

gcam_ah_19970809_t1_01.mp3_edit

Wed, Mar 22, 2023 2:10PM

40:46

SUMMARY KEYWORDS

people, folks, transgender, transsexual, transgendered, hear, black, transgenders, thought, called, houston, white, terms, transgendered person, color, cases, talk, hatch, class, film



00:01

following program contains language or images of a frank or sensitive nature that may be considered objectionable by some listener discretion is advised.



00:35

Oh yes, you've tuned in to 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 classes. That means standing up for yourself and 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.



01:59

Hello, Houston, and welcome to after hours queer radio with attitude heard every Saturday night right here on KPFT Houston, and ke O 's College Station. I'm Jimmy Carper. And with me tonight is Cerro de



02:17

Palma. Tada Hello, Houston. How are you? It's that night. It's that night. Let me warn you right now if you are coming up to sharp the Southwest Freeway from Sugarland, or from the Sharpstown area, the ramp to get down to the 610 loop is closed boys and girls go figure closed. So if you're coming up to Southwest Freeway, and you think oh, I'm gonna hop on the South Loop, no, no, you're not. And I pointed out because when I pass through, there was quite a wreck right there. I don't know why there were signs all over the place telling you it was closed.



00:51



02:51

And that was there this afternoon while I was on the freeway.



02:55

Yeah, it was. We were out doing some shopping today for some things. You know, I've become disgustingly domestic. I mean, we've been we've been having a remodeling done. Yeah. And we've gotten, we've been showered shopping for tile and paint.



03:12

And I thought, well, aren't you just the hometown?



03:14

Oh my god, I've become middle class. Never thought I never thought this would ever happen to me. Well, you



03:24

know, you buy a house and these things happen.



03:26

I become my parents. Jamie is scary. Yes, it really is. I looked around and I thought Oh, my God, this happened to me. When did I go from becoming an Abbie Hoffman? activist who? Oh, yes, this color will right we're work fine in the kitchen. Something is missing in this. Anyway, it was kind of fun.



03:48

domestic life does that to you?



03:50

Yeah. And you know what? I like it. I'm enjoying it. You know, I looked around and I thought darling this is pretty good. I would really miss it if it's gone. Yeah, yeah, I'm glad you know it's funny because we talked about whether we would get a house or a condo I'm glad we got the house because music is go out and get playing in the dirt and put little plants in the grass little mistake you



04:14

know, while I'm the condo type



04:17

well yeah, there's a lot to be said for that actually.



04:19

I'm still digging the dirt I just do it in pots, you know



04:23

on days when it's 90 degrees and I have to mow the lawn condos start



04:30

well, first we got go into that I



04:32

first of all, I want to welcome him some new listeners. Our tower Yeah, no has finally been raised. And I can tell because where I live. I can now hear the station even on days when the weather is bad. The sound quality is much much better. I have been hearing from folks that are in Clear Lake who are able to hear the station now. And also to the north of us. If you are a new listener to After hours, welcome. This particular we have a rotating schedule and this particular weekend happens to be the show that we do about transgenders in the transgender community. If you don't know what a transgendered person is, and you've never heard of a transgender community, I invite you to stick around later in the show. We are going to go through some of the basics good. We're going to start from scratch because I realize that we have a brand new audience. So if you are, if you are unfamiliar with transgenders, or if you are or if you've seen them on Geraldo, and thought, What the hell is that?



05:36

Surprise, surprise, stick around? We're gonna we will, you're gonna, you're gonna meet some real people.



05:43

Yes, we have a roomful of folks out front we're going to be participating in this should be an excellent show. On the first Parsh portion of the show, we're going to have a guest by the name of Monica Roberts, Monica as the as the African American, and we're going to be talking about

transgenders of color. Now, as I told Monica, I hate the term of color. Everybody's of color,



06:07

or have some some color. I don't



06:09

I mean, you know, your your you may be white. It may be, you know, tan or olive. Everybody's, to me, it's not so useless term. It's like saying, if this is a human who breeds you know, a person, a person who breeds Yes, of course, a person of color, unfortunately, it's like sort of silly.



