

- HOST:** Dean. There was inappropriate or wrong.
- BIG ROY:** Back in 1959, Madison Avenue struggled with that exact same question when they had dolls for boys, because they realized that as part of the baby boomers, there were more boys born during the baby boomers. And Hasbro wanted to make these boy dolls, doll for boys, but they couldn't call them dolls. They had to come up with a name, and they came up with action figure. But they were dolls, they were action figures.
- And GI Joe was the first action figure and came out from Hasbro. And if you have any those from back in the 59, 60, 61, I think it's worth a lot of money today.
- HOST:** Oh, yeah.
- CHRIS:** So where did Ken come along?
- BIG ROY:** Ken did not come on to the scene until the mid-60s, and Ken was very much for girls. Marketed to the girls who had the Barbie.
- CHRIS:** And so to keep with the low expectations, that's why he's kind of small below the belt?
- HOST:** He's used this on a date.
- CHRIS:** Yeah, with GI Joe, they always-- I told you it was a 12-inch action figure. But with Ken, it was just, you peel down the pants, and it's like, there's no Malibu there.
- BIG ROY:** How do you think my dad felt when he came into my bedroom one time-- I mean, I think I was about 10 or 11 years old. And there it is, I had Ken and GI Joe. We will not say what they were doing. My dad could not figure out how I could have an imagination. He wanted to know where I learned that. Well, it just-- what comes naturally, I guess.
- HOST:** I mean, I don't think that playing with dolls or anything. In terms of the environmental factor, I don't know if that is-- it might be an indicator, but I certainly think it doesn't mean that straight boys at that age aren't out there playing with dolls or whatever.
- BIG ROY:** It's not an indicator. That is not an indicator. I mean, playing with dolls is not a factor any more than having two heterosexual parents is a factor in having a gay son. It takes 200 sexual people to create a gay person. A gay couple cannot make a gay child.
- HOST:** Naturally.
- BIG ROY:** If two gay men or two lesbians adopted a child, it is not necessarily going to become gay.
- CHRIS:** Exactly. Well, look at Rosie O'Donnell and the children that she adopted. I mean, they're very young, yes, but she was asked by, I believe Diane Sawyer, do you see any warning signs or what have you? And goes, no, not at all. There's no inkling that any of her children may be gay.
- BIG ROY:** Playing with dolls is not a factor in if a person is going to become gay.

HOST: Well that's one of those gender stereotypes that you have with those sorts of things, is that if you don't treat a girl like prim and proper princess and she starts acting like a tomboy, the next thing you know on her coming out debutante party, she's wearing flannel and driving a pickup truck to it.

CHRIS: Well, you know, I have many, many friends who went to high school and played all the sports that were available at their high school, where there butches can be. And lo and behold, they just blast out of the closet. There's no general rule.

HOST: I mean, my sister was I guess, tomboyish, and she's heterosexual happily married. Two children and entirely straight. I mean, I guess I did this high school sports thing and all that stuff, I guess just to hide that I was gay. But it doesn't mean I'm not sort of--

CHRIS: I played high school football for a couple of years, and I even had the point where they had the traditional powder puff football game, where the girls played football, where the football players would do the cheerleader stuff. And so it's very different there when you're getting down into a three-point stance for football, and these guys are behind you wearing lipstick and rouge.

Sadly, I was a tackle. So it wasn't like I was the center where I was given the quarterback coming up behind me. And the other guys, I wasn't too interested in. But my niece, I mean, I roughhouse and tackle and slam her on the couch there. She comes up, she's going for more.

So my brother and I were teasing about the fact that she's going to be lesbian. And I said, no, no, no, there's no way she can be lesbian. Because when she turns 18 and I'm going to be 40 something there, she needs to be bringing young men home not young ladies. Just the dirty old man in me that I see in the future.

HOST: I hang around with so many of them around here. I can't help--

BIG ROY: Have you pointed me?

CHRIS: Well, Jimmy, let's see, which way is West? I'll point to wherever Jimmy is at.

