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gender, transsexual, transgender, gay, heard, transgendered, lesbian, person, explain, expect, sex, point, trained, continuum, growing, guilt, female, live, women, understand

SPEAKERS

Sarah DePalma, Jimmy Carper

- S** Sarah DePalma 00:01
No one they don't care. No Bigots are bigots or bigots. One of my one of my favorite titles for a book I saw once was whom they fear they hate. Pay attention boys and girls if you're gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered, they fear you and so they hate you. Hell Lo, what part of that is unclear?
- J** Jimmy Carper 00:19
That's exactly yeah.
- S** Sarah DePalma 00:20
And you know, the sad part about it is there are so many people in this community who are very transgender supportive in organizations too. Sure. I'm Q patrol is one is good example that
- J** Jimmy Carper 00:33
Michelle was telling me last night that the makeup of que patrol right now, as we speak, 60% are males 20% are lesbians and 20% are transgenders.
- S** Sarah DePalma 00:50
Okay. Okay. And the point that I want to make is I've heard every excuse now for ages. And obviously, I've I've hit a point where I just can't hear any more excuses. What is finally decided, brought me made me decide I'm gonna get back into the statewide politics. were some things that happened in this this last legislative session. I have been hearing from some folks, some transgendered folks in Austin and other places about some things that occurred. And it's clear

to me that we need a presence in Austin, because we cannot. And we should not expect the state gay, lesbian political groups to stand up for us. On the contrary, we should expect and they have proven that they will shaft us in a heartbeat in a smart with a smile. So having said that, I'm making it. I'm stating it now. And we're going to put it right here on the year for everybody here. Yes, I'm coming back. Be I'm not coming back alone, and see if something I have not done before. I'm coming back angry. I want some answers.

J Jimmy Carper 01:52

Whoa, so she did not prepare me for this

S Sarah DePalma 01:56


game. So let me warn it. Let me say now, there are lots of gay lesbian people's community I love dearly and they're good friends and there are lots of good community organizations. But some of the organizations have had their day. Now it's time to put up or deal with me. That's it. Okay, so having said that


J Jimmy Carper 02:18


I'm a little cross eyed here

S Sarah DePalma 02:20


you know it just it just you reach a point where you say dammit that's enough. Yeah. Greg is a good guy. He knows better than this. He knows better and I you can probably expect them I'm gonna call them and see why you're not gonna yell at him because he is a good guy he's a very good guy but at the same time I don't buy I'm not buying any excuses here I'm working with the with a nice camp and nice Parker's campaign and I'm working with people like Deborah bell in a nice in and several and everyone in that group in that organization is just completely transgender inclusive and transgender friendly. There is no reason why that couldn't occur if you were else it's laziness. You know what the number one excuses I get I kid you not it's too long a title Yes, yes. Yes. Well, gee, that's too bad get used to it is that or find another way to inclusive fie it that's what they didn't say an Antonio get another word to come up with another name. But don't tell me you can't do it. Because can't doesn't exist in my doesn't exist in my lexicon, and I'm not going to hear it from you. Okay, I mean, it's not like you don't know where I live. Everyone that's engaged leadership in this city knows my phone number, and my phone hasn't been ringing. So there we are. Okay, sorry to have to put it that way. But it's like at some point, you just lose your patience and say, there is no good reason. And I've been a good little girl. I took a PT I took a year off. I stayed away from the legislature. And I let the gay and lesbian political groups over there do what they were going to do. And what they prove to me is they can't be trusted. So now from now on, they're going to wear me like a blanket. And somebody will be looking out for our interest. And thankfully I won't have to do it alone. So there we go. Let's play some music.


 Jimmy Carper 04:11
I think we should yep,


 Sarah DePalma 04:12
I think so to


 Jimmy Carper 04:16
David's Sarita. I've been playing this the last few weeks and I really really like it. It's from his his CD the blue guy. Yes, David Sarita from the blue guide. Powerful love. You're hearing it on after hours queer radio with attitude on KPFT Houston and ke O 's College Station. I'm Jimmy Carper. Sara dipalma is here. And as as I heard earlier, we're going to have a gaggle of women and they're going to gag us.

 Sarah DePalma 04:54
Well, well, nah, I don't know Danielle might do that. But the rest of them Okay.