06:25

Unfortunately, many people discriminate because of the color because the color is not white. Right? Yeah. And I agree with you. I



06:32

have to do something. Yeah, yeah. So maybe by the time the show's over, we'll be able to come up with a better job. Because it just it strikes me as being kind of an odd term. Also, we're going to talk about Phyllis fries letter that's in



06:47

outsmart the brand new outsmart I saw the letter. Yes. And



06:50

I'm gonna do my best not to go off on a tirade, but I do have a few comments about it. And we'll also have fries there. If the sun comes up, I probably have an opinion. And I'm also also want to talk the I've had several people talking to me who started the law conference, people who kind of put me into a corner with the law conference said, What are you coming back to state politics in blah, blah, blah, blah. So I'm gonna be talking about that tonight. And most will tell you now, I'm going to come back to state politics, but I'll tell you why. So as is usually the case, we have a about a nine hour program that's going to go into about three hours. I do want to say hello to the folks from hatch. Oh, yeah. I first of all, I want to thank you for inviting me to that. That was really fun. I enjoyed that.



07:36

We did a presentation that had a couple of Fridays ago. It was hatched in for exactly. I don't

know, just an area teen Coalition on homosexuality.



07:47

Okay, I had most of it, right? Yes. Laurie asked me what it stood for. And I said, Ah, Houston area teen coalition. Remember the rest



07:57

on homosexuality, okay. However, they're much broader than that. Yes, they are. Because they cover bisexuality. And they cover transgenderism.



08:08

And I have to tell you, I don't know if any of the folks from hatch are listening. I can't tell you how impressed I was with these folks. These are very bright, very articulate young people. And I left there really with feeling real, a real sense of hope for the future, or these folks are our future. They really are the extended the cream of the crop. Yeah. So if you folks are from Hatcher was out there listening tonight. Thank you for inviting us. Thank you for listening to me. You know, say my little spiel there for a few minutes. And it really was a lot of fun. I left there thinking, you know, there's a lot of hope for the future. These people are very bright sound.



08:43

I'm very proud to have hatches a regular permanent host on after hours, the first Saturday of every month, you're going to hear hat



08:53

you're really good at doing first you know that? No, I mean that sincerely. I mean, you think you you put people on who probably needed to have been out a long time ago, but it's, I'm proud of you. You're good at this point doing first stuff. So thanks. Yeah. Also, I wanted to mention, first of all, let me mention our phone number. Our phone number is 526-573-8526 KPFT. Now, we will not be putting folks on the air. However, long the last few times we've done the show we've had phone calls from people in various places who had questions. If you have questions about transgenders or transgender ism, or any of the things we're talking about tonight, big Roy is out in the lobby.



09:36

And we probably have someone who is transgender to



09:39

speak to you. That's right. We actually have transgendered folks out there tonight, who couldn't they although they're not professional counselors, they can certainly give you some advice and want to invite you to to take advantage of this opportunity. You bet. I know the last few times we've done the show we've gotten calls from people who are newly out even to themselves and are trying to figure out what's the right way to get Oh, here's an opportunity to speak to some folks and get the real deal.



10:04

How about people who are confused and don't know? Or how about people who may have a transgendered person in their family and and don't understand what's going on?



10:15

Yeah, I that and also I want to say it when we were in hatched, I was very proud of this one person who came up to me and said, You know, I don't get it. What is transgendered? And I first of all thought that took a lot of guts. Sure, you know, and, and even if you're one of those folks, the number is 5265738.



10:31

And we're inside the loop. So it's 713.



10:33

I keep forgetting the, you know, I



10:35

don't even bother with it. What I do is I just dial the number, if it doesn't go through, I know I have to do something else.



10:41

You know, it's the wrong one. Yeah. Yeah. I'll get used to it after a while. So anyway, I just wanted to say hi to you, folks. And we see you get some music here.



10:50

Well, you know, I do have some music, but I really hate it when bad things happen to good people. And unfortunately, bad things are happening to a couple of very good people out there

tonight. Yes, Jessica and skip. who I met through you as a matter through your endeavors. And we've played skips music, Skip, has done this wonderful album of music, and had Tris Tristan MC Avery sing it right. Skip is in the hospital right now. And he's been in the hospital for a couple of weeks. So you know, anybody who's in the hospital for two weeks? It's not wonderful. It's it's serious. It's serious.



