

MAN: Money either way.

WOMAN: We're talking about some people who've either done an awful lot of saving over a long period of time or are economically advantaged to begin with.

WOMAN: Well, as far as I understand, this is the lesbian show, right?

WOMAN: Yeah, OK.

WOMAN: Well, actually, what I was thinking is a lot of people assume that if you have this gender expression, you're automatically that. If you transition, it's because you want to have sex with men.

MAN: Ew.

WOMAN: Just--

[LAUGHTER]

Yeah. Yeah, ew. Yeah. And so I wanted to see if we could kind of talk about that maybe a little bit.

WOMAN: Yeah, since that was probably the original topic we were supposed to come in and talk--

WOMAN: My favorite-- you know how they always have the talk show dealee bob's going on with the transsexuals? My favorite one was when Kate Bornstein was on *Geraldo*. And the supposed topic that night was transsexuals who've regretted their decisions.

WOMAN: Ah.

WOMAN: And they went through--

MAN: [GROAN].

WOMAN: --went through a bunch of goofy shit that-- sorry, did it again.

ALL: Oh.

WOMAN: [LAUGHS]

OK, I'm an engineer. And you think sailors cuss, you haven't been in an engineering lab. So I've got to learn to watch myself on here. But the, um-- the-- just quit looking at me.

WOMAN: Her brain just shut down.

WOMAN: She doesn't quite know what she's saying.

WOMAN: Kate Bornstein goes on there, and he's like, OK, so you're transsexual. And she goes, yeah. And so, like, you're a lesbian, right? And she's like, well, yeah. And then Geraldo's like, so that means that you must have regretted what you did because you went through all of this, and you really wanted to be with women in the first place. And she's like, no, listen. Being a lesbian is about who I want to go to bed with. Being a transsexual is about who do I want to go to bed as.

WOMAN: Oh, is that where you got that saying originally?

WOMAN: That's where I got that one from.

WOMAN: OK.

WOMAN: Yeah. She's the source of that, man. She's awesome.

WOMAN: Yeah, I quoted that last night. I'd heard it from you. And I thought, you know, that is probably the best little soundbite.

WOMAN: It boils it down so fast.

WOMAN: Because, yeah, I tell that to people, and they're like, oh, I get it, yeah.

MAN: Sarah said that on the show last time she was--

WOMAN: Well, like I said, it came from Kate. And, man, she is really cool. Kate comes up with all this stuff. But anyway, OK, so if you want to be with a woman, does that really make you a man? Therefore, if you are a transsexual, you've regretted your decision? Well, that was Geraldo's thought process.

WOMAN: Yeah, so that says, like, for Alison here, if you want to go to bed with women, does that make you want to be a man?

WOMAN: Absolutely not.

WOMAN: I can't imagine that.

MAN: No bloody way.

MAN: Of course, this is the same guy who wanted to open Al Capone's vault, only to find out there was nothing in it.

WOMAN: A bunch of dirt, yeah.

MAN: So why are we listening to this guy like it's gospel?

WOMAN: Well, no, we're listening to this guy is he is one example of probably what a lot of people think.

WOMAN: Yeah, and, as a lesbian, I've come up against that a lot too.

WOMAN: Yeah.

WOMAN: People assuming that I want to be a man or--

WOMAN: Butch.

WOMAN: And the thing about it-- and, actually, also because I tend to like butch women, they assume that there's something in me--

WOMAN: Oh, you must really want to be with a guy.

WOMAN: --that I really want to be with a man. So--

WOMAN: Eh, wrong answer.

WOMAN: Yeah.

WOMAN: No, you just want somebody to fix your car and--

[LAUGHTER]

WOMAN: Right, and what of it?

MAN: You go.

[LAUGHTER]

WOMAN: I want someone to fix the car, to open the door, to do all those things.

MAN: Of course, you'd like to have a car first.

WOMAN: Yeah.

WOMAN: Right. Now, we have to start it there.

WOMAN: And that's what the-- and it's the butcher's car.

WOMAN: And you'd like that somebody to be a woman.

WOMAN: And, actually, we could put that out there. I would like maybe some of our listeners to perhaps buy me a car.

[LAUGHTER]

We could set up some sort of fund at a bank.

MAN: She wants her a rich lesbian.

WOMAN: Yeah. Yeah. Any of you rich butches out there, send something in care of the station.

WOMAN: You know what the station is. Jimmy read the address. Stop on by, quick.

WOMAN: You know how to find me.

WOMAN: Well, I don't know. Is Alan single again?

[LAUGHTER]

MAN: So we get cars driving by, just throwing keys out of the parking lot.

