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transgender, phyllis, pflag, aggie, transgendered, people, good, campus, women, gay, included, transgendered person, protest, lesbian community, transsexual, aggies, conference, point, male, rickie lee jones

SPEAKERS

Jimmy Carper, Sarah Dipalma

Jimmy Carper 00:08

The following program contains language or images of a frank or sensitive nature which may be considered objectionable by some listener discretion is advised. Oh yes, you've tuned into after hours a continuing tradition on KPFT Houston 90.1 FM. The crew of after hours is ready to bring you news, interviews and music geared for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people. Hear it after hours, we may be diverse, but we have one thing in common. We are all out of the closet and urge everyone to come out of their closets. That means standing up for yourself, taking responsibility for your own life and being proud of who you are. Realistically, we know not everyone can do that because of a job or frame of mind. That's okay. We're here for you too. So sit back, relax, and enjoy this week's edition of after our. And welcome to after hours. Continuing tradition heard right here on KPFT Houston and KEOS College Station Bryan gig em aggies gig em and College Station Bryan Do I have a surprise for you,

Sarah Dipalma 02:27

honey?

Jimmy Carper 02:30

I'm Jimmy Carper. And with me is

Sarah Dipalma 02:32

in other Aggie Sarah dipalma a transgendered person and how to yell. Ah,

Jimmy Carper 02:38

and you are an Aggie. That's right. I

S

Sarah Dipalma 02:40

graduated from a&m in 1985 as a male after I managed to take Texas a&m to the US Supreme Court. Yes, I for those of you who are college station if you happen to be a member of gay student services, I'm one of the people that got you on campus, went to court and debated Paul Cameron. Of all people, all people. Meet Paul Cameron. So if you're a gay student services, I'm one of those people. If you are a female on campus, and you are able to participate in the band, I'm one of the people that got the got women in the band by taking Texas a&m to court was the head of the American Civil Liberties Union up there on campus. If if you are in the Corps of Cadets, and you now have the privilege of senior the same privileges that male seniors have, I got it done for you. i When I graduated, they actually booed me and it was one of the proudest moments of my life. So Gigamon I'm glad you're here with us.

J

Jimmy Carper 03:42

I see you destroyed years years of tradition tradition

S

Sarah Dipalma 03:48

went down the toilet the whole comment was I'll tell you a funny story about Phyllis Frey. We were the the American Civil Liberties Union was holding a free speech day on campus on the on the campus. And we couldn't get gay Student Services approved there because they were not still they were not a campus organization yet. So we invited some outside Yes. And we got Ray Hill and Phyllis Frey Whoa, now if you're gonna get outside, get those people to get those are the ones to get Now folks, if you're from a&m, you might as well know right now that Phyllis Frey is a transgendered attorney, also an Aggie and real proud of Oh, yes. Now one of the Aggie traditions is that the student that the student union there is considered a memorial to the war dead. Okay, well, that's all well and good. But we invited Phyllis Frey and Phyllis, in her usual subtle way, brought these lavender pamphlets. In on one side of the pamphlet it said hello. My name used to be Philip and I was in the Corps of Cadets. And you see, you see Phillip and his little Aggie boots and he's just looking real good there and you turn it over says now My name is Phyllis Brian. I'm a transgendered attorney. We literally had to get a police escort to get her off the campus. No, I swear a true story. The the, the people in the Corps of Cadets were so angry. They held a rally at Kyle Field, which is their football stadium. The school sanctioned a beat the hell out of the faggot rally. Oh brother, and we were smart enough to go out and videotape it and use it in evidence when we went to court. It is proof that discrimination to Texas a&m existed. But that was how I met Phyllis Frye. Little did we know how much trouble we would get in together and over the years. But that was my first introduction to Phyllis and to Ray Hill. Interesting way to meet folks.

J

Jimmy Carper 05:42

Yeah, sure is sure is, and now all those folks are listening to us every Saturday night at midnight at ke o s College Station, Bryan.

S

Sarah Dipalma 05:53

Truth is I'm actually proud to be an Aggie as most people are.

J

Jimmy Carper 05:57

I've you know, Molly, who who works here. I don't know if you've met her. Yeah, she met her. Yeah, she's an Aggie. And when I told her about the after hours going on over the year, and you know, when going to college station, she said, Now, are you be gentle with those folks? I said, Well, just wait till Sarah dipalma comes on?

