

PARTICIPANT 1: And she was asking me what I was going to-- what I wanted to be for Halloween. I told her I was going to dress up as a little Dutch boy. And it just went right over her head. Her straight friend on the other hand rolled right out of the chair.

PARTICIPANT 2: You can really have a lot of fun with being transgendered. I'd like to tell the story about standing in Target one night. And these two old biddies with blue hair standing in front of me talking about the Geraldo show.

PARTICIPANT 3: Yes.

PARTICIPANT 2: And they had seen a couple of transsexuals on the show. And one of them says to the other one, "You suppose those people really exist? I don't think I've ever seen one. And I reached over and tapped her on the shoulder and said, "Now you have." And I just watched her eyes roll to the back of her head. And I can just see that they both keel over from a stroke or something. Transsexual slays two at Target. I just couldn't resist.

PARTICIPANT 3: Good for you.

PARTICIPANT 2: I just couldn't resist

PARTICIPANT 3: But it brings it home.

PARTICIPANT 2: It does bring it home. I'm standing behind them, listening to this conversation. And I'm thinking, the whole time I'm thinking, shut up, Cher, shut up, Cher. Yeah, right, as if I could. I can't see you passing up a chance like that. Just laid right in my lap. I thought. Oh, I got to do this. OK. So the point being here is that you've got this one category, first of all, they're called cross-dressers.

Now, let me point out to somebody who asked me on an email what age do cross-dressers fall into. I've known cross-dressers that were 12 and 13, and have known cross-dressers that were in their 70s. So I would say cross-dressing doesn't really fit into an age group.

PARTICIPANT 3: So many cross-dressers start a lot earlier than that.

PARTICIPANT 2: A lot younger than they used to be.

PARTICIPANT 3: Romanovs and Phillips talks about wearing your mother's clothes.

PARTICIPANT 2: Hell, I did. She had to put a lock on the door.

PARTICIPANT 3: That's right. A lot of little gay boys did that. And a lot of little boys did that who didn't grow up gay. They grew up transsexual or a transgender.

PARTICIPANT 2: To being a cross-dresser, it's not about age. For many cross-dressers, it's about the feel of the clothing. And some it's not so much about that. They view it as almost an alternate personality. And they call it the second self.

PARTICIPANT 3: Yes.

PARTICIPANT 2: And I would say for this person in Corpus Christi, and I already sent the email back. But get in touch with several of the cross-dressing organizations, and I sent the list down to the Triya sororities, the main one that I had in mind. And I say that because the Triya Sorority does a real good job of dealing with the issues of shame and guilt, and remorse, and all those things that a lot of the cross-dressers go through. And you'll find that you'll get good support there.

Now somewhere between cross-dressers and a transsexual who is getting ready to go for surgery, there are people that call themselves transgenderess. And I know that sounds real confusing. Transgenderess. And it's kind of that bridge between being a cross-dresser and being a person who's actually getting ready for the surgery. OK. And Dean McKeller was a transgenderess. Dean, transgenderess is a person who decides that they want to live cross-gendered. They want to behave cross-gendered, work cross-gendered, but not have the surgery.

And more and more people are choosing that as a viable option. A, the surgery is very expensive. I can tell you that because I'm trying to line up those finances right now. And just to give you some sense of this, we already mentioned that the test that I have to take is 700 bucks. But once that's done, I need to send off an initial check for \$2,500, which is to hold my place in line for surgery.

PARTICIPANT 3: Oh, brother.

PARTICIPANT 2: And once that's done, I want to go to Montreal. I have to present them with the cashier's check for the difference for a total of about \$10,000. And all of that comes out of pocket. Not one cent is paid for insurance. What you got, Melin?

PARTICIPANT 4: Oh, we are talking about the transgenderess. Yeah. I had made up-- I don't have it with me. But I basically, tried to assign definitions to the various names like transgenders and things like that. And one of the-- I have two terms. There's transgenderess and non-operative transsexual.

PARTICIPANT 2: Basically, the same thing, I think.

PARTICIPANT 4: Yeah, they're pretty close. The way I define-- this is my personal definition of the way I understand from talking and reading several sources. The way I sort of make the cut is I can-- if they identify as a female who is living and everything, but it just for whatever reason is opting not to attempt to go for the surgery, I consider them just a non-operative transsexual.