11:40

It's serious, serious.



11:43

It's I don't think it's critical. But



11:47

two weeks in the hospital, even if you're there for a rash is not fun, right?



11:52

It's not good for him. And it's certainly not good for Jessica and the people who



11:56

love skip. That's right. Absolutely. Right.



11:58

So skip so Jessica wants to wanted me to play a song tonight to skip this. Oh, please see and and of course, skip. This is from Jessica and it's just for you. It's the first song on your album. I'll be here for you



12:26

Sarah, is a microphone is a How are microphones doing here? We Okay, now you're fine. Okay, good. You have to understand folks, everything about the station is old when we do fundraisers in marathons, and we ask for your money. We're not joking. We're really not joking. I mean, honest to God, we need the money and we need it real bad. If you didn't send in your check already. Don't make me come get you. Alright, send money in. What it's it's if you've ever seen that the show Northern Exposure, the little the little radio station they do. That's us, except that all our equipment is older than there is.



13:03

Pretty much pretty much



13:05

we've got stuff in here that says 1958 on it. And Elvis is king with the hand. So so please. Okay, that's enough for that. Just that was a commercial word brought to you button. And now I am here with our with our with our first of our guests this evening, I guess. And her name is Monica. Monica, welcome to the show. It's nice being here. Why don't we start off by telling folks a little bit about you. Tell them what you're comfortable telling them?



13:36

Well, look, I say I'm one of those rare people. native Houstonian born and raised here. With the exception of two years in New Orleans, I work for major airline here in Houston, where I've been transitioning there for the last two years. And for the most part, I'm a proud member of tats on this. So let's tell people what tattoo which is the Texas Association for trends, gent sexual support or transgender support. We'll take your pick.



14:07

Yeah, it's one of the T words the T word. Okay, now



14:12

and I have to say that I go to the airport a lot, because my lover comes in and out constantly. And I've seen Monica at work



14:22

that she actually work or does she model say half the job that she has. Yeah, if you work in an airport, you have to deal with all kinds of problems suddenly, just as soon not deal with you. Oh, god. Yeah. Now, this is a show I've wanted to do for a long time. And I want to tell the audience a little bit about the background of this. For the longest time I have been trying to do a show about transgender people of color. And actually we almost did the show about five months ago. And the person called me up and said, I have my parents here the show I can't I'll get killed. And so they canceled. And then about three months ago, and almost happened, I all thought we had this again. And this was with a national, one of the national leaders who called me up and said, No, I can't afford to be done if it leaked out. And I was like, All right. So this is a show we've actually been trying to do for a long time. So thank you for coming. telfa I wanted to, I'm trying to think about how to present this to the audience. And I guess we've started the basics here. To be a transgendered person, just a transgender person of any kind, whether it's, you eventually end up as a crossdresser, or transsexual, or, you know, some combination

thereof, is extremely, extremely difficult. And I can remember my high school days, and I don't remember the particularly fondly, but it seems to me that to have been a teenager, I don't know when you realize that you are transgender, but to a better trans, a teenager, and transgendered and a person of color must have been a bitch.

16:02

Yeah, for the most part it was and then you add the situation when you're two grade levels ahead of half your classmates. Oh, wow. Yeah. So there's tends to be a little bit of jealousy, and then you toss in gender, gender dysphoria into the mix. It doesn't win to some fond memories, in some cases. Yeah, I can remember going having a fight a week, a fight a week, because the macho attitude there are, you know, the same macho attitudes in the African American community to maintain masculinity just as strong as probably in the Hispanic community, in some cases.

16:46

We've had some Hispanic transgenders on the show, and they talk about the macho thing. Now, I don't know, is that strong in the black community? Well,

16:55

because of our history in this country, where, for the most part, you know, you'd go back into slavery, and then you go into those bad old days where, you know, your uncles or cousins or whatever, we're hanging from trees in some cases, and the disproportionate share of African American males who are in either thrown in you know, who are in dealing with the criminal justice system. Yeah, it puts a very big premium in the community when African American males are going up to one you know, stay out of trouble and you're raised to basically not because I can remember certain times when my parents coached me on okay if you get pulled over by a police officer, this is what you do don't map off to this police officer. You know, don't make any sudden movements and and you know, the other realities of, of racism in America you're having to have that drill you're getting that drilled into you from day one.

