our own voluntary control, although when we get good control over the voluntary muscles, the involuntary muscles tend to go along for the ride and relax. But if you try to poke something in, if you're too rough, the involuntary muscles in particular will shut down very tight and fast.

They have a reflex called the anal wink. Awful cute reflex name, but in reality, it's more like a snapping turtle. It just snaps shut, and those muscles are very, very strong. So many people who have had painful experiences, that's actually what they've been feeling, that muscle going, no way, you're not coming in here.

And the whole idea that things are only meant to go out and nothing is meant to go in, so a sphincter is essentially like the drawstring of a purse. It's controlled by muscles instead of a drawstring, and it has two ends. There's the outside end. There's the inside end. And in fact, they're both pretty much equally sensitive and work in pretty similar ways.

**HOST 1:** Yeah, well, I know there's a lot of heterosexual couples that would think, well, why should we get into anal sex play?

**CAROL:** Well, for variety for one thing.

**HOST 1:** As well as bi couples and old couples.

**CAROL:** I think, and this may be just a little bit of an assumption on my part, but I think that many bi couples are somewhat more open to the notion of discovering anal play. And of course, many bi couples have specifically gone to strapon play with a woman wearing a strapon and penetrating him because the man has had erotic experiences being penetrated by men, and likes that sensation, and wants to have that experience with the new girlfriend.

And so I think that this is a surprisingly common way to play, or at least fantasy among many, many people. But what I would always say to heterosexual couples asking me that question, well, we've got one penis and one vagina. What else do we need?

The fact is your whole body is sensual and sexual. Every part of our bodies can give us exquisite sexual pleasure if we're in the right frame of mind and with the lover who knows how to pluck our strings, so to speak. And if we've got nerve endings, why not play with them? That's always been my point of view.

And many heterosexual couples turn to this because they want to play with either power dynamics, a little bit of an S/M overlay to this play where the guy is the submissive and the woman dominant. This is one way that a guy can prove his submission to her, to give himself to her in this way. That's one take on it.

But an entirely different take is allowing both partners to experience the fullness of what it feels to both be a sexual giver and a receiver. And people often say that it really enhances their relationships to have it be serious.

And of course, many queer couples know exactly what I'm talking about. If they switch between top and bottom, it's not so different. It's just the culture wants us to believe in gendered roles. But once we take those and get conscious of them, maybe we don't have to be run by those things anymore.

**HOST 1:** Well, I was about to jump in and say one thing I've always loved about the bi community is its fluidity in gender roles. And I think that's something that really popped out for me in anal sex play, was that all of a sudden, my female partner could be a boy, and I could be the girl.

Yeah, once you've been in a same-sex relationship or have been in both same-sex and/or sex relationship and gotten the similarities and the differences around how it feels to initiate, to take responsibility for giving another person pleasure-- it's not that heterosexual couples never do those things, but often heterosexual couples will fall back on those roles. And it's just less likely for queer people of all kinds to fall back on those things.

**JIMMY CARPER:** I don't know if you've touched on this because I had to step away from the mic for a little bit, but I have educated more than one of my straight male friends, because they were very, very confused. They wanted anal pleasure, but they thought that if they wanted anal pleasure, that meant that they were gay or bi. And they didn't understand that, yes, you can be a straight man and enjoy anal pleasure.

**CAROL:** It's a perfect example of this gendered thing in part. And also, the culture associates anal play with gay men so profoundly that there are some statistics that indicate that it may be possible that more heterosexual women have tried being penetrated anally than gay men. And when you toss that statistic out, people are just dumbfounded on all sides of the fence. They're like, what?

Of course, there isn't a statistic that says that more straight men than gay men have done this, but I want to say, you go into a sex workers community or prostitutes, and you start to talk to them about, what do the guys come and pay you for? You will find a lot of fingers up the wazoo, and for top dollar too, sometimes, because you know what? All those sex workers are making bank on the fact that straight men have prostates just like gay men, and they like to have them touched.

**JIMMY CARPER:** That's right, that's right, and it's the thing that I don't understand, but straight men, they cannot ask their wife or their girlfriend for this. They cannot bring themselves to do it.