HOST: I guess it's the stereotype that I was out in Katie with David, and we're I to visit his family. And there was little signs that cheerleader tryouts at this location boys and girls, welcome. I was thinking, oh. The little gay boys in Katie, that's where they're going to be that day. It's a little cheerleader try out, doing their thing. I mean, maybe stereotypical but I think--

I don't know, I only remember like four or five cheerleaders from high school that were male. And three or four I know now. And three years later are gay. Because I've seen them out or we tend to gravitate to certain things. I don't know why, but--

CHRIS: I gravitated towards the theater.

HOST: I mean, our band major's.

CHRIS: That's very typical.

BIG ROY: And what you're bringing out is that what a guy or a girl does in their childhood or even in high school is not necessarily an indicator whether they're gay or straight. There are a number of gay and lesbian kids and police officers. There are a number, any number of gay military people serving in the Israeli army, in the British army out there in Afghanistan, and other allied--

CHRIS: In other countries where it is legal, I think the Israeli army is permissible to be gay in the military based on the fact that it's compulsory military service over in Israel. It's not like here where it's--

BIG ROY: Voluntarily.

CHRIS: It's a voluntary. It's a compulsory that you must serve one or two years.

HOST: I think it's two years, actually.

CHRIS: And they rotate it. And they actually have a very strong female presence in the military because of that compulsory service.

BIG ROY: And it's not an indicator of-- what a person does is not an indicator of their orientation. Because as gay people, we are the entire spectrum to flaming fags like myself, to stone cold hard to the right, Dale Carpenter type. Button down--

CHRIS: I never thought I would hear Roy use himself and Dale Carpenter in a sentence.

BIG ROY: It's a rarity. But we are--

CHRIS: Makes even Roy look good.

BIG ROY: That takes him too. But I'm just doing that as a comparison of extreme opposites. I mean, I am nothing at all like Dale Carpenter. There is a God.

[LAUGHTER]

CHRIS: Hate to say it, but we both grew up in Corpus.

HOST: Oh, Dale?

CHRIS: Mh-hmm.

HOST: That's what's wrong with him. So how did you like, manage?

CHRIS: I didn't actually grew up in Corpus, I grew up Southern Corpus.

BIG ROY: OK. Dale.

CHRIS: I'm sorry, I'm picturing Dale Carpenter in South Texas and now in San Francisco, he must hate it there. There are many damn liberals.

HOST: Roy, he moved to San Francisco. So he went from a very conservative person in a extremely conservative state to basically the liberal capital of the United States.

BIG ROY: The gay capital as well.

CHRIS: Dorothy, I don't think you're in Kansas anymore.

HOST: You still think Stonewall is a myth.

CHRIS: Oh, it's that much?

HOST: Yeah. sure, he is. There's a plug, OutSmart if you want some interesting reading. I hate plugging Dale Carpenter, but I've been to plug OutSmart, and I listen to him. But you pick up your copy of OutSmart, there's a column in there by Dale Carpenter. That's a--

CHRIS: Out right.

HOST: It's Interesting reading, yeah.

BIG ROY: Talk about an oxymoron. I could take him but I won't.

CHRIS: Oh, like the gay republican?

BIG ROY: Oxymoron.

CHRIS: Well, to quote the one gay comedian there, you know what the definition of a gay republican is?

HOST: White squares with pink triangles. One of the few jokes I kind of like from Bob Smith.

BIG ROY: Anyways, the coming out process in the Hispanic community.

HOST: Well, I was interested. I was going to follow up. Hunter, you talked about how you had some support from people that were older than you and when you started coming out. How do you-- I guess in that kind of environment when you don't have a radio program like this or you don't have OutSmart being published that you might run across somewhere or news publications or the Gay Pride Parade. How do you identify or how do you-- how is it that you come across--

CHRIS: There was nothing like that where I grew up. Nothing like that at all. And I basically just found some people who I had had something in common with and gotten along with for several years and I trusted to a degree. And basically needed the validation from them that this is how I was, and they accept me, and were going to help me and that sort of thing and remained my friends. And it worked out perfectly.