Whereas if what I class as a transgender is someone who basically identifies as male, but wishes to live cross-dressed all the time. And that's how I define it anyway. I found it because when you get into there, you're really, really-- I mean, we're into the really dark gray there.

PARTICIPANT 2: Yeah, to me that's sort of splitting hair. It's for the larger umbrella. And just say, look, it's people who are non-operative or don't plan to have the surgery, basically. And there's the point that I was trying to make this good reason not to have the surgery. It's expensive. It's dangerous.

PARTICIPANT 3: Yeah, as all surgery.

PARTICIPANT 2: Yeah. And you better be darn sure that you've made up your mind and you're serious about this because you don't get a refund later. And quite honestly as gender, which is what we started talking about, becomes more accepted. It becomes more accepted to live along the gender continuum somewhere and not go all the way.

More and more people are saying, I don't think I'm going to do the surgery. It's expensive. It's dangerous. I'll pass on it. And I've said I said that for years and years. In fact, my last time that I saw Dr. Cole, I pointed out and said, look, I've got a damn good life right now. And if I didn't have the surgery, it wouldn't be the end of my world. I wouldn't go jump off a bridge for it. At this stage in my life, surgery is the frosting on my cake. And I think the cake out in the lobby, by the way. That's an expensive topping on that. The artwork must have been really--

PARTICIPANT 2:My lady worked hard.

PARTICIPANT 3:Let's take a little break here.

PARTICIPANT 2:Go ahead.

PARTICIPANT 3:I want to play a couple of songs, and do a couple of things here. And we'll be right back.

PARTICIPANT 2:OK.

PARTICIPANT 3:I got a letter from Paul, who is incarcerated. And he has been out of touch because they he was transferred out of earshot. But he's back within earshot.

PARTICIPANT 2:You don't get a webcast in jail, do you?

PARTICIPANT 3:I don't give last names. I hardly ever even give real first names if I can get around it because I've had experience of using someone's name who's incarcerated on this show. And the next thing I know they're transferred away from recreational.

PARTICIPANT 2:I thought that was your sort of standard procedure on dates and things, to just to use first name.

PARTICIPANT 3:Yeah, well, that's true, if I even get a name. Anyway.

PARTICIPANT 2:I'm not touching that.

PARTICIPANT 3:Thank you. Paul, this is personal for Paul. I want to let him know that I heard from the Tea Man and the Tea Man is out and living in West Texas, and in construction work. I got a call from him last week on the show. And the Tea Man is someone who I wrote to. And Paul knows just had a nice-- we wrote to each other.

PARTICIPANT 2:Good.

PARTICIPANT 3:Yes. Anyway, Paul wanted to hear this particular song, and I brought it specifically to play for him.

PARTICIPANT 2:OK.

PARTICIPANT 3:It's a duet actually by a dead man.

PARTICIPANT 2:No, wait, wait, wait, hold it. Wait. You can't have a duet with a dead man.

PARTICIPANT 3:Yes, you can.

PARTICIPANT 2:Be using for percussion or something.

PARTICIPANT 3:It's a duet.

PARTICIPANT 2:Doesn't keep rhythm very well.

PARTICIPANT 3:It's a duet with Roy Orbison and KD Lang.

PARTICIPANT 2:Now, that's an interesting combination

PARTICIPANT 3:And it's his big, big hit, Crying.

PARTICIPANT 2:Oh, one of my favorites.

PARTICIPANT 3:And you're listening to it on after hours, Queer Radio with attitude, on KPFT Houston and KEOS College Station.

JOAN DEVLIN: Hi, this is Joan Devlin. You're listening to KPFT's Lesbian and Gay Voices.

PARTICIPANT 5:We want to create the political climate for same sex marriages.

PARTICIPANT: Let's just talk about some of this stuff.

PARTICIPANT: The neutron lesbian strikes again.

JOAN DEVLIN: We're going to be doing some radical radio right now.

PARTICIPANT: Legal changes decriminalizing gay sex.

PARTICIPANT: We celebrate the diversity.

