

RADIO HOST 1: An amazing job on it and the planning that went into it and the-- just everything that's provided for in the architecture and all the different spaces, I'm very impressed with. But it's also been a very difficult management job. And it's tough to have everything happen together at the same time.

RADIO HOST 2: That sounds like quite a statement of pride and kind of a GLBT pride--

RADIO HOST 3: Well--

RADIO HOST 2: --versus just one segment of the community having pride.

RADIO HOST 3: I think that's true. And a couple of things to touch upon about the building. The building includes-- I believe it's an 1878 Victorian building on one side and then this new, from the ground build up, a new structure of more modern design. And those elements melded together.

I'll just say one thing, because Barry and I were at the opening gala the week before, and it was very exciting. And many, many people spoke.

And one thing I have to say, though, that the mayor of San Francisco, Willie Brown, noted, and it was just-- it really rang true that he said, people from all over the world will come to this building. And this will be one of the most photographed buildings in the city because, as people know, San Francisco is one of the centers for queer people.

People will come and they will identify what that building is, as a key part of their lives. And they want to capture that on film. And I thought that was a very, very wise to say.

RADIO HOST 1: Yeah, and I think that Willie Brown was speaking also about the architecture and saying, people will come to see this because there's nothing else like it.

RADIO HOST 2: Yeah.

RADIO HOST 1: There's no building on the planet that looks like it. It is a unique architectural achievement.

RADIO HOST 2: Wow. Sounds like a lot of diversity for a diverse group.

RADIO HOST 1: And I was very impressed by the opening ceremonies there. And the building cost \$15 million. Now a lot of why it cost so much was that they restored that 1878 building. That's a part of it. And restoring something is a lot more expensive than building something from the ground up.

But, of that money, \$6 million was put in by the city of San Francisco. And I believe about \$1,000,000 was put in by the state of California and about half a million by the US government.

RADIO HOST 2: Oh, wow.

RADIO HOST 1: And the rest was raised from individuals, corporations, and foundations.

RADIO HOST 2: That's quite an achievement.

RADIO HOST 3: --and the community.

RADIO HOST 1: Yeah

RADIO HOST 2: Yeah.

RADIO HOST 1: And one of the things they did in raising that money is they decided that they want to have a really broad base of funders. And they started this campaign to have 1,000 people give \$1 a day for three years, which is \$1,000. And they actually have 1600 founders who've donated \$1,000 or more.

RADIO HOST 2: Yeah. And while we're on the subject of fundraising, I understand that Bi-Net USA has a lot of initiatives going on. Can you tell us a little bit about what's happening with Bi-Net USA on fundraising?

RADIO HOST 1: Sure, we've-- one of our initiatives is the fundraising house parties for Bi-Net USA, which we've been very successful with in the past, in the last year and a half. And we've got a whole slew of them starting again, now.

On April 20, in San Francisco, we're having a house-- fundraising house party for Bi-Net USA. On May 11, Saturday night, we're having a Bi-Net USA house party at the New York Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Community Center. And I will be there in New York City for that meeting.

And the New York center just, about six months ago, added bisexual and transgender to the name of the center. And that's something that Bi-Net USA volunteers and others worked for a long time to make happen.

Now the same night that we have that party in New York City, we're also expecting to have a party in Los Angeles, although I'm not sure it's going to be May 11 or May 18. And Vinita will be at that party in Los Angeles.

So that's one of the things we're doing is that that's been very effective for us is the house parties.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

RADIO HOST 1: And people gather, we tell them about Bi-Net USA and they give whatever they feel they can.

RADIO HOST 2: If people are interested in attending one of these parties, who should they contact?

RADIO HOST 1: They can contact Bi-Net USA.

RADIO HOST 3: Yeah.

RADIO HOST 1: Yeah, actually if you just write to Bi-NetUSA@aol.com.

RADIO HOST 3: Yeah.

RADIO HOST 1: Yeah. And we'll make sure we hook you up with the right host for what area of the country you're in. And if you'd like to host a house party, we have a whole program that will train you and support you in doing that. And it's really a fairly simple thing to do.

RADIO HOST 3: I've done it my-- I did it myself, here. I guess it's been a year and a half ago. And it was quite successful and people really, really appreciate the opportunity to come out and support the community and have a nice evening. Chris Berry catered that evening and was, of course, very delicious food.

RADIO HOST 2: And if people want to find that email address and don't remember it right off hand--

RADIO HOST 1: They can go to our website, which is Bi-NetUSA.org. You also can make a contribution on our website using your MasterCard or Visa. You can also get an address at the website where you can mail a donation. The website, again, is triple w, Bi-NetUSA.org.

