

PRESENTER 1: And it's interesting because when we lobby, we've always gone to lobby on behalf of gay and lesbian causes, not just ours. In fact, last time, we actually had one legislator who told us we could probably do a lot better lobbying if we would step away from the gay and lesbian community because we were up there lobbying for the repeal of the sodomy law, among other things. And I was really insulted at that, but I understood where he was coming from.

Well, Jimmy and I have taken a lot of criticism because over the years in the show, we've tried to remind people that we have to be able to work with straight people. So just straight bashing was not a smart move. But there's a fine line between working with them and selling out to them. And that's my criticism of groups like the Log Cabins. I don't want to hear any more of this, hey, we're just like you routine. To me, that's a bunch of nonsense. We're not just like them.

And the issue should be, let's learn to accept diversity. And that's where-- and I think that's an area that MCC has done a good job at. One of the things I've noticed in the services I've been to is that there are a lot of straight people there. A lot of kids.

PRESENTER 2: Yeah. Lots. It's a growing ministry. It's the fastest growing part of the church. We have so many kids coming in. As a representative of the church, I officially cannot comment on the Log Cabin Republicans.

PRESENTER 1: No, no. And I don't want you to. I don't want to get you in trouble.

PRESENTER 2: I don't want to jeopardize that nonprofit status. But I will say, personally, that for me, it's not so much about fighting for transgender rights or fighting for gay rights or lesbian rights or whatever. It's about building a movement for justice. And the only way you're going to build a movement that's going to guarantee rights and justice for all of us is if we're united.

And it's resisting that-- all the messages that tell us, split off. You might be better served if you're over there, and you're over here. We need to always be linked and arms together and understanding not only why we're there personally, but why the other person next to us is there and seeing the connection.

PRESENTER 1: And I think that's the best change we've seen, especially in the last two years. Is that for the first time, the transgender community and the gay community really are united--

PRESENTER 2: Moving in that direction.

PRESENTER 1: In ways that we've never been before. When I first started talking to gay and lesbian groups about transgender issues, basically, not only did they not want to talk to me, but they were really ugly about it. A lot of these same people now are in the forefront of helping us attain things. And it's been perseverance, perseverance, perseverance.

It's I think we've had to prove to the people that we were legitimate, and that we weren't just going to pack up and cry. And most importantly, that we could be team players. If you would let us on the team, we could be a team player. And that's been one of the biggest changes in the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force has been a leader in that.

When you talk about diversity, there's not a group that's in the country that I can think of it's better at that than they are. And it's something that I think we all need to learn. It was the old thing about Benjamin Franklin. We either hang together, we all hang separately.

PRESENTER 2: That's right. That's right.

PRESENTER 1: Yeah, I think there's a lot of truth in that.

PRESENTER 2: That's right. That's right.

PRESENTER 3: The other thing too is that the Metropolitan Community Churches fill a vast void in the needs of the individuals for a religious experience, whereas the religious right is beating us over the head with religion. John Gill, who was one of the past pastors of MCCR, made the comment one time. He said, you know, God must have really like diversity because he made so much of it.

PRESENTER 1: It's a great line.

PRESENTER 3: Yeah. And that's the thing. These people, the so-called religious right, what I call the "religious right-wing nuts," they think they have all of the answers. And you know I guarantee you they don't. And as far as religion is concerned, unfortunately the right in fundamentalist religions have turned off a lot of people.

You made the comment. It took you 25 years to get back into church, and Sarah made the same comment or similar comment that it had been a number of years since she had gone. And in my case, I look at it this way-- and people ask me occasionally when they find out that I'm involved in church and so forth. They say, well, how do you reconcile your religious views with being transgendered?

I said first of all, I said, you know I don't consider it a conflict. I said, I feel like that my association with God is close enough that if I was doing something he didn't like, he'd let me know.

PRESENTER 2: Jackie, I'm so glad you brought that up. We just hosted Reverend Rembert Truluck, the author of a book called *Recovering From Bible Abuse*, where he actually goes through and he shows the way in which the original Bible texts have been misinterpreted to produce what he calls these "clobber passages," the passages they used to beat us over the head with and tell us that we're just-- we need to die and just not exist and God will never love us and we're going straight to hell.