[LAUGHTER]

WOMAN: This is my fantasy, y'all.

[LAUGHTER]

MAN: And she is awfully cute--

WOMAN: And available.

MAN: So that's a plus.

WOMAN: There you go. Lesbian fantasy night on KPFT.

[LAUGHTER]

MAN: A new segment on that soon.

WOMAN: Yeah, we could run with that.

[LAUGHTER]

WOMAN: But yeah, that was one of the things there. There's a lot of confusion with-- people get gender identity, sexual orientation all mixed up. They think, well, because you're this, you're that. If you're a male and you like girls but you want to be a girl-- well, you have a very interesting story about your dad with that one. Don't you, Chris?

CHRIS: Oh, well, let me expound upon that.

[LAUGHTER]

No, that was my coming-out talk to my dad. I went and told him. And he took it rather hard. He really did. He had to sit and think about it for about a month before he wanted to talk to me again. And he sat me down.

And he said, you'll always be my son, and I understand if you need to do this. If you really feel like it, I guess, you're going to do what you're going to do. [SIGHS] But thank god, you're not gay.

[LAUGHTER]

And I said, dad, but I like women. And he went, yeah, that's--

[LAUGHTER]

And you could see the spark plug in his head, just explode.

[ZAPPING]

Sparks flying out of his ears. And he just kind of sat back in his chair and was absolutely flabbergasted. He couldn't speak. I mean, he just really sat there, and it was just like, oh.

WOMAN: No doubt.

CHRIS: But yeah, the concept was just so far out there. And that was one of the things because I had grown up and got all of the dogma and everything in there. Sexual orientation means this. It means that and things. And because when I was growing up, I was like, well, you know-- I was like, I really felt like a girl inside.

I wish I would just been born a girl and all this other stuff. And I'm like, well, according to everything I heard on television, I guess I'm gay. And I was from Indiana, so there's not much chance of being out there unless you're being ran out of town on a pole or something.

But after I moved down here, I was like, OK, well, you know. I kind of got into the gay scene a little bit. And I was just like, this really is not me. And it caused a lot. I had a lot of soul searching and things figured out. I was like, OK, well, if I'm not gay in this and that-- and I was like, well-- and then Geraldo, again--

[LAUGHTER]

--had a show with people from the Tri-Ess, the Society for the Second Self, which is a heterosexual cross-dresser group. And they actually have a chapter here in Houston. I was like, oh, OK, well, I want to be a girl, and I like girls. So I'm a straight cross-dresser. I went there and joined it. They're nice people and everything.

And I went to the meetings. And I got on their board of directors for a time. And it wasn't until like years later, when I was thinking back about the meetings, I was like, I would go there, and present as female. And then I would stand out in the kitchen talking to all the wives of the cross-dressers about stuff while they were all in the front room having their meeting.

And I'm like, oh, OK, I was more drawn to the camaraderie or whatever of the genetic females as opposed to the cross-dressers who had a male gender identity. But they would just dress up and things. I didn't feel the same vibe with them. And after a while, I was just like, this group is really not doing what I need.

It wasn't much later, I figured out, OK, I'm actually transsexual, and I'm a lesbian. Basically, now, most of my time, except when I'm running the tats meetings and things, most of my time is spent socializing in the lesbian community. And I've been having a lot of fun hanging out--

WOMAN: It's because of me.

CHRIS: Yeah, yeah. Well, see, I've got a lousy car, though. So I don't stand a chance.

[LAUGHTER]

I grew up in the late '60s and the early '70s. And Renée Richards-- [STAMMERS] story hit the news. I'll get it. The news hit the story--

[LAUGHTER]

WOMAN: And it was lost.

CHRIS: It was really clear that there was going to be an awful lot of discrimination in my life about being transsexual in spite of the fact that even at a young age, I kind of had this thought that that's probably who I was. So I spent a lot of years looking for, well, OK, I obviously can't do that because I will get killed.

So what could I be? So maybe I'm a gay man, I thought, at one point. And you know what I found out gay men want? Gay men.

WOMAN: Yeah.

[LAUGHTER]

CHRIS: That was my problem. I was like, well, yes, I must be a gay man. But ew, you know, I was like, put that away. Well, I didn't mind that part much. But it was that they wanted me to be a man for them, and that wasn't happening because I wasn't. I mean, I might have looked like one. I might have expected to act like one from their expectations, but that's not who I was inside.

WOMAN: Yeah. And it's that whole vibe you get and the whole dynamic is just not right. It doesn't click together.

CHRIS: I'm not a gay man. Never was, never could be.

MAN: I have to admit that I have a good friend, who, when I met him, this was a gay man. When I met her, she was a lesbian.

