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00:25

Oh yes, you've tuned into after hours queer radio with attitude right here on KPFT Houston 90.1 FM. The crew of after hours is ready to bring you news interviews, dialogue and music geared for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people and their friends. 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 age 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 hours.



01:49

Hello, Houston and welcome to after hours queer radio with attitude. This is the march 6 edition. We are queer radio with attitude. I'm Tony Carper. And in the studio tonight we have



02:08

Miss Gigi and J. J. Okay. Houston.



02:12

I did want to comment that we've got somebody on hold that we're going to go to in just a minute, but I did want to mention that. For those of you who've been listening very patiently, that was our tribute to Dusty Springfield. We started out with two songs from the way passed like back in 1970. These things came out haunted and brand new me and then we ended up with the Pet Shop Boys. What have I done to deserve this? Dusty Of course everyone knows passed away of cancer. And what many people may not know is that she inadvertently outed herself in an interview one time as a bisexual. And so I think that is a pretty fitting for the show. Me and J Yeah.



03:03

For the bisexual show.



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So on the show tonight, we've got



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a very special guest. It's Lonnie ka Manu. If it's very,



03:17

very good.



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And we're about to bring her on in just one second. Okay, you bye bye. Well, she was the CO editor of by any other name, which is the bisexual Bible.



03:28

We're one we certainly buy books out there certainly is for no queer like me.



03:36

Get a hold on, hold



03:37

on, because then we've got the the Gay Men's Chorus coming on. And the switchboard wants to have five minutes because they're there. Oh, okay. Yes. In the second half of the show. We're going to have hatched music. And it's going to be pretty exciting because what's going on right now is the glamour awards to the gay and lesbian American Music Association. Oh, wow. Music Awards. We've just finished round one. I am one of the judges. This is a national thing. And with their 20 different categories, and we've now narrowed it down from like 40 per category to five. So we're working on round two, and we'll see what's going to happen. We've got lots we've got some new music from the glamour folks, and we'll be playing that new music tonight. It'll probably be in the second half the way the first half looks so packed.



04:34

Oh no.



04:37

Okay, so what we need to do is,



04:43

it says technique, technique. Yes. Punch out the right back now.



04:50

GG. Yeah, I'd like you over here in my chair. Oh, okay.



04:58

Change You would do this different every time I do it. They have so many



05:06

different projects. It's every radio here. Yes.



05:14

Are we ready?



05:15

Are you ready? Hello, Ronnie, can you hear me? I can hear you. Okay, you're on the air now. Okay, we did it from Houston. And that says Lonnie, and I always have trouble with your last name. Ca. Humanities.



05:33

You've got it dizzy. Thank you. Oh, wow.



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I've been practicing all week. And Lonnie lives in San Francisco. How's that out there?



05:44

It's actually it's in the 30s. It's a clear night. I just arrived back home on a motorcycle. It was so much fun. It was great motorcycle riding. Oh, cool. Yeah.



05:55

Sounds like Ms. GG there.



05:56

This is J with us. She's my other half or half or whatever.



06:04

I don't know about that. But here I am.



06:09

And we wanted to talk to you a little bit about your book by any other name. Okay. The bisexual Bible, as it's referred to at least I've heard it referred that way many times. Yeah. And J had a couple of questions she wanted to kind of kick off with and I thought it was a good starting point.



06:32

Kind of go chronologically, I guess here, start with a book and work our way up to what you're doing now, I guess. Okay. Um, and one thing I was just thinking about by any other name, you know, As Judy said, was, is kind of considered the bisexual Bible. And when I came out, what, five years ago, something like that. That was like, the only bisexual book out there. And was an absolutely wonderful, wonderful book for me to read, because of all of the images and all of the different people that you know, you got to be in the book. Yeah.



07:05

76 different people in the book. They're coming out stories or the stories of their lives. Yeah, it does. Yeah, it. Actually there's other books out, but there's really nothing like this. And it's been out since 1991. So we're actually coming up on our 10 year anniversary, which, wow, quite amazing to me. Yeah. And this is what I think my favorite thing about the book that Lorraine Hutchinson I put together is that we truly did get a variety of people. I mean, there are people that are married bisexuals, there's people that are more lesbian and gay identified bisexual, transgender bisexuals, they're the age range is 18 years old people in their 70s. So there's stories for almost every person to relate to, which is really what we wanted.