It's a wonderful book. He's an incredibly learned man. And at Resurrection, we're actually starting now on Tuesdays, and you'll have to forgive me-- people should call the church to find out exactly what time--

PRESENTER 1: Now, go for it.

PRESENTER 2: And I'll give out the number in a second. But we're going to be meeting on Tuesdays, and it's modeled on a 12-step program to actually recover to reclaim scripture and faith in a way that's not damaging. So for those people who are in Houston and who might be interested in exploring some of that and hearing the ways in which the right have been the ones to pervert the Bible and to recover it in a different reading of the Bible that's grounded in the actual original Greek and Aramaic text, join us. And you can find out more about that by calling the church office at 713-869-9149, And maybe we could repeat that.

PRESENTER 4: And Tamara, I have to jump in here and say, especially for a lot of us old timers, we are so used to MCCR, it is really rough trying to change to our RNCC.

PRESENTER 1: I've made that mistake several times already.

PRESENTER 3: Yeah, exactly.

PRESENTER 2: I know.

PRESENTER 3: Well no, Tamara. Also, you mentioned the one gentleman who came out with a series of lectures. Have you read Bishop Spong's book, *Rescuing the Bible From Fundamentalism*.

SPEAKER 1: Oh, don't, don't, don't--

SPEAKER 4: I've got that.

SPEAKER 1: Don't nail her with Bishop Spong. That's not fair.

SPEAKER 3: No, he is fabulous.

SPEAKER 2: I haven't. I'll confess, I haven't.

SPEAKER 1: That's not fair.

SPEAKER 3: At least that book.

SPEAKER 2: So I should look it up?

SPEAKER 1: Only if you really want to be made very angry.

SPEAKER 3: I'll lend it to you. I've got it. I'll lend it to you if you'd like to read it.

SPEAKER 4: I've got it too. It's pretty good.

SPEAKER 3: It is incredibly good.

SPEAKER 4: If I can jump in with my own \$0.2, I have to admit, fundamentalists have, to an extent, turned me off to Christianity. But I have to admit-- actually, it's not just an admission. I just have this intuitive sense that on some level, there are some very deep connections between gender identity, differing approaches to gender identity and spirituality.

And if we can tap into those, I think that we become more empowered as people. I'm still in my own life trying to figure it out myself. But I sense that it's there.

SPEAKER 2: I think you're right. And I think if you look at other traditions, other cultures, where what we would call transgender, they have different terminology for it.

SPEAKER 4: They honor it.

SPEAKER 2: They honor it. And there's a connection between people who live that identity and spirituality. So if you look at some Native American tribes of the Berdache tradition, those were holy people in the tribes. If you look in India, the-- oh, lord, what are they? The caste in India. Why is it escaping me? But the--

SPEAKER 4: Thailand. Kathoey.

SPEAKER 2: No, that's not the word I was looking for.

SPEAKER 4: I know-- different culture.

SPEAKER 2: It'll come back to me, of course, after the show.

SPEAKER 1: When you're not thinking about it, it'll come back to you, yeah.

SPEAKER 2: But what we would call a transgender caste of mostly men who choose to live as women, you can't get married without one of these women showing up and blessing the ceremony or blessing the baby. There's wonderful-- hijra. That's the word I'm looking for, H-I-J-R-A. The hijras in India. So you're absolutely right on this powerful connection.

SPEAKER 4: And there's another one in Thailand, the kathoey. It's almost a third sex. Also, I think the Navajo, if I'm not mistaken. The Sioux, and I might be mistaken on that one. But other American Indian groups and probably some others that I'm just forgetting.

SPEAKER 1: The person of two spirits.

SPEAKER 3: Yeah. Well, the thing that I love to do is every once in a while, a couple of the fundamentalists will show up down on Pacific Street down here. And I love to get after those people because in Paul's description of what heaven is, he says that there should be no male or female, no Greek nor Roman, no slave nor free. I said, would you please explain to me how if you have a problem with my being transgendered, and heaven is going to be no male or female, would you please explain to me what your problem is? And they can't answer that.

SPEAKER 2: Right. Right.