S

Sarah Dipalma 06:16

Well, the truth is no, I'm really very proud of being an Aggie, and it's a funny thing. Some of the traditions on campus are terrific. You're gonna go to the campus, it's the cleanest campus you'll ever walk on. Because the Aggies have a tradition. And that is that that is really their campus, they really mean it. And they really believe it. And that's the way it should be. If you if somebody throws a piece of paper on the ground, somebody will stop them say, pick it up. This is our campus. You don't do that to our camp, good

J

Jimmy Carper 06:43

for them. And I did this. I wish people would do that with their own neighborhoods. Yeah, really.

S

Sarah Dipalma 06:49

And it's a funny thing. To be an Aggie, no matter where you are people find out you're from a&m. It's like you're a member of the family. I've had people say, you know, I've been stopped in the airports when I was wearing my Aggie Ring. And people would say, Oh, you're an Aggie, where'd you graduate? Well, I graduated 85 Class of 53. How the hell are you? You know? And they're really no kidding. They really are. They there's a when I was on campus there. There was a story in the newspaper about up there about two Aggies who man ran into each other on the Great Wall of China know and recognize each other by the rings. Yeah, Aggies. Where

J

Jimmy Carper 07:25

are those rings? Yeah, well, I

S

Sarah Dipalma 07:27

set mine back in protest. Oh, but I have recently reapplied to get it back. And because for years or 10 years, it's time to make peace. Good for you. Yeah. So how did college station Glad you're

here? Oh,

J Jimmy Carper 07:39

yeah, we really are. We really are. Welcome to ke OS.

S Sarah Dipalma 07:43

And we've got a real interesting show tonight. What

J Jimmy Carper 07:45

do we have? Well,

S Sarah Dipalma 07:46

we first of all, we have two taped interviews. One is with Martine Rothblatt. And she is the gender of a book called the apartheid of sex. Now we've quoted from this book before, but yes, we have she she's a very interesting person. I'm not sure I agree with everything she says. But she's very thought provoking. And everything you thought You thought you you knew about gender. She's in long lines of Kate Bornstein. She'll show up pretty good. Okay. Our second interview is with Gordon McKenzie. And I'll tell the story about Gordon McKenzie later, but for Dean has written a book called transgender nation. And it is because of this book that I had decided not to have surgery. Wow. So this is a very important book to me personally, and we'll talk about that. And also, we had a very, very busy weekend. Last weekend, in March, we were at the national convention for the Parents and Friends of Lesbians and gays. We'll talk about that. We were at the Texas lesbian conference. Okay. And as you know, my organization led a protest, it's time to time Texas, let it protest in Austin, and I'd like to take some time and talk about that. And what we learned, okay, both good and bad. But I think I think it might be instructive for folks out there. And while I'm thinking about it, I want to say hello to a person in Australia. Oh, yes, that's right, Australia, Australia. Her name is Jane Langley. And she and I have been corresponding on the internet. They know the email. Yes, well, you're actually planning corresponding protests, one in Australia and one in Texas. And it's it's amazing what a small world this is. She led a protest in her regional parliament and almost got herself arrested, but I'm real proud of her. And of course, I lead one in Austin and we actually quoted from each other she quoted from speech that I gave in in in Australia night quoted from one that she gave we were at the Texas lesbian conference. So it's a very small world is certainly is kind of fun, you know? Well, hello, Australia. Yep. Hello, Australia, and I copy this tape may very well go out to some folks in the Netherlands as well. No, no. It's what is one of the things about the internet that I find fascinate Eating. It's the only you can talk to people all over the world and never leave your house. And one of the things that I have really learned, I guess I should have known it before. But one of the things I've learned is how much we really all have in common. You know,

J Jimmy Carper 10:14

yeah, we really do. I feel sometimes I'm falling behind because I still pride myself on being a computer virgin.

S Sarah Dipalma 10:25

Well, you're one to six left. I think so. Well, the other thing that I'm learning is how much American culture impacts in other places. If there's anything that I have been getting loud and clear as a message, they know an awful lot about our politics, much more than I know about politics in the Netherlands, I assure you,

J Jimmy Carper 10:45

and probably much more than the average American. That's

S Sarah Dipalma 10:48

true, but our politics has an impact there, which is interesting. We'll talk about that later in the show. It really is a small world. Hmm. So we as we always like to say it's the fastest three hours and radio.