JACK VALINSKI: Welcome to another edition of Lesbian and Gay Voices. This is Jack Valinski.

JOAN DEVLIN: It wasn't until I had lived with a woman for a year, that it even occurred to me to ask, do you think we're lesbians? Civil rights for gays, the ending of don't ask, don't tell.

PARTICIPANT: Listen to Lesbian and Gay Voices.

PARTICIPANT: My prediction, Al Gore, 276 electoral votes. George W. Bush, 262.

PARTICIPANT: That's Lesbian and Gay Voices, Mondays at 8:00 PM.

PARTICIPANT: I hear gay people.

PARTICIPANT 3:Lesbian and Gay Voices heard every Monday night at 8 o'clock, right here on KPFT. And on every fourth Monday, the second half of the show, that means 9 o'clock, JD Doyle presents an hour of queer music.

PARTICIPANT 2:I love that show. I really think that is good stuff.

PARTICIPANT 3:As a matter of fact, when he says queer music, he means music by queers, with queer content.

PARTICIPANT 2:And there's been a lot of really, really interesting and good music I've heard there.

PARTICIPANT 3:And I talked briefly I think earlier about the time capsule that maybe I did, maybe I didn't, about the Gulf Coast Archives and Museum. The museum is doing a time capsule. We're accepting things now. And it's anything you want to put. It's small things, of course. That's going to be something that we bury and dig up in 25 years, and open it up and see. And what we're looking for is things like what life is like here now, and what people hope that life will be like in 25 years.

PARTICIPANT 2:We should donate the show that we did with Ray Hill and Dean McKeller.

PARTICIPANT 3:Yes, I'm going to do that.

PARTICIPANT 2:We should donate and that show is yeah.

PARTICIPANT 3:And see that's where I'm going.

PARTICIPANT 2:That's history.

PARTICIPANT 3:We put in a CD that JD did of his pride show, when he did mostly pride anthems. And he had interviews with three different singer, songwriters, who had done pride anthems. And they talk about what pride means to them.

PARTICIPANT 2:Oh, cool.

PARTICIPANT 3:It was a wonderful show. It's one of his best. And so a copy of that is going into the time capsule. And we were talking as GCAMP we were talking at HATCH about that and one of the HATCH segments will also be in the time capsule, as well as one of the transgender segments. And I think that one with Dean McKeller would be a good one.

PARTICIPANT 2:Oh, Yeah. Well, with Dean McKeller and Ray Hill, I mean that's a trip. That's a trip. I was going to ask you. Just for the audience, a little piece of trivia. I was telling you earlier about Roy Orbison. Roy Orbison was one of the very first artists ever to not only write and sing his own music, but also be a producer and make his own financial arrangements about it. He and Rick Nelson who gets no credit for anything, actually pioneered the whole idea that artists had control over their own work, and took a lot-- a lot of crap for doing it. But there are artists today who owe a lot to those two for standing up and taking it.

PARTICIPANT 3:And in that music, I did a second song that I didn't say I was going to do, by a woman by the name of Gaye Adegbalola.

PARTICIPANT 2:Good name, if you could say it.

PARTICIPANT 3:It's not easy. This woman is one of the three women who make up Sapphire

PARTICIPANT 2:Oh, well, all right.

PARTICIPANT 3:The up and blues women Yes. She's on her own here because she's openly lesbian now. She came out recently. And that was neat a little sugar in my bowl.

PARTICIPANT 2:Oh, yeah, that's an old blues theme.

PARTICIPANT 3:She does that on her album's Bittersweet Blues. And she also does prove it on me blues.

PARTICIPANT 2:Yeah, which is good stuff. Lot of classic blues kind of stuff.

PARTICIPANT 3:Lots of wonderful stuff on here. Yes. Great, great CD. And JD Doyle gave it to me.

PARTICIPANT 2:Why am I not surprised.

PARTICIPANT 3:Yes.

PARTICIPANT 2: Well, getting back to the subject that we had here earlier. We were talking-- explaining some of the different aspects of being transgendered. And we mentioned a little bit about transsexual. And I wanted to talk a little bit about that. Most people think they know what transsexuals are, and maybe you do, maybe you don't. But essentially a transsexual is a person who has decided that they simply cannot live with the biology that they were born with. And they cannot live with the sex that they were born into, let's put it that way. And feel like they need to take surgical steps to have that corrected.