SPEAKER 1: We are getting ready to end this segment. This brings up a story. I wanted to end this with this. You reminded me of this. Several years ago, there used to be a group that would meet at Mary's. You probably remember this. And on Saturday nights, they would be on there. And they had this huge wooden cross that they would carry on their shoulder.

Now, of all the bars in all the city, why they chose Mary's--

[LAUGHTER]

--I have never understood. They had this big wooden cross, and they would hand out pamphlets. Well, one night, they decided to get brave. And we're talking Mary's on a Saturday at about 2:00 AM. They decided to get brave and come inside and start handing out the pamphlets. Wrong move, wrong bar, wrong time, wrong reason.

They're handing out. And next thing I know, this huge drag queen-- this woman is 6 foot 3, at least-- walks over and grabs this guy off the ground. And she plants a kiss on him. You can hear it the other end of the bar, over the music. And this guy goes and starts screaming. And he's yelling, oh my god! They gave me AIDS! They gave me AIDS! And he's running out of the car.

[LAUGHTER]

And I hear one of the drag queens go, honey, you ain't worth that much.

[LAUGHTER]

Oh my god. Well, they never came back to Mary's. And I've often wondered what happened to those people. And I thought, well, for once, we may have won one because--

SPEAKER 4: --Wrote down the numbers.

SPEAKER 1: But you kind of wonder, why in the world would you start at Mary's of all places? Honey, they're not going to take anything from anybody, anytime, anywhere. Why Mary-- do that at some bar where they just ignore you. But to go walking in and start handing out pamphlets at Mary's was just not the smartest thing they've ever done. Oh, well.

SPEAKER 2: Sarah, is it OK if I repeat that number for the church office?

SPEAKER 1: Oh, by all means, please do.

SPEAKER 2: So, again, we're having on Tuesdays these Bible seminars. And if you're interested, 713-861-9149. And you can also email me for more information about the justice ministry. It's real easy. It's just justiceministry-- one word-- @mail-- M-A-I-L-- .com.

SPEAKER 3: Website?

SPEAKER 2: There is a website. Just do a search term for Resurrection MCC in Houston, and it'll come right up.

SPEAKER 1: And their website's really-- it's a nice website. It's real easy to navigate. Nothing to it.

SPEAKER 2: And we've got a nice justice ministry web page on there.

SPEAKER 5: And I need to jump in here and tell people that they are listening to *After Hours Queer Radio With Attitude*, right here on KPFT Houston and KEOS College Station.

SPEAKER 6: Earlier, you said, unless you really want to get angry, don't read a book. Sometimes, I think anger is a great motivator to do things.

SPEAKER 1: Bishop Spong is one of the world's greatest homophobes. And unless you're really a strong person and you can deal with the kind of garbage that he deals, yeah, it may be a great book, but I don't think it's for everybody. Archbishop Spong is one of the world's worst homophobes. This is a guy that makes Jerry Falwell look liberal.

SPEAKER 3: Yeah. The book that he wrote, *Saving the Bible from Fundamentalism*--

SPEAKER 4: Rescuing.

SPEAKER 3: --doesn't deal with sexual orientation. It deals with a lot of the-- not ideas, but a lot of the comments that the fundamentalists use to justify their positions. And he just absolutely destroys them.

SPEAKER 1: Well, it's too late for me because I've essentially become a non-believer. But there may be people out there who can still be salvaged. So take Tamara's advice.

SPEAKER 2: We're waiting for you.

SPEAKER 1: Tamara, thank you very much.

SPEAKER 2: Thank you so much.

SPEAKER 1: And let's go to a piece of music.

[APPLAUSE]

[MUSIC PLAYING]

- [INAUDIBLE]

- (SINGING) I woke up this morning with my mind-- [AUDIO OUT]

[MUSIC PLAYING]

[APPLAUSE]

[MUSIC PLAYING]

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

- We want to create the political climate for same sex marriages.

- Let's just talk about some of this stuff.

- The neutron lesbian strikes again.

- We're going to be doing some radical radio right now.

- Legal changes decriminalizing gay sex.

- We celebrate the diversity.

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

- 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.

- Listen to lesbian and gay voices.

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

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

- (WHISPERING) I hear gay people.