J Jimmy Carper 10:59

Yes, it can be. It can be folks. So

S Sarah Dipalma 11:02

you want to go ahead and do some music. Yeah, ourselves settled.

J Jimmy Carper 11:05

I picked up a piece of music this this week that I thought was pretty, pretty interesting. Yeah. It's a CD by one of the glbts favorites. Rickie Lee Jones, and she does a remake of an old David Bowie song called Rebel rebel.

S Sarah Dipalma 11:26

I remember that song. Yeah, kind

J Jimmy Carper 11:28

of kind of a little gender confusion.

S

Sarah Dipalma 11:30

Yeah. David Bowie was very good.

J

Jimmy Carper 11:33

There's a line in here about, about the person's mother not knowing whether they were a boy or a girl. That's right. So it kind of takes on a different meaning with Rickie Lee Jones singing it. And of course, in her her very distinctive style,

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Sarah Dipalma 11:49

you know, Ricky Lee Jones voice you never forget. That's true. It's kind of like Willie Nelson.

J

Jimmy Carper 11:56

So let's go to that and then we'll be back. Hmm, okay. That was a local band called violent blue.

S

Sarah Dipalma 12:10

What a great name I want that

J

Jimmy Carper 12:11

has a gay member, Michael, who does the keyboardist fording and I like to play them because number one, I liked the music. And number two, they're local. And I did want to mention that violent blue is going to be appearing at Levine chose this Wednesday night, April the 19th. And Lobos is at 321. West Alabama.

S

Sarah Dipalma 12:34

Well, KPFT has a history of promoting local bands, you bet in local music. And if you listen to KPFT during this during the day, you hear them talking about local artists and statewide artists. That's right in the tradition of the station.

J

Jimmy Carper 12:47

You bet you bet. You are listening to after hours, queer radio with attitude. And with you tonight is jimmy and and Sarah dipalma. And we certainly want to welcome everybody in the KPFT listening area and also the KEOS College Station, Bryan area.

S

Sarah Dipalma 13:11

You folks up there need to get better call letters. It needs to be like KAGG or something.

J

Jimmy Carper 13:17

You see KPFT they have they've always Ray Hill told me that KPFT stood for keep putting frogs together. And so I figured, you know, okay, we're up here at College Station and we're this is an agricultural type school. Right? So ke O 's keep eating our stuff.

S

Sarah Dipalma 13:34

That sounds like the Aggies. Yeah, that sounds like the Aggies. Okay, well, I want to talk about something that we've we've mentioned on this show, and we've sort of circled around it. I want to talk about the subject of inclusion. Okay. And let's start out by talking about why inclusion matters. Within the last couple of days, a friend of mine got a very frantic phone call from someone, a boyfriend of a transgendered person in jail. Oh, okay. Well, actually, he was in a drug rehabilitation program. Apparently, it is the county policy there, that if a person they put you in by what your genitals are, oh, so this person, although transgendered for more than four years was put in a male facility because she's not had the surgery. And they weren't going to cut her hair. What? Well, because they consider her male and the males have to abide by certain rules in this program. Well, I can tell you, from my own experience, going to get your hair cuts traumatic. And if you remember seeing the movie I can't think of the name of it. Now. It was a transgendered movie, a few. That one academy award but there was a scene in there. This woman had to cut her hair. And she put up a big stink about it because her hair was a sign of her femininity. Yes. So I understood why this woman and was upset, we were able to put together a group of people, including Ella Tyler, who's an attorney, and a nice Parker, and Wendy Allen, who's transgender activist, we were able to get down to this facility to talk to the people. And and these Parker and I will be able are going to set up a meeting with the head of this facility on Monday, and see what we can do about getting some things changed, and getting transgender education into their system. And almost as importantly, Ella Tyler has written a motion to see what we can do to protect this woman. Now, all of this was possible, because a nice Parker and Wendy and I all have good communication. We are all included in a group where we all respect one another. We occasionally I occasionally get phone calls as a result of being on the show from the parents of transgender people. And they say to me, what, where do I go? What do I do? And I'm kind of at a loss because there aren't a lot of places to send people. Now that's how I'm coming around to this discussion, that the march 31 We were at the conference of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays was their national conference here in Houston. Now, this was our second time here, but we were not there as presenters. Were there as vendors, we had to pay. Are we in no. Now. The Phyllis fry in a law conference had been there the previous year, and then several promises had been made, that that transgender people would be included. But it's sometimes the case when you have a volunteer staff ball got dropped? Sure. Okay. So we understood that. But as we were going over the list of things that was being presented at this conference, it was clear that a lot of these things apply to transgender people, and more importantly, to the parents of transgender people. Now, when you're talking about inclusion, then inclusion in this case means this would give us a place to send the parents of transgendered people that they don't have now. Now, in talk in talking to