In fact, I have two very good friends who they're in their 60s, and they have grown children and everything. One of their sons is gay, and one of their sons is very conservative businessman on the city council. This has very opposite ends of the spectrum on that aspect. But they're very accepting, and there were very-- any time I felt trapped, which I felt trapped quite often in that town, I could always just go over to their house and we just have dinner and just talk and talk and talk. And it was a release to be able to be myself around people who accepted me no matter what, which was--

Being accepted is not something that necessarily comes easily in a South Texas town or any small Texas town for that matter. There's always going to be prejudice or someone being judgmental or something to hinder.

BIG ROY: Hinder the process.

CHRIS: Yes, exactly.

HOST: I mean, in terms of your question I guess, on some of the cultural things. I guess my mother and my father handled it differently. I came out to them when they were-- my mother, when they were in the process of divorcing. Or I guess just right after. And we were talking a little bit about how I guess relationships change over time. And my mother was very accepting.

And when I had the conversation with her, she indicated that she had suspected. And I asked her why? And it was for an entirely different reason. The reason she brought up was that had nothing to do with the fact that I was gay but nonetheless, she had suspected. I mean she thought I was gay because I didn't go with this one particular girl to the prom when I was a junior and she was a senior. I didn't go with her. And I said I didn't go with her not because I was gay, but I just didn't like her. And if someone else had asked me, I probably would have gone.

But in terms of I guess, maybe been about 10 years since I started coming out to them or came out to them, my mother and her side of the family has gone from being very accepting, I guess, to being involved. I mean, not only just very accepting but-- just this morning and last weekend, my mother and her boyfriend, I'm asleep and next thing I know, I hear someone mowing the lawn. It's my mother and her boyfriend. Like, they came over they're doing our yard.

CHRIS: And trimming the bushes low.

HOST: Trimming the bushes. And so it's gone from very accepting in that level to just being very involved in our lives that way, and my grandmother coming over and our aunts coming over to see the house that I just bought in August. Because David and I lived together, and sending us housewarming gifts, and just that level of involvement is sort of interesting.

My dad has gone from being, I wouldn't say non-supportive, but I guess he had a very hard time at first. And now maybe I guess to the point where my mother was when she found out her in terms of being accepting. I remember after then realizing that I was gay, it was we were on a trip to South Texas to visit my family, and we had rented a van. And my mom and my dad were in the front seat, and they were-- I guess they divorced, but were still doing family stuff. And the second seat was my sister and her husband. And the back was me, Brett, and our dog seat.

We get to my aunt's house, which is Brownsville South Texas, as you can get the southernmost point in Texas. And me, Brett, and the dog were put into a room. We were spending the night in a twin bed with no extra sheets or pillows for one of us to sleep on the floor. So you sort of assume that they know when they do that.

But Brett and I had actually broken up, and my father I guess had noticed. It was my first real relationship. I think we'd been together for like, two years. I guess I got in a relationship after the first few months of coming out, and it was about a two-year relationship. And so the breakup was I guess kind of hard. And I wasn't eating well, I wasn't sleeping, and all that fun stuff.

And so my dad asks what's going on? Do you want to talk? Oh, it's relationship stuff. And he goes, oh, OK, well, I got to go. And then the most amazing thing is two days later, he calls and just with a strange tone in his voice. Just wanted to let you know if you want to talk, you can call me. I got to go. Bye. And so I guess just that in itself was sort of was very nice to hear.

But recently, one of my uncles passed away, and a lot of family from Mexico came here to attend the funeral. And I'm 30 and I'm about to be 30. And so a lot of the questions started coming up with family, like, oh, aren't you married yet? Blah, blah, blah. And so we're sitting there.

And then usually, my response is-- because most of my father's family is still very largely acculturated. He comes from a very large family, like, 12 brothers and sisters. Maybe a third of them are here in the United States, here in Houston, and the rest are in Mexico. And usually my response is, oh, I'm very busy. And sort of fact with work, and that's what I'm focusing on, and all that. But before I could even get to that little spiel, my dad was like, well, he's decided to be single, and we support him with that. So I was like, OK.

CHRIS: Well, see, I'm looking at that situation now. My youngest brother just got engaged to his girlfriend. So we're looking at next year having all this family coming down to that. And coming from the European model that my family ancestry is, I'm the eldest son of the eldest son of the only son. So there's that medieval feudalism that I'm the one who's supposed to carry on the family name.