ANNOUNCER: It's the biggest outdoor event of the year. Monday, January 15, it's the 2001 Martin Luther King Jr. Grand Parade in Downtown Houston, beginning at 2:00 PM. We'll have more than 200 entries, including 25 nationally acclaimed marching bands, plus 15 award-winning floats.

This year's theme-- embracing the brotherhood of man-- will emphasize the awareness of common values shared by all. The Martin Luther King Jr. Grand Parade. Don't miss the most celebrated event in Houston. Call 713-953-1633.

SPEAKER 1: OK. And we're back. We had dead air. I wanted to clarify something real quick. Let me turn these back on here. This Spong that we were talking about was--

SPEAKER 3: An Episcopal bishop from New Jersey, who, as I said, wrote a fabulous book. It did not address the issues of sexual orientation. But what it did do was it addressed the inerrancy and without-error arguments that the religious right uses to beat us over the head with.

SPEAKER 1: OK. But we were not talking about Archbishop Spong of the Catholic Church.

SPEAKER 3: No, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no.

SPEAKER 1: That was a mistake I was making.

SPEAKER 4: Different animals.

SPEAKER 3: Yeah, this is Bishop Spong--

SPEAKER 1: Different animals.

SPEAKER 3: S-P-O-N-G, from the Episcopal Church. And he was the Bishop of New Jersey.

SPEAKER 1: I thought you were talking about the Archbishop Spong of the Catholic Church--

SPEAKER 3: No, no, no.

SPEAKER 1: --who is one of the all-time great homophobes.

SPEAKER 3: Yeah. No, no no. No.

SPEAKER 4: This Episcopal Bishop seems to be pretty cool as far as our stuff. I'm not personally--

SPEAKER 3: Yeah. He is definitely not a homophobe because he has spoken to a number of gay churches, some of the Universal Fellowship of Metropolitan Community Churches.

SPEAKER 1: OK. All right. I want to talk about lobby day because I can feel our time is starting to run here. First of all, I want to talk to the people out there that are listening to us on the headsets.

SPEAKER 4: Come join us.

SPEAKER 1: I have had a number of emails in the last few days from transgendered youth. And they are watching the email begin to build. And they are asking what a lobby day is and what, if anything, they can do about it.

So, first of all, I want to acknowledge those of you who are out there with the headsets on and listening to us on walkmans so your parents won't know what you're doing. And I want to say thank you for listening. And I don't want to talk over your heads or to leave you out.

So let me start with the basics and bring you up to speed because you are our next generation of leaders. And I truly believe that. So let me start here at the beginning.

Transgender Lobby Day is exactly the way it sounds. It is a group of transgendered people from all over the state of Texas who will descend upon the state legislature and try and educate them about transgender, gender-variant issues. Among those issues would be the employment non-discrimination bill, a name change/gender marker bill. And I'll explain more details about these in a minute.

But the main thing I want to make sure you understand right off the bat are these are mostly transgendered people, their spouses, and their children. We'll likely have a few doctors and some psychologists, perhaps. But primarily, these are people who are coming directly out of the transgendered community.

These are people who have found it within themselves to have the courage to come to an event like this, to meet with other transgendered people around the state, to trust them enough that they are not going to be outed by these fellow transgenders, that they are going to be able to go and speak to legislators, and they are going to be heard.

Now, I realize if you're brand new to the transgender world, or if you're 16 or 17, the idea that you could ever find that courage within yourself seems ridiculous. And let me tell you that that's not so. Many, many people that I have met in lobby days, whether they were in Austin or in College Station, or whether they were in Austin or wherever, many, many of them have come to me and said, I didn't think I can do it. This is really neat.

So the first thing that you will get from the lobby day is you will leave feeling empowered. I don't care what else you're going to get from this. You are going to leave a lobby day feeling better about yourself than you did when you arrived.

Let me tell you. Many people have written to me and said, oh, they'll laugh at us. They'll laugh at me. They will make fun of me. You know what? Even conservative Republicans, who thoroughly disagree with everything that we do, have told us, I don't understand you, but I do respect you. So if you really are of the opinion that you're going to be laughed at, let me get rid of that idea for you right now. That is not so.