**CAROL:** So they're off getting more medical exams than they need every year, sex worker or what have you.

**JIMMY CARPER:** I need to jump in here and remind people that they are listening to *After Hours*, Queer Radio with Attitude, on KPFT Houston and KEOS College Station. Now, this is very interesting, this topic, because right now I believe, yes, Chris is on the phone right now with a heterosexual male who does not understand why we are talking about this subject on radio. And because he doesn't understand why we're talking about it leads me to believe that's the reason why it should be talked about.

Yeah, number 1, number 1. I think that the reasons around why we need to talk about this are many. It is common. It is misunderstood. It is fraught with myths and stereotypes, and there are ways to do it wrong and injure yourself, and we don't want anybody to do that. We don't want any listeners to end up on the statistic list of the website that you can look up to see all the weird things that people got stuck and had to go to the emergency room for.

None of this is a positive experience for people. Although it's fun to laugh about it from a great distance, it means real pain and discomfort and sometimes worse on the parts of the people to whom it happens. And so that's the biggest reason right there to talk about anal play in an open and out front way.

**HOST 1:** It seems it goes along with something that we all-- whenever Gigi's show is on, we seem to get into this whole thing of-- and this comes along with the conversation that we are taught such rigid roles of, what is male? What is female? What is gay? What is straight? And what's appropriate sexual behavior, and what isn't?

And it never fails that I always think of song lyrics when I'm sitting here listening to conversations like this. There's a song with a line that goes, people will ask us, which one's the girl? Because they limit themselves to that role in the world.

**HOST 2:** Yes, that's right. That's right.

**HOST 1:** This is the whole thing for us. We don't have to fit into this because we see sexuality differently.

**JIMMY CARPER:** And it's programs like this, shows like this, interviews like this, especially, that get rid of all of that shame and guilt, the two things, the two worst things that you put on your sexual repertoire, shame and guilt, but there's so much out there.

**CAROL:** There's so much out there.

**HOST 1:** I'd like to jump in here and say this. If the Goddess had meant for us to have sex, she would have given us genitals. And if she had meant for us to enjoy anal sex. She would have given us something called a prostate gland for boys and a close proximity to some other inside organs for females.

There's a purpose for our bodies, and they were designed for us to enjoy and find beauty in. And I can tell you from my experiences, when I've been penetrated by a man and by a woman, it sends me through the roof.

**CAROL:** It can be just an absolutely mindblowing experience for men to have this experience of penetration. It can be such a revelation, literally a revelation, that I guess many people don't know that is possible, where there would be much more of a stampede.

**HOST 1:** Well, the other mindblower for me was when I had a girlfriend once who was also bisexual. And a boyfriend came over, and the three of us got involved. And he went into vaginally, and I went into her anally. And we could feel each other's penises rubbing against each other inside her. And it was just a mindblowing experience.

So it's not something just limited to men. And she was getting off to it in the sense that she could feel both of us inside her but also feel us touching each other through her. And so for all three of us, it was just wow.

**CAROL:** That sounds like a quintessentially bi experience. And of course, we almost always must say that you can have quintessentially bi experiences with only two people, probably only just by yourself if you're fantasizing about quintessentially bi things.

But I think at that point, it's really well-taken. Why does that organ feel so darn good when it's stroked? Our livers don't feel so great when they're stroked. Well, they're internal organs that don't appear to be essentially charged the way the prostate is. And you really cannot stimulate it directly without going through the anus. It's just the way we're built or the way men are built in any rate.

**HOST 1:** If they're getting near the liver, they are way too big.

**CAROL:** Yeah, doctor, I didn't notice your proctology exam involved that.

**HOST 1:** Well, while we're on the subject of anal sex, there's another play form that's popular, and that's called fisting. Do you have any do's and don'ts on that?

**CAROL:** Oh definitely, fisting is all about do's And don'ts, particularly because, of course, for even the smallest person's hand to get all the way into the rectum, which is what the definition of fisting literally is, it involves not just relaxation but a substantial amount of relaxation on those sphincters. And it can be done, but it must be done gradually. It has to be done with a ton of lube and really very slowly.

Many people who enjoy fisting consider it, and this may rub your previous caller the wrong way when I say this but I need to say it, some people feel as though it's a spiritual experience, that their body has done such an extraordinary thing to accommodate a hand and also to be able to feel the connection person-to-person. It's not just like you went down to the dirty bookstore and got the very biggest dildo you could find or two of them. It's another human.