RADIO HOST 2: Yes, and I do want to mention one thing on credit card donations.

RADIO HOST 3: Yes.

RADIO HOST 2: You can do it anonymously.

RADIO HOST 1: Yes, you can. You can actually donate on our website anonymously, if that's your preference.

RADIO HOST 2: Yes.

RADIO HOST 1: And that's fine to do.

RADIO HOST 2: Well, what are some of the other initiatives happening?

RADIO HOST 1: Well, we have-- you know, a year ago we started our first major donor campaign in which we invited people to give between \$500 and \$10,000 to fund the future of Bi-Net USA. And that was very successful. And in the next few weeks we're going to start that again.

Also, we've been working on getting grants. And we did receive our first foundation grant from the Gill Foundation. And that is actually a matching grant. So when you give to Bi-Net USA right now, that will be matched one for one by the Gill Foundation.

We're also working on some events that will be happening in San Francisco. And, in particular, we're starting the planning for Celebrate Bisexuality day, which, of course, is September 23rd every year, as one of the founders, GiGi, can tell you.

RADIO HOST 2: Oh, yes.

RADIO HOST 1: And I'm hoping that we can have a big gala in San Francisco that weekend, which will be a fundraiser for Bi-Net USA.

RADIO HOST 2: Oh, that'd be super.

Well, Matt, you know I'm still fascinated because you've been around for such a long time and have seen so many changes in the Bi movement.

RADIO HOST 3: Sure.

RADIO HOST 2: What do you feel is kind of in the future for the bisexual movement?

RADIO HOST 3: Well, you know, it's interesting, because you can kind of look back to the past and see how far we've come. And one of the things, of course, I always think about is how in the *International Directory of Bisexual Organizations*, which Robin Ochs puts together out of Boston, of course. I think I've got every copy back from the photocopied version of the late '80s.

And I think the first listing of groups had, like, probably a dozen groups in a half a dozen cities. And now I don't-- I can try and think of the numbers. It's probably 1200 groups in 50 countries across the world of organized bisexual people in groups and organizations throughout the world.

And so the movement has been growing just exponentially. And I think we're in a position now where, with Bi-Net USA, becoming a-- having a permanence in having this paid staff, and its office, and so forth, it's a place where, whereas before we had to fight a lot for visibility of, like, hey we exist.

And for many years it was, even from some of the gay and lesbian community, it was was hard to to-- you know, we had to kind of prove ourselves that we in fact are a valid sexual orientation, that we exist and we're here. I like one of the chants from the-- I think it was about the early '90s, is hey, we're here. We're queer. Get used to it.

So the bis are here. We're here to stay. And we're now to a position where people, I think, can access through so many resources that weren't around, the web, of course, many, many, many publications, many different newsletters and ways that people can connect and find people such as themselves.

RADIO HOST 2: Yeah, and I know that you touched on one thing that's really-- I've seen a tremendous growth in and that's the internet.

RADIO HOST 1: Yeah.

RADIO HOST 2: And the bi presence on the internet, especially the heterosexually-identified bisexual.

RADIO HOST 1: Uh-huh.

RADIO HOST 2: I know there's a men's bi group that's just humongous now.

RADIO HOST 1: Yeah, the Men's Awareness Network, and they're having a conference in October in San Diego which one of our board members is helping to produce.

RADIO HOST 2: Yeah, and with this growth, I know Bi-Net USA in the past has mostly brought in-- most of the people that have come in to Bi-Net USA in the past have been from the gay-identified bi's that have come in from the gay community and who were used to being out. And I know it's a whole different kind of perspective when you're heterosexually identified.

RADIO HOST 1: Yeah, and actually I'd like to speak on that a little bit, GiGi. You know, when I first got involved in Bi-Net USA about nine or 10 years ago, I was much more heterosexually identified.

RADIO HOST 2: Oh, wow.

RADIO HOST 1: And I remember, because I was the co-producer of the conference in 1993, which was a very large conference with over 600 people.

And I remember people were talking at that time about-- after the conference we should have a, they called it a control queen's party. And I didn't understand what they were talking about. I'd never heard the word queen used in that kind of way because I just wasn't familiar with the gay community, which, over time, I became.

But I think it is kind of natural that Bi-Net USA so far has really focused on the more gay-identified bisexuals because our work is activist work. And it's tough for people who are not out to really participate fully in that. And I think it's very important for us now to reach out to all different sectors and begin to bring in, in whatever way they can be involved, the straight identified bi's.