What does happen is the night before we go to lobby, we have a training meeting. Normally, we will have a legislator come in. This year I believe it's going to be Representative Glenn Maxine. And they will tell you a little bit about the legislative process. They're going to educate you a little bit about what you can expect from legislators.

And then I am going to be doing perhaps 40 minutes to an hour's worth of training. Primarily, I'm going to be taking questions. And we're going to be educating you on the issues, on the bills we're going to support, on the bills that we oppose, and why we do oppose them.

Now, that may, again, sound like an awful lot. It may sound intimidating. But let me tell you the main advice that I give to everyone when it's all said and done.

At the end of every lobby training session, I always say to the people, if you forget everything that we've talked about tonight, if you forget everything else, and if you can't remember any piece of advice I gave you, remember this. The story that is most effective is the one that the best. Tell them your story.

We have found in the past that legislators get so engrossed in these stories that they leave paid lobbyists sitting out in the waiting rooms cooling their heels for sometimes up to an hour. I often talk about something I call the fascination factor. And that is, typically, when a person goes to speak to a legislator, they get 10 minutes.

Many of our people get 30 minutes, 40 minutes, and even more. And they are fascinated. And they are taken with your courage, your ability to come in and look them in the eye. So let me tell you once more that you can do it.

Now, I realize those of you who are not 18, and you're sitting out there right now, and you realize that you cannot participate in this lobby day, you may feel that perhaps you're being left out. Let me tell you, that is not true. Every lobby day that I have ever gone to, I eventually hear everyone say, I hope the transgender kids out there know that we're doing this for them. And that's the truth of the matter. That is why we do it.

The best piece of advice I ever got on activism, years ago, came from a friend in College Station. He told me once that activism was like building a brick house. That what you wanted to do was each generation needed to put down a good layer of bricks that the next generation could come behind and build upon.

And that's what we are doing. More than anything else, whether we do or do not ever get a piece of legislation passed, we are building a foundation for you, the next generation, to come behind and build that next row of bricks.

So don't ever feel that because you are young or because you cannot participate, that you are forgotten. Trust me, that is not true. We are out there doing this so that you will not have to suffer the things that we have suffered.

All right. Let's talk about a few of the bills that we're going to talk about in this legislative session. The first one is what's called a name/gender marker bill. If you have not had your identification changed, let me explain a little bit about how this works.

Normally, you will have spent some time working with a therapist. At some point in time, in order to continue with your therapy, you need to be able to show the therapist that you can live and work and be successful in your new gender. That means you actually have to spend a minimum of one year living in your new gender. It's called the real time.

Now, in order for that to happen, you need to be able to have identification that allows you to be employed. Typically, we're talking about a driver's license. It used to be that you could go to an attorney. And the attorney would go down, and they would get you a change of name. And at the same time, they would get you a corresponding change of gender.

That doesn't mean that you had your sex changed. It means that the markers on your driver's license was changed. You had a driver's license that said Susie, female.

Now what is happening in the courts is that they will change your name to anything you want, but they will not grant the gender marker change. Now what happens is you end up with a driver's license that says Susie, male. It is impossible to get a job.

By law, any time you go to apply to a new job, you have to present identification. Typically, that's going to be a driver's license and a Social Security card. They'll change your Social Security card. But you're going to lay the license out on the table, and they're going to look at this and say, Susie, this says male. Is that a mistake?

Now you have a choice. You can lie to your employer, your future employer, in which case, if they ever discover that you lied, you are fired. Or you can tell them the truth and not get hired. That has been a problem. It has been a growing problem. In the last few years, we have had at least three people in Texas that I know of who have committed suicide because they could not find work.

So it is my understanding at this stage that this is a bill that is truly a matter of life or death for some people in our community. That's not overstating it. That's telling the truth. When we go and talk to our legislators this time, this is a bill we are going to spend time talking about because we need to make them understand that we are literally talking about a life-or-death issue.

Another thing we're going to talk about is employment discrimination. One of the representatives has introduced a bill which amounts to what's called the Texas Employment Nondiscrimination Act. I will tell you truthfully that in Texas right now, it has absolutely no chance to pass. So let me go back to what I said at the start. We are going back to build a row of bricks for the next generation to build on.

What we go to now is we are telling legislators the importance of this bill, and we are planting the seeds in the future for you. We need to make legislators understand what employment discrimination is. We need to make them understand how it affects transgendered people. And we can do that.