 Jimmy Carper 05:02
Okay, you're on.

 Sarah DePalma 05:04
Well, first of all, let's explain what what was what we're doing here. It is occurred to me that we that the antenna is now working. Yes. And I knew antenna and I am hearing now that we that we are being heard in places where we have never been heard before. Yes, Dr. Cole can hear us now. They are. They are they are picking us up in Galveston. I've heard that they're picking us up as far north as Huntsville.

 05:32
Only going when OTS has gone before. Actually,

 Sarah DePalma 05:35
that's yes, the answer that is yes, we are reaching you the audience that is probably hearing us for the very first time tonight. And so every once in a while, I have to remind myself that it's a new audience. And that we've talked about issues tonight and they may be going What the hell is it transgendered? What's that? And, you know, we've taught and we've talked about some

politics tonight, and people may not have the slightest clue. So I thought it would be a good place to good. This is a good time to start from verben. Let's talk about primer was Yeah, exactly. Yeah, exactly. Transgender 101.



06:10

Yes. Okay, right. Now, it may be a little confusing, because we have quite a few people here. So I'd like to start with everybody giving their name that would be a good place to, we can kind of like think about the voices here. Okay, just



Sarah DePalma 06:23

start with Danielle, let's start with you. And we'll go around, as they say your name and let people hear who what you about.



06:29

My name is Danielle McClenney. And I'm a person. Hey, it wasn't that funny.



06:39

They just don't know you.



06:43

Well, I can see that I'm going to be picked on tonight. Oh, well, I can take it next.



06:53

I'm Jennifer.



Sarah DePalma 06:55

Well go ahead and I'm transgender



06:56

male and live here in Houston.



Sarah DePalma 07:03

Okay, all right.



07:07

I'm Vanessa. Again. And I'm transgender wrist or non op, transsexual, whatever you want to define it as it's kind of a fluid definition these days,



Sarah DePalma 07:17

right? We've already thrown about a bunch of terms we're gonna have to explain. Okay, okay. Okay, who's the anus Monica again? Okay, and who else?



07:26

And this is Katrina rose. I'm getting to make a habit of this. I'm preop Ts, poor student, etc, etc.



Sarah DePalma 07:36

Well, as I was telling Monica on the phone the other night, I've been very pleased to have so many people from the community get on the show. For a long time, I felt like I was doing the show in a vacuum. And I mean that sincerely loud. And it was hard to breathe too dusty. But I've always felt that this really should be a community show. And I'm really pleased to hear I heard somebody say, Well, you know, she's getting to be habit. I hope so. Yeah, me. Yeah, I Yeah. Because I felt all along that this, this should not be salary show. This should be the community show. And I'm really glad I'm really glad to have that. Alright, let's start with start with the very beginning here. And I want to start with the beginning. And by talking about gender, first of all, and whatever that is, well, I'm gonna say, there's an author named Gordon, Martine Rothblatt, who we have had on the show. And I want to use her definition, first of all of the difference between sex and gender. It's very important sex is the equipment you're born with. Whether you do or you whether you're born with a vagina, or you're born with a penis, that's your sex. Gender is all the behaviors that's expected of you because of what you were born with. Okay, we got a lot of people. Okay, yeah. Okay. And I've always thought that was the easiest definition for people to understand.



09:10

Basically, the one I used when I was explaining it to my co workers when I was transitioning, because there's a lot of confusion on



Sarah DePalma 09:19

well, people don't I think, I think for most part, people don't really understand the difference between sex and gender. And, but it's hard. There's no way for them to go to understand transgender if they don't know what gender is, right? That I mean, that's that's the very first

thing. Okay? Now, Martine has something in her book that I've always liked. She says, Today we go about the matter of sex as backwards. A male or a female label is first imposed upon us without choice. We are then trained to adopt appropriate gender behaviors, whether we like them or not. That's true. True. Yeah, I think that is some extent. Yeah. Yeah. Well, to those to those of you who are out there saying no, wait a minute, what does all that mean? Stop and think about this for a second. Why does your biology have anything to do with an expected behavior? What is what do they have? And what do they have? What does one

 Jimmy Carper 10:14

get to do? I never understood that either. You know,

 Sarah DePalma 10:18

Martini asks in her book, and I think rightly, you wouldn't expect certain behaviors, someone because of the color of their eyes, right? You wouldn't expect a certain behavior of someone because of the color of their skin, right? Why would you expect certain behavior? Well, yeah, Monica.