And I want to stress to the audience because I get this question a lot. People ask me, well, does it ever happen that the females decide to become men? And the answer is hell, yes. Yes, they do. And Melanie you've got-- there's a group down in this--

PARTICIPANT 1: Actually, Troy Hamus has started a new transgender group for female to male transsexuals, and it's called Stag. Some real genius came up with that. I don't know who it could've been. They're sitting in my chair right now.

PARTICIPANT 3: It's what I figured.

PARTICIPANT 1: I'm starting to get a reputation of being good at naming things. But they asked me, well, what's something good. And I was thinking, well, to get the point across, of the fact that there is a misconception that oh, it's only male to females, all of that. And I was like, well, some transgenders are guys. Stag.

PARTICIPANT 3: Yes, there are women-- there are people who are born as women who cannot tolerate remaining in the sex in which they were born and become men. And it's amazing to me that as long as I've been doing the show, that question still continues to come up. People ask, well, we always hear about the men changing to women, but I've never heard of well, yeah.

PARTICIPANT 1: That's what makes the news and the tabloids, all that stuff, that's more sensational. And also, they have the ends with. A lot of times like if they've had their mastectomies or whatever, they're taking things-- they're just perceived as like really Butch lesbians or something like that. A lot of times people see them that is not as shocking to the eye as like the man in the dress idea just because of the clothing and everything that are allowed. You can have a woman walking down the street wearing combat boots, blue jeans, a t-shirt.

PARTICIPANT 3: People assume she's a dyke.

PARTICIPANT 1: Having flat top, and a leather jacket on, and they just think, wow, that's really butch dyke. And it may be a female to male transsexual. And that they're just as masculine--

PARTICIPANT 3: If a guy wears a dress, he's a goddamn faggot.

PARTICIPANT 1: Oh, yeah, he's a total freak then. And that's just society's perceptions and all that. But actually from what I've heard as far as the occurrence of f is versus f's is about equal.

PARTICIPANT 3: Really?

PARTICIPANT 1: Yeah. And one of the things also--

PARTICIPANT 3: I've seen figures that go anywhere from 30% to 50%, so it pretty much depends on which expert you believe.

PARTICIPANT: Is it because they can woodwork a lot better?

PARTICIPANT 1:Oh, yeah. Well, it's like a lot of it-- the testosterone does a lot of the work itself. They take the testosterone. It works on the voice. They grow a beard. They'll go bald sometimes, all that. If they work out, they'll build up muscles.

PARTICIPANT 2:Isn't it cute when the guys get proud of being bald?

PARTICIPANT 1:Oh, yeah, they're like, oh, this is great. Look, big, shiny head. And they're like, oh, my goodness, no.

PARTICIPANT 3:I know. I have made this comment among my gay friends. And since I've made it among my gay friends that I should make it in public. Is that when you go to a transsexual function, you're going to walk into a room of tall women and short men.

PARTICIPANT 2:That's exactly true. And it's interesting, Jimmy, because I've had people come with me to various meetings, and they just can't handle the fact that if you go to a transgendered meeting, whether it includes cross-dressers or transsexuals or both, that the world is upside down. You can't make any assumption about anything that you see

PARTICIPANT 3:That's right, you can't. And that part of the fun of me going to one.

PARTICIPANT 2:Because everybody thinks you have to have.

PARTICIPANT 3:But then they're confused as I don't have any facial hair.

PARTICIPANT 2:And I've made the mistake a couple of times addressing somebody and saying, "Well, hi, Judy, how are you?" They'll say, "Well, I'm not Judy anymore. I'm George." You don't have to stop and say OK, and when did this happen?

PARTICIPANT 3:I know. I know.

PARTICIPANT 2:All assumptions are off.

PARTICIPANT 3:That's right.

PARTICIPANT 2:Even names. You knew people by her of.

PARTICIPANT 3:That's right.

PARTICIPANT 2:And it really is. It's a topsy turvy world. And a lot of people really have a hard time adjusting to it.