WOMAN: Well--

MAN: She went and--

WOMAN: Sarah de Palma will tell you that before transition, she was a gay man. And now she's with a woman in a committed relationship. I would call that a lesbian relationship.

MAN: And I sort of look back on this and still being friends with that person. So I sort of look at that and go. Well, if that's the way it works, if that's what makes her happy, that's her deal. She's happy with it, and that's not my--

WOMAN: More back to, who you want to go to bed with versus who you want to go to bed as? And--

MAN: Yes. That's something that Melanie brought up with her interview last month.

WOMAN: Yeah, we were just talking about that.

WOMAN: Yeah, we were talking about that.

WOMAN: Yeah, I missed it. You know the source, right? Kate Bornstein.

MAN: Yes.

WOMAN: Yeah.

MAN: Yes.

WOMAN: That's where it came from.

WOMAN: Jimmy, Jimmy, step out--

MAN: Let's take a little break here.

WOMAN: Oh, OK.

WOMAN: I'll set time.

MAN: Yes, you are listening to *After Hours*, queer radio with attitude, on KPFT Houston and KEOS College Station. Now--

MAN: Oh, my god. He actually did that at 1 o'clock.

WOMAN: Oh, come on. It was 18 seconds late.

[LAUGHTER]

MAN: A special event happens once a month right here at KPFT. And that is JD Doyle's *Queer Music Heritage*. It is every fourth Monday during the second half of the show. He comes on at 9 o'clock, and it is on for an hour. This month, he is saluting-- he's got special interviews with Suede, Margie Adam, and Candy Cane.

Candy is a bisexual performer who was in Houston just recently. And JD got an interview with her, and he's playing some music from her. He's got a short interview with Margie and also with Suede. He got the interview with Suede while she was here live for the Pride Fest a couple of weeks ago. So that is going to be a fun show this coming Monday night, the fourth Monday-- not the last Monday-- the fourth Monday.

WOMAN: And Margie Adam is one of the founding artists on the Olivia Record label

MAN: That's right.

WOMAN: One of the first women--

MAN: She's got a brand new album coming out called "Avalon." And I think he's got some music from it. I'm not sure. Anyway, listen in for that *Lesbian and Gay Voices* which is heard every Monday night right here on KPFT at 8:00 PM until 10:00 PM. And JD's segment will be on from 9:00 to 10:00 this Monday night, fourth Monday. And--

WOMAN: And--

MAN: We've got Suede's signature song. She did it at the festival, and she owned that stage. It was incredible, just incredible.

WOMAN: Great show.

MAN: This is Suede singing "Miss Celie's Blues," right here on *After Hours*.

[LAUGHTER]

MAN: So get me those.

NARRATOR: Houston's 90.1 KPFT, the sound of Texas presents the 2001 Watermelon Dance and Summer Social Friday and Saturday, July 27 and 28 at the Last Concert Cafe. Join us for some of Houston's best bands including the New Jack Hippies, the Sisters Morales, Potroast, Moses Guest, Carolyn Wallace, Jug of Lightning, the High Taylors, and Carolyn Wonderland in the Imperial Monkeys.

Music starts at 5:00 PM and goes until-- well, who knows? Tickets are \$10 at the door. And proceeds benefit KPFT. For info or directions, call 713-228-9190. It's the Watermelon Dance and Summer Social this year, spanning two days, July 27 and 28 at the Last Concert Cafe, benefiting Houston's 90.1 KPFT, the sound of Texas.

[MUSIC PLAYING]

MAN: Oh, yeah. Watermelon Dance. That's Potroast's deal. Isn't it, Jim?

JIM: Yeah, sure is.

MAN: They do that every year, so we sure like to promote it. That's coming up next weekend-- next weekend.

MAN: What's a watermelon dance?

MAN: One of them selling watermelonade.

MAN: Yes, he did that one year, selling watermelonade.

MAN: What's a watermelon dance?

WOMAN: Watermelonade?

MAN: Well, that was a term I came up with. It was this big vat of watermelon juice that I just started calling it watermelonade.

MAN: There you go.

WOMAN: Yeah.

MAN: Anyway--

[LAUGHTER]

WOMAN: Seedless?

MAN: That's right.

MAN: Yeah. It didn't have seeds in it.

MAN: You're still listening to *After Hours*. And the music that you heard, that was Jamie Anderson from her latest CD called "Drive All Night," "I Wanna be a Straight Guy." And that's, of course, poking fun at that--

[LAUGHTER]

WOMAN: That was pretty good.

MAN: --privilege. And before that, Suede with "Miss Celie's Blues."