 10:35


What about the color of her hair?

 Sarah DePalma 10:38

Or the color of the hair? That's right, then why would a blonde? Then why do we expect expect specific behaviors of people because of their biology? Yes, it doesn't make sense. But that is what we do. We're just talking about the television commercials a few minutes ago. On this on Saturday morning. You want to know what a little girl is expected to be? Watch the Saturday morning cartoons. They train little girls. And they train a little boy train me through the commercial. Danielle say yeah, train me to Barbie.

 Jimmy Carper 11:10


Rebel, you know, and that's another thing that draws us all together. Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender because we share that problem.


 Sarah DePalma 11:17


They train you to be heterosexual. We're just saying Wait, no, of course not.


 11:24


necessarily trained me. But there was more or less you better conform or otherwise you're


 Jimmy Carper 11:29
dry? Yeah, they try this as


 Sarah DePalma 11:31
well. But we are trained. We're trained in churches. We're trained the government, we're trained by insurance companies. They tell us what our expectation what the expectations are. Whether they tell us directly or indirectly, they tell us

 Jimmy Carper 11:46
and if we don't buy into it, you know what we're left with? Nothing. Guilt.

 Sarah DePalma 11:51
Exactly. Guilt and shame. That's exactly right. Well, well, not always.

 11:55
Yeah. And if we if we step outside that boundary, then, you know, the guilt and shame that's put on us is always reinforced by our parents. Sure. I mean, they because they stopped thinking about who we are, and start worrying about what other people will think of them.

 Sarah DePalma 12:10
Exactly. Right. So then a transgendered person, in essence, is a person who grows up knowing that the expectations that society has for them don't fit them. That in easy enough term.

 12:23
Yeah. But I never really bought into the whole guilt thing. Now. I mean, sure, people tried to make me feel guilty before but I was like, I don't have anything to feel guilty about. Because I knew that what I was was something that I didn't really choose or have any say in, and then I just had to accept it. And if other people wanted me to feel guilty about it, well, it's like, I wasn't gonna give them the satisfaction.

 12:50
Same here. I never had a big problem with guilt. But it was mainly because I didn't grow up in a

same here. I never had a big problem with guns. But it was mainly because I didn't grow up in a heavy, heavy religious family. I have a lot of relatives like that. But my immediate family wasn't. I know. I mean, they aren't going to be too thrilled when they find out about this, but it isn't from a heavy religious vein. It didn't have the nuns whacking me on my hand. Yeah. But



13:14

I have to be from religion.



13:16

agree with that? Yeah. It doesn't have to be from a religious background, it has to be from a family or a group like that, who believe that you can control your behavior, that yes, you are, you're born a male, then you can act a male because they understand that being a male is a series of actions. We actually put certainly,



13:41

I know a lot of people who have had the guilt thrown on him, you know, from a religious man, I'm just saying you don't. It can be it can be. It doesn't have to be,



13:52

I think the most important factor is if the parents are hyper concerned about appearances and about how they are being perceived by their neighbors and whatnot. Yeah, because my parents, you know, they were like, who cares? You know, they were like, hippie types. In



14:10

my case, it was different. You know, that was one of the first things that was thrown at me. When I first told them I was transitioning, well, you know, what, what are our friends going to say about what will the neighbors think? And I didn't raise you to be such and such and such and such? Well, in



14:30

my case, they they were looking forward to the time when the neighbors wouldn't look at me strange anymore, so



14:36

Well, I can still remember it nine years old when my mother found me putting on her lipstick and she took it away from me and simply told Mrs. Little boys don't do that. And you shouldn't do that anymore

so that anymore.

S

Sarah DePalma 14:48

So she's unforeseen, forced to gender co he was in what knowingly or unknowingly that's what she did.

