

MAN: Stick around. We'll be right back.

JIMMY: Oh yeah. Oh yeah. Oh yeah. The great Romanovsky and Phillips on a brand new CD, *Brave Boys-- The Best and More of Romanovsky and Phillips*. Available at your favorite gay and lesbian record store, sort of like Inklings, Lobo, Crossroads. They'll probably have them.

I got mine at, let's see, Lobo, I believe. And I guess I need to let you know that you are listening to the QMZ, the Queer Music Zone, right here on *After Hours*, a continuing tradition on KPFT Houston. And somebody reminded me that we did the queer core set last week on the *Outpunk Dance Party* CD.

And that I inadvertently mentioned that it was available at a place where it wasn't available. It's available at Sound Exchange, not Record Exchange. Sound Exchange. It's that great place about, oh, I'd say the 1700 block of Westheimer.

It's that great place that has all the punk music and it's next to that tacky place that sells fabric and gets all upset if you park in front of their place. So from that compilation, *Outpunk Dance Party*. And it's really good, all this queer punk music.

My fave so far-- of course, I like a lot of them, but my fave is the last one, the Tribe 8 "Oversized Ego." And I want to play that. That's kind of what I want to do.

[MUSIC - TRIBE 8, "OVERSIZED EGO"]

[AUDIO OUT]

Whoa. Yes, Tribe 8, "Oversized Ego." Woo, what a group of women that is. And I've got one more that I want to play in the QMZ tonight.

We've got a really packed show, so I'm going to have to kind of cut it down a little bit. And Daniel, yes, I did play that "Kissed" right at the beginning of the QMZ. But this is for the whole community.

This is a song that we've played on *After Hours* for a very, very long time. Gosh, Buddy Johnston played this song on *After Hours* before I was even a part of the show. And that was back in 1988.

And it sounds as good today as it did then. And the message sure is the same. And it's still there for all of us. And I should just shut up and play the dumb song.

OK, yes, I'll do that. The Flirtations and it's "Something Inside So Strong."

[MUSIC - THE FLIRTATIONS, "SOMETHING INSIDE SO STRONG"]

[AUDIO OUT]

"Something Inside So Strong" for the gay and lesbian community. And until next week.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

OK, we're back this week again, with Karen Karen, who is the president of It's Time, America. It's Time, America is a transgendered political action group. And Karen Karen is-- we are speaking to her while she's in Montpelier, Vermont.

Karen, we were talking a little bit last week about ENDA, which for our gay and lesbian friends, I'm sure they know is the Employment Non-Discrimination Act. I'd like to relate something to you that's going on here in Houston as an example of why ENDA is important.

We have a transgendered person in Houston right now. And I will not use her name on the air, but she works for a car rental agency. She's been with the company a year and a half.

And in fact, she's been promoted at least once while she was there. But when she-- about 60 days into getting her job, she explained to them that she was a diagnosed transsexual and that at some point along the line, she was going to need to transition on the job. And she was told at the time it was not a problem.

Well, lo and behold, the time is here. It's time to transition. And they're saying not only is it a problem, but if you transition on the job, we are going to fire you. If there is a better example of why transgender people need to be included in ENDA, I don't think I could find a better example than that.

KAREN:

I have to agree with you. It's a very terrible thing. There's a lot of unique problems that I think transgendered people and transsexuals, in particular, face. Employment is one of the very horrible ones.

As a professional engineer, I find it quite difficult to be able to work. That's part of why I'm going to law school now. One of the great horrors that I have is the legal system in the state of Vermont is nonresponsive to the transgender issues.

My forensic, for example, in employment-- if I have to furnish a birth certificate, I'm faced with an immediate question of, why? And when they look at my birth certificate, which says "court-amended" at the top, has a line drawn through my birth name. Has my current name typed in beside of it and my sex unchanged, certainly, it's a curious looking instrument.

And people-- naturally, any employer is going to ask, why? If I tell them the truth, the odds are very good that I will not hear from them again. On the other hand, if I lie, that job is forever in jeopardy because I would have lied in an employment situation.