RADIO HOST 2: I know Bi-Net's gone through quite a transition this past year and a half, two years.

RADIO HOST 1: Yes. Yeah, we're still in transition.

RADIO HOST 2: Yeah.

RADIO HOST 1: The transition from an all-volunteer organization that is run out of volunteers' homes across the country to a staffed organization with a national office is, it's an amazing transition. There's just a lot involved. And you don't know what's involved until you get into it.

RADIO HOST 2: And here I have to kind of quote Lani Ka'ahumanu because-- or loosely quote her. But I think she kind of touched on something that's really important. And that is that Bi-Net USA became too successful to stay an all volunteer organization.

RADIO HOST 1: Absolutely. That's absolutely true. And that's one of the reasons we decided that we had to become staffed. And the miracle of it is that for the last 10 or 12 years, Bi-Net USA existed on about \$10,000 a year. That's how much we raised and spent. And, then, in the last year--

RADIO HOST 2: And for--

RADIO HOST 1: And a half, we quadrupled that.

RADIO HOST 2: And for a national organization, that's a pittance.

RADIO HOST 1: Right. And you can't have a staff on \$10,000 a year. You can have conference calls and do some mailings and that's about it.

RADIO HOST 2: Yeah.

RADIO HOST 1: But we're now operating on a \$50,000 to \$60,000 a year budget which just barely enables us to have a staff in an office.

RADIO HOST 2: Yeah.

RADIO HOST 1: But the fact that we went from a \$10,000 a year budget to a \$60,000 a year budget in the space of about a year and a half is pretty amazing.

RADIO HOST 2: Well, Barry, I know where we are right now. But where do you see us going in the next year?

RADIO HOST 1: In the next year, I know some people will be disappointed by this. But what I really see is that for most of the next year, we're going to continue to have to focus on infrastructure and fundraising.

And that by a year from now we will have a much more solid foundation. And we'll be actively engaged in working with the media and building our network-- our media response network around the country.

RADIO HOST 2: Mm-hmm. But I think that-- you mentioned earlier that we did the CNN piece.

RADIO HOST 1: Yes.

RADIO HOST 2: And I think when things come up, we will be there.

RADIO HOST 1: Yes, we will be there. And there will be other things like that will happen that we'll be able to take advantage of. And, also, we have a very good working relationship with GLAAD. And, I think, over the next year we're going to be able to work with them, with GLAAD, in particular, on building the groundwork for a lot of the media work that will follow.

For instance, we're going to build our media database. We're going to build our media kit that we can send out as a resource kit for media professionals. All of that ground laying is going to take place over the next year. And the results of that in the following year will start to really be seen a lot more.

RADIO HOST 2: And what do you see happening then?

RADIO HOST 3: Well, I agree with Barry. I think part of what's interesting and exciting about this time is that with the base foundation, this will allow Bonita and the growing organization to have just greater capacity to then reach out to people to do education.

As you know, there's just such a dearth of information out there about bisexuality. And they'll be the place-- this will be a place to go to where people can have access. And, most importantly, when they seek information, we'll have the basis and the capacity to get back to them and provide them with some resources that are going to be, I think, very, very helpful.

RADIO HOST 2: Yeah.

RADIO HOST 1: One of the things I hope to see maybe in a year and a half, two years is that we have a media response and network around the country that can really move the media so that, maybe, sometime next two years, there'll be a bisexual character on television, who'll be a regular character on some TV show.

RADIO HOST 2: Wow.

RADIO HOST 1: Right now, I don't know if many of your listeners may watch the show *Queer as Folk* on Showtime. A lot of people don't get cable but it's a fantastic show about the lives of queer people. And it really hasn't touched on bisexuality at all.

RADIO HOST 2: Yeah.

RADIO HOST 1: And it's in its second season, now. And it's a wonderful show. But I'd love to see them have a bisexual character.

RADIO HOST 3: Sure.

RADIO HOST 2: And I think, once again, it kind of it gets back to that invisibility equation.

RADIO HOST 1: Mm-hmm.

RADIO HOST 2: I think this is an excellent step to help bring the bisexual community out and visible.

RADIO HOST 1: Right. And I think what is starting to happen is that, for a long time there's been a small group of bisexuals who are willing to be out. And what's starting to happen is that group of bisexuals is realizing that if we want more visibility and we want more bisexuals to come out, we've got to fund that effort.

RADIO HOST 2: Mm-hmm.

RADIO HOST 1: Because without us putting our money into it, it's going to take a very long time.