07:58

Yeah, two of the stories that I remember that that struck me most about the book, you know, I didn't know anything about bisexuals, I was just coming out and reading all the stuff on lesbianism and reading all the Gay Men's coming out stories which didn't fit me either. And then I found by any other name, and the two that really struck me was the married monogamous bisexual coupled, mostly because that's so completely 100% different from from the image of bisexuals, you know, these swingers and they gotta have 150 lovers or whatever it is. And here was this married monogamous bisexual a couple months ago. Oh, wow, that's so very interesting. And then the other one was the woman who said that she was always falling in love with gay men, and described herself as a fag and a dikes body and I said, Oh, that's me. And when I read that, I knew that this these were my people. This was it, you know, but that really did strike me the the variety. You know, you got the married people, and the swingers and the, and it was so wonderful to be able to find my story in it. You know, I really did. And I was just kind of wondering, how did you get 76 people? Because I mean, 91, there wasn't a lot of, you know,



09:11

but actually, we were working on it in the late 80s. Because once you hand a book to the publisher, it takes them a whole year before the book actually comes out. Wow. So we handed them the book, I think in August, maybe it was August in 1990. So we were really working on it in the 80s. And it was really before we didn't have email. So we made a poster that said, Come out, come out wherever you are. And we sent it to bookstores and universities and mailed it to everybody we knew. And people started sending stories and I think that was one of the most exciting things in the world. I mean, it like you when you opened it and started reading it, I'd come home to my mailbox I would read Lorraine and we'd open our mailbox and it would be stuffed with people's personal story. Wow. It was really magic and it broke our personal isolation. And we could tell, you know, it was such a gift, the process of it was a lot of work, but it was a gift to us. And then we realized that, you know, we were riding the crest of the bisexual community and movement, which in actually in 1987, Lorraine, and I decided to write the book, right around the first or the second march on Washington. And as we were writing it, we were riding the wave of the bisexual visibility and people, more and more people coming out around the country. So by the time it hits the bookstores in 1991, it was pretty magic. Definitely was and everybody we met. I mean, we couldn't meet one person without that, you know, listening to their story. Oh, can you write that down? Actually, we were working with over 100 people for quite some time. And you can kind of tell by the stories that some people some people had never written this is like the first time they ever wrote down an experience. So and sometimes we would, you know, people would call us on the phone because their phone numbers were out everywhere. So it was really a labor of love. And it's still timely. Oh, yeah. Which is very amazing to me, really is.



11:31

But one thing I found very interesting, too, is at the international conference in Boston last year, it seemed like just about everybody who was in the book was at the conference. That name sounds familiar. And I realized it was from by any other name, and yeah, and a lot of

these people are still active in the BI community or at least are still go to the conferences. I don't know.



11:52

Well, what's interesting, too, is that many of the people that are in the book have published books of their own, which is very exciting for us that fire Stein and Carol queen and Naomi Tucker and Wayne Bryant and many, many people have gone on to do to do books of their own. So that's really exciting. And one of the things you said earlier today about married monogamous bisexuals, a lot of people don't understand that because there's such a stereotype about bisexuals. But I really like to emphasize that monogamy and non monogamy and polyamory are all relationship choices and heterosexual people and lesbian and gay people and bisexual people. We can all make those choices. Yeah,



12:37

it's not a it's not a sexual orientation. It's just yeah, as you say, like a lifestyle.



12:42

Choice. It's a relationship choice, and people have a hard time. A hard time with that. And I think one of the hardest things about being a bisexual sometimes is that depending upon who we partner with, there's an automatic assumption of who we are. Oh, yeah. If, as a woman, if I fall in love with another woman, everybody assumes we're lesbians or two men or together everybody assumes you're gay, or you're a mixed gender couple everybody assumes you're heterosexual and all those people could be bisexual. bisexuals have to keep coming out of the closet. Yeah, it's hard. It's a lot of work. I really think we've had a courage and bravery definitely.



