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SPEAKERS

Glenn Holt, Jimmy Carper, Sarah Dipalma

J

Jimmy Carper 00:07

The following program contains language or images of a frank or sensitive nature, which may be considered objectionable by some listener discretion is advised. Oh yes, you've tuned into after hours a continuing tradition on KPFT Houston 90.1 FM. The crew of after hours is ready to bring you news, interviews and music geared for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people. Hear it after hours, we may be diverse, but we have one thing in common. We are all out of the closet and urge everyone to come out of their closets. That means standing up for yourself, taking responsibility for your own life and being proud of who you are. Realistically, we know not everyone can do that because of a wage job or frame of mind. That's okay. We're here for you too. So sit back, relax, and enjoy this week's edition of after our. Hello, Houston, it's Jimmy Carper and Nan Sara dipalma. Books we bring you. After hours queer radio with attitude right here on KPFT Houston and ke O 's College Station, Brian.

S

Sarah Dipalma 02:20

Yeah, I want to talk about something that happened to me after I left the show last time. Yeah, kind of a cautionary tale, I guess. You know, our show ends at three o'clock and we stayed and talked a little bit and then it happened the car and drove home. Yeah, so it's about 330 or so I guess. And a car pulls up behind me with flashing lights looks exactly like a police car. Yeah, it's uh, happens. I'm at the part of the Southwest Freeway by West Park, and it's real dark there. And my brother's being a state policeman, he always told me never stop on the dark even for a cop. The cops would don't appreciate it either. So I put on my signal light to let them know that I was going to go down to hillcroft by Apple Chevrolet, where it's real. It's like It's like daylight over there. Yeah. So I pulled in the car pulled up behind me and then took off. turned out not to be a police car at all.

J

Jimmy Carper 03:14

It has flashing lights.

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Sarah Dipalma 03:15

Sure it did. So when I went home I told Lori about it and said, You know, I don't understand this. I don't know what it's about. So she insisted that I call the police the next day did and they said actually they had had numerous reports of incidents like that. And that I did the right thing. The following day, they caught two guys on Interstate 10 doing exactly that and caught them. Wow. So the point that I wanted what were they doing they were stopping people robbing them? Well, this is a scaring could have been too bright because the guy had to compensate the car that he stopped or not have to have competent. But apparently they were just doing it for kicks to see if they can get away with it, man. So I want to caution everybody. You know whether you're male or female makes no difference. If you're ever stopped by what you believe as a police car. Don't ever, ever stop in the dark. First of all, the police would prefer that you stop someplace where it's light because that way they can see what you're doing. And in case you ever have a situation that came up like this, where it turns out they're imposters you're in a much more well lit place and a chance to defend yourself.

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Jimmy Carper 04:20

No kidding.

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Sarah Dipalma 04:21

So I says we're going to have a guest on from from Q Patrol and I thought I would bring that up and we really got it. We got it I think possibly what will be one of the better shows that we've ever done. I'm really also about this. I was looking at it you realize that you realize next month is our next year. Next month is the one year anniversary of my being introduced to the audience and the show. No next next right. First time I met you you were wearing a grass skirt. That's

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04:50

right somebody came in and threw grass skirt on me. Some celebration thing it was Sarah, Sarah G as a matter of fact And I didn't even think of the implications that you know, you were gonna be here. And, and you brought it all home to me.

S

Sarah Dipalma 05:07

I looked at Jimmy and I'm gonna fit right in here I can tell. But that's true. And in the time that I've been here our show is with st tapes of the show to various places around the world. Well, folks, tonight we are going to take after hours, International. Oh, copies of tonight's show are going to Norway, Great Britain, Israel, the Netherlands and Australia.

J

Jimmy Carper 05:32

Man I wish I could tell you I would have brought some tape. The following year...

MARL, I WISH YOU A LOUD ME I WOULD HAVE BOUGHT MORE TAPE. I'M TELLING YOU

S Sarah Dipalma 05:36

is I guess this may be a first for the show. But we're going to do a live interview with Jane Anna Langley from Melbourne, Australia.