RADIO HOST 2: Yeah well, we're-- boy, the time's flying by. I want to give each of you a few minutes to kind of do a little recap of what you think about Bi-Net USA and your work. I know we've all worked hard on it. And kind of give some ideas of how people-- what it's like to be part of a bisexual organization.

RADIO HOST 3: Well, the way I'll start is that it's the great thing, of course, of getting to the place of being comfortable with your sexual orientation, regardless of what it is. It's having that level of confidence and peace with yourself.

And for bisexual people, I think that's a challenge. It's not something that you're going to find ready made out in the culture that supports you. You're not going to, even in most major metropolitan cities in the country that have a gay and lesbian community, is that bisexuals, I think you've got to work a little harder to find that space.

But once you do, and find people that you can connect with, then it is just-- it's very empowering. And I think when you get to that point, then you can-- you can turn some of your energies to helping other people.

And I know that in my work as a bisexual activist, it's been most gratifying having people come up to me after a book reading or event and just being so thankful to have a space that can be really just comfortable in being themselves and not have to worry about what people are thinking about. Hey, what is this? Where's this person coming from? Well, I was a bisexual person. We're like just about anybody else. But we want to have a space that we have a comfort level in.

RADIO HOST 2: I think that's one of the things that I felt for many years early on in my life, was isolation. And I remember the magic of my first bi conference. I walked in the door and there's 300 bisexuals. And I was like, wow.

RADIO HOST 3: This is in San Diego, right?

RADIO HOST 2: Yeah.

RADIO HOST 3: That's where I remember I met you first. It was--

RADIO HOST 2: Yeah.

RADIO HOST 3: It was a lot of fun. It was, I think, '93.

RADIO HOST 2: Yeah, and it was like this, it felt like I'd gone to Oz or something, you know.

RADIO HOST 1: That's something for me that's been very rewarding is to have a community where I can really be fully myself--

RADIO HOST 3: Yes.

RADIO HOST 1: --and be accepted fully as myself. But the other thing that for me has been so rewarding is that this is a place from which you can change the world. I mean, how many movements can you participate in and then very quickly take a major national leadership role?

RADIO HOST 2: Yeah.

RADIO HOST 1: And that's one of the great things about the bisexual movement, is that, in some ways, it's still in its infancy. And it's all available. I mean, whatever you want to do, you can do it.

RADIO HOST 2: Yeah. And, definitely, Bi-Net USA will use volunteers.

RADIO HOST 1: Absolutely.

RADIO HOST 2: We haven't changed to all staff only.

RADIO HOST 1: Oh, no. We just have one staff. We still have many volunteers. And we need many more. And everyone is welcome.

RADIO HOST 2: Mm-hmm. Any other comments that you'd like to throw in about either the gala or about Bi-Net USA?

RADIO HOST 3: Boy, well, I just want to say that this is a great opportunity. And thank you for the opportunity to speak with you this evening. And--

RADIO HOST 2: Oh, you bet.

RADIO HOST 3: --it's been a lot of fun. I think that people, again, that are out there listening is, Bi-Net USA does have a lot to offer. And it can give people resources and direct them to a lot of different ways to connect with other people. And it's-- for that reason alone, it's a great opportunity.

RADIO HOST 2: Mm-hmm.

RADIO HOST 1: Yeah, I just want to also say I really appreciate the radio program that you're doing. And I know that you've got listeners all over the world--

RADIO HOST 2: Yeah.

RADIO HOST 1: --that appreciate this through the internet. And I know there are bisexuals all over the world.

RADIO HOST 3: Absolutely.

RADIO HOST 1: There are people listening to this program who maybe don't have the ability to tell others that they're bisexual. And we're having, actually, the Seventh International Bisexual Conference this October in Sydney, Australia.

RADIO HOST 3: That's right.

RADIO HOST 2: Yeah, I think we should mention Fritz Glenn's page because he's got lots of information about conferences happening all over the world.

RADIO HOST 1: That's right. Yes, do you know the URL for that, GiGi?

RADIO HOST 2: I think it's bisexual.org.

RADIO HOST 3: I think that's right.

RADIO HOST 1: Yeah, bisexual.org. And I think for the international conference, it's bi.org.au.

RADIO HOST 2: Mm-hmm.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

RADIO HOST 2: I know that we have a link to it from the Bi-Net USA web page.

RADIO HOST 1: That's right. You go to Bi-Net USA--

RADIO HOST 2: Under the links.

RADIO HOST 1: Yeah. And then another great page with lots of bi links is Biresource.org.

RADIO HOST 3: Yes.

RADIO HOST 2: Yes.

RADIO HOST 1: Yeah.

RADIO HOST 2: Well, I want to thank both of y'all for being part of the show tonight.