18:06

So this is a service extra pressure being a role model right out of the chute

18:09

right out of the chute. Right out of the chute for the most part yeah, you have that pressure in a one to not let want not let not only not let your family down. Because the it while when I was growing up the it takes a village that first lady Clinton mentioned was basically taken very seriously in a community. There are times when y'all say, I can remember one incident when I was coming home from from junior high was sick. And my next door neighbor was like, Why are you home at 10? o'clock in the morning? Yeah, my



18:45

neighbor trying to find out whether you're where I was learning to in school,



18:49

why aren't you in school? Or Dada? Dada? Why aren't you in school or? And when I tell him I'm not feeling well that I that mom says okay to come home. Is it okay? But they're checking, but they're checking on you. So it it's an old African proverb which was taken very seriously at that time. And for the most part, a lot of my neighbors and stuff grew up grew up to be our police officers and other and very well paying jobs for the most part. With the exception of one kid that was a neighborhood bully, which we jokingly call them the most likely to end up in TWA answered in Texas Department of Corrections where he is now.



19:33

A couple years ago, I went on to Tsu to hear Jesse Jackson speak and want to tell the audience, even if you don't like Jesse Jackson, you ought to go here just to hear the man talk. Yeah, he's very blunt. After the afterwards he was taking questions from the audience and one of the people in the audience stood up and said, as an African American American male, I feel like I have a bull's eye on my head. To which Jesse Jackson replied, You do? Yes, you do. And it was the first time that it really connected with the pressure that they felt



20:00

Oh, yeah, you do, because I can relate an incident that happened to me. This was probably probably five years that I started working there, I was running late for work, and I had to park in the parking garage at at work. So I jumped in the elevator and they're happening a white female in the elevator with me. We're on opposite sides, the elevator, but I noticed that she switched her purse from one side to the other.



20:30

He's worried about being robbed. And



20:33

I looked at and I said, Ma'am, I said, if I were that inclined to rob you, one, why would I do it at the place where I work with a name badge with my name on it with a bright red jacket, because I was a so just say you



20:55

wouldn't be easily identified.

20:59

And so, and then, so by that time, we got to the main ticket counter floor, and I got out and I was like, Oh, what a way to start today, I was a little pissed for about the first two hours of my shift.

21:11

So when did you realize that you were transgendered? How old? Were you?

21:15

Um, probably when I was five years old in first grade. And

21:21

so that's about that's, that's I was about five years old. First time, I went to my mother and said, I want to be a girl. And she said, yeah, right.

21:28

I noticed it. Well, I had one of my kindergarten teachers. And this was my first memory. Um, well, I was kind of sad. I was, look, I was kind of like noticing the call to shoe wearing, I'm wondering why I couldn't wear the clothes that she wore, and identify more with her. Um, and over time, over time, those feelings got stronger, and especially the more you to fight it. And then, in terms of the the other things I mentioned in terms, you know, when you're sitting up here, on one hand, you've got, you know, the community sitting, you know, going, oh, you know, you need to be a good role model, the role you're supposed to run, and on top of that, when I'm also making straight A's in school. Okay, so that puts even more pressure on. And in addition to that, I'm a firstborn kid. Oh, boy. Firstborn kid at that. So question for you growing up. And on top of that, my parents have high profile jobs. You know, once an educator, the other, you know, the other is in the communications industry, and was for a long time here. You've got that pressure on top of that. So, you know, like, I grew up with a mic being a minor celebrity, in terms of, you know, my, my school career,

22:58

so everybody in the community knows you in a nutshell. Oh, great. Okay. Now, how old were you when you when you started transition? How long have



23:06

I started transitioning about? It's about two years ago, it's about two years going on three. April 8, will be about three



23:16

years. And when you and I were talking on the phone, you said something that really struck me that you didn't you knit that your parents asked you faith as being a transsexual was only a white thing? Yeah.