MAN: It sounds like--

MAN: Suede Wade.

MAN: The Suede Wade. No, we're not doing that.

WOMAN: We're not going to go there, are we?

MAN: No, we can't tell that joke because it's a visual. You got to have the visual with it.

WOMAN: Can you see this? No, I don't think you can see this.

MAN: Look, look, no.

MAN: No, no, no, no, no, it doesn't work. Anyway, we are here with Jim. It's Jim and Jewel show. Only Jewel is not here, but Jim is. And I'm just staying out of the May way.

[LAUGHTER]

WOMAN: Oh, but you should join in, Jim.

MAN: Oh, don't jump in that May way.

[LAUGHTER]

WOMAN: The May way. This is July. It'd be the July way, I guess.

WOMAN: Oh.

MAN: We've got Beth. We've got Melanie. We've got Kristen. Who else do we have here?

WOMAN: Alison.

WOMAN: Alison?

MAN: Alison.

WOMAN: And--

[LAUGHTER]

MAN: Oh, but--

WOMAN: And we got--

MAN: That was not real subtle, was it?

MAN: Not subtle at all, anyway. And Bobby.

BOBBY: Hello.

MAN: Yeah.

WOMAN: And Jimmy.

MAN: Oh, I got--

MAN: Hey, Rainbo.

MAN: I got to tell the story on the festival thing. After the parade, we went the next day to the--

MAN: Festival--

WOMAN: Pride Fest.

MAN: The rally thing.

MAN: Pride Festival.

WOMAN: Pride fest.

MAN: Yes.

WOMAN: And I got a great picture--

MAN: With all the entertainment.

MAN: Yes. She got a good picture of us.

MAN: But you know how the gay leather men have their little beauty pageant things. Mister--

MAN: Gulf Coast Drummer or whatever.

MAN: Yeah, they're all Mr. Somebodys. Well, this particular somebody went to get up and introduce--

WOMAN: Jimmy's got this look on his face.

MAN: --a certain political figure. And--

WOMAN: Oh, yeah. Oh, god.

MAN: And he says-- [CHUCKLES] and coming up we'll be Sarah Jackson Lee.

[LAUGHTER]

WOMAN: Oh.

MAN: And he will, for the rest of his life--

[LAUGHTER]

WOMAN: Will never live that one.

MAN: He will never live back there. I mean, he is a sweetheart. He is a sweetheart. Yeah. He's--

WOMAN: Sarah Lee. She's such a cupcake.

[LAUGHTER]

MAN: Oh, boy. Oh, well. So where were we? Oh, by the way, our second half guest is already here.

MAN: I really don't want to know what this is about.

MAN: Yes, Deb Rogers, president of the HTLPC, the caucus--

WOMAN: The caucus.

MAN: --is here. And--

WOMAN: Out in the lobby, I think.

MAN: I don't know. Maybe I could get her in here because she's out there with Big Roy. And she may not be--

WOMAN: Oh, no.

MAN: --worth anything by the time he finishes with her. I don't know.

WOMAN: She'll [? pound me into the dirt. ?]

MAN: That's--

[LAUGHTER]

MAN: On second thought-- well, never mind.

WOMAN: Yeah.

WOMAN: And she'd be good in this discussion, too.

MAN: Yes, she would. Well, y'all are going to hang out for the second half, huh?

WOMAN: Ah.

WOMAN: Twist my arm, Jimmy. Make me do it. Oh, you win, you win.

[LAUGHTER]

MAN: By the way, Alison--

MAN: Butchness wins again.

MAN: I don't know, Alison. We apologize for Jimmy's memory after all. It's as rusty as those springs on his turn-of-the-century dentures.

MAN: Hey.

WOMAN: Oh.

[LAUGHTER]

WOMAN: Well, it's OK.

MAN: We love you, Jim.

MAN: You have to think about that one, didn't you?

MAN: Yes. I worked on that one while--

MAN: I don't know. There's someone that we thought that is-- there's a wooden teeth down there somewhere. I'm not going to go for it.

MAN: OK.

WOMAN: Wood antique.

MAN: Hmm.

MAN: Oh.

WOMAN: Wow.

MAN: Ew.

WOMAN: Wow.

WOMAN: I'm used to people not remembering my name. It's OK. It doesn't bother me.

MAN: OK.

WOMAN: Who are you again?

WOMAN: What?

[LAUGHTER]

WOMAN: You, of all people, were to remember.

WOMAN: Yeah.

MAN: Oh.

WOMAN: Oh, so yuck.

MAN: And why is it that she should remember?

WOMAN: It's not appropriate for family rating.

MAN: Oh.

WOMAN: Uh-uh.