J

Jimmy Carper 14:53

And that isn't imposing guilt to exactly,

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14:57

exactly and it was reinforced anytime Um, I may have acted, what she deemed inappropriate,

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15:05

because my mother was the same way. Because, you know, I had, so it was natural to me at the time, I now know. But, you know, anytime that I acted in a way, which was considered, quote unquote, female, you know, boom, the hammer of conformity will come down.

o

15:21

Well, I was fortunate because, you know, when I was growing up, I kind of had almost similar to normal female upbringing because like, I'd sit and I'd watch my mom put on makeup and I'd roll her hair. And, you know, just, and I asked her recently, it's like, what did you think about all that when it was happening? Didn't you think it was kind of weird? And she was like, Well, I kind of did. But it wasn't a big deal, because you were such a good kid. And because I never really bonded with your sister as well, you know, and so I kind of had a daughter anyway, you know, so it was, it was cool, you know, I, we had a very good relationship.

S

Sarah DePalma 16:01

Okay, now I want to, I want to get the phone number. Again, our number is 526-573-8526 KPFT. If you have questions about transgenders, or transgenderism, we will not put you on the air. But we will put your question on the air and talk about it, we still have people in the lobby, who you can talk to, we still have plenty of folks out there in the lobby as well. But I point this out, because every time we do this show, we get two or three phone calls. People say, I thought I was the only one you know, every time I shoot.

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16:35

Oh, I did, too, you know,

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Sarah DePalma 16:36

and so if you're one of those people here is a chance to get some straight answers from people who really know, you know, people who are in the process or have gone through it, or whatever the case may be. So here's an opportunity. Okay, so So, first of all, there's this gender code society gives you okay, and the gender code, I think, is fairly simple. If you're a guy, you're expected to do guy things, I guess, you know, I mean, not necessarily become an athlete. But, but I mean, there's a certain role you're expected to play and you're expected to become husband, father, you know, and if you're the woman in the family or re on the family, Mary on the family name, yeah.



17:19

God, yes. Yeah.

S

Sarah DePalma 17:23

Family. Yeah. And then there's and, you know, if you're a female, well, you know, you know, you're supposed to be a mother and a wife and, and you know, you keep in today's world course, lots of women have careers too. So now your mother, wife and career person. The thing about all that is, none of that really has much to do with your own sense of who you are. A transgender person grows up knowing something is wrong. Something between the mind and the body. Isn't there's not in sync. Okay, yeah. And I think that's what separates transgendered people from the from the rest of society, I think it's darn near impossible for them to understand. Because I get this question. When I go to classes. What do you mean, your mind and body didn't go together? You know, they don't get it. And I don't I've never really figured out exactly how to explain it other than say, just, they didn't feel like they went together. I don't know.



18:19

It's a very hard question to answer. It's just something that you and you know, yeah, it's something that you innately feel is like, this gender presentation that is being expected of me by everyone is simply inappropriate, and does not accurately reflect who I am. Therefore, this other option is the one I want to go with.



18:43

To explain that concept to people who really don't have a grasp of



18:49

Well, the problem is, is that people don't really perceive their gender as being something distinct from their physical form, they don't really see their mind as being something that is,

you know, I don't want to say unrelated but distinct from their body. You know, it's like their self



19:09

perception people just trying to at least distinguish gender from sex to many people equate the both of those exactly what is this now?



19:18

It's like, they think well, they look between their legs and they see something and that tells them who they are. Well, sometimes it doesn't tell you who you are. Sometimes it



19:27

even from day one when you're born. How does a doctor to determine your sex? They look at what's between your legs. Exactly. Yeah, they look at the genitalia you between your legs



19:35

and what I don't understand is why Okay, people are born all the time and they got you know, birth defects of all manner of things mental, physical limbs missing, you know, Down syndrome, all manner of like autism, everything and yet, people refuse to accept the fact that a person can be Worn and have something just wrong with their I don't even want to say wrong but different about their gender identity as it relates to their physical body



Sarah DePalma 20:10

part of us it's not physical, you know somebody's born minus a finger, they can see that their mind is a finger. Well, if you're if you're born feeling that your gender and your body and your sex don't match, people can't see that. It's hard. It's hard to grasp and invisible thing. Oh,



20:25

thank you find yourself. When you're growing up, you find yourself feeling different. You you're, if you're a little boy who doesn't quite feel comfortable in the role that's been given you and how you've been trained and reinforced by peers. You know, if you want to go to the, to the side of the playground in elementary school, where the girls are, you're chastised by the other boys about that. So you're, this is all reinforced along the way. And even though you may be in that group, and acting the way you're supposed to, you realize you're apart from them. You're isolated in the midst of them. And I, you know, and I know that I thought at the time, I was all alone, but I know now that I wasn't alone. I think it's got to be 1000s of people just like that kids that are in that same position. Now, there are times when



21:21

I got into discussions with you know, before transition with guys in the locker room, and he always tell me, you know, you're always taking the side of women in an argument and data, it wasn't something that I consciously set out to do. It was just that was my opinion. It just happened to fall on that side of the fence and wonder what



21:46

maybe you were just incredibly enlightened.