PARTICIPANT 3:And you know what's also weird is that as a gay man going into a group of transsexuals, and I see some of the transsexual men. And I am really attracted.

PARTICIPANT 2:They're adorable. What is that? The body alchemy guy and I cannot-- Lauren Cameron, yeah. Didn't you go to one of his shows some time because I heard stories about that and the look on your face. I think it was Pega was telling me about that.

PARTICIPANT 3:It's absolutely true.

PARTICIPANT 2:You had to get like the drool cup out or something.

PARTICIPANT 3:What a hunk.

PARTICIPANT 2:I picked up a--

PARTICIPANT 3:They work their body.

PARTICIPANT 2:Smart or something a while back. And it had like the shot of him there flexing and stuff. And I'm like well, that guy is just like hammered And like the genetic men that run around pumping iron and all that stuff. It's like they want. That's what they're going for.

PARTICIPANT 3:Yeah, that's exactly right. They're trying to beat yeah. We would love to be Lauren.

PARTICIPANT 1:And this all goes back to that gender continuum that we talked about earlier. Now, the interesting thing to me is that to me-- my humble opinion here-- I think sexual orientation also is a continuum.

PARTICIPANT 3:Oh, as the older I get, the more I think of sexual orientation as very fluid in most people.

PARTICIPANT 1:How many people do we know who started out completely one way and ended up totally the other way? Or how many people started out at one extreme and got somewhere in the middle and said, gee maybe I'm bisexual. Or they found some spot in between there, and they were perfectly OK with that. And that's what a lot of gay activists really, really have a lot of trouble with.

PARTICIPANT 3:Oh, I know it. I know it.

PARTICIPANT 1:It makes them insane.

PARTICIPANT 3:People like Holly Near.

PARTICIPANT 1:Good example.

PARTICIPANT 3:Tom Robinson, folks that have been gay activists and then, well, became attracted to someone of the opposite sex. And it's like the bisexual thing of you fall in love with the person and you work the plumbing out later.

PARTICIPANT 1:We'll look at the nasty things that are being written about Anne Haye.

PARTICIPANT 3:Oh, yes.

PARTICIPANT 2:Oh, yeah.

PARTICIPANT 1:And I don't have a problem with this. This is all part of the continuum. OK. So she was with this woman and they had a relationship, and it worked for a while. But then it didn't. And now she's married to a guy and that may or may not work for a while. And maybe she's going to find herself somewhere in between.

PARTICIPANT 3:That's right.

PARTICIPANT 1:And none of that surprises me. But to gay activists, it makes them insane.

PARTICIPANT 3:Yes, it does.

PARTICIPANT 1:And I really think they just need to get over themselves, frankly.

PARTICIPANT 2:I was speaking to Jessica Wex one time, and she said she had pretty much went the full spectrum-- straight male, gay male, straight female, gay female, all the way through the spectrum there. And one of the 0 one of the other groups that I participate with is group here in Houston BiNet, Bisexual Network. And one of the things it's like I generally identify myself as a lesbian if you get to write down-- if you done the splitting hairs, I consider lesbian oriented bisexual. I consider myself bisexual in that I haven't totally ruled out the idea of getting with the guy. I mean just everybody knows it's going to have to be Mr. Perfect.

PARTICIPANT 3:Good luck. It's not what I'm thinking.

PARTICIPANT 2:Well, I'm sorry.

PARTICIPANT 3:You may end up settling for mister reasonably close, honey.

PARTICIPANT 2:The thing is it's like in one of the discussions that they had in the BiNet was it's like you have heterosexual, you have homosexual. And as like the extremes. If in between there, there's a huge spectrum and they will talk hours and hours and hours just about classifying, well, you're bisexual, but how are you right in the middle. Are you this, are you that.

PARTICIPANT 3:What does it matter? And it's a spectrum of bisexuality.

PARTICIPANT 2:It really is. It's a huge spectrum.

PARTICIPANT 1:What does it matter?

PARTICIPANT 3:Well, it doesn't, actually.

PARTICIPANT 2:That's the thing.

PARTICIPANT 3:Only to the people who are not really comfortable with their own orientation.