That's not very good. It's not very fair. And in fact, it casts me as rather a nonentity. I can't obtain a visa for a Muslim country because most Muslim countries, as do many other countries, want a certified copy of your birth certificate. That's kind of disconcerting.

JIMMY:

Even for friends of mine that have wanted to go overseas to have surgery, that has presented a problem in obtaining passports.

KAREN:

Yes, it is. It's a great deal of problem. I had to obtain my passport because the last cancer surgery I had was done in Montreal, Canada. And at that time, there were reported incidences of American citizens being turned back at the border or not being allowed to return to the United States.

I, of course, made sure that I had my documents to be able to not have any problems. But it is incongruous that I should have a basic fundamental document, a birth certificate, here in this country where we like to pride ourselves on all people being created equal. That is fundamentally at odds with all my other documentation.

It makes a lot of problems for me and it is an economic privation. It's an unnecessary economic privation.

JIMMY:

Let's talk a little bit about the law conference and It's Time, America. I think most people here in Houston have at least heard of Phyllis Frye. And have heard of the Transgender Law Conference. But I think there might be some confusion in people's mind as to what the difference is between the law conference and It's Time, America.

Why don't you discuss that a little bit and tell us how they are different.

KAREN:

OK. That's fairly easy. The law conference is fundamentally a think tank. It is an opportunity for lawyers involved in transgendered affairs and for transgendered lay people to attend a law conference where the many ideas can be brought together and conclusions reached on the many areas of law that affect transgendered people. As well as the employment policy part of it, which, of course, means our jobs.

We deal with such diverse things as prison law, which has been moderated the last couple of years by our good friend down in Houston, Mr. Ray Hill. Last year, we came up with a policy for the imprisoned transgendered. That's quite important. And for those of you who follow the United States Supreme Court and its many decisions, it's quite interesting that the farmer, a current federal prisoner, was able to bring suit.

And finally, was the first transgendered person to make it to the Supreme Court where she won her case 9 to nothing. And where the justices spoke up very strongly for her because she had been thrust into the general population in a high maximum security prison where she was assaulted, beaten, severely beaten-- almost to death-- raped, and a number of other very brutal kinds of things happened to her. That's a very callous policy.

And essentially, what the Supreme Court said was she was sent there to be punished. She was not sent there for cruel and unusual punishment, which they felt was exactly the case that she endured.

Interestingly, she did this pro se. And as I understand, it was not allowed to argue the case before the Supreme Court and to have a surrogate to do that. I think that shows you the kind of determination that many people in the transgender community have.

We also deal with health law. We deal with documentation law. We deal with military law. Because, of course, the transgendered people have the very same kinds of problems in the military that the gay and lesbian community has.

Our transgendered people were doing a fine job in the military. Really, there's no reason in the world why they can't continue doing it. They're not any military problem. They're not a threat.

In fact, as it is true in the gay and lesbian community, many of our people are people who have excelled in their field and were very, very competent and dedicated. There's no earthly reason in the world why they can't serve our country just as well as somebody who is not a part of the greater gender community.

JIMMY:

I met a young lady at Dr. Cole's office. And for those who don't know, Dr. Cole runs the Rosenberg Clinic in Galveston, which is a gender reassignment clinic. But I met a young lady down there who had won the Bronze Star in Vietnam while she was then a he.

And after he came home and started reassignment, asked the military about the transition. To which they said, well, we don't really want to revoke your Bronze Star, so why don't you just leave? Somehow, there's something wrong with that logic I think.

KAREN: Sure is. And that's why It's Time, America better known as ITA, came into existence. What we do is what the law conference can't do. We can go ahead and proactively lobby Congress. We can proactively lobby legislatures. We can proactively lobby and strongly affect smaller jurisdictional bodies, like city councils and town councils.

We can get involved in political campaigns. We can make financial contributions to candidates that are friendly toward us. Similarly, we can conduct negative campaigns against candidates that are violently opposed to us.

We find that there's a lot of people out there who are really very much on our side. They recognize that we're all God's children. We're created in his image and likeness. And God doesn't make mistakes.