And so I'm waiting for this wonderful combination of all these families come at my grandmother's. And this wonderful situation of OK, now I get all these questions in person.

HOST: We're here for the first born.

CHRIS: It's one of the things I'm looking at like-- and my brother-- I'm out to my immediate family. And my brother who's getting married is like, if you want to bring someone, bring someone. And I'm sitting there going, no. Because first of all, I'm going to be in the wedding party, so I'm not going to be-- anyone I take, I'm not going to be anywhere near throughout the whole thing. And it's one of these situations of like, I'm not in a relationship to want to bring someone first place, but I want to keep the card open because if they start to really just cheese me off towards the end of April--

BIG ROY: Take me.

CHRIS: Oh, please.

BIG ROY: Boy, I tell you that wouldn't be in the closet for long.

CHRIS: Well, the bad part is this, since I've been invited to be the best man, I've warned them that the best man makes the first toast. And so I've been told by the bride I have to turn in my speech, but I've also made it clear that the speech I hand you may not necessarily be the one that I give. So I'm actually afraid of the part where you're supposed to go dance-- have to dance with the matron of honor and all these wonderful traditions.

And it was like, I have to dance? And mom's going, yeah, it's with her sister. It's like, I don't care if it's a man, woman, or beast, I have to dance. And so my brother was picking on me saying, well, you're gay, you should be able to dance. I go, no, I'm fat, white, and suburban. That outweighs the gay gene. Besides, unless you're playing techno, I'm not going to--

HOST: Just go do the Macarena.

CHRIS: Macarena, Oh, Lord.

HOST: I guess as we start to wrap up, I guess we're talking about dancing. It's just sort of amazing for some of the taboos that are in Hispanic culture.

BIG ROY: It is so sexual.

HOST: If you go to a wedding or a quinceanera and as part of the celebrations, if you see men dancing with men and it's no big deal. The groom is dancing with--

CHRIS: Everybody.

HOST: --everybody, woman or male. They just come up and they take their turn, and it's just sort of--

CHRIS: It's part of that romantic culture. I mean, you certainly see that with the Mediterranean countries, with Greece, with Italy. You have that kind of-- well, they're very free and open, and free with their emotions, and they're not afraid to show it. It's only us here in America for some strange reason, that we've got these backwards deliverance people.

Well, we still have that puritanical view that we were founded on-- I mean, we're a country that was founded basically off of the fact of more religious people and then a handful of criminals. Unfortunately unlike Australia that was founded by all criminals and then you look at the society that they have with the Sydney parade. So unfortunately, the sad part is this, all the criminals went to Georgia. And that's the place where we're not going. I don't think we're going to feel too comfortable there outside of Atlanta.

BIG ROY: OK, Francisco, what advice would you give young Hispanic guys that are coming out or thinking about coming out or questioning themselves and all that sort of stuff?

HOST: Well, I mean, I guess--

BIG ROY: Somebody like Mike who did not have somebody like me that he could talk to.

HOST: I guess one of the things that-- and I hate to say this, but I say this for people's own benefit is one of the things that I did is I sort of dealt with it myself first. And I didn't want to come out. Even though I knew my parents wouldn't kick me out or disown me or put me off on my own.

CHRIS: But there's still the apprehension of--

HOST: There's still just that.

CHRIS: --what happens.

HOST: What happens next. And so for someone that's not sure how their parents are going to react and if they're that age where they're still living at home or if they're young, I really wouldn't say just coming out unless when you're absolutely sure, comfortable with yourself, and have a way to support yourself or have somewhere to fall back on. And I know it means maybe continuing to hide who you are. But if you're in that situation, one, learn to accept yourself for who you are, and love yourself for who you are. And get a network of gay friends or people that support you.

But don't come out to your parents if you're stuck in a situation where you don't know how they'll react or if you're afraid of getting kicked out. Deal with those things first and then they just realize that-- I hate saying that because you're ignoring who you are even longer, but it's not worth some of the risk.