13:26

We've had a when we first started doing this show we had one the gay co host we started talking about you know how you could be monogamous you could even be a virgin and be bisexual. Oh, yeah. And he just could not get it at all. He kept saying well if you're with a man you're homosexual, if you're with a woman you're in your man then you're straight and around and around on that one. He just couldn't get it that now I'm by when I'm with a man I'm by when I'm with a woman I'm by with ever I'm



14:03

by myself.



14:08

And, you know, one of the things that is quite a math is, you know, you can growing up and emerging you can be whatever orientation you are without ever having sex. Oh, yeah. You know, whether you're straight or gay or?



14:27

Yeah, I mean, when I mean, I have like, I've had many lives. In the 60s I was a housewife. I had married my high school sweetheart. In the 70s, I We actually grew up to be different people and divorced and I came out as a lesbian. And there's a way that a couple things. One is that if I would have had ripped bisexual role models in the 70s, I probably wouldn't have gone through a lesbian stage. And a lot of people get really nervous when you call lesbian is a mistake. He, for me, too. It was just that we have to be respectful of people's life process. Number one, and then all of a sudden, I just realized I lost my whole thread, but that was



15:19

good. We did that all the time change topics in mid sentence.



15:24

Well, Jay and I were both kind of interested what kind of led you to write by any other name?



15:32

Well, I mean, well, one thing was, is that when I was a lesbian, and I came out, I read all the anthologies. Because I was looking for my story, just like you said, Jay, I really wanted to read my story. And then, in 1980, when I was a very public lesbian, I was a lesbian mother, and did a lot of activism around that I fell in love with a man Oh, my God. I fell from grace right on my face. And, and there were no books, the only books that there were books, but there were studies of bisexual people. And most of those people were married men, which I was in any of those. So I talked a lot about, I wanted to do this anthology. And actually, when I met Lorraine in 1985, she was like one of the very first really political feminist bisexuals I ever met. And we just became very fast friends. And when she lived in Washington, DC, and we talked about it. And when I stayed at her house, in 1987, for that March, I wrote her a note, when I left for the airport and just said, let's write that book. Because we, we both of us wanted to read a book that had coming out stories that just have the basic stories of everyday bisexual lives. Everything from people coming out in high school, to people that are married and realizing oh my god, to you know, like a little a little slice of who we are as a bisexual people, because there was nothing out there in a bisexual person's voice. Well, it was all studies of who we are. And it's



17:23

like you were saying with the bisexual role models, you know, when I came out, our library had a very great gay and lesbian section. Tons and tons, you know, lesbian stories lesbian coming out stories gay coming out stories. There was one book on bisexuality is the bisexual source

out stories gay coming out stories. There was one book on bisexuality is the bisexual source book or something like that? Oh, yeah. That was it was teeny tiny little book if you know stuff and among all the other ones, and you know, it didn't hardly have any coming out stories. Excuse me. And so I kind of did the same thing you did. I went through this phase. Chi, I must be a lesbian. Well, I don't feel like a lesbian. Well, I'm maybe I'm straight, but I don't feel straight. for like, two years until finally. Yeah. And then I just I thought I read that book as well. You know, what the hell, I'll read this, see what it's about. I read it. And I said, but isn't bisexuality just a phase? That can't be me? Because I'm not freaked out by lesbianism. And then one night, you know, lying there in bed, right before going to sleep. All of a sudden, I just, I literally sat up in bed said oh my god, I am bisexual. What a great story. And it just, I mean, just in my roommate. The next was like, Did you say something?



18:30

Again, epiphany.