people with PFLAG, it was very clear that there was no Mal, there was no, no one intended to be mean, no one intended to leave transgendered people out. It was an oversight. The problem that that some of us were activists have is that we seem to get left out a lot more after year after year.

J Jimmy Carper 17:29

And maybe it's because it's not the main focus of the group. But why shouldn't it be?

S Sarah Dipalma 17:34

Well, in this case, faxes were being sent pretty regularly to these people. So it's a little hard to figure out how we get dropped. But even at that, one of the things the good things that did come out of this conference, there was there was one sweet, sweet elderly lady who came over to me she was from Lubbock, and said, I don't have any transgendered people in my area. And I said, well, actually do you do honey? Actually, you do. There's a group out there called the West Texas gender Alliance. Well, as a result of her having been there, they are going to swap meetings. No kid is right. The the West Texas gender alliance is going to make a presentation at PFLAG in Lubbock, and vice versa. Terrific. And then love it in Lubbock. That's right, go figure. The same thing is going to be happening in Austin, I got in touch with the Austin group. Austin PFLAG very much wants to, they want to know, there were a number of people who came to us and what is transgender. And they really, they honestly wanted to know, they wanted to learn. I think in the case of PFLAG, and 98% of the cases, the people that we talked to, they wanted, they wanted us included. They didn't understand how it didn't happen this time. So I left the PFLAG conference with a very with a real positive feeling about it. I think in the future, even if if transgender people are not mentioned by name, they are going to be included in other ways. Other ways, maybe that might even be more important than the name. Good. So that's inclusion in one sense of the word. There's inclusion in a way that helps parents and maybe the kids too. Sure. And I think everybody benefited from that. The fun and go ahead.

J Jimmy Carper 19:17

Let me jump in here. Because I want to remind our audience, and when when when you say, Why is it so important to be included in PFLAG? You know, PFLAG is a great organization for for parents and because it takes sometimes coming out as gay or lesbian to your to your parents is is

S Sarah Dipalma 19:37

nerve racking. Oh, yeah. can be devastating.

J Jimmy Carper 19:41

Yeah. And it takes them longer to deal with you're coming out and it took you dealing with you're coming out and something that you you mentioned last time you were here is that when

you're coming out and something that you mentioned last time you were here is that when you come out as a transgendered person, it's a double whammy because not only are you the person that not the person that your parents thought you were, but you're not the gender your parents thought you were. So you know, it's sort of like sort of like almost like killing a child.

S Sarah Dipalma 20:11

There are many transgender people will tell you that they have heard from the parents of gay children. Well, at least my child isn't transgendered? No, brother. I've heard that myself. Now, I didn't hear it at PFLAG. But I've heard it in other places. So yeah, being transgendered is different in that sense, because does if your child died and was reborn in a new sex, right, so that is tough. On the other side of the coin, the pain that the parents go through the expectations that they thought they were going to am all that's very much,

J Jimmy Carper 20:45

much the same. So So for PFLAG that that's right up their alley.