23:27

There's a perception, you know, pretty much in the African American community that want well, there are two perceptions. And I correct myself. One, Dad, it's expensive to do what is right about that? One, that, that? That it basically being transgender, and being gay or one and the same? where lots of people Yeah, there are a lot of people. But the third is that, you know, since I grew up, you know, during the, during the 70s, with Renee Richards and Tula and other, yes. And yeah, even with Tony Mays, who was in here in Houston.



24:14

tell you who Tony may or may not know, Tony



24:16

Mays basically was one of the young was a transsexual who was being harassed by Houston police when she was transitioning. So she was one of the first ones I heard of locally. She was one of



24:30

the first that I think I've ever had I've ever met here. Yeah, remember locally.



24:34

But the first African American that I ever, you know, that I remember actually seeing in print was 1988, and a jet magazine article. And her name was Sharon Davis. And Sharon was bathed in it was a very interesting article. And then I said, Okay, here's here's a person that's transgender. That looks like me. And I said, okay, then it's not good. quote unquote, you know, just a white thing, quote unquote, but, but my parents brought that up when I told them that I was getting about a month before I started transitioning. I told him what was going to happen. And I had that comment thrown at me. And I reminded, oh my god, transgendered folks come in all shapes, sizes and rainbows of ethnic ethnic groups. And it's just, you know, for the most

part, if you do, I ran into this problem, even in Montrose, if you have gone out in some some nights, and I've had some people walk up to me, Oh, you look like so and so some show girl, you know, or you look like rude. Or you look like



25:50

me personally. No, or, or the



25:52

other. The other end of the spectrum? How much? How much? Yeah, had somebody proposition me thinking I was wondering the street girl. And so I'm like, for your information. I hold a job with us. I hold a nine to five and corporate America for your information. So I'm stunned. I'm sorry. Yeah. Yeah, it happened.



26:21

After we talked, I sat down and I tried to think of two famous black transsexuals, and I couldn't, and that, that, that, that really struck me that I couldn't and I thought, well, if you are black and transsexual, where would you go for a role model? And that's a real interesting question. It's a very outside of RuPaul and to RuPaul I doesn't really consider himself transgender qilta Either he's a guy who does impersonation tell you that right so it's it's it's an interesting point Yeah,



26:51

cuz it was an interesting point because I was talking to another black transsexual who's a little younger she's also she was happens to be a member of tat and she was talking about Dennis Rodman and we have a difference of opinion in terms of our friend Dennis Rodman. So talking about really Oh, you're over Dennis Rodman. me a bad name. But the fact that I'm a big rockets fan, so I don't like Dennis Rodman anyway, but for all you bold fans out there, but but for the most part, the first one that I've ever done nationally heard of was a young lady by the name of Jessica gray. And Jessica 1990, appeared on Maury Povich show because somebody had black was threatening to blackmail her. So she decided to get a jump on the blackmail, and basically come out



27:45

as way to get rid of a blackmail on television. By the way, the blackmailers name is



27:52

she was one of Eddie Murphy's. Before Eddie made his recent little foray. It's not the first time Eddie Murphy was on Santa Monica Boulevard was on



28:01

I saw her on I'm trying to think the name of the show she was on. I don't know, Mario COVID, who was married twice, maybe that was where I saw her. And she says she I was really cracking up about this. She says, I'm not transgender. She says, I'm just a black hooker, who likes to dresses woman and pickup guys. And I thought, well, if you're not transgender, then what? Then explain the term to a kid and that will no wonder she picks up Eddie Murphy too far to complete Friday. Yeah, and kid,



28:31

but just because we don't want lawyers at the front. But in Jessica's case, well, Jessica went on to talk about, you know, she'd had the surgery at 19. And she had date he or she was a former NFL she had married and divorced and NFL linebacker, NFL player. She's was dated most of the black actors and stuff in Hollywood area. And in addition to Mr. Murphy, where she was she open? She, she's been open since that, you know, since 1990, for the most part. And so, you know, outside of that, and outside of seeing the jet article with Sharon Davis and Sharon wrote a book called a finer specimen of womanhood, and which I've been trying to get a copy of. It's a tough book to get a copy



29:26

of when I know the law conference, for example, has been trying to bring in the women of color for years. And they they couldn't get anybody to come. Why why do you think this is? Why is it that it's so difficult you think to bring in the women of color is a Nazi welcome.