And our hands, of course, are among the most intense and connectable parts of us. What do we do when we meet a new person? We shake hands. What do lovers do to show that they care about each other? They hold hands. Our hands are very sensitive, sensual, and knowledgeable.

So when you're going to use them for sex in this way, you've got to trim your nails, no ifs, ands, or buts. Take off that Rolex. Take off that glass ring. Take off all your jewelry, and make sure that your nails are completely short, completely trimmed down. And then it's a good idea to glove. Some people do it without gloves, but I think it's wise, and especially for novices, it smooths everything out just that much more.

You really need to learn this thing from someone who knows about it already. Mainly in the queer communities, the way fisting is taught is by an experienced bottom to a novice top who then can get his or her skills honed with a bottom who knows the experience and can give them feedback and direction the whole time. You can learn it in the class, you can learn it from a book, but really, you need to try to get an experienced person to take you through the experience.

**HOST 1:** And I think you touched on something that's really important no matter what form of anal play, and that's communication.

**CAROL:** Absolutely.

**HOST 1:** You've got to communicate, whether verbally or non-verbally, with your partner. Is this feeling good? Are you going slow enough? Are you going gently enough?

**CAROL:** And if a bottom is not ordinarily all that chatty during sex-- some of us chat the whole time. It's almost like you could go into a non-verbal place. But even if a bottom is not typically very communicative, it's really a good idea for the top to try to get them to communicate where they are and how they're doing by asking questions if need be or giving them directions to communicate or what have you.

**HOST 1:** And one thing I've discovered in play with partners, and this is something that I'm surprised more couples don't do, but to take the hand of your partner and guide their hand during sex play to show them what you like and what you don't like. And that's one of the most wonderful nonverbal communications.

**CAROL:** And it's very intimate and sexy too.

**HOST 1:** Oh yes.

**CAROL:** It's a wonderful thing to do. The thing about communication and trust, also that you brought up earlier which just makes me think of something that I think your listeners will find interesting, there's a great book about anal play called *Anal Pleasure and Health* by Dr. Jack Morin. It's been out for almost 20 years now, pretty unbelievable. During that time, it was the only book about anal sex out there on the shelf.

And one of the things that Jack Morin says early on in the book is that almost everybody can experience comfortable anal play if they just are willing to unlearn old problems and really learn to communicate with partners. Very few people have conditions that really make that impossible for them, although some people probably do. Some physical conditions would make it a bad idea.

But then he says, but the penetrated one has to desire it for himself or herself. You have to want it, and that is the one predictor that he has found of success. If you're doing it because you think you're supposed to be a gay man, or if you think you're doing it because your partner wants it but you don't really, you must want it for yourself. You must find a way to say to yourself, my sexuality is going to be even better if I can find a way to get to this place where I can successfully be penetrated anally.

Which is not to say that you have to do that for your sexuality. I don't mean to say that, but that in the case of a person who is going to try anal penetration, the big predictor of success is that they want to have the experience themselves. And that's where the trust can come from.

**HOST 1:** And for people that have never tried anal play, what would you suggest as some preliminaries to dive in, so to speak?

**CAROL:** The very first thing that I would always suggest in trying something like this, a new, is to try it yourself first. Try doing masturbation. Get plenty of lube. Get a toy, or trim your fingernails and put a glove on, and just start to play around and see how it feels.

Now, many people do a little bit of that during masturbation, if not a full-on, get the dildos out and work up to something really big. But people who have never had any kind of anal play sometimes miss that part during self-pleasuring, and you should start with yourself. One of life's mottos has always been, if you want something done right, do it yourself.

And the number 2 insight there is, and then you can help teach somebody else how to do it right for you, because we're not all alike physically. If we were all cookie cutter people, then what worked on girlfriend or boyfriend A or B would work on girlfriend or boyfriend C or D, but that's not always true. So being able to show your new partner or your long-time partner what works the best for you is really, really a good idea, practically crucial.

**HOST 1:** One thing, I forget where I read it, but I remember reading a book one time that talked a little bit about the taboos of anal sex. In the book, they recommended getting a mirror out and introducing yourself to your anus--

**CAROL:** Get to know it.

**HOST 1:** --and getting to know it, and looking at it, and even squeezing the muscles, and winking at yourself in the mirror.