MAN: Are we back to that two-finger joke again?

HOSTS: No.

WOMAN: Oh, my goodness.

WOMAN: Oh, no.

MAN: Suede way.

MAN: No.

WOMAN: The Suede way.

[LAUGHTER]

WOMAN: Yeah, that's another one of those. You can just-- doesn't go out from the radio.

MAN: If I leave the room, will you all get serious again?

MAN: What?

[LAUGHTER]

WOMAN: Great.

[LAUGHTER]

WOMAN: Yeah. If you see--

WOMAN: Sure.

WOMAN: --described. Do you?

[LAUGHTER]

MAN: Hey, well, there

WOMAN: Serious?

MAN: Yeah, OK.

WOMAN: Yeah. There were some serious moments in there. It got pretty quiet and--

WOMAN: Just like now.

WOMAN: Well, OK. OK.

MAN: But that's the-- yeah.

WOMAN: Jim hasn't said anything. I'm sure Jim has a question. Come on, you can come up with something. Anything, Jim, that comes to your mind about the concept of lesbian and the concept of transgender running into each other?

JIM: Ah, eh--

WOMAN: Ah, eh, ah.

[LAUGHTER]

JIM: It usually involves big rubber toys and lots of nudes.

WOMAN: Oh!

MAN: God.

WOMAN: Not like in the movies, Jim.

MAN: Oh, OK.

JIM: Well, OK, that pretty much covered all my topics right there.

[LAUGHTER]

WOMAN: Oh, na-ah. No inner tubes and things like that.

MAN: Yeah.

WOMAN: Tonka trucks.

MAN: Hey, I went up to New Braunfels and went tubing on the river over 4th of July. My dyke-dar went off more than a few times, I'll tell you.

WOMAN: Dyke-dar?

WOMAN: Yeah.

WOMAN: The dyke-dar.

WOMAN: Very specific gaydar.

WOMAN: OK.

WOMAN: Oh, yeah, we got that running our friend Stacey that comes down to the buy show off and on. We'll walk around and go to the mall or whatever. And we'll pass a woman or a couple of women and go look at each other, mm-hmm.

WOMAN: Mm-huh.

WOMAN: Yeah.

WOMAN: Yup.

WOMAN: Well, see, I do that. But I didn't know it was called dyke-dar, right?

WOMAN: Yeah, the dyke-dar.

[INTERPOSING VOICES]

WOMAN: It's like the gaydar. It's just more finely tuned.

WOMAN: OK.

WOMAN: So Deb just cornered in.

MAN: Yes, we have. Our second half of the show was already here. And we have--

WOMAN: Deb Rogers.

MAN: --coerced her into coming into the studio early. And we'll talk a little bit with her and then do some news, and come back and do some stuff. Deb Rodgers, who is the--

[DOOR OPENING]

WOMAN: Screech.

MAN: --absolutely brand new president, elected president--

WOMAN: Oh, yeah, hoo-hoo.

[APPLAUSE]

MAN: --of the Houston Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus. Congratulations. And you're new board.

DEB ROGERS: Oh, thank you. Good evening.

MAN: That-- that-- that--

[LAUGHTER]

MAN: That whole--

WOMAN: She sounds bored.

MAN: --election thing went really fast.

MAN: That enthusiasm.

MAN: Yep.

[COUGHS]

[LAUGHTER]

WOMAN: And she's not going to say another word?

WOMAN: Yeah.

WOMAN: Oh, I thought--

WOMAN: She's learning the ropes of being a president already.

WOMAN: Oh, yeah, it's pantomime.

WOMAN: Whatever it is, I didn't do it.

[LAUGHTER]

WOMAN: We were just kind of going on about what this whole thing about lesbian and transsexual and transgender and where those concepts run into each other, you know?

WOMAN: Usually in the bedroom.

WOMAN: Sometimes, sometimes.

WOMAN: Yeah, well that's one of the things that--

[LAUGHTER]

WOMAN: What? No, that's got to be-- I've met people who've had that problem.

MAN: Are we going to be serious, or are we going to be doing--

WOMAN: Yeah. No, I

MAN: --or what?

WOMAN: I was going go for that. I mean, there's--

WOMAN: We had--

DEB ROGERS: I'm trying to find my mental center right now because shortly before I came over here, I was just relaxing for a bit in the recliner and flipping the channels. And they had HBO on. And and they had the *If These Walls Could Talk* 2 on.

WOMAN: I know she's going to say it.

DEB ROGERS: The segment with the young femme and the young butch female was on. And they were kind of getting it on doing their thing and turning me on. And so I looked at my partner Carmen. I said, [CHUCKLES] let's go recreate some scenes. And so I'm still kind of like trying to get--

MAN: Oh, that after glow.