29:43

That's a company that's probably one factor. That's one factor to information factor is another one. Because, you know, I mean, I've been lucky enough and blessed enough to be able to research a lot of the information to find it out on My aunt because one of the best things that happened to me was in 83 and my sophomore year you have h one. I had Psych 2330, better known as human sexuality, and probably spoken to that class. Yeah, it's one of our favorite class classes that semester, because at run Dr. Macare Stephen Macquarie who was teaching a class he has taken to



30:25

that class. Yeah.



30:28

We did a unit for a couple of weeks on for about two weeks on transgenders. And he would occasionally have people speaking to because I remember Phyllis Phyllis Frey speaking to the class at one point yeah Phyllis is one who introduced me to miss Phyllis who according to the

class at one point, yeah, Priyanshi is one who introduced me to this. Priyanshi was speaking to the class at one point. And the best part of that class one, we had a film, where it's basically detailed the operation from start to finish. And the funniest thing about that, that class that day, well, you know, before the film's party document carry so well, this film can get a little graphic or whatever. So if you get uncomfortable or a little queasy, you're welcome to leave the classroom and then you're dismissed. It's total



31:13

about that film per second. The person this film, the person that was involved, her name escapes me right this minute, somebody maybe will call me she's a he she was a Houstonian. In fact, she was a number of GCTC. And I've met her a couple of times. And she decided that she wanted to do a documentary for PBS as I recall. And so she hired a camera person to come with her when they did when she got her operation done in Britain. And he brought this camera person with her in this primer, the first time I saw that film to the part that really stuck struck me was the aftercare. And she kept and everybody has always told me, It's day two after the operation that it hits you. And sure enough in this film, and day two, she's in bad shape. And I thought anybody who ever sees this film, this is how they're going to know whether they're really transsexual or not. You look at this film and say, I still want it, then you're serious. Yeah,



32:13

I realized that that day, because i The funny thing about it, this class, you know, runs the gamut, as you probably know, frat, you know, frat boys and girls, frat and sorority boys and girls, athletes and whatever. And when they make the first incision, the first the first people I saw running out of the auditorium, were mostly the frat rats, guys, yeah, we're out of here. And the frat rats were the first ones out here. And then, you know, the girlfriends are trying to hang around, but they're like, Come on, let's go, dragging their girlfriends out. But and that particular class, this semester had about probably 400 people in it. By the time that film was over there were about a good hardcore 50 of us. And a lot which I was one of the hardcore 50. So I was like, Cool. Let's go to lunch boom after



33:08

that. Now, if you were the law con, if you were the law conference, and you wanted to attract people of color to come to the conference, how would you go by?



33:19

I would basically, you know, try to get the information out, which is, you know, and I think that's one thing that, you know, I've mentioned the test, and which we have started working on, where we actually, you know, we probably we've started to do a lot more outreach. Right. And, and we're speaking to college campuses would probably be a good place to start. Because there's still a lot of myths attached to, you know, being transgender in the community, you know, the ones that we know already. And in terms of some of the groups there's, because of that legacy of racism, there's still a deep distrust. When you are entering a group, which is

mostly the other, you know, which is basically white, which is mostly white, there's still a distrust there. You know, the, the Kerner Commission thing of Word, its word current commission said we're moving toward two societies, one black, one white, back in 68.



34:25

I think that's basically happened, it has happened. And I have a theory about that you maybe my theory is you can't fix what you can't talk



34:33

about. And that's my attitude to you.



34:36

I've tried to learn, for example, some of my co workers, I've tried to discuss this with them at work. And it's like, they look at me in horror, you're going to talk about race. How do you fix? How do you fix was broken if you don't talk about Thank you. I know, it's like something's missing in this equation. Yeah.