Well, certainly, we all come under the same general umbrella, we're God's children. And it is an interesting thing that there are some segments of the Christian community in particular that seem to be violently opposed to us. I don't know what it's going to take to change that, but up in my part of the country here in Vermont, we had a minister who recently wrote an article explaining that hate was not a Christian value.

And explaining that it was not very proper for a Christian, who would allege that they believe in Jesus Christ, to be carrying on a hate campaign against people in the gender community.

JIMMY: Well, there's a novel concept. Hate is not a Christian-- gee, I like that. Christianity would be a great idea if people only practice it, you know?

KAREN: Sure would. Sure would.

JIMMY: I'd like to take this-- say that was an original line, but it was not, so.

KAREN: But hate isn't a Christian value.

JIMMY: No, I'm-- of course, here in Texas, we have-- well, we have the Southern Baptist Conference. We have at least one rabidly wild United States Senator. We have a half a legislature that would qualify for that.

It's Texas, I'm sorry to say, is a long way behind Vermont in many ways. And for Texans who like to believe that Texas is number one in everything, I have to tell you folks, it isn't so. Sorry. Just telling the truth.

KAREN: Well, I'll tell you something. One of the things that ITA is trying very hard to do is we're trying to work with both parties. And I think that that's very important. It was a consequence. We try very hard not to label either party as particularly a friendly or opposed to us. We have discovered that we've got friends in both parties.

And I think that that's something that our communities have got to come to grips with. It used to be-- and a lot of folks in the greater gender community-- will tell you that they thought only Democrats were willing to let them into the tent. It's quite interesting. I ran as a candidate here for the legislature in Vermont.

And last Tuesday, had the bad luck not to win in a primary. But I was very, very welcomed by my party. I've been a delegate to conventions of my party here in Vermont for some years. I was just a delegate last Saturday to our platform committee for the state. And in fact, spoke quite extensively and was able to get quite a number of amendments made to it that were important for here in Vermont.

JIMMY: I--

KAREN: So it's not like we're cut out of politics.

JIMMY: Oh, no. I tell you what. I would take a friend from the Communist Party if they would be willing to vote for our choice in the legislature, at this point. We're at that level here.

So yeah, there's no partisan politics from my end. I would work with anybody from either party that was transgender-friendly. And we do have a long way to go in Texas.

Karen, we're out of time in this segment. I want to thank you very much. And next week, I'd like to talk a little bit about the relationship between the transgendered and the gay lesbian communities, and why it's necessary that we work together.

So we'll continue this next week. Thank you very much, Karen.

KAREN: You bet.

[AUDIO OUT]

JIMMY: Yes. That was Tranae Chardon with peace and love from diverse house and female impersonators in general. You're listening to *After Hours*, a continuing tradition on KPFT. And we are doing "Coming Out of the Closet." And we're talking about all kinds of different communities in the queer community.

And it occurred to me that we haven't covered everybody. So for some of you that may be out there wondering, well gosh, they're not talking about me tonight, here's something for you.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

ANNOUNCER: And now a preview of our coming attractions. Manhole Productions presents Derek John and Chuck-u Farley in the South Seas saga *Buggery on the High Seas*.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

CAPTAIN: All right, tie that scurvy down to the yard arm.

SAILOR 1: Aye-aye, Captain.

CAPTAIN: [INAUDIBLE]

SAILOR 1: Sir?

CAPTAIN: Read the charges.

SAILOR 1: Aye-aye, Captain. [INAUDIBLE], you have been charged with a heinous crime of buggery on the high sea. How do you plead?

SAILOR 2: I'm innocent. I'm innocent. I didn't do it. You've got to believe me, I'm innocent.

SAILOR 3: He's lying.

SAILOR 2: I am not.

SAILOR 3: You are so, your big fibber.

SAILOR 2: Look, I'm not lying, Captain.

SAILOR 3: Yes he is, Captain. He's a big liar.

SAILOR 2: Look, you shut up or I'm going to get you.

SAILOR 3: You already did. That's why you're in trouble now.

CAPTAIN: All right. Both of you, shut up.

SAILOR 3: Liar, liar, pants on fire.

CAPTAIN: Look, I told you to shut up.

SAILOR 3: But he's a big fibber, captain. He's lying.