PARTICIPANT 1:Well, they say that the society likes to put things in boxes. And they don't like to have too many boxes It's like are you straight, are you gay, are you male, are you female. And it's like, well, I'm not exactly this or that. And then it gets frustrating. They got to go to the storeroom, get another box out, and then try to figure, all of you're trans. Well, you're all tran. No, no I'm not like this other trans, something different. You got another box out.

PARTICIPANT 2:It's how to blow away the boxes. When you go to a class like I'll do and say to them, "I want you to get through your head now that the continuum for gender is a different continuum than for sexual orientation.

PARTICIPANT 3:Yes.

PARTICIPANT 2:There are two different continuums. And here's what people start getting blown apart. They just say to them, you can be a male becoming a female who's attracted to women, or can be a male becoming female who's attracted to men, or you can be a male becoming a female who's attracted to both, Their eyes begin to glaze. What do you mean? It blows them way. You mean you can be changing from one sex to another and change your sexual orientation while you're at it. Yes, you can.

PARTICIPANT 3:The problem with that is that people want to put the two together. They think that you want to change your gender. So that you can have sex with either the same or the opposite.

PARTICIPANT 2: Which is true or as Milli pointed out, you may say I have sex with no one at all. I think you may be asexual and the process to getting that, they cannot-- you're absolutely right, Melanie, about the boxes. It's when you get down to this last section and say OK now then we're talking two different continuums, and you can be anywhere on either one of those two, and it's cool in their eyes. Their eyes begin to roll to the back of their head.

PARTICIPANT 3: Because I remember 30, 40 years ago that when you said you were gay, people would ask first why do you want to be a woman.

PARTICIPANT 2: Really?

PARTICIPANT 3: Yes.

PARTICIPANT 1: I've been wondering about that with you, Jimmy.

PARTICIPANT 3: I don't want to be a woman. I am a man, I want to have sex with other men. When you say gay, that's the mixing of the orientation.

PARTICIPANT 1: It was the only way that they could identify that.

PARTICIPANT 3: Because they could not conceive of two people of the same sex having sex.

PARTICIPANT 1: And Melanie is absolutely right. It's heterosexuals, the straight and narrow heterosexuals that live in the tightest little bitty box.

PARTICIPANT 2: They've got like a mailing tube or something. But I found it's like you were talking. We have the process of going from one sex to another, and we call it transition. And I actually found the term for transitioning between having an attraction to male or female or actually having an attraction to neither, which is called dating.

PARTICIPANT 1: Very good. This doesn't sound helpful, but it's truthful. And honestly there are lots of gay activists who don't understand this either. I can't tell you how many times I've attended meetings and tried to explain this to them. They're in their own tight little box as much as complete heterosexuals are. You get people who have this tight, narrow little view of what's gay. And if you're outside of that, well, you're pretending to be. You're learning to be, or I don't know. You're never going to be. And it's just ridiculous.

PARTICIPANT 3: It's like they think you're going over to the enemy lines or something. And I don't know if they feel betrayed or if it's their perception of how the straight community is going to look at it. Oh, here's your big gay activist who is now in an opposite sex relationship.

PARTICIPANT 2: Well, it's true that people who live outside of the gender lines are a political problem to gay activists.

PARTICIPANT 3: Yes.

PARTICIPANT 2: I mean we saw that in the Texas legislature when the hate crimes issue came up, that we were a monster problem to them and we still are. The LGRL still doesn't know what to make of us and really would just be happy if we would go away.

PARTICIPANT 3: Well, that is going to happen.

PARTICIPANT 2:No, it isn't. But they would be just as happy because we muddy up their waters, and they don't like it. Do they have to go back to legislators and try and explain all this, and they don't want to have to do it. And I keep saying, well, then don't. Get the hell out of the way and I'll handle it for you. But it's true. There are lots of gay activists who really find us to be a huge problem. We muddy up the issue. We just say things like you can be gay and be transsexual. You can be gay and be none of those things. And it's just too big for them to grasp. I don't know if it's so much that it's too big is that they just don't want to because it means more work and they have to do work at under some sense of understanding.

PARTICIPANT 1:They have to go get another box out of the storeroom.

PARTICIPANT 3:That's exactly it. And they don't know how they're going to explain this to straight America.