J Jimmy Carper 05:45

Ah, yes. In fact, she was on this way out about a month or so ago. And I pulled that little segment and played it a couple of weeks ago.

S Sarah Dipalma 05:56

Yeah, I heard it. And it was funny because Jane Langley and I have kind of a I kid her about being my sister on the other side of the world. It's a happened Jane Langley is a transgender group and transgender rights group stage a protest and their regional parliament the same day that we staged a protest in Austin. Yeah. And she used some of my tax in a speech that she gave in Australia. And I gave us some of her text and the speech that I gave here in Texas, no kidding. And so it's very small world. And it's funny how it's just developed as a sisterhood. And when I look at some of the articles she's written, I thought, that's what I would have said, and vice versa. So I'm really looking forward to that, that I think it'd be first to the show, we'll be doing a live interview, doing a live interview from Australia. Also, we're gonna have a tape interview with Steven Whittle. Now, Steven Liddell is an author. He's an attorney, and a transgendered man. He lives in Manchester, England. In addition, he is the co founder of an organization called pressed for change, which is the transgender political rights group. It's really similar to its time America. Yeah. So I think I think that'll be very interesting interview. And then we're going to have a taped interview with Armand. Oh, Tim ski, who is the leading transgender rights activist in France? Oh, he's also a transgendered man. In addition, he's the co founder of their transgendered rights group. Now, you'll hear him talk about the fact that the secret police actually did in one of their people. Oh, really? So if you think things are tough in America, we get news for it. Yeah.

J Jimmy Carper 07:28

Well, not only you know, we, you talk a lot about, about transgendered women. But and then how difficult it is to get interviews with transgendered men. And here, you've got to

S Sarah Dipalma 07:41

get one night. And I'll tell you something, they're both into wearable. They really are. Steven Whittle is just he's just an adorable man with a reddish beard. And he's just just a wonderful person to talk to our mind is much more intense, but also absolutely adorable, very, very bright. In average, this has been a probably the most difficult show to pull together that I've ever tried here. Partly because of the distances between some of these places and getting it

together. I want to thank Phyllis and Phyllis arranged for these to help to arrange these two interviews at the Transgender Law conference with Armand, and with Steven Whittle. But I've spent hours and hours on the internet pulling information together from literally from all over the world. And I'm particularly I want to thank Jenny sand in Norway, and Lisa Aronson in Israel, they're getting copies of the show. And I think you're gonna hear some very interesting information. What is it like to be transgendered in Israel? Oh, with medical laws and the, the multiple cultures that they have in Israel? What is that like? And we'll talk about the different laws in Europe. Some of them are very strange. Some of them are very liberal. I think sometimes there's a sense that we'll transgenderism is kind of strictly an American deal. Tonight, we're going to kind of take you around the world and show you that's not so Hey, other transgenders just just about everywhere. So should be interesting. should be should should be a real different kind of show. Stick around if you don't like to be bored. We promised not to bore you here tonight.

 **Jimmy Carper 09:14**

Okay. And in the meantime.

 **Sarah Dipalma 09:21**

In the meantime, oh, in the meantime, in the meantime, I believe we're going to be talking to cube patrol.

 **Jimmy Carper 09:27**

Yes. For right now. Here's a piece of music in the background that you're hearing. And most people well, a lot of gay people, a lot of queer people. When you heard the first few notes, you knew what the song was?

 **Sarah Dipalma 09:46**

Oh, yeah, it's the last the last song ever recorded by the Supreme. That's right.

 **Jimmy Carper 09:49**

That's right. You know, the rumors of them breaking. This was their big hit song and they eventually good breakup. Well, you know, we vote the gay community Maybe the queer community has always liked this type of music and embraced it. But now we've got a version by a real queer.