18:31

Literally, literally, it was I just felt this weight lifted off my shoulders because I didn't have to make a choice. And I was like, well, there's the women. But some guys are cute. So I go for guys, but then there's these cute women and what do I I'm bisexual. I can go out and both of them you know? That's great. And then I came home and I told my folks about it. And so my mother and I went to Inklings it's a woman's bookstore. And I was just kind of looking around and I saw by any other night and I literally leapt on it you know am I good? My mother's Look at me. Okay, are you alright? Just went home. I think I read it straight through and excuse the pun. You know like one day and then just went back and reading all these different parts to it's so wonderful as you say to find these bisexual people and say, Aha, I can be bisexual and be who I am, you know, or eat or a faggot or dikes body. I just love that one. You know, it's got so many different people in there is really what I think has made it so, you know, so lasting because you can anybody can find themselves in there. And it's just it's so wonderful that you got such a great variety and age and orientation. It was just,



19:39

I think what was funny about when we first started is that Lorraine had this idea. I mean, we both had huge ideas. I mean in order to produce something like that you think really big but we were thinking so big. We wanted the history of the world of bisexuals going back in time I see for Greece, you know? And do it all, you know. And, you know, when we realized we would have like a bookshelf, there was no way to get it all in one book, and then what the Movement and what the community because we both been community activists forever, that what we needed and what the community needed was a reflection of who we are. And to be really true to that. And it was interesting, because we, we went back and forth on, you know, how do the stories fall together? And, oh, we have, like, we have already five people talking about being married. And we need this story over here. And we were actually adding people all the way up to the last minute. Oh, wow. I mean, sometimes we needed a story we needed to, we needed to have this experience in here. It's just missing. So we would get on the phone and ask people and I think one of the most interesting things is that we wanted one of the hard things about being a bisexual, there's sexual right in the title. So it immediately feeds people stereotypes. And it's,

that's one of the awkwardness, you know, there's me coming out as a lesbian or a dyke or a gay man, you know, like, there's a sense of, I don't know, when I came out as a lesbian, I was proud of Dyk in the world. But coming out as bisexual was much harder for me. And so we kept thinking, we need to think of a name something, some a nickname or something for us as a people, and then name the book that, and then maybe that would help but we couldn't come up with. We had a con. People came up with really silly names. But we were kind of searching for that, you know that wrong word. But I've really, here I am, I've grown a custom word by or bisexual. And it's really, it's hard because I know when one of the things I noticed right away, when I came out is that heterosexual people and lesbian gay people were saying the same thing to me. You know, you're confused. Oh, you need to make a choice. Fence. And I thought you guys have something in common here. Exactly. You know, and there's that bottom line belief in that binary, polar opposite, you're either this or that. And that. In that, which is basically heterosexism. And that, if I think what's wonderful about transgender people is that, you know, it really challenges that sexist notion that you're either male or female. And that similar to I'm mixed heritage, and there's a certain way racism or consume, you're either of color, or you're white, and there's nothing in between. But the truth is that most all of us, you know, it's not either or, it's both and, well, it's



23:03

interesting, you bring up you know, the, the transgender and the racial issues and things because there is, you know, the bisexual movement is growing, and the transgender movement is growing. And I've often noticed that, um, there do seem to be a lot of bisexuals and transgenders, you know, we go the bike conferences, there's a lot of transgendered people and, and I think, because of that blurring of the lines, and I've noticed a lot that people aren't, you know, kids these days aren't wanting to choose to be black or white, or Latino or whatever. It's, I am who I am, you know, there's a lot more blurring along the racial lines to



23:42

Well, I think there's a lot more people that are mixed heritage and not just, and that it's really important for us to claim all of who we are. Because life is complex. And it's, it's fabulous. Yeah.



23:53

Well, we were talking about this at the one of the workshops at the BI conference in Boston, actually. And people are always saying, Oh, I don't like labels. I don't like labels. But then what's actually happening happening now is people are putting more labels on themselves. So you're not just bisexual now? No, I'm a bisexual femme top leather, sweater, fag, dyke married monogamous, you know, putting more and more labels on themselves. And the labels don't necessarily mean anything in and of themselves. It's kind of it seems to be the trend. So I think, you know, bisexuality is kind of breaking those boundaries down. And now that you break the boundaries down, it's like, there's no holds barred. There's bisexual omnisexual pansexual. You know, all different kinds of,



24:34

I think, yeah, and I think at some point, we're all just going to be we're sexual, sexual humans being



24:40

buffeted for labels to help. Invisibility because like you said earlier, you know, when you're walking down the streets holding hands, people make certain assumptions. Unless you're holding a sword fight for me and no woman.