DEB ROGERS: Yeah. Before--

MAN: Oh, yes.

DEB ROGERS: Trying to get to a point where I can talk about anything serious right now.

MAN: That's what those pink cheeks come from.

DEB ROGERS: Ah-huh.

MAN: Is that it?

WOMAN: You are looking exceptionally healthy.

DEB ROGERS: Thank you.

[MAN LAUGHS]

WOMAN: We need to turn the lights down in here. You know, they have [INAUDIBLE] I think.

WOMAN: Hmm.

MAN: Oh.

WOMAN: Yeah. Politics begin--

MAN: Wow.

WOMAN: --but whatever.

WOMAN: But yeah--

MAN: That is-- I have never had a guest come on and have that opening before--

[LAUGHTER]

MAN: --ever.

DEB ROGERS: You know, I have some of the greatest openings in the world--

[LAUGHTER]

--whether it be--

MAN: Um, that's why you're--

WOMAN: Mm, ma'am.

DEB ROGERS: Whether it be for my stand up act or I'm at the podium or wherever, I have some great one liners. Either stand up or laying down.

MAN: There you go.

DEB ROGERS: Great openings either way.

MAN: Oh, my.

WOMAN: Dear.

MAN: You're going--

WOMAN: The caucus--

MAN: --to fit right in here.

WOMAN: --open as never before.

MAN: Yes.

[LAUGHTER]

MAN: You know?

WOMAN: You know?

MAN: It must be the show because last month, Janine Brunjes was on the show. And she's a pretty classy lady.

WOMAN: Very classy.

MAN: And she fit right in. I mean--

WOMAN: Oh, yeah.

MAN: She was just-- yeah.

WOMAN: What did she call Jim-- the big puppy dog or something like that? Looks like it is--

MAN: Yeah. She was just getting with it.

WOMAN: Getting jiggy with it.

MAN: Yup.

[LAUGHTER]

DEB ROGERS: It was interesting. I didn't catch the conversation y'all are having about where transgenderism and lesbianism and everything else collides all at once. But I think that's a very valid and important topic to have.

JIM: It is. It is because even-- I can remember when Sarah first came on the show, it was very confusing to me about gender and then orientation and how that worked together and how that fit. And I just didn't understand at all.

DEB ROGERS: My concern--

JIM: And after seven years, I'm--

WOMAN: You're getting it, Jimmy. You're getting it.

JIM: I'm getting it little by little. Yeah.

DEB ROGERS: Well, my concern from what I've seen-- and I've talked to other people who've noticed this same undercurrent-- it's very subtle. It's not large at all, but it is there. Something that I noticed on Thursday nights talking to different people when I was doing segments of the *Dyke Show with Nancy* for a while there.

Some of the non-transgender lesbians were expressing very subtle forms of jealousy and sort of territorial transgression by seeing the transgender lesbians coming into their territory. And there was a bit of resentment there. And I asked someone well, why? I mean, I don't understand. It's basically all the same issue when you come right down to it.

And their feeling was, well-- and this was coming from a very small segment that I was talking to. But it was still very there. And I had to listen to this and think about it. They said, well, to us, it just seemed like it was just another man getting his way, OK? Now--

MAN: Ooh.

DEB ROGERS: Now--

WOMAN: Yeah. Well, yeah.

DEB ROGERS: --you have to understand that there are various shades of feminist thought in the women's community--

WOMAN: Oh, yeah.

DEB ROGERS: --obviously.

WOMAN: Oh, yeah.

DEB ROGERS: So that's going to be there to some degree because of just the lack of understanding.

JIM: You know--

WOMAN: OK.

WOMAN: Yeah.

JIM: And it's worse with gay men.

WOMAN: Really?

JIM: Oh, yes. Oh, yes.

DEB ROGERS: I don't know. There's a book out, I mentioned in earlier-- Janice Raymond wrote it-- called *The Transsexual Empire, Making the She-Male*. She pretty much, word for word, lays out the feminist separatist anti-transsexual position as it is the most extreme form of rape to take a woman's body.

WOMAN: Wow.

DEB ROGERS: And she has a big following in some parts of the lesbian separatist community.

WOMAN: I don't understand separatists, anything.

DEB ROGERS: But well, there they are. I mean, they exist, and they're part of the community. We can't just make them go away and wishing they weren't there.

JIM: You're right. You're right. But it becomes a them versus us thing. And it's all us.

DEB ROGERS: Yeah, exactly. See, that's one of my things is like as far as dating and things like that. I was just out with a friend of mine last night as a matter of fact. And we were discussing dating. You have romantic dates or friendship dates.