 **Sarah Dipalma 10:11**

Oh that you tell him that this is must be the one by Jimmy song. This

J

Jimmy Carper 10:13

is the one that Jimmy Somerville has read done. And I have a bead the songs and it's like, boy, his version is full rich. The original sounds a little on the watery side compared to it. So get ready for a treat. From England, where he recorded this is Jimmy Somerville doing Diana Diana Ross and the Supremes. One better Oh, Jimmy Somerville with a new remake. Someday we'll be together the old Supremes, goodie, I'm Jimmy Carper. You're listening to after hours queer radio with attitude right here on KPFT Houston and ke O 's College Station, Brian, and I have a treat. Right here right next to me.

G

Glenn Holt 11:07

Thank you.

J

Jimmy Carper 11:08

I mean, who? Glenn? Well, actually,

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Glenn Holt 11:11

you know, I'm dressed for going out later. So I see. Yeah,

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Jimmy Carper 11:15

I noticed that with the armband armed and yeah, says grind you're with Q Patrol,

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Glenn Holt 11:21

right? Yes, I'm the co president of Q patrol. And I control is a nonprofit corporation that operates citizens watch patrols in the Montrose area to prevent gay bashing. We operate under the Houston Police Department citizens on patrol program. And as far as I know, we're the only CLP unit that's incorporated. And we're incorporated nonprofit, which means that anything that gets donated to us is tax deductible.

J

Jimmy Carper 11:45

Okay. Okay, what what is the significance of being incorporated? Or were the only you're the only one and?

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Glenn Holt 11:53

Well, sociology studies show that the typical co p type unit citizens Patrol Unit, they organized

and then they only last for about six months or a year? Q Patrol has been out on the streets for four years, actually in the late fall, early winter. It'll be fine. Wow. Now there's two main reasons for that. One is we have a very well defined focus. And that is to prevent gay bashing in a non interventionist way. And then the other is because we're incorporated and we have the infrastructure that goes along with that we have the board of directors, our bylaws the whole bit.

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Jimmy Carper 12:34

How about anything to do with your covering the Montrose, which is kind of a bar area. And so we're on the lookout for crime all the time, maybe some of the other CLP groups. Citizens patrol groups have problems in their neighborhood, and then they patrol for six months, and nothing happens. So they just kind of eventually fall away from that.

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Glenn Holt 12:57

Yeah, that's true. I think one of the, one of the problems with being a co op unit is your own success leads to your demise. And, you know, we felt a little bit of that with q patrol, we've made a difference. We noticed the difference being here. We don't. I mean, especially since we started databasing. Our reports, I look at the the database from last year, compared to what's been going on this year, and it's way down.

J

Jimmy Carper 13:22

Good. Yeah. Good. That and that's probably because you're out there.

G

Glenn Holt 13:26

That's right. That's right. It's because we're there. Now, you stopped being there. It would go back up again. Right. Especially with the with the political mood of the country, the way that shifting lately. Now, the problem with that is if people are out on the street, and they don't see any problems, then it doesn't occur to them, that they should volunteer for q patrol duty. Ah, but we still need to be out there. Rolling. I mean, it's the fact that we're there is what's keeping it safe for everybody. And we're always looking for more volunteers. There's, there's practically no requirements or limitations.

J

Jimmy Carper 14:06

I found that out last night as if you can do it. Yeah. You know, and you brought up an interesting point. You know, a lot of people think that you have to be like a wired or something, you know, to do this, that's

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Glenn Holt 14:18

why I mean, we have so many people who say to me, Oh, I couldn't do that. But it really it's no, it's no big big deal. It really is

J Jimmy Carper 14:24

when all Queen like me you can do it, you know, works. It works. And it's fun. Yeah, you know, it's, we were in the mobile unit. And we were in a mobile unit together constant contact with with the feets. Yes.

G Glenn Holt 14:39

I called them my feets. Yeah, but we have foot patrols. And our foot patrol motto is walk off those unsightly pound, there you go. And then we have our mobile units. And you know, it just depends on who shows up for any particular evening, what sort of units we have and what we do and

J Jimmy Carper 14:56

and yeah, it was it was great fun.