PARTICIPANT 2:Well, they can't even explain it to fellow gay and lesbian people, let alone to gay America.

PARTICIPANT 3:Tell me, we've been trying for what, almost seven years.

PARTICIPANT 2:Here we are doing transgender 101 again because we still have people that just can't grasp it. We're having to continually go over basics again and again.

PARTICIPANT 1:But I think it's really important, Melanie. There was a person who sent me an email who said the politics is nice but I'll probably never get involved with politics. I need real life advice.

PARTICIPANT 2:Let me stop and think about that because I know I have a tendency to forget. And say I get so involved with this political group or this political action committee or this or that or the other. I have a tendency to forget what it was like when I first started. And that's I think it's important we don't forget that. And that we reach out to those people because those are the people who need us the most

PARTICIPANT 3:And while we're talking about how straight America perceives us, it reminds me that there's going to be a GLAAD media training going on this month in Houston. Dealing effectively with the media often poses a challenge for grassroots organizations. Reagan Rine, Education and Training Services Manager of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, will travel from New York to help Houston GLBT groups learn ways to secure media coverage for their activities.

That's going to happen Saturday, July 28, 1:00 to 4:00 PM at the Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center, located at 803 Hawthorne. That's Hawthorne at Stanford. This is a free event brought to you by the Pride Committee of Houston, and the Houston Lesbian and Gay Community Center.

PARTICIPANT 2:And GLAAD is a totally transgender inclusive organization.

PARTICIPANT 3:That's right.

PARTICIPANT 2:I mean, they really are. And yet seem inclined to say that while I'm thinking of it, I haven't had a chance to tell Jack this. So Jack if you're listening, I think you did one hell of a job with this parade.

PARTICIPANT 3:Oh, didn't he, though.

PARTICIPANT 2:I mean this was just-- this is the first parade that I have not marched in since I've been marching every parade since 1983. This is the first parade, so it's the first time I've ever actually had an opportunity to see the whole parade. I've never actually seen one from start to finish. What a fabulous show. I mean, Jack, if you're out there, boy, you have my applause. What a terrific job.

PARTICIPANT 3:Good. Good.

PARTICIPANT 1:Yeah, the festival was great too the following day. That really rocked.

PARTICIPANT 3:That was incredible also for not having a festival in five years. And having it the day after the parade. The incentive to go to the festival as it has been in previous years when we had it during the day. Because the parade was over, you went directly to the festival. And usually, the festival was located like in this area.

PARTICIPANT 1:Right near the station.

PARTICIPANT 3:Right, yeah, because that's where the parade ended. So I mean you almost had a captive audience. But this was the next day, Sunday from 1:00 to 7:00 and they brought in-- they had local talent. They had they brought in talent from out of town. They had entertainment on two stages from 1:00 until 7:00 PM. Never in the history of this town has that many gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender performers been together in one group at one time in this town. It was incredible.

PARTICIPANT 2:And the committee, they had the best job ever.

PARTICIPANT 3:They had a couple of thousand people there.

PARTICIPANT 2:I think the committee did the best job ever. And I hadn't had a chance to talk to Jack, so I want to take this opportunity and say, hey, great job. Did you have something over there, Melanie?

PARTICIPANT 1:Oh, I was just going to say, well, they hand it over the Garden of the Hyatt. I was flipping through the Houston press here. And I seen that KPFT is actually helping sponsor something else that's going on tomorrow

PARTICIPANT 3:That's right.

PARTICIPANT 1:Really, what got my attention it's something called the Feast of Saint Arnold over there that is the tomorrow. What got my attention is that they're having the Flying Fish Sailors play there, which has Jay Lee from Technology Bites here. That is my favorite folk band and that it looks like they've got the Gypsies and Shake Russell and Dana Cooper there also.

PARTICIPANT 3:Isn't St. Arnold's Brewery one of the big ones? Sponsoring as well.

PARTICIPANT 2:You know who Saint Arnold was?

PARTICIPANT 3:Actually, the Feast of Saint Arnold is a pagan holiday.

PARTICIPANT 2:He's actually patron saint of brewing.

PARTICIPANT 3:Really?