Jimmy Carper 21:49

You know, it's funny listening to this, because I'm growing up. As a gay man, I had very similar experiences. It's just that different. It's it's that I didn't fit the gender role that I was, I didn't like sports. I liked other things. And so I questioned the whole the whole gender thing of what, what, what does it mean to be a man? What does it be mean to be a woman? It's why do we have to have roles at all?



22:21

It's interesting. You should say that because when I was growing up,



Sarah DePalma 22:23

this is 90.1 KPFT. In Houston, and 89.1k E. O. 's College Station. Okay, Danielle, go ahead. Well,



22:32

I was just gonna say that when I was growing up, I just assumed that my, you know, gender, whatever, that I was a homosexual. That's what I thought I was.



Sarah DePalma 22:43

Yeah, I did, too. I thought so a



Jimmy Carper 22:45

lot of transgendered people feel Yeah.



22:48

Because society at that time did not make very much of a distinction. Still doesn't Yes, still

S

Sarah DePalma 22:54

go to classes. And the classes still don't know any better. professors. The professors don't know I'm sitting, I actually went to class, I'll probably never get invited back because I sat there and rewrote half of his course. He told class one thing and I came in quoting Martine Roth Latin said something completely. You've probably never heard back.



23:12

The first thing that people ask when I tell them I'm transgendered is the first they ask, Well, does that mean you're gay yet? Right? Yeah. And when I told my brother, you know, he, after I told him and very carefully explained to him as I understood it, what transgendered was and what it meant and the whole business he he shook his head and said, Gee, I wish you just said you were gay. I understand that.

S

Sarah DePalma 23:38

And you know, what's funny about this is when gay when I've talked to some some gay friends who go out and talk to the classes, you know what the question is they get, which one of you plays the woman? Ah, oh, it was me. Yeah, I don't get it. But I mean, it shows you something about the gender stereotype. You're in their frame. Well, if they're both next, then then then then one of them's got to be the woman, right? Yeah. No,



24:03

yeah. Just just the other day, I come out to someone at school. And she's brother accepting, but she was kind of confused when I mentioned to her that I had run a personal ad seeking female seeking female and she just kind of scratched her head. Oh, you're not going after guys. I don't know.



24:22

I got that from my mom. Horribly, as soon as I told her what I was getting ready to do as far as the transition. first words out of her mouth were so you're wanting to find a man. And I told her no, this has nothing to do with sex.

S

Sarah DePalma 24:36

Even Dr. Cole did that to me. Sure. I set not I told you. I sat there with Dr. Cole. And he said to me, no, of course, this means that you're gonna want to have sex with a man. I said, why? Really? Yeah. And I said, Why would you assume that? And he said, well, that's just the usual

progression of things. And I said, Don't Don't ever lighten since Yeah, I said, Don't ever say anything like that to me. He can



25:03

feel like a minority sometimes, because I like guys.



Sarah DePalma 25:08

You have



25:11

become hetero.



Jimmy Carper 25:14

Orientations has not changed.



25:16

You have to admit I had a little bit of a, almost a little bit of a problem dealing with that myself because I've almost got into the the rut of Yeah, I'm going this way. Maybe I have to go for guys but then I saw someone named Kate Bornstein on TV. Ah, yeah, we know. Okay, yeah. And I heard the phrase transsexual lesbian for the first time when I go. I'm not the only one in that regard.



Sarah DePalma 25:44

Oh, no, there are lots of us. There are a lot of



Jimmy Carper 25:47

we have to separate the gender from the orientation. Yeah, yeah, you're right. It's a good time to do nothing. Yeah, it has absolutely nothing to do with each other.