G Glenn Holt 14:59

We even got to help The police last night which was kind of interesting. Yeah.

J Jimmy Carper 15:03

So you're in need of, of course, volunteers. That's

G Glenn Holt 15:07

right. We always need volunteers. Like any volunteer organization, we have a fairly high turnover. We just accepted that to begin with. We just concentrate on recruiting there. And that's that's probably another reason why we've been successful. But we need we need money. Of course, there are which brings up which is a nice segue into the the promo for those fundraisers tomorrow, right you

J Jimmy Carper 15:29

but yeah, fundraisers, to do that to fundraisers are one that the

G Glenn Holt 15:33

community has really been very, very good to us. And I really want to express our appreciation to the community for being so supportive of us, especially in this way. Because we have obviously ongoing monthly expenses. Sure. For the cell phone that we have to carry with us all the time in case we have to call the police please the the radios have a monthly charge for airtime that go with them. So on. There are two big fundraisers going on tomorrow evening. Wow. And so you have your choice of venues now. There's no excuse. Yeah. One is it e Jays.

J Jimmy Carper 16:06

Oh, nice little neighborhood type bar.

G Glenn Holt 16:09

Yeah, wonderful people over there. Really, it's fun. It's kind of like the the cornflakes commercial, you know, discovered again for the first time they're doing some drag show or understand. And so that's going to be a good fundraiser. They were threatening to try to get me in drag is the least likely or something like that? That would be the least law. Yes. It definitely would be. Would I would run screaming in the opposite direction before that would happen.

J Jimmy Carper 16:36

I mean, you know, no offense to Eleanor Roosevelt, but that's what you'd look like. Complete with moustache.

G Glenn Holt 16:41

Oh, okay. I that never even occurred. It's an entirely new thought. Well, I know what the other the other venue

J Jimmy Carper 16:52

for those of us now this now this this one's for Glenn. This one's

G Glenn Holt 16:55

This one's definitely for me, and especially the people who know me know that this is for me. Oh, okay. At heaven. Tomorrow night. I believe I have this right. But don't sue me if I'm wrong. I believe I'm right at heaven tomorrow night. Starting at eight o'clock. The first I believe it is 100 people in the door who pay \$5 Get a toga, yes. toga, toga. toga party because right as a toga party. And of course, the big question is what's going on if you know me? So we won't go into that. I see. We have two units out patrolling tonight. Oh, wait, yes, we have. We have two mobile units out there. As a matter of fact, go ahead and say hello, Charlie. If you call our

number, if you want to, if you want to call up and volunteer, yeah, for patrol we call 8718519. And if you don't have anything to write that down on or not good remembering numbers that's been listed in the back of the twit. And it's also on a lot of our promotional materials.

J Jimmy Carper 17:58

And we'll be talking about it later, as we always do every week.

G Glenn Holt 18:01

That's right. Yeah. And that's the person that you're talking to the person who just spoke up there on our radio. That's Charlie. He's running a mobile unit tonight. So if you call him right now, you'll get voicemail. But sure. It's a good guy. He likes to talk on the phone. Yes,

J Jimmy Carper 18:12

he does. I've talked to Charlie on the phone. And we had, yeah, we had a great conversation. And I had a funny thing last night, and it's, you know, you only asked for one night a month.

G Glenn Holt 18:22

That's right. It only takes one evening a month you can do more if you want to. That's all we asked for volunteers. There's just one night a month,

J Jimmy Carper 18:28

and it's it's fun. You'll get to know your neighborhood better. That's right. If you happen to live in Montrose, if you don't live in Montrose, you'll get to know your neighborhood better.

G Glenn Holt 18:38

We saw lots of entertaining sites. We had a good time window shopping.

J Jimmy Carper 18:42

Yes, we did.

G Glenn Holt 18:45

We saw some things we wouldn't have seen if we were indoors. And it's it's a very safe thing to do. We know we concentrate on safety. That's That's exactly right. With everything that we do. We have our patrol rules, which

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Jimmy Carper 18:57

we're not nobody is it's carrying a gun and we're not gonna stop anything. We're, we're there to report what goes on.