S Sarah Dipalma 20:49

Yeah. And I think good things are going to come of this not in talking to the folks in Austin in in Lubbock, and in Dallas. Phyllis and I are uniquely connected, because we have networks all over the state. And we were able to put transgender groups in contact with PFLAG many of the flags didn't know these transgender groups existed, and vice versa. So we've been able to make contact for folks in the valley. Well, so good things may come of that. Well, because

J Jimmy Carper 21:17

of that assimilation thing. Again, I think transgendered folks may be looking at transgendered as a temporary way of life rather than a permanent way of life. And then chars just try to blend in. You've talked about that. Yeah,

S Sarah Dipalma 21:33

there's there are a lot of people who try and do they try and just pass and I had a very good friend. I personally was an activist, basically pulled up stakes, moved to another city and disappeared. Just decided she wanted to blend in she just, which is kind of disheartening, but it happens. And she has a right to a lot

J Jimmy Carper 21:49

of ways. Yeah, she has a right to a life and her own happiness. And yeah, yeah, so I can't blame her for that. But it's that assimilationist type of blending in that, that, you know, that we fight in the gay and lesbian community, you know, you got to come out. It's got well, I

S

Sarah Dipalma 22:06

guess, we get to talk about the El Grl. We'll talk about some assimilation. The following day, we went to the lesbian conference, we presented at the Texas lesbian conference, we I mean, Phil that was a Team at Keller and myself. That's right. We got up. We were we left town at 5am I don't look good at 5am with or without makeup. Okay.

J

Jimmy Carper 22:29

Even if you you know, for me the RAND rather.

S

Sarah Dipalma 22:36

And Phyllis Frey in her very subtle way was wearing a transsexual minutes t shirt, and we stopped in Bastrop, Texas for breakfast. You know, the odd part of it. No one noticed what her t shirt said, no, she was so disappointed. She got back in the truck and no one had noticed what it's a transsexual medicine. So we went to the to the lesbian conference, and frankly, I was very nervous about this. When I when I have received flack out of the gay and lesbian community, loudest flack in the most vociferous flack has come from the lesbian community.

J

Jimmy Carper 23:10

Okay, but which part of the lesbian community now the lesbian separatists? Well, that's

S

Sarah Dipalma 23:17

right. That's exactly where it's I really didn't know what to expect. As it turned out, our reception was just wonderful. Hey, they were they were very, very nice. But here's an interesting part of the story. What we didn't know is that apparently, there was a committee of people who were sitting in to decide whether you're going to be invited back next year. And the vote was three to three. And there was a I'm mentioning our color, because it's important to the story. It was a black photographer, who broke the vote and said, Yes, invite them back. Wow. And we asked her about it afterwards. And she said, people of color understand what exclusion means. Yes. And I thought that was so fascinating. So I guess,

J

Jimmy Carper 24:00

let me get this straight. We're talking about a group having a conference, who was a minority and knows about exclusion, and is voting to exclude another minority?

S

Sarah Dipalma 24:14

Yeah in fact it was three to three to me. A says it reinforced something I felt all along. And

Yeah, in fact, it was three to three to me. A says it reinforced something I felt all along. And that is, there's a definite split and lesbian community badass. There is one part of the community who is all for inclusion in there and for inclusion at all costs. There's another part of the community that says they're not really women,

J Jimmy Carper 24:35

because you didn't grow up. You didn't have the you didn't have all of the growing up things that happened to two women.

S Sarah Dipalma 24:42

That's right. Well, and you know, it was an I made this who says, Who says you didn't? Well, I made this point of the conference and drew a big laugh, but I meant it to be serious. When Why are women discriminated against in our society? They're discriminated because they don't have a penis. So they get to get they get paid for percent less. They get shunted off into jobs that lead nowhere. They land up with their noses pressed against the glass ceiling. Why are they discriminating against us? Because we do have a penis. Yes. Now, you know, and it drew a big laugh from people. But you it is the same discrimination. Sure it is in it took a little while for that to connect, and then the laughter drive. Laughter stop. And they got it. But not the people on the committee. Apparently, that ended up three to three. And so it was a person of color who broke the tie. Hmm. Which is because they understand, you know, she understood exclusion man. So

J Jimmy Carper 25:41

what, why didn't why didn't the lesbians understand the exclusion? Why didn't because they were lesbians white? Why not? Because they were women. They didn't understand exclusion. Everybody hears

S Sarah Dipalma 25:51

a message through their own filter of bias. Right, sometimes the message doesn't get through that filter. Yeah. And that's true, regardless of who the people are think. So but the people who were there, who came over to us made a point afterwards of coming over to us and telling us that they were glad that we were there. So apparently, the committee was divided, but not the entire audience, because we got a very warm reception from the folks. And afterwards, we went downstairs and we talked to some of the vendors. And come to find out I knew some of the people went I had helped a to do the defense of the abortion clinics here during the Republican National Convention. And I knew a lot of these women as it turned out. Ah, and so it was it was it turned out to be a good experience and a very positive experience. And I hope we get invited back next year. I think we will. Yeah. Now I got to talk about the march on Austin. Oh, in our protest, and I want to try and approach this from a little different angle. I've been debating about this for two weeks. How to talk about this. Well,

J Jimmy Carper 26:50
and how about let's talk about it, honestly.