**CAROL:** Doing a wink-wink.

**HOST 1:** But we do have so many mental blocks because anal play is considered so taboo in our culture. And I think for a lot of people, there is this sense of, oh, I'm going into forbidden zone here. And I think one thing I liked about this book was that it helped me feel like, oh, maybe I need to become familiar with my body more familiar, because this is something that's so foreign, out there, taboo, and wrong, supposedly.

And then I know Jay has a book about history, and this is really digressing, but it talks about the lies that our history teacher taught us in class. Well, when it comes to sex education, I think we get a lot of misinformation early on and a lot of lies about what's right, what's good, what feels incredible.

**CAROL:** And it's not considered appropriate in this culture to teach in sex education about pleasure. You figure out by the time you're in puberty that there must be something good about this sex stuff, because everybody keeps doing it. When your hormones are driving you in whatever direction they are, it really leads to your own sexual orientation and your developing desires.

But very, very, very few young people in this culture get a permission-giving, information-laden pleasure-oriented sex education. It is so rare. We mostly have to teach ourselves and each other, and too many of us have had bad experiences, partly having to do with just our and our partner's ignorance. Nothing bad meant, but bad experiences because people didn't know what to do and how to do it properly.

And it's funny. I don't get this comment on queer radio shows when I do interviews but mainly straight radio shows, so often, I get a call. It's almost always a lady, and she's always upset at me for talking about this stuff, because sex is supposed to be natural, and you're not supposed to have to talk about it, and you're not supposed to have to dress up, or talk funny, or doing it in the rear, or any of that stuff. It's supposed to be natural.

And I say to her, bless you if you were having sex like that, if you were having fabulous sex and it just came naturally to you. You are one in a million, and most people do not have that experience. And much fumbling and many rather unpleasant experiences go down in many people's sex lives before they start to feel like they've got it right.

**HOST 2:** I find it interesting that we're all taught that sex is all about--

**HOST 1:** We're taught that people have to have sex in order to have children and all of this, but we're not supposed to enjoy it. It's like, yeah, sure.

**HOST 2:** No, we are supposed to enjoy it.

**HOST 1:** Well, like I said earlier, if the goddess didn't mean us to enjoy sex, she wouldn't have given us genitals and other orifices.

**CAROL:** Yes, so all of that.

**HOST 1:** Well, we've got another guest that we're going to be calling to talk about Celebrate Bisexuality Day. But before we leave, I just wanted to see if you had any last words you wanted to share.

**CAROL:** Yeah, it strikes me that I should tell you all that, actually, August, which, of course, is just behind us now, with anal sex month--

**HOST 1:** Oh wow.

**CAROL:** --on Uni-Vibration's website, and so you can still get into the archive for August to read lots of things about anal play from all different orientation perspectives, some erotica, as well as some factual info, useful stuff. The website has a web magazine on it. It changes every month with great articles.

And remind people that if they want to know more, if they want to get *Bend Over Boyfriend 1* or *2*, any of the books that we mentioned or other great materials, [goodvibes.com](http://goodvibes.com) is a place where they can always tune in.

**JIMMY CARPER:** [www.goodvibes.com](http://www.goodvibes.com), OK.

**CAROL:** Yes, goodvibes with an s. And if you had any desire to do anal play and exploration, just get yourself a bottle of lube and start to explore how your body feels. The basis of erotic experience of every kind is what your body is feeling and how you are feeling mentally, emotionally, personally about it.

So just take it slow if you want to, but have some new experiences. And maybe you'll want to share it with partners, bring that into the realm of partner play. And maybe you just want to keep it solo. Because one of the things that *Bend Over Boyfriend* doesn't say but I think I should emphasize is you don't have to bend over for another person. You can have all the erotic pleasure that you cause for yourself, and that's a wonderful thing, as well.

**HOST 1:** Well, thanks for joining us.

**CAROL:** You're welcome.

**HOST 1:** It's been so wonderful to talk to you again. You're an inspiration.

**CAROL:** Thank you, guys, and have a great rest of your show.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Thank you very much, Carol.

**CAROL:** You bet, bye.

**HOST 1:** Bye.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh, she is a delight.

**HOST 1:** Oh, isn't she?

**JIMMY CARPER:** An absolute delight, yes. So we have another interview to go. So let's go to a piece of music, and then we'll be right back. Who are you--

**HOST 1:** Dana Shaw of Binet Canada.

**JIMMY CARPER:** OK, and here is another local performer, Miss Money. I see you look like you're ready to take your headphones off.