Sarah DePalma 25:57

I want to go back to something that you said. First of all, it's my view, that if you are a gay or lesbian person, you are transgender. And I'll tell you why. The single biggest gender taboo is to loving Stevie's loving someone of your own sex. Sure, the number one rule of gender is you will

grow up to love someone of the opposite sex and you will have children and gays and lesbians are never going to do that. By breaking the very rule number one of the gender code, they are transgendered, it may not be in the same spot on the continuum that we are. But honey, they're transgendered. And that's why I get so upset when I read things like, like with Greg and some of the things that I've heard, because that's bull. We are so intertwined. That's doing inseparable. I think



26:47

that's to say that non operative transsexuals who have families are not transgender.



26:54

No, no, she's saying that the existing transgender definition includes gays and lesbians. Yes, yeah. And it but it also includes all the existing variation because



Sarah DePalma 27:08

genders a continuum, one of the biggest mistakes I think we make about gender, is there's a tendency in society think gender is a fixed place. You know, when you get there a high, you're in your gender role, this is what works. And we're all living proof that that's nonsense. Gender, none of us in this room are in the same place. We're all somewhere that's comfortable for us. That's gender. It's a continuing.



27:30

Yeah, they tend to look at things in terms of a black or white situation exact, but there. But as we all know, the world does not operate in that it's basically you have shades of gray.



27:43

Yeah, but people like to think in black and white terms because it's simpler. So when they're confronted with the reality of all these, actually not even Shades of Gray, but colors. They're rather flummoxed by that.



Sarah DePalma 27:56

Now, here's where we lose. Here's where we lose the gay and lesbian community. We just said that, then we turn around and say to men say to them, but gender identity has nothing to do with sexual orientation. And that's where the gay and lesbian community says



28:10

what that's like saying. You're just contradicting what you just said. Exactly.

S

Sarah DePalma 28:14

And that's where we lose them. Because and that because I get this from politicians, they'll say, well, but I thought you said that you're in a trial with a gay lesbian community? Yes, we are. Well, what is gender have to do with sexual identity orientation? Nothing. And what, that's the hard part to explain is that separation between sexual orientation and gender. In my experience, most people don't

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28:39

get it. I don't know why it just seems so obvious. It's like, Who do you feel you are? And who do you want to be intimate with? What's the problem?

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28:49

Or in some cases, don't take it one step further, because I remember a discussion. I have one of my co workers, and we're talking about one of the right wing, one of the right wing Christian conservatives. And so she was basically trying to quote the 23rd chapter due to Romney, which basically is, well actually, let me correct it. 22nd Chapter which man who sleeps with is a man who dresses in women's clothes as abomination and then she went into that?

S

Sarah DePalma 29:23

You know where that came from? do with the story of Yeah, the story?

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29:25

Yeah. Remember the story of that is basically there was a rivalry, a cult rivalry, rivalry between the Israelites and the Syrians who

S


Sarah DePalma 29:36


were she was a patriarchy versus a matriarchy argument. That's, that's where that came from in Deuteronomy. Yeah. So


U


29:44


So to continue on. She was basically trying to say, well, you'll never be a real woman data data die because you don't have you know, you don't have periods and you can't bear children. I said, yet it may be true, but what about The women who are born every day that can't bear children,


 Jimmy Carper 30:03
right? What does that mean?


 30:05
Yeah, you know, does not equate womanhood. That's what

 30:09
I'm saying. That's what I told her was that women who had


 Jimmy Carper 30:11
hysterectomy?

 30:14
I said, No one calls them men no period.

 30:19
Like, regardless of how you arrive at your gender, you know, it's like, hey, basically, you're the one who's inside with you. So you know, better than anyone else, what gender you are, if you are wondering,

 Jimmy Carper 30:33
I think the whole thing is in the past 50 years. We're tired of repressing ourselves. We want to be who we are.

 Sarah DePalma 30:43
And there is no reason to repress No, there is no reason for

 30:47
you to be dishonest. I mean, basically, that's what you're doing. If you're repressing yourself, if you are shutting aside that part of you, which says, No, this isn't right. This that I'm expressing goes against how I feel inside. You're basically being dishonest with yourself and everyone

goes against how I feel inside. You're basically being dishonest with yourself and everyone around you. But when you open up to people, and you express who you are inside, it just, it opens you up so much that everyone else



31:14

knows you and also honest.