24:57

Well, that's yeah. I mean, what's true Because of that binary piece, that bisexual, the only visual that we have out in the world is what if people had people with more than one lover, okay? It's it's one gender and a couple different gendered people. So our images are all of three people because two people, two people pair up with, you know, we disappear. And that's so so. So there's a way in which our only visual we have of ourselves is like two men and a woman or two women and a man, which is fine. That's absolutely fine. And some bisexual people. That is, you know, they're polyamorous or however, they self defined themselves.



25:51

So that's my girlfriend.



25:55

And there's a way though, that people get lost. Yeah, you know, visually, it's like my cat. That's a big challenge. And I think what's really important about bisexual people, transgender people, transsexual people, even mixed heritage, people being really visible now, is that we really reflect the shifting paradigm for me embodied, which for a lot of people are very good.



26:26

thing, but it's also I think, educational. And, you know, I have seen kind of an attitude shift. You know, it's little bits here, little bits there. But, you know, and part of why why I do this radio show, is because, you know, one day I'd like to see the day where it doesn't matter who you take to the senior prom, or how many done man, you know, it shouldn't matter. Right, but in our culture, it does. And I think until it doesn't matter, you know, we've got a lot of work today. Right.



27:01

But one thing I think is really interesting is that there's a trend again, you know, it's like, usually in college students, that the hip trendy thing now is to be bisexual. And you know, even for people who are either exploring their sexuality, or having, you know, had sex or something like

that, is to call themselves bisexual. They say, Oh, yeah, I'm bisexual. So you know, I can, you know, be open. And that's, you know, so people are choosing to identify as bisexual, regardless of their actual sex practices, I guess, shall we say? Because they're beginning to recognize that bisexuality has a lot of fluidity in it, you know, and you can, you can be bisexual and date, almost only women or you can be bisexual and have a male lover, or you can be you know, are celibate, or celibate, or, well,



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what's an interesting thing in the youth, at least here in the Bay Area, and a couple other cities I've heard, there's, there's gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer and questioning, there's a question in category. And I work with teenagers a lot. And I really like that. Because a lot of the youth are just saying, I'm not identifying as any I'm questioning. And it's like, they've taken that on, it's their label. And I really think that's so healthy. Because, you know, everything's up for grabs, lock yourself into anything. And just, and then I'm noticing that a lot of youth that I've either done safe sex workshops with or you know, whatever, however, I'm mentoring them or giving them information, etc. There's, you know, a lot of them end up coming out as heterosexual. But it seems to me that it's so healthy, that you know, you're going through puberty, or you're in high school, or you're just into college. And sex is pretty darn overwhelming. Oh, yeah. I mean, for a lot of people, I mean, Sex sells everything, but we can't even talk about it or get good information. And that to just have a category of questioning.



29:07

Yeah, that's one thing I've always thought is that I think everybody should come out, you know, not just queers, but the straight people should come out to everyone should have this experience of telling people their sexual orientation, you know, so on the one hand, nobody's assuming anything it guys it is. Now we assume people are straight unless they tell you, but then to a lot of people are, I think kind of ended up being straight by default, you know, and just like, because I was kind of that way, when I was in high school, I said, Well, okay, I'm attracted to men, therefore, I must be straight and these attractions to women. Oh, I just want to be their friends. Right? You know? So don't sexualize it. Yeah, exactly. So I was I was straight by default, you know, and so I just I liked this idea of, you know, the questioning thing and even if they turn out straight that's great because they've had that experience. And you know, you talk about the by coming out stories. There's so many books on lesbian coming out stories and gays coming because that's such a such an integral part of the community, the queer community is coming out and identifying one's sexuality and straight people don't have that. Or a lot of straight people don't Well, I



30:12

think that because the society is built up around heterosexual people, they don't even think the question or engage about their sexuality and unless they're heterosexual and sexual outlaws in some way, like in the FM community, or, you know, then heterosexual people do think about et cetera, their sexuality in a way that many heterosexual people just don't, it just is. Yeah, yeah. And that, I think it's important for all of us to look at our sexuality and and check in with it. Enjoy it, make sure you are just having, you know, do you can possibly have? Yeah, you know,



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it's like making a choice. You know, what do you choose happy about



31:02

what you're doing? That having sex for a while, that's fine. Yeah, totally fine, but really be empowered around who you are as a sexual being.