CHRIS: But honestly, there are some people-- and I've dealt with it firsthand with my own family. There are some people who just cannot handle the truth. They don't want to know the truth, and they don't want to hear it. And as long as you feed them a lie, they believe it. And they're happy that way. And I realize that that was the case with my parents. And unfortunately, that's the way it is.

BIG ROY: And I have to agree with that Francisco, it has to be done on an individual basis. And you have to, especially if you're a young person--

CHRIS: Right, it's very individual.

BIG ROY: --you have to take way a lot of things into consideration. I'm 51 now but I got kicked out of our penthouse in New York when I was 16 for being gay. Trust me, folks, it is not pretty, it is not nice, it is not fun. It is not glamorous to have to be a 16-year-old male whore on the street to support yourself. It is not nice. All the scary stuff you heard is true and worse. Let me tell you it's true and worse.

So please, take everything into consideration. And if you come out to yourself, you accept yourself, don't expect your parents to jump up waving--

CHRIS: Not at all.

BIG ROY: --rainbow, flag, banners, and all this. It's probably not going to be like that.

CHRIS: Yeah, you don't hand them a PFLAG application there as part of your coming out speech. I waited until I was moved out of the house and had my own apartment for a couple of months and went back and told my family. And it was one of those things where my father really couldn't deal with it at the beginning, he's getting a little better at it with a lot of parts of it.

But it's one of those processes you have to know how going to come out and where you can feel safe doing that. I recently had to come out to one of my coworkers about a couple of months ago, basically because she kept coming up to me going, when do I get a picture of you to give to my sister-in-law? When do I get a picture of you? So I had to tell her that, OK, here's the reason I'm not interested in your sister-in-law.

And she was like, oh, my God, I didn't realize that. And then she's telling me of all the other gay employees there. Workplace fag. Because when you out yourself, it's OK for her to out everybody else. And after I got done talking to her about that, we had wait a few minutes. And I go-- I went up to her I go, OK, now, that I've told you this, and you're not going to hook me up with your sister-in-law, you don't have to hook me up with anyone else. I don't need a dating--

HOST: You don't need to go to your Rolodex, look through it. And I guess just to wrap up, love yourself enough to know that you don't want to put yourself in a bad situation and don't put yourself at risk. And if you're not sure, if you're in a situation where you're living with your parents and you need to take care of yourself by making sure that you're going to be fine regardless of what happens.

CHRIS: There's also sources available now that they weren't available when Francisco and I came out years ago. And that's the internet. There are several many, many web pages that young people can go to to help deal with these issues. And there's even hotlines available out there that they can call. In Houston, here, we fortunately have the--

HOST: Your hand Roy. Little Roy, there.

CHRIS: We have HATCH, the Houston Area Teenage--

BIG ROY: Teenage Coalition of Homosexuals.

CHRIS: Yeah, something along those lines. A whole bunch of acronyms. Actually, it's probably not in there. It's all for no reason. But look them up. If you were looking for the number--

HOST: It's hatchyouth.org I believe is their website. Or just tune in here in two weeks, and we'll have the HATCH segment on here on After Hours as part of our very diverse program that we have on this show.

BIG ROY: I do want to say this, especially for the young teenage or any gay person, young gay person who's just coming out and has come out to themselves and has accepted themselves. Because you've come out, that does not mean you have to have sex with everybody and everything. That's not necessary. You have sex when you want, if you want, but definitely, play safe.

HOST: I agree.

CHRIS: OK. Thank you all--

HOST: Thank you for listening. And then we've got a couple of special PSA or promotions coming up that you can listen to.

CHRIS: Yeah, we're going to play some music here.

BIG ROY: Chris, I would like to give a promo, a shameless promo for my upcoming news and views news magazine.

CHRIS: Gee, Roy and shameless in the same sentence? The hell you say.

BIG ROY: I love Chris. No, the first Saturday of the month, I'm going to be doing a special news and views new segment on gays in prison. And folks, I urge you all to listen in. And if you're one of our captive audience, go ahead. Write me, Big Roy care of After Hours KPFT net. 419 Lovett Boulevard. That's L-O-V-E-T-T Houston, Texas 77006. Go ahead and drop me a line about any topic you want me to bring up on that particular segment that night, and I'll be happy to do.