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Glenn Holt 19:07

We are non interventionist. We don't carry weapons, right. In all of the years that we've been out there patrolling, we never once that I know of have have actually had a physical altercation with anybody. We've gotten, we've had our foot patrol go chasing after a situation where somebody was being bashed. But of course, the fact that you've got five Queens running down the street after you in these uniform type

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Jimmy Carper 19:31

T shirts with big Q's. That's right.

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Glenn Holt 19:34

The big tough gay bashers take off running? Yes.

J

Jimmy Carper 19:40

Well, I want to thank you for stopping by tonight. It's my pleasure. And I really like having Q patrol calling in every week and let us know what's going on in the neighborhood. If there's anything bad going on, and usually, you know, for the past several months, it's been really quiet, and that's good to hear. We've just been worried about since we're in the middle of summer, you know, That's when things kind of happen.

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Glenn Holt 20:02

That's right. And it historically, our database shows it's going to get real busy. In the first part of September, when school kids come back before they get their assignments, they're going to be floating around looking for something to do, you know, they're going to have lots of free time on their hands, they're not going to know what to do. So they're going to be floating around looking for something, some entertainment of some kind. And so we really need to have real good participation from the community, signing up and coming out and supporting us at that time. And then of course, we also need people who will come out, keep us going during the cooler winter months when it gets real slow. Those of us who are at patrolling regularly, you know, we suffer a little burnout occasionally after been doing it for a while. Sure.

J Jimmy Carper 20:46

Yeah, I've been involved in the switchboard and we get the same thing.

G Glenn Holt 20:49

We need fresh minds and, and good ideas. And,

J Jimmy Carper 20:52

you know, this the set of minds mind yeah. So, and I would imagine that you're interested in having men and women.

G Glenn Holt 21:05

Yes, that's right. We, we want to have men and women, straight, gay, bisexual, it doesn't matter. In fact, we do have some straight people and some bisexual people

J Jimmy Carper 21:13

say, Okay, now it's time now. Now we need to get some transgendered people the straight not narrow. That's exactly right. That's because it's everybody's neighborhood here. Yes, it is. Yeah. And so if it's safe requieres it's safe for everybody.

G Glenn Holt 21:26

Yeah, that's right. And actually, you know, we will work with, with other patrol groups that are patrolling in the area and other CLP groups, we have sort of worked with them on a cooperative basis in the past.

J Jimmy Carper 21:39

Okay, so, yeah, well, thanks for stopping by Glenn and I hope you do it more often. Thank you. Okay. And right now, some words from Treme short on. And we're back. We're back. At after hours. We're radio with attitude right here on KPFT Houston, and ke O 's College Station, Brian, and I've got Sarah at the controls here. I think we've got

S Sarah Dipalma 22:17

it. Do you think so? Can you hear us?

J Jimmy Carper 22:21

Hit her? No, wait, wait. Okay, now.

 Sarah Dipalma 22:26

Okay, Jane, can you hear us? Okay? Yes. Okay. eautiful. Okay, hang on here. We're switching chair.

 22:32

Great.

 Sarah Dipalma 22:35

Folks, this is live radio, and I do mean live. We are talking with Jane. Anna Langley live from Melbourne, Australia. Jane, welcome to after hours in the audience in Houston, Texas.

 22:47

Well, thank you very much. It's lovely. To be on your show.

 Sarah Dipalma 22:50

We are the folks who don't know, we have been trying to get this time arranged for a while. And in the end, we still didn't get it quite right. But Jane was home when we call so it worked out. Okay.