31:19

So many people tell me that, you know, the more I became the further along on my path that I got the happier and the more competent and the more well adjusted. Oh, yeah, yeah,



31:33

I was told the same thing. It said, I actually like Monica better than my old self. Yeah, I had I had couple of people who have known me for years actually say that, say it because you're more open with yourself. You're honest with yourself, you're more fun to be around.



31:47

How was it that people tell me that you don't even know what's going on here. But they can sit? Say, they can see something different in me positively. Almost, it's almost almost caused me to go ahead and tell them a couple of times. But some people I don't want to tell ya.



Sarah DePalma 32:03

For a definition, how's let's try this for definition. Gender, is how you feel about yourself as male or female. Okay, sexual orientation is who you choose to love.



32:18

Yeah, that's pretty, pretty straightforward, simple, straightforward. Easy to understand definition, although I'm sure it'll still go right over some people's heads. But



Sarah DePalma 32:28

I'm convinced if I say good morning, it would go or somebody would see, I think that's why, what you were talking about, about how you all feel better about yourselves. Yeah, I think that's exactly the point about gender and orientation. When you feel comfortable about your gender, you're bound to be happy, you're no longer at war with yourself, how would you help but be anything



32:55

but you can spend your energy doing more positive things? Yeah,



32:59

I can bring up I remember one checkup I had, with Dr. Emory at the Rosenberg clinic, which is where I'm transitioning. And one of the things she does when she monitors my hormone therapy also get, you know, also get tested blood pressure tests and everything else. And she said, you know, something, she said, your blood pressure now is a lot lower. And your stress level is a lot lower now than it was when you came into the program. Well, that



33:29

stands to reason. I mean, you figure you've got the stress of everyday life on top of the stress of trying to convince everybody that what they think they see is what they truly see. When you take that away and you're just being yourself. It's like hey, I can deal with everyday life.



33:45

I think companies are learning this too when people can be who they are at work through a lot more productive and and a lot easier to get along with.



Sarah DePalma 33:56

I'm one of the one of the top employers and one of the top salespeople where I work. And in part, it's because I'm comfortable with myself. I don't have to worry about anything outside because this is all I know what I'm about. I just went to my



Jimmy Carper 34:08

job. This is all the same philosophy for gays and lesbians coming absolutely closet and bisexuals coming out.



34:13

We should really look at this as potentially a gift because because we are forced to examine ourselves on such a basic level. It really, I think has the potential to instill in us I self actualization that many people never come to you because they aren't



Sarah DePalma 34:36

Absolutely you

Absolutely you.



34:39

They somehow allow themselves to fit into that little groove, that little package that's given to them as at birth and reinforced during childhood. And they get they say okay, this, but they never find out who they really are.



34:52

Yeah, I know how many non transgender people or non gay and lesbian people who just their lives they don't know What's wrong? You know, and it's like, wow, at least I knew what was wrong, then I fixed it.



35:04

Yeah, they don't know what's wrong, but there's something wrong and then to death to lead to find out what it is. And they never know.



Sarah DePalma 35:11

And they never do find it. They



Jimmy Carper 35:13

never say never look inside. And they never tried to be the real them.



35:18

One of the cutest things I've seen is somebody's profile on AOL has another little quote, it says, I was broke. So I fixed me.



35:30

I don't know this is a pretty expensive proposition.



Sarah DePalma 35:33

Let's let's throw something else into the mix now. Okay, and what I'm thinking about is I'm leading to I want to talk to some transgender youth here in a few minutes. But there are a couple of other things I think we need to get to first. Okay, now, you may grew up knowing that you're different. But at some point, you may have you start to say yourself, well, okay, but

different. How am I a crossdresser? Am I a person who's going to live in the opposite gender, but never have surgery? Am I going to decide that I do want surgery? And if so, how am I going to afford it? And the reason I'm bringing this up is I want to explain something comes up every time when I go and talk to classes, the three terms transgender, transsexual, and transvestite. There we go. We know which box we fell in. Exactly. How did you know what was right for you?