HOST: Well, with that being said, I would consider doing a show on Enron and some of the top executives there that may go into prison and maybe learn to be gay in the very near future. Maybe some helpful tips for them.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

Thanks. Have a good morning, and thanks for listening.

CHRIS: One thing we wanted to let you know about, coming up tomorrow night on HBO, a documentary called *Southern Comfort*. It's a winner of the grand jury documentary prize at Sundance. This deeply-moving story takes place in rural Georgia where Robert, a transgendered female to male, is learning to live with the ironic diagnosis of ovarian cancer. Without remorse or anger, this America undercover story is a testament to the human spirit. And that's on HBO on Sunday at 9:00 PM. So take a listen to that.

What? What? You wanted your mic on or off? You're off now. You have been listening to After Hours, queer radio with attitude on KPFT Houston, KOS College Station. And we're going to wrap up here with a requested song, "My Horse." So see you next week, and Jimmy should be back then.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

(SINGING) Strange, racking your brain, went around text exchange.

JIMMY CARPER: It's in that strip shopping center. It's got a barbershop and the Chinese restaurant on the end of it. Yeah. And it's a fun little neighborhood Tavern, and Christie is there from 6:30 to 8:30 every Monday this month. So stop by and see her, and she plays Texas music. So it's fun and I mean, it's dancing stuff. And have fun. OK, Chris.

CHRIS: OK, I was just--

JIMMY CARPER: I know, I could hear.

CHRIS: Well, since Roy isn't with us here tonight, I figured we need to have some paper shuffling and deep reading.

JIMMY CARPER: Oh, OK.

CHRIS: We're going to try and step away from the current news of what's been going on and try and do something a little different. People for a fair Houston and progressive voters in action. The two organizations working together to defeat Dave Wilson's anti-gay ballot measure, the one that would ban domestic partner benefits for city employees, is in the process of reviewing his petitions for signs of fraud or other disqualifications.

If you can volunteer some time this weekend or next weekend, they would need your help. They're working from 9:00 AM to 9:00 PM on Saturday and Sunday, and they have a very short period of time to evaluate the 20,000 petitions. Please come to 2109 Commonwealth to lend a hand. For more questions or to schedule a shift, contact Tina, Pokey, or Grant at 713-523-1762.

Also with the progressive voters, a fundraising training scheduled for this weekend has been postponed one week due to transportation issues. They still have a great need for the volunteers. So if you were scheduled to go to the fundraising training for progressive voters, it's gone one week later. Just contact them to double-check on your times.

The Stonewall Lawyers Association of Greater Houston, SLAG, proudly presents domestic violence and coercion, an awareness intervention seminar by Gary Norman, LMSW-ACP, anti-violence program coordinator for the Montrose Counseling Center. It'll be on Wednesday, 26th September from 11:30 AM to 1:30 PM at the Blue Agave Restaurant, corner of West Gray and Wah.

Members of the public and students are encouraged to attend. For more information, contact B.K Silva at 713-661-7651. SLAG is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization. And that's the Stonewall Lawyers Association of greater Houston's monthly seminar.

Federal funds have been used for explicit workshops. The advertisements addressed to gay men were provocative. Learn to write racy stories about your sexual encounters. Choose toys for solo and partner sex or share tales of erotic experience. All of this was done at government expense in the name of preventing AIDS. These expenditures along with other recent allegations of fraud and abuse of federal money to fight AIDS have upset some AIDS advocates and lawmakers.

"The tragic consequences are that people die when they don't get their vital medical services." Said Wayne Turner, spokesman for the AIDS activist group, ACT UP, in Washington. "The day of the AIDS gravy train are numbered." Added Iowa Senator, Charles Grassley, the senior Republican on the Senate Finance Committee. We don't have money to burn when people are suffering and dying.

After learning of the mismanagement of AIDS money, Grassley won a commitment from the Health and Human Services Inspector General for increased audits of federal treatment funds. The sexually provocative prevention programs run by the San Francisco AIDS groups are funded in part from the 387--