S Sarah Dipalma 26:53
Well, that's right. And I want to start out this, I want to start out with a definition of the transgender or what transgender is because it's important to this discussion. Okay. And I want your audience to know, I didn't make up this make this up. This is from the San Francisco Human Rights Commission. Okay. They recently passed a very sweeping transgender protection law based very much based on law of Minnesota. And this is their definition of transgender and I want people to understand that they say that the term transgender is used is an umbrella term that includes male and female cross dressers. transvestites female and male impersonators, preoperative and post operative, transsexuals and transsexuals who choose not to have genital reconstruction in all persons whose perceived gender or anatomic sex may conflict with their gender expression, such as masculine appearing women and feminine appearing men. Now, why am I making this this point? Because from the start of our negotiations with the LG IRL, we started out saying to them, which women in the lesbian community are included as transgenders. Drag queens are included as transgendered bisexual people have neutral, gender neutral appearance or transgender androgynous to a person. They thought we were crazy. Why

J Jimmy Carper 28:25
I don't get it. Is that political thinking like that? Like, like, we were just talking about the police station is like, whatever, between your legs is what you are

S Sarah Dipalma 28:37
no, in this case, there was a political there was a political motive at work here. And it's and and I also state right from the start that my that my biggest error, and all of this that went forward was that I was naive enough to think that I could count on a certain group of people. And I'm talking about LG Jarrell that at some point, they will say, Well, you know, you've been a transgender activist and a gay rights activist and a lot of you people have been, we're going to include you. That's why you would like to think that yeah, and I made an error in thinking that, as it turns out, what hat let's start at the beginning. First of all, we found out that the hate crimes bill existed, or reading on the internet. Oh, no one in the LG ARL ever contacted Phyllis, or me and ever said to us, would you like to take a look at this bill? Are you covered? Now, right off from the bat, that should have been a warning signal to me that gives

J Jimmy Carper 29:35
the us versus them routine? Well,

S Sarah Dipalma 29:39
it should have told me right from the start. There was never intent. There was never any

it should have told me right from the start. There was never intent. There was never any intention to include us. This is for gays and lesbians only. So the first time that I that I found out about it was in mid December, and I sent off a letter to Diane and the heart Diane Hardy Garcia, who's the director of the LG ARL, and that was in December. It drew no response whatsoever. So I sent off another one in January. And that drew no response either. Now, I'm thinking to myself, you know, there's a message and I think we're going to be ignored and and we were continued, they continued ignoring us, up until the point that the San Antonio Political Caucus, voted to include transgenders in the law. And more importantly, said they would back us if we decided to lead a protest. Hmm. Well, then all of a sudden, somebody else Grl notice. So I guess on our own, we weren't new. It's worth noticing. It took a gay lesbian, bisexual, transgender. They are the only Political Caucus in the state that is transgender, inclusive, that is San Antonio, as the GLBT. Right. They're the only one in the state. And they were vociferous, they got on the phone and called they fact, they made it clear they wanted transgender people included in one more thing they wanted, they wanted to transgender person put on the board of directors of the LG URL. Whoa, actually, that hadn't occurred to me. I don't know why. But honestly, honest to God, it never occurred to me, but it's like, that's a great idea.

J

Jimmy Carper 31:12

Let's ask for Yeah, you know, you have to be part of the system.

