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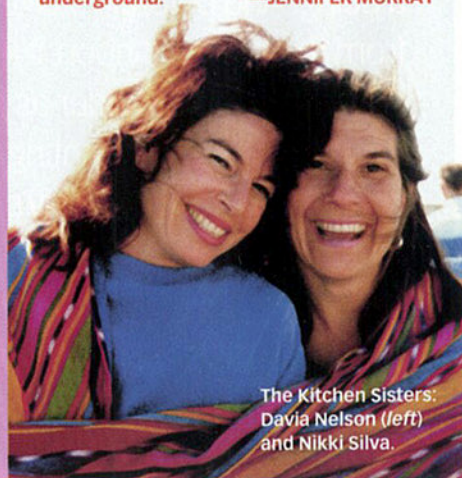
People Eat the Darndest Things

...and you can hear them munching on an offbeat new radio series.

Late one night about a year ago, near a yellow-cab lot outside San Francisco, radio producer Davia Nelson found a tent, a makeshift kitchen, heaps of Brazilian food, and a band of taxi drivers and club kids from every hemisphere. Dubbed Jeanette's Blue Tent, this secret dining scene spawned *Hidden Kitchens*, a 13-part NPR series that searches the country for food subcultures. "Food provides an opening to connect with people," Nelson says. "It's foreign policy with a cherry on top." With her partner, Nikki Silva—they call themselves the Kitchen Sisters—Nelson tracked down

RADIO

the so-called Betty Crocker of County Jail Eight, an inmate who whipped up meals from the contents of vending machines, spicing ramen with sliced Slim Jims and crumbled Cheetos. In Northern California, the Sisters met 76-year-old Lou "the Glue" Marcelli, commodore of the Dolphin Swimming and Boating Club, and his mostly Italian buddies, who have eaten Lou's pasta with calamari and tomato sauce together for more than four decades. And in Maryland, they unearthed a technique for making flannel-shirt-wrapped ham. Listen to NPR's *Morning Edition* on Fridays beginning October 1 for these and other food notes from the underground. —JENNIFER MURRAY



The Kitchen Sisters:
Davia Nelson (left)
and Nikki Silva.