 23:02

My calculations

 Sarah Dipalma 23:04

were differences. Yeah, we thought it was going to be Monday afternoon there and it isn't so. Jane, let's talk a little bit about what it is like to be transgendered in Australia. I think with most of our audience, if you say Australia and transgendered they say, oh, Priscilla, Queen of the Desert. And it isn't quite like that, is it? No,

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not at all. In fact, I wonder if that film has done as much of a service at all to be honest. Because I think it has very much shaped people's perceptions of what being transgender in Australia is about. And I think that represents only a small minority perhaps of what

Australia is about. And I think that represents only a small minority perhaps of what transgender people in particularly Sydney would experience. And the culture for transgender people in different states of Australia is quite different. As the cultures of the cities themselves are quite different. Sydney, Melbourne secretly have a long story in Australia, but they have very different characters as places. And transgender people in Sydney are probably somewhat more like what you'd see in *Priscilla, Queen of the Desert*, but there's only a very small percentage that would be really like that.

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Sarah Dipalma 24:16

Now, I went and did some research about the government structure of Australia because I didn't know much about it. And I didn't realize that you had a regional structure similar to the structure that we would have for states here. And I was surprised to learn that the laws are different in each state,

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where we have a different breakup of laws in Australia. What's tended to happen is that the states have gone their own ways on various things Australia started well Federation happened in 1901. And we estates which originally British colonies joined together and formed the country of Australia. So now what's happened is we have a federal government and we have state governments, which I guess the state legislatures would be the American equivalent of those. They have their two chamber parliament system, you know, Westminster democracy kind of thing. Well, democracy in inverted commas. So what happens is this very strange situation arises here for laws relating to transsexual, because we have things such as marriage laws, and passports are federal things. So that's the federal government, which covers the whole of Australia, whereas things such as birth certificates are indeed laws guided by individual states. So my understanding is that the United States marriage laws are state laws, and hence the business interlay At the moment about the gay marriage rights there. Whereas in Australia, it's a blanket. It's a blanket issue. So I had the good sense to be born in South Australia, we showed remarkable foresight, because South Australia is the only state currently in Australia that will allow you to change your birth certificate postoperatively, which I've done, but the federal government will issue you a passport in your new sex, once your post operative, if you can provide evidence from your surgeon that you've had, you've had surgery. But they give you a wonderful little letter with your passport, can I create a bit of that? I could cry quite a bit of the letter from the passport office when they give you the when they issue a post passport postoperatively?

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Sarah Dipalma 26:32

Well, it's it's kind of interesting in this country of birth certificates in most cases are really not such a big deal. And this country, everything is more by driver's license. And so here, it's a major issue, if you can get your your gender marker changed on your driver's license, because it makes the difference between being able to work or not.

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26:55

Right, in draw devices is perhaps less important. That means of identification in Australia. It's becoming more so. But interestingly, on Victorian driver's license, I live in Victoria. There's no sex recorded on those.

 S Sarah Dipalma 27:11

Let's talk. Let's talk about TLC, I tell tell our audience what TLC is and what that's about.

 27:18

Okay, TLC is transgender liberation and care. It's a support group, and a little bit of a political lobby group. And it's a kind of thing, which is, doesn't seem to have been brought together. In Australia. As far as I know, for transgendered people, there have been lobby groups, and there have been support groups, but never the twain shall meet. And we've tried to, we tried to bring those two together, because we see that there is a role to bring those two together, and you can't really properly support people unless you are also going to bat for their rights. And that's, that's how we see it anyway. And there's a lot of ground to be to be made up here and in rights for transgender people in Australia, but possibly less than for the United States.

 S Sarah Dipalma 28:07

Well, I was gonna say we have a long way to go here. Also, one of the things, one of the questions that always comes up and so I guess I'll ask you, for example, is it possible for a transsexual a postoperative transsexual? Can they marry? They're

 28:22

in Australia? No, that's it's a federal law. And still, the federal government doesn't recognize your chases sex. So for instance, for the purpose of laws in South Australia, I'm female. For the purposes of laws in Victoria. I am male, depending on which lawyer it is, for criminal law, I would be female. For other law, I'd be male under federal, under the federal jurisdiction, they basically county with male, although they will issue with a female passport, which they say is basically to relieve embarrassment while you're traveling.