I'm like, I have a whole lot of friendship dates. I don't have too many of the romance type dates because a lot of it is perception and thing. And I'm not always as forthcoming as I would like to be because I'm possibly afraid of them going, oh, well, you're being force field. This is like a leftover man thing or whatever. And--

JIM: So you're being passive because you're afraid--

DEB ROGERS: Well, yeah, it's like I'm afraid of-- I don't know-- being seen as too pushy or trying to-- it's like they're saying--

WOMAN: --being strong, being mistaken for being male.

DEB ROGERS: Yeah, exactly.

WOMAN: I'm interested, Deb, in what was the follow up of all that?

DEB ROGERS: Well, [SIGHS] after my initial moment of befuddlement, I got to thinking about it. And remembering what I have read through the various feminist dialectic and reading authors such as the one that you mentioned and so forth, it didn't surprise me because I knew that that kind of segmentation is in the female community.

I mean, think about it. Just two hours earlier, I was watching a show that very poignantly showed out the division within the lesbian community in terms of women who have difficulty with other women, who dress masculine or that sort of thing. I mean, the variations for prejudice within our own community are going to be there because of just the variations of everyone's expression.

And that's something that everybody forgets. They forget that that's what the rainbow is all about. The rainbow is really not six colors. It's really like 160,000 colors all blended together.

MAN: And that's very odd because when you go back to the '50s in the lesbian community, role playing was the norm. There were masculine women and femme women. And the women who were in between were kind of looked down on. So there's been like an abrupt change in 50 years.

DEB ROGERS: It was very much a fish or cut bait type situation. Now it's very different. But I think it also depends on where a woman is in their feminist education. I look at myself 20 years ago. And I would have to say guilty as charged. I was very narrow minded in terms of even the types of women that I would care to date.

I'm not that way anymore. In fact, I'm all over the map. It's amazing how I've grown in terms of my complete acceptance of just everyone and finding a great deal of beauty in that and liberation for myself as well.

But when you're young, when you're just coming out, when you have a lot of preconceived ideas that you're having to unravel and redefine yourself or finally have the freedom to define yourself, that can be a bit overwhelming for most people. And I have to admit, I was surprised because a lot of the comments that I was hearing were coming from young women.

MAN: Wow.

WOMAN: I've noticed among some of my younger friends, too, some of those attitudes and also the attitude that they don't quite believe that butch-femme still exists or that some other types of lesbian expression are still valid or that they're still around--

WOMAN: Oh, it's out there, honey.

WOMAN: --which is interesting to me.

DEB ROGERS: Yeah. It's really sad because [SIGHs] I think that for the very thing that we get frustrated with people from outside of our community, who look at us and make judgment values and label us and so forth, we can be just as guilty ourselves--

MAN: Sure.

DEB ROGERS: --by pegging everyone in a particular slot and demanding that you either conform to this or that. And that's it. I think it's getting a little better. I think we've made some tremendous gains. And I think that the differences in expression, whether it be one way or the other, androgyny or anything in between are mixed, is a bit more accepted. But I was just interested if anybody else had noticed that or had picked up on it.

WOMAN: Yeah. Well, it's a lot more education out there now. People are a lot more aware of the diversity available now than-- would you say 20 years ago?

DEB ROGERS: Oh, gosh. Yes.

WOMAN: Well, 20 years ago, there was men and there was women. And if you weren't one of those two, you were one of them queers that was just fine to go out and bash.

DEB ROGERS: Well, then too--

WOMAN: It was dangerous to be--

DEB ROGERS: Exactly. Then too, thing that the great authors and representatives of queer theory were just beginning to hit outside of the college world and/or the university sections. And I think once that really became more mainstream and liberated people, whether you agree with it or not, I think it actually did quite a bit to get people thinking and expanding their thoughts on this subject quite a bit.

JIM: I think I just don't get-- that within the community-- I look at it this way. I've--

[SQUEAKS]

That sounds so good on the air.

[LAUGHTER]

WOMAN: Thank you.

WOMAN: Please do that again.

[LAUGHTER]

WOMAN: A leg of rock she's flinging around.

[LAUGHTER]

WOMAN: Deb, doing--

WOMAN: Robbie does things to me that I can't describe.

ROBBIE: Oh, hey, well, thanks.

WOMAN: Ah-- hmm.

ROBBIE: I'll take that as a complement.

WOMAN: Of course.

ROBBIE: But anyhow, it gets me that within this community, that we segment ourselves out into every little subgroup. And it's like, wait a minute, we're supposed to be doing this together because as a famous man once put it a couple of hundred years ago, if we don't all hang together, we we'll surely hang separately.