PARTICIPANT 2: And I say and I'm going to show you-- I'm going to show off how I got this knowledge. I ordered a Saint Arnold's beer the other day and it told me that on the label of the beer. So I'm really smart because I read the side of a bottle of beer.

PARTICIPANT 3: So tomorrow afternoon, I think it starts at noon.

PARTICIPANT 1: Say doors open at noon according to the ad here. It says lots of food, drink, craft vendors, children's activities, favorite recipes made with beer. So I'm guessing Jim's going to probably be there. Oh yeah, oh yeah.

PARTICIPANT 3: So a lot of people are. They've been giving tickets away out all the last few weeks.

PARTICIPANT 1: That venue there is really-- the first time I went over there was for the women's music festival last year. And it was the first time I went there and it was pretty cool.

PARTICIPANT 3: That's a wonderful venue.

PARTICIPANT 1: It's fantastic.

PARTICIPANT 3: It's out there at Fagan street.

PARTICIPANT 1: It's around Fagan. You got indoor and outdoor stage. You got the Pride Festival. That's one of the things with the entertainment. The entertainment was totally GLBT inclusive. Even with Nancy Ford show. They had Mandy, our favorite transgender bass player out there. And she even soloed at one point. That rocked too. So Mandy if you're out there listening, you rock, chick.

PARTICIPANT 3: Yes, she does. She does.

PARTICIPANT 2: Melanie brought in pieces. Brought in a piece of from the news that I thought was interesting. The California Rocky Horror Picture Show laws is what they're calling it.

PARTICIPANT 3: What?

PARTICIPANT 2: The California law.

PARTICIPANT 1: That's a derogatory description they're using there.

PARTICIPANT 2: "The California legislature is moving forward with the bill that would outlaw discrimination against transsexuals drag queens, effeminate men, butch women, and anyone else who doesn't fit into the traditional gender stereotypes," reports the San Francisco Chronicle. They could have said transgender and that would have covered everyone, but that's OK. The bill would essentially expand the definition of someone's sex to include appearance and behavior, different from that traditionally associated with a person's sex at birth. That's essentially the law as it's stated in the state of Minnesota Human Rights law.

The measure is intended to protect people who are "gender non-conforming," according to its supporters. Conservative opponents fear that it would force nonprofit groups to hire men in dresses and threaten the state's economy among other things. And here's my favorite line. "This bill turns the Rocky Horror Picture Show into a California labor law," says Assemblyman Ron Maddox. You'll be surprised to know that he's a Republican.

PARTICIPANT 1: Who would have guessed it?

PARTICIPANT 3:I'm just shocked.

PARTICIPANT 2:This is essentially designed to create anarchy for the people of California. It's a complete attack on normalcy.

PARTICIPANT 3:The sky is falling. The sky is falling.

PARTICIPANT 2:How many times have we read stuff like this from the right wing that if you pass this some horrible disaster that would fall out, and it never freaking happen.

PARTICIPANT 1:I think they get their same information is where my mom got from somebody that was playing with something on a Ouija board, and she moved to Indiana in '96 because they predicted this huge tidal wave that was going to wipe out this section of Texas in '97, which I don't know, I think they missed it by three years.

PARTICIPANT 3:Pat Robertson said they were going to wipe out Central Florida too and that didn't work either.

PARTICIPANT: Exactly, yeah.

Well, I know it's 1:30 here.

PARTICIPANT 3:Oh, it is. I'm just going with it here.

PARTICIPANT 2:So I know it's getting to be time for us to go. I just want to leave with this thought. I realize that we've spent a lot of shows talking about the politics, and yes the politics is important. And I will say to you, though as a person that's considered a leader, I guess, that I'm glad that some of you have sent in emails and reminded me that there are people who are just starting out that need the help too. And keep reminding me and keep reminding your other transgendered leaders about that because it's important that we don't run off and forget you

PARTICIPANT 3:That's right.

PARTICIPANT 2:And as always, we end in this portion with my little ending here. I just drew a blank.

PARTICIPANT 3:When decorum.

PARTICIPANT 2:Thank you. When decorum becomes repression, the only dignity free people have is to speak out. I hope you hear that, Saturn dealerships. Good night.

PARTICIPANT 3:And we'll be back with Big Roy and Chris with the After Hours News and Views.