CAPTAIN: Look, you either shut up or I'll give you what he's going to get.

SAILOR 3: And what's that?

CAPTAIN: 50 lashes with a [INAUDIBLE].

SAILOR 3: 50 lashes! He should get at least 100 for what he did to me, that big fibbity-liar-liar-liar.

CAPTAIN: Look, tie that scurvy dog to the yard arm too.

SAILOR 3: Get your hands off me. You smell like fish, you big brute.

CAPTAIN: Here, give me that whip. Hoist that dog from the yard arm.

SAILOR 3: Hey. You're hurting my wrist. This isn't funny now, you guys. Hey, come on. Oh, rip the shirt. How cliché. I suppose you'll have me walk the plank next or something.

CAPTAIN: Here. Here, take this you dog.

SAILOR 3: Ow. Ow. Ow. Ooh. Yes. Oh God, yes. Yes, ooh. Yes. Yes.

JIMMY: OK. If you happen to see yourself in that little skit there, maybe that's the closet you need to come out of.

JIM: I've had the pirate ship fantasy before.

JIMMY: Have you now, Jim. Uh-huh.

JIM: Oh, I have one thing to say.

JIMMY: Yes?

JIM: My hateful BiNet buddies there.

JIMMY: Yeah?

JIM: Tuned in--

JIMMY: Hoo-ha, hee-ha.

JIM: Yes, they tuned in to our show yesterday.

JIMMY: What?

JIM: *Esoteric Adventures.*

JIMMY: Yeah?

JIM: And they said, ooh, they're playing a bunch of weird crap, and turned it off.

WOMAN: Hey. We didn't say it was crap.

JIM: No, she didn't--

JIMMY: Oh.

JIM: She didn't use that word.

JIMMY: Oh, OK. Just played a bunch of weird-- oh. Oh, that word.

JIM: Yeah, the thing that George Carlin said that we can't say.

JIMMY: Oh yeah, one of those seven deadlies, huh?

JIM: Yeah.

JIMMY: Oh.

JIM: So there you go.

JIMMY: OK. So what have you got, BiNet folks?

MAN: Well, we've got something for our younger crowd, 20 Something. There is a group coming up, support group for those coming out. And for anybody in their 20s, it's a caring, informative, social, and community-oriented group coming together in a positive atmosphere to share, learn, encourage each other, and create a safe environment that's conducive to personal growth.

It's just forming. Be a part of this new and exciting challenge to young adults. Great for those seeking friendship and understanding coming out or just hanging out.

JIMMY: Oh, OK. Now, this is pretty cool because 20 Something is really involved at Baring. And they're also involved with this kind-- it's not a group, it's a place, I guess. It's called Das Kaffee Haus, which is a place at Baring to hang out if you're young-- I mean, under 20, or-- and it's on Friday and Saturday nights.

Betty was on the show talking about this coffeehouse. So I guess if you want more information, get in touch with Baring.

JIM: Or for more information, contact Quincy at 541-4217.

JIMMY: Cool. OK.

MAN: And that Das Kaffee Haus is cool too.

JIMMY: Oh, yeah.

MAN: If you don't have a lot of money, I think they-- well, can we mention that? There's a nominal fee when you go in--

JIMMY: No, I didn't know that.

MAN: --that's not required.

JIMMY: OK.

MAN: If you don't have it, they just ask that you help out. That either you get up and perform on one of the stages.

JIMMY: Oh, no kidding.

MAN: Or you help out selling coffee. They sell coffee cheaply. Well, it's free generic coffee.

JIMMY: Yeah.

MAN: Or they have gourmet coffees at a small price. And they have dance. There's several different areas. There's a dance area, there's an area where people can get up and perform.

JIMMY: Yeah.

MAN: And then there's areas where people can just sit around and talk.

JIMMY: Oh, cool. OK, well that's-- I didn't even realize that they had all that much going. Cool. And we complain all the time. We don't do anything for any youth.

There's no places for youth. And here's a great place with caring people. And a nice place to hang out.

MAN: Yeah. Well, then there's Hatch too. We've had them on the air a number of times.

JIMMY: Oh yeah. Oh yeah. What else you got?