36:27

I just knew that. The parts I had. I didn't want to have anything to do with anybody else with so you know what? This gotta go. It's gone. Yeah. I don't think I'd ever make a convincing male person. So you know what, I'm gonna do it. It's



Sarah DePalma 36:48

a trip but that's a transsexual I want just so the audience knows that. Sexual was a person who says and basically says, I cannot live with my genitals the way they are. So So, so I need they need surgical. They. I like to call it gender confirmation surgery, not gender change, because you're really confirming what should have been the fact all along. Yeah,



37:10

I got to say I got to the trans. Transsexual point, probably through a roundabout way where Daniel probably, well, the way I like it, took it and down the route. I took 610 I started off is well, yeah, well, Am I gay or Nin? When I realized no, I wasn't well, maybe I can fit in as being you know, just being transgender. I say transvestite or whatever. And then when I realized that wasn't going to finally kind of, you know, quit fighting it and realize, you know, I really am transsexual and, you know, just basically come to that point.



37:53

Well, it sounds like you took 10 But just during rush hour traffic.



37:59

thing I can take Monaco's analogy one step further, I took that wait, we know how long it's just recently pretty much gotten completed. And I've just recently almost gotten myself completed. So



38:13

just be thankful you didn't take the grand Parkway. Oh, my God,



38:17



38:17

I know some people who were doing during that



Sarah DePalma 38:20

are your life could have been like we take the take it from College Station to Houston at a crawl. The point I want to make to the audience is this, I know those three terms get real confused. So I want to take a crack and see if I can explain them a trans vest tight frankly, it's a term that's really not in vogue anymore, they prefer to be called cross dressers. And that's really more accurate. This is a person who may dress in the, in the clothes of the opposite gender. And they may do that for a whole host of reasons. I mean, out there, I've heard all sorts of reasons for whatever the case may be. This is a person who does this, but does not plan does not choose to live full time in the clothes of the opposite gender. It's that something they do, whether it's for stress relief, or pure enjoyment, or any host of things, but that's all they're going to do. And that's fine. That's their place on the gender continuum. It fulfills a need it fulfills, indeed, they've found a place where they're comfortable, but they'd have no plans to go for surgery, and they have no plans really to live full time in the opposite gender, or usually to begin hormone therapy or to begin hormones. Thank you. That's yeah. Now transgender is a person who says I do want to live in I do want to live transgendered full. I do want to live crossdress full time, but I don't want the sort of the gender surgery. And that can be again, for a whole host of reasons. Maybe they can't afford it. Maybe they just don't feel it's necessary. If you've been listening to the show for a while you've you've heard that it's taken me two years, and I've changed my mind a couple of times whether I was going to be transgenders or go for the surgery, because I have some some views on gender. I find myself saying, Well, what do I need surgery for? And so I've sort of gone around and around on that. A transsexual is a person who says, my genitals and I are never going to get along. That's it, I need to hear them change that those those three, they sound simple enough,



40:16

yes. And it doesn't necessarily have to be a direct route, what you were pointing out, whereas you were fluctuating between the transgender estate and choosing to go transsexual that kind of touches back on one of the things that Martine Rothblatt had mentioned, that this is all a continuum. And just based on where the individual was most comfortable, that's where they remain, until they feel that they can go beyond that point, if indeed they can. And if indeed, they're comfortable where they are, and don't feel the need to go beyond that point, then that is their set point on the continuum.



40:55

And I applaud anyone who doesn't have surgery, you know, even though I've had surgery, it's like, because, for me, a large degree of my discomfort with myself was because of my genitals. You know, because I was pretty much happy with everything else. But it's like, there were these parts that I felt had to be snipped



Sarah DePalma 41:16

off. I love the way she describes that. It's like, well, it's like, sort of



41:27

be comfortable with themselves and just totally like, Yeah, I'm cool, and not have to go through all that expense, even though it was no big deal, as far as you know, recovering everything. But just to not have to pay all that money. Yeah,



Sarah DePalma 41:41

I hear men out there. cringy going she had them snipped off.



41:46

I think one of the things that Vanessa mentioned about the continuum and I know that for myself anyway, that it you know, it started out with the lipstick from my mom or a piece of clothing and it and it progressed over a lifetime to where I wanted to dress full time. And and for whatever reason that I would dress in the non dress until I reached a point where I wanted to go further and to develop, you know, secondary female characteristics to go on hormones. But at this point, I'm fulfilled where I am. I don't feel the need to have me physically altered to be the