31:14

One of the things that, you know, I realized very early, but for me, sex was in part, a spiritual experience. Yeah. And, you know, when I made love, whether it's a woman or a man, you know, things happen, and I couldn't explain, you know, you touch someone, and it's like, all of a sudden, that touch becomes so charged. And, you know, sex just became such a, it's like magic. You know, it's like, this is so powerful. And just going through this whole process of exploring myself, I learned so much about my body and about other people's bodies, and about how, you know, you can be walking along the street, brush against somebody, nothing, no sparks and nothing. But you can be in an intimate setting with a lover, and just barely brush into them. And it's like, electric.



32:22

Yeah, it is very interesting. And I think what's really one of the one of the important things, I think, maybe one of the gifts that bisexual people bring, is that bisexual is right there in our name. It's difficult, but it helps people. Well, let me back up for a second. I think the gay and lesbian movement is getting sanitized in a way and assimilated into mainstream culture, which has its good points. But the bottom line of gay liberation, when it started was sexual liberation. And that there's a way that's some that's some people are embarrassed to talk about sex or some gay and lesbian leaders have a hard time with that issue. And they'd rather not talk about it. But I think it's really an important issue for us to talk about, because it's the reason we're oppressed. It's the reason the right wing is after us. It's the reason for a lot of you know, there's sodomy laws on the books still, there's Oh, yeah, I know about Texas. I heard about you, folks.



33:33

There's even dildo walls. No, I



33:35

heard that. I heard that I was going to be part of an action for a conference in Texas once and we all kind of chickened out, actually.



33:43

Well, we've got one coming up. I



33:46

want to do a plug. Sure.



33:49

The bisexual South Central Regional bisexual conference, October 22, to the 24th. And it's going to be at the Burke, hollow Sheraton. Houston, I'm getting an MC step. Coming and we are bringing some fabulous people in the town. It's gonna be such a wonderful experience.



34:18

We may even have dildos Oh, wait, you said that.



34:27

I was wondering, to bring in kind of a little political spin here. I'm actually on the board of directors of the National Gay Lesbian Taskforce. I'm the first out bisexual to be asked to be on the National Board of Lesbian Gay organizations. I'm really proud of that. Graduation. I'm one of the things I am excited about right now as the equality begins at home. Going to be happening in all 50 states, which is a pretty exciting thing. I think that Two things are exciting for me is one that a national organization got a grant in, in GLTF is giving each state has given each state \$5,000 To organize around local issues, and what's going on in Texas,



35:19

basically, while I'm now part of the rally, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, Houston creating change committee. Oh, wow. And we've been doing a lot of planning for the Texas events, in fact, started out with three listed one will be a youth rally on March 20. And then we'll have them march on the Capitol on the 21st. And then, the 22nd, which is a Monday is going to be IApi day. Oh, great. And in response to the transgendered, I was talking to Wendy with BioNet, USA, and she started raising the question, I'm sure you saw it on the webpage. You know, what's happening with all these transgendered murderers? You know, isn't anybody responding? So I got real busy and started planning and we're now going to have a vigil at the right after the march. Oh, that's really good. And it's going to be we wanted it to be representative of all hate crimes. So we're not only focusing on transgendered murderers, but also on throw away kids. We're gonna have the speaker from PFLAG address that issue. Sir De Palma is going to be one the speakers and



36:54

transgendered activist. Yeah. Oh, really good.



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And we're also going to have Reverend moblie do some songs for voices back



37:07

for the Metropolitan Community Church here in Houston. So we're



37:11

gonna have a really good line up.



37:14

That's really exciting.



37:16

Oh, yeah. It's been going on. Our emails been burning up, we get 30 messages a day at least. So that's coming up. What like just a couple of two's that two weeks from



37:31

two weeks starting to get a lot of press here. Just go and around the country and, and I think it's his Well, it's historical, that all 50 states that our movement has matured enough, including the gay lesbian, bisexual transgender movement, that that we can have something happening