You, who are out there listening to us in the headsets, you, who are 15, 16, or 17, you are likely going to be the generation that will get this bill passed. I don't think it will be me. I don't think it will be people my age. I don't think it'll be people who come with us to this lobby group. It's going to be you. So let me repeat again that we are building for the future, and you're it.

Now, the important thing that I want everybody to understand is this. No matter how you feel about yourself, at this lobby day, we are going to have all kinds of people. We are going to have trans men. That is the men, the people who are changing their process from female to become males. I am thrilled to death that they are coming.

There's a group from San Antonio called Alamo Boys. There's going to be bringing a good contingent this time. It has taken years to convince them that they need to have a role in politics. And they are going to be there this time.

We need to reach out to the trans people of color. I admit that I have been a dismal failure at this. I have tried and tried. It's partially a class issue, partially a color issue. I admit to you that I have failed at this. I'm hoping that you as a new generation will do better at bringing people of color to these events than I have been able to do.

Having said all that, it makes no difference to us whether the people that are coming to this are crossdressers, transsexuals, gender variant, somewhere in between. It makes no difference. We don't care whether you are passable. We don't care if you're not. We don't care if you come cross-dressed or if you come in your regular street clothes.

We have very simple things. We ask you to come dressed professionally for whatever gender you plan to present and to bring comfortable shoes. And I say that because if you've never been to the State Capitol, my friends, you will be doing a lot of walking. I do mean a lot.

Now, one more thing that I want you to know about lobby day, and that is the respect that we get from legislators. When we walk into the room and we shake their hands, they are always amazed. And we've had some fascinating stories.

I personally had an incident where I walked in and explained to a legislator who I was. His cigar fell out of his mouth, and he collapsed onto the chair. But by the time I was through, I had gotten his vote. And that's something that you will eventually be able to do at some point in the future. For us, in this lobby day, the key bill for us is the name and gender marker.

Now, we just talked in the early part of the show about how this is not just a transgender community. This is a united, diverse community. So let me tell you up front that we are going to support gay and lesbian legislation. Assuming that the sodomy law is still in existence when we go, we will again ask to have the sodomy law repealed.

We are going to support the hate crimes bill, even though it is questionable whether transgenders are included in it. We're going to do that partially because half of the transgender community probably would be covered and partly because it's the right thing to do. So we are going to support the hate crimes bill.

We are going to support other gay- and lesbian-positive legislation. We are not going just for ourselves, we are going for the entire community. And I know I've caught a lot of criticism from this in the past. I'm not going to back down from this. I absolutely believe in this diversity. I believe in legislating for all of us. And that's what we're going to do.

So for those of you who are young, for those of you who are just coming out and saying, I could never do this, it may be that maybe you never will. Maybe you will end up as a member of [? CATs, ?] or TATs, or one of the local organizations. And maybe that's all you're going to do. And you know what? Good for you.

It's not necessary for you to be an activist. It's necessary for you to save your life. That's what it's about. It isn't necessary for you to be political. It's necessary for you not to commit suicide because you have trouble finding a job. And when it's all said and done, the best thing that a lobby day can do for you is being your support group and to introduce you to other transgendered people who are healthy, feeling good about themselves, and can be role models.

If all you ever do is you decide that you are a cross-dresser and you want to go to some place, like try a sorority, good for you. You can go and meet cross-dressers who feel good about themselves, who are well adapted and can get good resources. The bottom line of this show has always been-- I mean, always, always, always-- save yourself. Save yourself. Save yourself. That's what we're here for.

So I hope that you will come out to a lobby day, if not this time around, in the future. I plan to keep doing these until I'm too old to show up. We are going to continue trying to build this statewide transgender community. We are building for this for you, the next generation. We want you to know that. Your turn.

SPEAKER 2: Oh. What do you need me to say?

SPEAKER 4: Hard act to follow, isn't it?

SPEAKER 5: Oh, that's mean. After something like that.

SPEAKER 1: I'm sorry. I just ran out of energy. I just ran out of energy.

SPEAKER 3: Yeah. The only other thing that I might add would be is if you are over 18, show up.