34:52

And that, you know, when you don't socialize with each other or talk about a problem, you can't come up with ways to Solve it, if you can't come up with ways to solve it, and especially if you're in a situation when if you get it's an interesting stat where, which is called a phenomenon in terms of housing patterns and everything. If you get as little as a percent of a neighborhood, let's say, for example, that this subdivision has 100 homes, if it just eight black families move into the neighborhood, the white start leaving. And that phenomenon is called tipping. So it's hard to get a racial balance, one African Americans only make up 15% of the country's population. And if you know, the whites in the neighborhood, start leaving and selling their houses out at you know, bargain basement prices, and then they turn around, it leaves a vacuum in the neighborhood. And you know, the physics thing nature abhors a vacuum.



36:00

Well, the white plate in the city is pretty evident. Why do you think what do you think King wood came from?



36:04

Yeah, that's why King, we fought so hard and say, Oh, that's the white flight folks. Yeah. And even if even if blacks do move to the suburbs, if you notice, it tends to be say Missouri City, for example. Yeah, Missouri City, for example, because I can remember when Missouri City was

mostly white and 76, and by the time 1980, rolled around, Missouri City was probably about 40 50%. Black, but at the white flight, and yeah, because of the white flight, they went deeper in the Fort Bend County.



36:35

what it is they're expecting. I've never understood that what is the white people think is going to happen?



36:41

I don't know. I've been in Montrose most of my life and I don't understand the problem. You know, it's it's, I was actually the problem that I see happening in Montrose is that they're building all of these townhouses. And and the white suburban folks are moving back in.



36:59

Yeah, that was the biggest that was. That's the aim of what they're doing. Yeah, that's why Allen Parkway village was fought over for about 10 years. Sure. I can guarantee you that when they finish redeveloping it into Lamar terrorists, that most Mr. Linwood Johnson and most of the people that were moved out of there, won't be able to move back and report it. Back in there,



37:24

although I have to say the thing was rat infested probably needed to go, but at least be completely remodeled. There was a reason



37:29

but there's a reason the city would not maintain it.



37:33

Well, that's right as a reason they're trying to get it because if the money was there, they just didn't want to do it. Yeah. Cuz



37:40

why it's prime real estate. That's juicy property.



37:43

The same thing.



37:44

The same thing is basically happening that third ward, there are areas of Third Ward now. And whites abandoned long ago, that they're starting to gentrify, they're starting to gentrify, which is very interesting.



38:00

See, the city argues that brings in a tax base, all well and good, all well and good. But the thing that I heard that I remember, and it's something I was going to ask you about, the first time that I went south, I went south as a Freedom Rider, and this was in the late 60s. And I remember going to a church at a Baptist church. In this, this minister sat there, and he was explaining how it was the Bible said that blacks and whites didn't belong together, because that's what the story of the Tower of Babel was,



38:31

or ham, or they also bring up the story of ham and his was to sit I'm trying to think of the exact chapter in the Bible where they use as a justification for slavery.



38:44

Now, the quest the question I was gonna ask you about that is now from what I hear you saying, okay, you know, there's a premium on a black room male role model to begin with? Yeah, there's a very big premium. And so now here you are as a transgendered person. And my experience in the black community is that the black churches really set a lot of the tone as to what goes on. Yeah, any politician will tell you



39:10

that it's very interesting. Is it like for you? It's very interesting in a nutshell, because when you hear some ministers sit up there and rail against gays, and their choir directors gay



39:24

Minister does know it, ya know,



39:25

the minister does know it in some cases, and he'll sit up there and preach a fire and brimstone sermon against it. But at the same time, everybody in the congregation knows that his choir

director is gay or in some cases, there have been rumors about some ministers who are not out of the closet didn't say that are in they posit themselves.



39:50

One of the most important the most famous legends of Mary's I never have Neil find out whether this is a true story or not. But one of the most famous legends of Mary's has to do with Baptist minister who He had a heart attack while he's sitting on barstool. And the story goes he wasn't concerned about having a heart attack. He didn't want to have it Mary's and made them carry him out into the sidewalk so he wouldn't die in this gay bar.



40:13

Yeah, but ministers do set the tone in the community. Everything from for the most part voter registration drives to in terms of you've got some people you know, who go to church five, six days a week, five, six days a week or seven days a week in some cases, and they literally will vote in some cases will vote for candidates debt Minister so and so said that you