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## SUMMARY KEYWORDS

people, trixie, stage, community, transgender, transgendered, gay, lesbian community, talk, internet, tats, houston, jimmy, music, victor, knew, work, hours, solicited, lesbian

## SPEAKERS

Sarah DePalma, Jimmy Carper, Dee McKellar, Vanessa Edwards, [Introduction], Elizabeth Richards, Glen Holt

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### [Introduction] 00:05

The following program contains language or images of a friend or a 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 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 Hours.

### Jimmy Carper 02:02

Hello, Houston, it's Jimmy with the QMZ. No, it's Jimmy with After Hours. Queer queer radio with attitude that you hear every weekend Saturday at midnight right here on KPFT Houston and KEOS College Station and with me tonight is

### Sarah DePalma 02:22

Sarah DePalma. Howdy y'all welcome to the show. I this is a very special after hours edition. I am aware that there has been a good deal of discussion in local transgendered community about this particular show. And if you are a first time listener to After Hours, this is celebrating our second year on the air. Yes. Transgender, transgender and nine years for After Hours. Yeah, in fact, that was last week, our nine year anniversary. And so this amazing, isn't it? About time flying, it's true. In any case, this is going to be very special. In addition to the show, if you listen to us on a regular basis, you know that typically, we have a couple of interviews and Jimmy and I do a little bit of discussion. And there's some of this and some of that. Tonight, we're going to forego the interviews. instead. We have several folks coming in local folks. We have Beth

Richard, here. She's from TATS and we'll be talking about with her we have d McKellar sitting out lobby from the Transgender Law conference. C Walker, we will be here in a little bit from the African American lesbian gay Association. And Gary Norman will be coming in from the Montrose Counseling Center we'll be talking about counseling, hate crimes victims. I've also solicited all ton of material, I went on the internet with other transgendered activists that I knew and asked them to please send me in three, report four paragraph form, what the word community meant to them. What is community? What does it mean? How does it work, and I was genuinely amazed at the diversity of responses that I got. And somehow or another the word got out on the internet that I was soliciting this information. And the next thing I knew I was inundated with mail from all over the world, with people wanting to tell me what community meant to them. And it turned out to be one of the best experiences I've had on the internet. It was an eye popper was we'll talk about later in the show and it appears that the transgendered community that is many of you who are out there in the audience tonight and perhaps listening for the first time, think the transgender leaders don't have a clue that you had that you believe that the transgender leaders are busy following personal agendas and not worrying about what your loss of job is like. And we're going to talk about that tonight as well. I think that's very legitimate. Yes. So we're going to be doing a show on community about community, for the community. And I've really been planning this program since June. So I'm really looking forward to getting this winning.

J

Jimmy Carper 05:11

That's terrific. We do have some special music too. I want I want to play a couple of things from from local people. And I want to kind of play songs talking about community. And here's something about community that that from Tom Robinson. Now, some of you may not know who he is, but Tom Robinson was openly gay. Back in the 60s. Wow. When they were doing protest music and in England, he came out of the closet. And he's he never looked back. He never got to be the big, big, big rock star that he could have been. But-.

S

Sarah DePalma 05:56

It took guts to use the 60s of Great Britain and latika. Yeah, to be openly gay in Britain, Great Britain in the 60s was not easy.

J

Jimmy Carper 06:04

And so he's got a brand new album out and first song on it. It's called Disrespect. And I think that's, that's something we need to take into consideration. As a community.

S

Sarah DePalma 06:16

I think that is a community issue. And I imagine it will come up tonight, there were several people who talked to me about that in their email about the issues of disrespect. And it came up in a myriad number of ways. Anything from dating to politics. So yeah, I think you're absolutely right. That is a key issue.

J

Jimmy Carper 06:33

So here's Tom. Oh, yeah. Don't disrespect yourself. Tom Robinson and his band.

S

Sarah DePalma 06:45

I'm sitting here boogeying in the studio. You clapping along? I love that kind of music makes my blood go? Yeah.

J

Jimmy Carper 06:51

That's on his brand new album called having it both ways. And do you know why he's having it both ways? Because he's bisexual. Yes. Really. After years of being gay. He's decided he wants a family. And so now he has a child. And, and they love her. And they love her.