**HOST 2:** Oh yeah, yeah, it's almost time for my beauty sleep.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Tony, thank you for being here.

**TONY:** Thank you.

**JIMMY CARPER:** And good luck with the Gay Men's Chorus.

**TONY:** Thank you much. Be seeing you again, probably mid to late November.

**JIMMY CARPER:** You certainly will. OK, thank you. So we've got Miss Money. She's another local artist, a lesbian artist, and this is a two-CD EP that she has. This is the first song from. It's called, *I'm Tired*. And you're listening to it on *After Hours*, Queer Radio with Attitude on KPFT Houston and KEOS College Station.

Miss Money, I'm tired. Loco, loco woman. Isn't that powerful? Yeah, she's got a great voice, good pipes. For a while, she was doing Sundays at JRs. And so wherever she's going, whatever she's doing, we want to follow her career and promote her as much as we can, because that's good music. I like that.

Our next guest we're going to have is from Canada. And we're going to be talking about Celebrate Bisexuality Day. Every year, it's celebrated on September 23rd in the week around it and sometimes a month around it all over the world.

And we've got Dana Shaw, who's joining us tonight. Hello, Dana.

**DANA SHAW:** Hello there.

**HOST 1:** How are you doing?

**DANA SHAW:** I'm doing all right. How you doing?

**HOST 1:** Oh good, fabulous after that wonderful conference up in Vancouver.

**DANA SHAW:** Yeah, it was a lot of fun.

**HOST 1:** Uh-huh, well, we've been talking a little bit about anal sex earlier in the show, and now we're shifting into Celebrate Bisexuality Day.

**DANA SHAW:** Sounds like quite the shift there.

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

**HOST 1:** Well, you know miss Gigi.

**HOST 2:** Cover a broad range of topics.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Yes.

**HOST 1:** And can jump into anything.

**DANA SHAW:** Well, I guess the first thing I should probably say is who I am and why you're talking to me. Well, my name, as you said, is Dana Shaw, and I'm in Toronto in Canada. And I am part of the Toronto Bisexual Network. And the Toronto Bisexual Network has existed for 11 years now. And I'm also part of Bisexual Women of Toronto, which has existed since 1994, so I guess that's seven years.

And in the last couple of years, Binet Canada has been a website and email list. And as you mentioned earlier in the program, we had our inaugural real in-person face-to-face meeting with people as well as with people on the internet in the North American Conference just about three weeks ago.

**HOST 1:** Yeah, up in Vancouver.

**DANA SHAW:** Yeah, that was really cool to get people together and start talking about where we're going from here to really build an organization.

**HOST 1:** And I was really amazed. I talked a little bit earlier how, ages ago, when I first started Binet Houston, there weren't a lot of bi organizations around.

**DANA SHAW:** I'm sure.

**HOST 1:** And I came across Binet Austin in Batten the Bay Area, bisexual network around San Francisco. And it was like, there's just a few groups around the country. And now we're talking about national bi organizations, and it just blows my mind. It's just so incredible.

**DANA SHAW:** I think it's a testament to the work that people have been doing to create visibility in the bisexual communities around North America and elsewhere.

**HOST 1:** Yeah, are you planning anything for Celebrate Bisexuality Day and do you know of other events going on in Canada?

**DANA SHAW:** I don't know what the other events are going across Canada. I haven't really seen anything going on. But I do know that in Toronto here, we're having a number of events going from Thursday the 20th until Sunday the 23rd, which is the official day. On Thursday the 20th, we're having our monthly Toronto Bisexual Network meeting, and we're going to follow that with a social time in a restaurant nearby. We haven't yet determined which one it is.

And then the following night, we're going to have a social night again in a bar with some pool tables, just relaxing, really informal. But on Saturday night, we're going to go to a local everything goes bar called Buddies and Bad Times at the dance place called Tallulah's Cabaret.

**HOST 1:** Oh wow.

**DANA SHAW:** And we're going to bring along with us a recording of the takeoff on Queen's Bicycle, which is bisexual, and asked them to play it at midnight.

**HOST 1:** Oh wow.

**DANA SHAW:** Yeah, it's going to be pretty cool. We're also going to ask them if they'd be willing to let us put up the TBN banner for bisexual network just to have something. Yeah, it would be really cool.