RADIO HOST 1: Thank you.

RADIO HOST 2: It's been fabulous. And it's just so wonderful, all the things happening in San Francisco and with Bi-Net USA taking off. Oh, it gives me goosebumps. So we are here and queer and ready to go.

RADIO HOST 1: Yeah.

RADIO HOST 2: Thanks again.

RADIO HOST 1: Thanks a lot.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

RADIO HOST 2: Goodnight.

CHRIS I have to turn on my mic now, I guess.

HARRISON:

RADIO HOST 2: Yes.

CHRIS Very good interview. A lot of information y'all were passing out there and--

HARRISON:

RADIO HOST 2: Oh, this--

CHRIS --I don't think we even started talking about naughty, tingly parts. It's unusual for you.

HARRISON:

RADIO HOST 2: It's unusual for me but--

CHRIS Which is fortunate because I forgot to do the disclaimer at the beginning of the show.

HARRISON:

RADIO HOST 2: I do want to put in a quick word. We mentioned Fritz Klein and he will be on our next edition of *The Bisexual Show* on *After Hours*.

RADIO HOST 1: OK.

RADIO HOST 2: So that will be next month.

RADIO HOST 1: The beginning of May? I don't know the-- don't know what the date is on that.

RADIO HOST 2: May, I think, six.

RADIO HOST 1: Six? That late?

RADIO HOST 2: But, anyway, we will be getting into the naughty bits on that show, a little bit.

RADIO HOST 1: Well, Jimmy will be back then so--

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

RADIO HOST 1: Jimmy will be back So he'll remember to play the card. I didn't realize it's two different cards here.

CHRIS For those of you who are listening in and going, what in the world we are doing, this is *After Hours*, queer radio
HARRISON: with attitude, on KPFT Houston and KEOS College Station.

I'm Chris Harrison, sitting in for Jimmy Carper, who is out in San Diego. When he was running out the door he said something about naval maneuvers, seamen, and torpedoes in the hatch. So I'm not sure what he was up to.

RADIO HOST 2: Oh, I think I've got a good idea. We know, Jim.

CHRIS Do you want to give some plugs or information about Bi-Net Houston?
HARRISON:

RADIO HOST 2: Yes. Bi-Net Houston is now having their weekly meetings on Thursday nights instead of Wednesday nights, same time, 7:30 till 9:00. And it's meeting at the Hobbit Cafe, which is on Richmond in between Kirby and Shepard.

CHRIS I hope so. I've seen the notices. I just haven't caught on exactly where it's at.
HARRISON:

RADIO HOST 2: Yes. And it's-- it's got the-- the address in the phone book is Portsmouth. And I forget the numbers. But the sign is actually on Richmond. And the entrance is from Richmond.

CHRIS Sure.
HARRISON:

RADIO HOST 2: And if you want to call the Bi-Net Houston phone line, it's, let me see if I can get this, 713-467-4380. Got it.

CHRIS And you still have your website?
HARRISON:

RADIO HOST 2: Yes, we've got the website. And that one's a little more difficult. It's www.flash.net/~bihouse.

CHRIS I forgot you have-- I forgot yours was flash net there. And there's the fun parts with the long internet providers
HARRISON: like that.

RADIO HOST 2: Yeah, yeah, yeah. But if you go to the Bi-Net USA web page we do have a link to the Bi-Net Houston, so you don't have to remember all that.

CHRIS That's Bi-NetUSA.org?

HARRISON:

RADIO HOST 2: Yeah.

CHRIS Hey, I was listening. Caught you on that one.

HARRISON:

RADIO HOST 2: So--

CHRIS All right. Well, thank you, GiGi. And we look forward to-- well, I guess we should talk about male members since

HARRISON: this is a membership station.

RADIO HOST 2: Yeah. Well, it's-- the next show is going to be the male member and how to get it off in all different kinds of ways. And--

CHRIS This is followed by Roy.

HARRISON:

RADIO HOST 2: --it's going to be hot.

CHRIS All right. We're going to take a little music break here. First of all, I need to tell you, because I didn't tell you at

HARRISON: the beginning here. We started the show off with True Soul, a Houston artist, and the song was called *Head Games*. And we're going to take a little music break. And we're going to come back with--

RADIO HOST 2: And don't forget, call, station call.

CHRIS Oh, yeah. Well, I did it at the beginning. I'll have to give another one here. I remember that Jimmy's the one who

HARRISON: forgets. But-- train of thought there. We'll be back with the *After Hours* News and Views magazine. After this, you're listening to KPFT Houston, KEOS College Station.