S

Sarah DePalma 07:08

Interesting as much as we have talked about gender in and what gender does or doesn't mean on this show. And I think that's fascinating. Yes, yes. Yeah, we learn new things in the show all the time. And these are this is a new album from him. Brand new. Yes. Well, I'm gonna have gotten get that.

J

Jimmy Carper 07:24

96.

S

Sarah DePalma 07:25

Cool. Cool. Ah, well, let's you want to you let's start.

J

Jimmy Carper 07:32

Let's start right with it. That's the first and dammit I hate when we have to do this bad stuff.

S

Sarah DePalma 07:38

Yeah, we're going to try and get this out of the way right now. And and I guess in a way, this is part of community. So I guess we might just as well deal with this directly. Yeah, we have to. We have to Jimmy was. When I came in Jimmy said, Do you want to do a piece about Trixie libro? And I said, Well, why what happened to her? Jimmy said, Well, she passed away. And I said, What? That was news to me. I knew that Trixie had been ill. I did not realize she was that ill. And many of you who are have been in the gay and lesbian community or for any length of

time, or if you've been into any of the gay bars, or particularly drag bars. You know, Trixie, Trixie has raised 1000s and 1000s of dollars on behalf of the gay and lesbian community. I knew her on a personal basis. And he was just an absolutely warm, witty and wonderful individual.

J Jimmy Carper 08:31

Well, you know, if you knew Trixie at all, you knew her on a personal basis. That was the kind of person she was.

S Sarah DePalma 08:37

That's really true to and you know, you say that about some people go all year, but in her case, it was true, really.

J Jimmy Carper 08:42

I mean, she gathered strays and waves and, you know, and yeah, and gave gave people a helping hand all the time, even when she didn't have it.

S Sarah DePalma 08:52

Yeah, that's true. When I was dating a person here in the community, I, Trixie, and this person and myself, sort of piled around together for a while, and I got a chance to know her. And that was very, very early in my transition. And she was very supportive and very kind in, so I'm really very sorry to see her pass away. It does seem like we lose an awful lot. It seems like every time we pick up the newspaper, we find that we've lost someone else. And this is another person on the list. I'm sorry, saying-.

J Jimmy Carper 09:22

I know it. I know it. I hate it. That just makes me angry.

S Sarah DePalma 09:26

Yeah. And I think you wanted to talk about somebody, didn't you? Actually, Glenn, did you when you had attributes that you want to give for someone?

G Glen Holt 09:33

Yeah. I was just really shocked this morning. I picked up the twit as I always do every weekend for this grim task of making sure that nobody slips through unknown. And, you know, several times I've had it happen that somebody that I know, shows up in the back of the twit

unexpectedly and sometimes I'm afraid that I'm going to show up there. Open the twit find myself in here but today it was Victor Toledo No. And my response when I saw this was Victor. Victor was the DJ at Pacific Street, one of them. And he had been on lesbian and gay voices a couple of times, to spin records with me during some music segments that we did about music and popular music in the disco bars and so on. Because I also knew Victor, inside of the radio program, he was always very helpful and warm and loving. And every time that I saw him at Pacific street, he always had a hug and a kiss for me and, and so he was, he was always very warm and always trying to help me with something or other like I was trying to locate this one particular song, but I still have to find for 10 years, I've been trying to find this very obscure disco song. And he searched all over the internet trying to find it for me. And, wow. Anyway, there is going to be a memorial service for Victor at Pacific Street. And that's going to be on Monday, September 16. That's this coming Monday, at 9pm. They're just calling it a celebration of life at Pacific Street. I have a piece of music here. This is actually this is Victor's record. I had borrowed it from him to do some stuff with it. And so Jimmy, go ahead and spin that. And I'm going to just read a little bit out of the obituary in the back of the Twitter that was written by Randy his lover.

S

Sarah DePalma 11:32

Why don't you go ahead and do that now and or is it too late? No, that's good. Yeah, great. Why don't you go ahead and do that now.