**HOST 2:** I would love to know the changed words to that song.

**DANA SHAW:** You can get it off the internet, on MP3, and maybe I can send you a copy, if you like.

**HOST 1:** Oh, that'd be great.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Would love a copy.

**DANA SHAW:** Basically, it's, I want to date a bisexual. I want to date a dyke. I want to date a bisexual. I can't decide which sex I like.

**HOST 1:** Cool, well, if you send a copy to me, I'll give it to Jimmy, and he'll play it on air.

**JIMMY CARPER:** We'll play it on the air.

**DANA SHAW:** I can send it to you in an MP3.

**JIMMY CARPER:** Oh good, thank you.

**DANA SHAW:** Now, on Sunday what we're going to do is we're going to do one of two possible things that have yet to be decided, and it depends on the resources that are available on the Sunday.

Because on Sunday, it's also our annual AIDS Walk for Toronto. So we do every year in Toronto a fundraising walk for AIDS research and other AIDS organizations for the AIDS committee of Toronto. And we're going to be marching in that, but we're also going to have a community table. What we're hoping to do, as well, is have what we did about in May, which was an event called Safer by Choice, which was all about safer sex--

**HOST 1:** Oh wow.

**DANA SHAW:** --for bisexuals. So it wasn't just about same sex, and it wasn't just about opposite sex. And it wasn't just about men, and it wasn't just about women. It was about every possible combination that was possible.

**HOST 1:** Cool.

**DANA SHAW:** Yeah, and we've also gotten a copy of some of the documentation that came out of the Fenway Health Organization. They've just recently put together a pamphlet for safer sex amongst bisexuals and their partners

**HOST 1:** Oh cool.

**DANA SHAW:** And we're getting copies of that to include at our table, as well.

**HOST 1:** Well, I also wanted to check with you on a more personal level.

**DANA SHAW:** Sure.

**HOST 1:** What does Celebrate Bisexual Day mean for you? Does it have special meaning?

**DANA SHAW:** Well, it does have some special meaning for me because we've had Gay Pride for goodness knows how long now. And that's not to say that it's been around since the beginning of time, but certainly, it's a well-established celebration of gay and lesbian culture.

And heterosexuality, well, the whole world is pretty much straight unless you find us in little pockets where we're hiding. But for bisexuality, it's something where it really is underground, and there really is a lot less visibility for those of us who identify as bisexual, or who know bisexuals, or even people who are partnered or friends with or family to bisexuals, there really isn't any place to identify with that.

And Celebrate Bisexuality Day, while it's in its infancy and hasn't had a lot of press yet, it's certainly something that I hope will carry with it real celebration amongst bisexual organizations worldwide.

**HOST 1:** Yeah, and I know that celebrations are planned all over the world, everywhere from Japan, to Africa, to England, to the UK, to Australia.

**DANA SHAW:** Right.

**HOST 1:** Things are happening, and it is growing. I remember the first Celebrate Bi Day. It took off with a tremendous impact.

**DANA SHAW:** Yeah, and that was only two years ago.

**HOST 1:** Yeah.

**DANA SHAW:** But the first Celebrate Bisexuality Day in Toronto, the community here just had a dinner. They just went to dinner, and then some people took an ad hoc group and went dancing. And that dinner was maybe, oh, I'd guess about 10, maybe 15 people. Last year we had a dinner and dancing set up, and the dinner alone had 35 people.

**HOST 1:** Wow.

**DANA SHAW:** Yeah, it's quite a big difference. And this year, we have four days of events planned.

**HOST 1:** That's incredible.

**DANA SHAW:** And so it is growing. And it's just a matter of, what we want to try and do is increase visibility, because it's the visibility that's really going to put the B in the GLBT, because a lot of organizations in the GLBT world put the B in because they figured that they should. But then when they're asked to do something that recognizes the B in the GLBT, they turn a blind eye.

**HOST 1:** Yeah, well, I think you hit on some things, but I do want to touch one other thing about Celebrate Bi Day.

**DANA SHAW:** Sure.

**HOST 1:** And this is something that's always impacted me, is that I think first and foremost, I know that when I first came to terms with being bisexual, I was in isolation. I was alone. And I see Celebrate Bi Day as a way to come to--