 S Sarah Dipalma 28:59

Oh, isn't that nice? So it really is kind of being caught in a never Neverland?

 29:07

Well, yes, it's a very, very tricky situation, you just fall into whichever basket seems to be easy for them to deal with you. And of course, there's the usual business of where where your obligations are concerned, they will treat you in one way and where your rights are concerned, they'll treat you in another. So usually whichever way is most advantageous to them. So for

instance, like for instance, gay and lesbian people living in de facto relationships are now being considered couples for the purposes of social security so that basically, they don't want to give welfare to both of them, or to a person who's in a de facto homosexual relationship. But of course, then they won't give you the rights of a de facto person so you know, they have their cake and eat it too.

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Sarah Dipalma 29:55

When we ask you about something that we talk a lot about a lot on this show. Now of course, you're Do you see the electronic mail and such? So you know that my organization is heavily involved in, in, in politics of all kinds, and particularly right now with the Human Rights Campaign fund? How is the relationship of the transgender community and the gay community in Australia?

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30:18

I think it's it traditionally has been very strange relationship, and very distant. But I think that's coming together now. And I think there's becoming a growing awareness that we have a lot of common issues. And I've been very pleased by this development, actually. And it seems to really be happening either last year so that gay and lesbian groups are becoming aware that transgender people around I think a lot of the lesbian groups are losing the old Janice Raymond kind of doctrine that transgendered people are evil, and we must exclude them and all that sort of hoo ha, that seems to be going by the wayside. The probably the longest standing gay and lesbian rights group in in Melbourne has been a group called GLAAD, which is gays and lesbians against discrimination. And we've had a couple of altercations between them and transsexual people. But the latest development from that was a commitment by them to include us in their campaigning in future. So that's, I think, generally things. On the app, things are looking good.

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Sarah Dipalma 31:35

So that's really a major step forward, then.

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31:39

Yes, it is. It's good. It's very, very pleasing development.

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Sarah Dipalma 31:42

One of the things I wanted to ask you about and that is about, I'm trying to think how to put this in. I guess the way to ask is just directly in this country, in order to obtain surgery, you have to go through hoops of fire in many cases. And you have to pass through all the laws of the of the bend the rules of the Benjamin society and that sort of thing. How difficult is it obtained to obtain surgery for transsexuals in Australia?



32:12

Well, I think it's quite different here, because because the structure of our health system is quite different. We still have a very strong national health system here. The way it works in Victoria, there is a gender clinic called the Monash gender dysphoria clinic. And it takes patients about 25 patients per year. And basically does follow the Benjamin standards of care. So there is the two year waiting periods two years in Australia, at the end of that time, after basically assessment, psychology and a couple of couple of psychological tests, the usual MMPI, and the lots that sort of nonsense. If they decide that you are a worthy candidate for surgery, then they will offer you the services of the surgeon, so they will approve you getting it. What you can then do is go and either do it privately, which means if you if you have health insurance, it will cost you about \$3,000 upfront for the surgeon. Most of which you'll get back on health insurance and Medicare, which is the National Health System. So you wind up being about \$1,000 out of pocket for a number of patients. I'm not sure if this is still going on because there's indications that the funding may be cut for this. But up till now 12 patients a year has been accepted for fully funded surgery so that surgery is being funded by the government. They don't pay a cent. So that's happened in cases where people have been unemployed or generally, or students generally just haven't had the means to to have the surgery on their own that.



Sarah Dipalma 33:57

Well, let me ask you about about the idea of activism in Australia. It's only really been in the last couple of years in this country that transgender activism has has come to the surface. For a long time transgender activism consisted of all perhaps one or two people in the entire country. Now we have quite literally hundreds and it seems like more are coming out of the woodwork. What is it like? What is it like to be a in activist in Australia? Are you generally accepted? Are you seen as something of a odd ball as we say here? What is the general tone of acceptance for you? There