MAN: Well, there's also coming out group for men at the Montrose Counseling Center at 701 Richmond Houston, Texas. The phone numbers is 529-0037.

WOMAN: And also at Montrose Counseling Center, well, the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month from 7:00 to 9:00 PM they have Women's Network. And this October 12--

JIMMY: Wait a minute now. What date was that again?

WOMAN: The second and fourth Wednesdays.

JIMMY: Wednesday. Uh-huh.

WOMAN: 7:00 to 9:00.

JIMMY: Maybe that's why women only come to the BiNet group every other week, huh?

WOMAN: Could be. Could be. I didn't think about that. But on October 12, right after National Coming Out Day, the theme I guess for Women's Network is "Coming Out Together." Says "In celebration of National Coming Out Day, come and share in coming out stories with the accepting women participants of the Women's Network."

And that number again for MCC is 529-0037 if you're interested. Sounds good.

MAN: The president of the Gulf Coast Transgender Community, JoAnn Roberts, just gave us a call and reminded me that on the 11th, that's this coming Tuesday, at the Penthouse Club, which is on Montrose Boulevard, Gay '90s, the Public Access channel, is going to be at the Penthouse Club from 6:30 to 7:30. And as part of that, they are going to be interviewing JoAnn Roberts and Denise Copp, who are two members of Gulf Coast Transgender Community. And I would personally like to thank the people from Gay '90s and from Public Access.

They have really gone out of their way to include us in their programming. That's a rare thing. They're really to be commended for that.

JIMMY: No kidding.

MAN: So if you're going to be in the area on-- that's this coming Tuesday. And it's at the Penthouse Club the 11th, 6:30 to 7:30. We invite you to come on up. Part of the proceeds, as I understand it, will go to help Gay '90s with their financial difficulties.

Folks, here's a really good opportunity to help people who are doing good things for the community.

JIMMY: Well, let's talk a little bit about that. Because I don't have cable. Now, I don't know much about Gay '90s, but I do know one of the guys who works for Gay '90s. And as a matter of fact, they did a story on the gay bowling league.

MAN: Right.

JIMMY: And they-- did you see it?

MAN: No. No, but the thing about Gay '90s-- Houston, for as long as I can remember, has not been well represented in the media.

JIMMY: Oh no.

MAN: Channel 8-- I hate to keep picking on them, but channel 8 is notorious for not carrying gay-oriented programming.

JIMMY: Right.

MAN: And they plead lack of money or whatever excuse you want to use. The bottom line is it doesn't show up.

JIMMY: Yeah, I know. Or they say, oh yeah, well we did that thing last year, remember?

MAN: Yeah, it had something to do with AIDS.

JIMMY: Yeah.

MAN: Like AIDS defines the gay community somehow. It's not-- I guess it doesn't affect heterosexuals, according to them. So here's a chance-- here's a group from Houston who has the ability and the equipment to be on the Public Access channel.

JIMMY: I just wish I had cable because I'd love to see it.

MAN: When of the Transgender Law Conference was here in Houston, they brought the equipment out, they taped. And unlike the other media who came looking for freaks, the people in Gay '90s came out and looked for people.

JIMMY: Right.

MAN: That was a big difference. And they have really, really gone out of their way to be representing everyone in the community. And it seems a real shame to me that in a city of this size, an organization that is doing such good should be in so much financial trouble.

JIMMY: Oh, they are? Oh.

MAN: Well, it's an expensive proposition to do television.

JIMMY: Sure. Sure.

MAN: And yes, they need some financial help. And now here is the Penthouse Club, who's offering. It's nice to see that there's still-- in this community, you can still get gay and lesbian businesses helping the gay-lesbian community.

JIMMY: Yeah.

MAN: They're not just taking but they're giving back.

ADVERTISER: And how you can get free tickets for a brand new movie, a sneak preview for this Saturday, called the *Little Giants*. You can go by any mattress giant, especially the one in Sugar Land on Highway 6 and pick up some free passes. I hope you do that, because I want to see you at the movie this Saturday.

Now, stick around for one of my all time favorites, *Animaniacs*, up next, right here on Fox.

[MUSIC PLAYING]