And yet we segment out into, OK, this is the transsexuals group. This is the Black gay men. This is the Asian gay men. This is the bisexuals. And never--

WOMAN: Well, OK, there's a certain thing about having self-identity that makes one person different from another. But I'll tell you, you go out in out in bubble land there. And they turn and look at the Montrose and say, they're all dang queers.

ROBBIE: They're all the same.

WOMAN: They're all queers down there.

MAN: Now, it's a wonderful thing that people identify with a group and all of that. But we tend to lose the fact that we're all part of this same family in the end.

WOMAN: Yeah, I mean, families have brothers and sisters. Not everybody in the family is the same, but we're all part of the same family.

MAN: Exactly.

WOMAN: This is great. And I kind of really have mixed feelings about asking a completely different question. But it's one I wanted to get in before we ran out of time to Deb.

WOMAN: Uh-oh.

WOMAN: Uh-oh. So you've obviously dealt with the feminist theory and all that. And so I'm interested in your take on some things. A friend of mine back in Philly, who was a transsexual, self-identified as a lesbian and all that, had a girlfriend, who she didn't tell about her background for a long, long time.

And at one point, they'd been going out for about a year. And they were talking about moving in. So they delayed the U-Haul thing a long time.

WOMAN: That's quite admirable.

WOMAN: Yeah, but at that point, the U-Haul issue came up. And she said, before she moved in with her, she was trying to decide whether or not to tell her. And she did in bed after they were all done with a very fun evening.

MAN: That just is--

WOMAN: How would you take that? I mean, having been in a monogamous relationship for 15 years, I'm not in that situation. But if your lover that you'd woken up with came around and said, there's something I really need to tell you, how would that go over?

DEB ROGERS: That's going to be obviously very subjective response. I mean, I'm the kind of person who would probably be overwhelmed if that same person rolled over and said, 15 years ago, I had to have my spleen removed. And I can't drink carrot juice for the rest of my life or something silly like that.

I mean, I'm the kind of person who would feel like, well, if something that's significant had happened to you in your life, that has obviously been such a major component of how you live your life, whether it brings you happiness or whether it has caused you strife with your family or whatever. My reaction would be, I wish you would have shared it with me earlier. Now--

WOMAN: But a lot of those aren't the kind of thing that would cause you a lot of discrimination and a lot of big parts of the community.

DEB ROGERS: The other side of me would also have to be very empathetic and say, well, I understand to some degree why this person waited a while to say what they needed to say because we all want to be loved for who we genuinely are and not necessarily for the constructs about us.

I don't know, maybe a year was a bit much. That one's a hard one. That one's really a hard one. We all want to think that we're going to do the right thing and love someone for what's inside. We all want to think that. The hard cold reality is sometimes doing it forces us to look within ourselves, at our own prejudices, our own ghosts, our own fears, and our own insecurities.

And I guess, the only answer I can give is I would hope that if I was in that situation, I would have finally been able to face enough of those things to make an accurate assessment of the relationship and see if it was a breach of disclosure that was bothering me or if it was a breach of trust or if it was a true fear of transsexualism or transgenderism.

WOMAN: Well, to be fair, this started out as a very casual relationship and got more serious as time on. So they were really, really tight for only two or three months. But still, two-three months is a relatively long time when you're that close to somebody, I would think, to keep that large of a part of-- I have mixed feelings about that, too, because it's not really something that defines me personally, to me.

It is to a lot of other people, but it was something that I had to get over other people's perceptions. When I tell people about my past, I'm changing them, not me.

WOMAN: Right. I think part of relationships, a normal process in relationships, especially when you go into a permanent relationship that you anticipate being long term, forever, however you define it, one of those phases that we go through is pulling out the old photo albums or talking about our family and what we did when we were growing up and that sort of thing.

So there is a point where you really have to make that effort to disclose and open up so that a whole part of you and how you've developed and who you are can be seen.

WOMAN: And shared.

WOMAN: And shared, exactly.

WOMAN: It's one of the things like, when I first meet people, I don't walk up and go, hi, I'm Melanie, the transsexual. Glad to meet you.

WOMAN: You did with me.

WOMAN: I think I may have. Yeah.

WOMAN: You were being political, you know.

WOMAN: Yeah, I was making a political statement at the time, I think. But for the most part, because it just puts up until you find out-- because there's so many like preconceived notions and all this stuff. And I was having a conversation with someone one time, and they said, most women are lesbians.

She said, it's better that they know you as Melanie, the woman, that used to be male as opposed to Melanie the guy trying to be a woman.