34:32

are seven general kind of acceptances is very good. There's not a lot still something of an oddball. There aren't very many of us. And the population of Australia of course, is much, much smaller. We have about 17 million people in the whole country. So the number of transsexual theorists is much smaller and we're more widely spread out. So it's been hard Got a force to get together and do that. But I think what's happened is a lot of us now communicating through the net and seeing what's going on in the United States with with transgender activism there. And I think the general mood of Oh, yes, we can do it is now starting to infuse us all. And we're starting to realize that hang on, if we do actually get together and talk about this, we can actually make changes. And very good actually, I'd say it's a good time. We certainly haven't reached that level of activity that you're at in the United States. But we're working on it



Sarah Dipalma 35:37

was a you are I have I have been telling people that you had a demonstration and I guess it was your regional parliament, the same day that we staged a demonstration in Austin, Texas. And, and I've been thinking of you is my sister on the other side of the world ever since.



35:54

We get dropped veterans in the state parliament calling for for right for real rights. There's recently been an Equal Opportunity Act amendment go through in Victoria. And basically what it's done is outlawed discrimination on the grounds of lawful sexual activity. Now, how that protect anybody is it hard to imagine unless they have in mind people having sex on the job, but it's it became watered down under pressure from conservative groups, towards the back benches of the state government. We recently got wound up with a law that probably has no effect at all probably will not help people. There are also a number of exclusions for it. So it was very disappointing because this change has been a long time coming under the previous government, which is a Labour government. They really did look like there was going to be a positive change in law reform for transsexuals and gays and lesbians. And the recommendations of the committee that were looking into this law reform were that the law explicitly outlaw discrimination on the grounds of transsexuality being gay, lesbian, or bisexual. And we're left with somewhat weaker law than that. But I feel that it's going to be a while before that law gets looked at again. So we probably will have this second rate law for quite some time before we actually get changed for the better.



S Sarah Dipalma 37:32

As we get ready to leave here, I want to read the audience for something that you wrote. And I think the audience will agree this is probably something that I would have written. It's one of the reasons I'm so very, I love this so much. This is Jane Lang Lee's words. We must remember that being transsexual simply means we are transsexual, it does not mean that we are other people's disposable sex objects, that we are automatically transformed into vacuous stupid bimbos that we deserve whatever mistreatment we get that we are in lovable or weak. Above all, we are still people with rights like everyone else, and those rights that had been wrongly stripped from us when we changed. We must win back. The addict. That's beautiful.



38:15

Thank you very much,



S Sarah Dipalma 38:16

Jane, Leila. It has been a pleasure to talk to you. I wasn't sure we were ever gonna get this all done.



38:23

It was fun. Thank you very much.



S Sarah Dipalma 38:25



Sarah Dipalma 30:25

Thank you and appreciate it. Thanks very much.



38:28

You're welcome. Bye bye now.



Sarah Dipalma 39:31

Jay Langley is quite an impressive person.



Jimmy Carper 39:34

Yeah, she certainly is.



Sarah Dipalma 39:37

She's she's somewhat younger than I am. She's a She's a graduate student, I believe in Australia. But I was really serious in the some of the things that she has written. If I didn't know better, I would have sworn that I had authored them. We it's amazing to me, the two people on opposite sides of the world would have reached exactly the same conclusion independently



Jimmy Carper 39:59

or somewhere Yes, yes,



Sarah Dipalma 40:00

I wanted to tell us a story that Jane had written about. In Australia as it is in this country. It is in misconception that transsexual is often street workers and prostitutes. We've talked about that many times. Jane tells the story. In her own words here. She says shortly after her change, she's talking about her surgery, I think, and still eminently sprinkled, meaning she was still easy to read. I asked her what that meant. Ah, spring, drinkable. Yeah, apparently is Australian slang. Okay. I slipped out you can't pass. Yes, I stood outside a restaurant on Chapel Street waiting for my dinner companion. In the five minutes I waited. I was berated for soliciting one man and another wanted to know how much more embarrassing incident Oh, going to dinner with my father and nasty young man began harassing me, taking me for prostitute and my father for the client. So folks, if you think things are tough in Houston,