S

Sarah Dipalma 31:15

Yeah, it's not a bad idea. Well, we still didn't hear anything. So I finally get disgusted. And I sent off an article to the press. And it's I think I read and I can be as subtle as a sledgehammer from provoke, I noticed, and it got their attention. So what we have I got this phone call from Diane, this is now Oh, late February, late February, early March, something like that. I got this phone call from her that was to call it nonproductive is to be mild about it. The smoke is still in my living room for this conversation. And so she, she, she we received this fax from the attorneys of the L Grl. Which said that we are covered under this law because the law says All that's needed is the perception that a person is gay. Well, that's a problem. First of all, half of probably 40% of the transgender community at least straight. Probably more than that. Okay. So right off the bat, I'm thinking myself, well, they're willing to write off 40% of my community. Yeah, you know, that doesn't say it doesn't sound right. In the make it worse in a conversation with Phyllis Frey, one of their attorneys backed off, after Phyllis point, and Phyllis, call them and say, Well, you know, I'm a criminal attorney. And I can tell you what's going to happen here. This person is going to assault somebody. And when they get in court, these lawyers gonna say, Don't tell them, you assaulted them, because they were queer. Tell them that you you were seduced by a transgendered person, and you beat him up for cross dressing. Right? Right. So the law still wouldn't get it wasn't gonna cover. And I point to the law of San Francisco, because we kept saying to the lgfl, not only are we transgender people, meaning Phyllis and myself covered, but a big portion of the gay lesbian community is not going to be covered either. Woods or dikes aren't going to be covered. Gender neutral, bisexuals aren't going to be covered. And we were told time and time again, that definition of transgender people just wasn't quite right train that that really vast majority of us were covered. Well, gee, I didn't make up this definition. No, the San from the people in San Francisco are using this. So by now I'm getting pretty angry about this deal. And it's beginning to dawn on me that we're gonna get raked over the coals. Now, let's look at the options that I had at this point. Okay. They were as a part of my group. Let me back up. It's Time Texas is made up of transgendered groups from

all over the state. And all of them have. They're not directors, but it's an advisory board. Now, the people that are on this advisory board cover groups from transsexual minutes, who's like the equivalent of coordination in spades, to the triangle sorority, which is primarily heterosexual and very closeted, right? So it's a wide stance. People were coming to me and saying, you know, what you want to do is you really want to go to legislature and lobby against their bill. Well, I'm not willing to do that. Well. No, I'll tell you why. Because I've known people like Ray Hill, and a nice Parker for years. I knew Paul Broussard. I don't want to see my friends left uncovered. Because, I mean, I felt like it was being selfish, maybe, I guess. And, you know, it's

J

Jimmy Carper 34:34

like, protesting against your friends. Yeah.

S

Sarah Dipalma 34:38

It's my brother, you know. And so I thought, well, that's not really great option. There are some other people who said, Well, you know, May, why don't we just go ahead and introduce our own bill and compete for the same votes. And I gave that one some serious thought we actually had two legislators who were willing to do it. But in the end, I decided, look, it's almost it's only two weeks. Before the cut off, what we're going to do is we're going to confuse their friends and our friends, and neither one of us are going to get a bill passed. Yeah. So that didn't make a lot of sense to me. So the only real option that I thought we had, that we could use without actually hurting the bill without being sabotaging of the hate crimes bill was to go after the LG URL directly, and see if we couldn't rattle their cage enough to get them to include us. And that's the truth, though. That's really the way I thought about it. I don't I didn't really didn't want to sabotage anybody's Bill, you know, so Okay. So we, this, this thought pattern worked with me real good, up until March 18. On March 18, a transgendered person and his and her female companion, were driving home from one of the bars here in Montrose. And they got a flat tire in the southwest part of town, It's quarter to two in the morning, transgender person gets out to change the flat tire and a car with three young teenagers pulls up, thinking they're gonna harass two women. At some point in their talks, they figured out they were dealing with a transgender person and a woman and beat this person so badly he ended up in hospital. The female was not was not injured. And here's the case clearly not covered under the hate crimes. The person isn't gay. The person isn't perceived as gay. And to make the matters worse, the person ends up in the hospital. Yeah, the comments that are made during the beating make it real clear that this person was being beaten up for crossdresser. And suddenly, I don't feel real good. Because I know I let that person down. I let that person down. I shouldn't. And I thought now wait a minute. You know how this Monday Monday after the meeting, this person is sitting in my living room. And I find myself trying to explain to this person why I didn't work harder to get him included her included in the hate crimes bill. And you know what, that felt like crap. And it was about that point. I had it. At that point, I decided I didn't care what it took. That was enough.