SPEAKER 1: You know, Jackie, you and I go back a long way. And if there's anything that I remember about transition, my god, it was the fear. I remember the first time that I went out dressed with a wig that honest to god shouldn't have been used as a dress mop.

[LAUGHTER]

SPEAKER 1: And my makeup looked--

SPEAKER 3: Yes, I remember that one.

SPEAKER 1: And my makeup looked terrible, and I didn't know what the hell I was doing. I was just trying not to go insane in this lousy little apartment I lived in in The Heights. And I always try to remember that those are the people we're really talking to. That radio goes through walls. No wall will keep us out. And I want them to know that we are building for them. I truly, truly believe that that's the future for us. And they have to know it. They have to know it.

The people that are out there, transgendered people that are out there sleeping in construction sites tonight, I hope that they were listening in because we are well aware that they're out there. I've talked to many of them in person in the past. We try to lobby on behalf of that. Unfortunately, Texas doesn't much give a damn about social services. Particularly, they don't give a damn about transgendered people that need social services. It doesn't mean we're going to stop trying, though.

And I just, I've always, always believed that the bottom line for the show was we try to show people how do you save yourself. We talk about education. We talk about lobbying. We talk about support groups. They need to know that they can come to a place like GCTC, and that it doesn't matter whether they're cross-dressed well. It doesn't matter whether they're passable. They're welcome.

Just get out of the house and meet somebody like yourself. And meet somebody that's healthy, that feels good about themselves. That's what it's about. OK?

SPEAKER 4: Sarah, a change is possible. We've come a long, long way already.

SPEAKER 1: Yes, we have.

SPEAKER 4: There's an old *Three Stooges* short where one of them talks about getting arrested for dressing like a woman. I went into Walgreen's tonight, and there was a cop there. And I was thinking, boy, thank god for Phyllis Frye. But, I mean, [INAUDIBLE].

SPEAKER 1: It wasn't that long ago that lesbians were being arrested on the steps of City Hall for wearing button fly jeans.

SPEAKER 5: Just a little over 20 years ago, as a matter of fact.

SPEAKER 3: 20 years go, August the 12th--

SPEAKER 1: It wasn't that--

SPEAKER 3: 1980.

SPEAKER 1: It wasn't that long ago that it was illegal for us to use a restroom. We still do not have employment protection. We still do not receive equal care when we go to medical facilities, particularly public ones.

I have to say, though, by the way, that I had an incident where I had to go to a hospital recently and went to St. Luke's. And let me pass this long for any of you, if you have insurance, because you have to be insured to go to St. Luke's. The staff there, not only were they good about my being transsexual, they were outstanding. I mean, truly outstanding.

One of the doctors going so far as to say, I understand your situation. Don't worry about it. We will take good care of you. And considering some of the horror stories that I've heard about public hospitals, that's good.

SPEAKER 3: Yeah. And one other thing, also, you mentioned briefly the law enforcement aspect and the police. In the Harris County Houston area, the Sheriff's Department, the Police Department, the Constable Department, are really, really doing a good job of at least making their people aware of who and what we are. So there is no need--

SPEAKER 1: You can thank Ray Hill for that.

SPEAKER 3: --to run. If a cop pulls up behind you and hits his lights, pull over and give him your driver's license, even though it's got a male picture on it.

SPEAKER 1: You can thank Ray Hill for the attitude of the Houston Police. As Ray told us one time when he was on the show, they don't want to arrest him. That's the last thing they want to do. So when Ray goes down and talk to the police, they actually do pay attention. And Jimmy, what--

SPEAKER 5: I'm giving you the wrap-up sign.

SPEAKER 1: Cool. Please do.

SPEAKER 5: That's what this is.

SPEAKER 1: Please do.

SPEAKER 5: OK. Yeah, because we've got Francisco Sanchez coming in in the second half with the Latino hour. And in the middle, we've got news. And I want to end this segment with a particular song. And I think it really goes along with the theme that I've been hearing tonight of diversity and inclusion. It's a new song by Dave Hall. It's called *God is Wide*.

SPEAKER 1: Just remember what we always end this program with. When decorum becomes repression, the only dignity free people have is to speak out. Goodnight, and stay tuned for Francisco.