G

Glen Holt 11:40

In memory of the one who has spun his way into my heart, Victor Toledo. Victor was the type who would always think of others before himself. He donated much of his time to many charities and organizations throughout his life, including helping PWA's working with the Catholic Charities of Houston. And just being that friend that everyone needs now at then he could make any room a happy place with his music he spent at Pacific Street for the past seven years, as many friends will miss the times he would spin a crazy mix and would say, oops, sounded like a train wreck. To my love, who I will meet again someday. And thanks for all the wonderful memories. I will love you forever. And that was by Randy his lover, and from the rest of us. We love you baby.

J

Jimmy Carper 12:35

For Victor, and for Trixie, those of you who remember Trixie can gather at the MCCR church on Thursday, September 19 at 7pm for a celebration service of Trixie his life, in keeping with Trixie his wishes, for those who desire donations may be made to the Royal and sovereign imperial court of the single star. Yeah, in her name. Trixie, this is for you. This is a new one by Michael Callen. Yeah, my Coachella that's off of his posthumous CD collection, two CD collection called Legacy, new music that you never heard before. There's some there's a lot of good stuff on this. You'll be hearing more of it in the future. You're listening to After Hours queer radio with attitude on KPFT Houston, and ke O 's College Station. I'm Jimmy Carper. And Sarah DePalma is here tonight, and we're gonna talk about community.

 Sarah DePalma 13:43

Let me tell you a little bit about how this show came about. There is a an openly transgendered doctor in California by the name of Joy Schaefer, and Joy Schaefer and I have been corresponding on the internet for quite some time about the subject of community. Now the reason it came up is because when Joy Schaefer decided to become open about being a transgender doctor, she nearly went bankrupt. And so she quickly learned what the economic expense was. And unfortunately, after she made her decision, the transgender community in California or particularly in the area where she lived, did not exactly rush to her defense. And she felt quite bitter about that. And I think if I were in your shoes, I would probably feel the same way. But over a period of time, she has worked through a good deal of that and her business has rebuilt. And so we this discussion has the discussion about community tonight starts out of a series of emails that we had and what I did is I have solicited the material from transgender leaders and celebrities from all over the country. But I was very concerned about doing the show. Because I began getting an awful lot of mail from other people who are not. Leaders are not celebrities who made it very clear to me. They were glad that we were doing this show because they think transgender leaders don't have a clue. Oh, and they think the word if I heard this before being a gay man, yeah. And and they don't believe the word community. They don't believe community exists. And they don't think the potential for it to exist. So I want to start out with some material that Diane Secretario sent to me. Now Diane, is a transgendered activist from Colorado. She was our guest on the last show. And we'll be using her material. And tonight I'm very pleased that we have several people from the transgender community here in studio with this. And they will also be participating in this in some of this discussion tonight. And I'm going to let them introduce themselves. Do you want to choose Dee first?

 Dee McKellar 16:02

Hi, I'm Dee McKellar.

 Sarah DePalma 16:04

And tell us about yourself. And then the audience probably knows you by now. But anyway.

 Dee McKellar 16:08

I'm the Managing secretary of the International Conference on Transgender Law and employment policy. That makes me a full time paid, transgender activist, kind of neat.

 Sarah DePalma 16:21

Keyword there is paid.

 Dee McKellar 16:24

Not much, but I do get paid. Yeah.

S Sarah DePalma 16:26

Phyllis Fry, paying the salary or a clip is actually guarantee you it's not much.

D Dee McKellar 16:30

No, no contract, we get contributions from about 100 people around the country. Every week, or every month, they send in anywhere from \$10.20 \$100. That's wider, and we're able to rent an office and buy my groceries.

S Sarah DePalma 16:53

Okay, who's next here?

E Elizabeth Richards 16:55

It's Beth Richard. And I'm just a suburban housewife. No, no, no, no. You think that anyway, but I'm on the board of TATS, which is the Texas Association for transsexual support. And we've got several other members here today, some of which are a little bit far away from the mics, but if they want to get in, just give me a while, I'll hop out my chin.

S Sarah DePalma 17:16

Okay, and-

V Vanessa Edwards 17:17

I'm Vanessa Edwards. I'm a member of TATS. And I'm just one of the drop bys here trying to show a little bit of community spirit for the second anniversary.

E Elizabeth Richards 17:26

Here, here.

S Sarah DePalma 17:27

Good. Vanessa, you need to get up a little closer to the mic.

V Vanessa Edwards 17:30

Oh, I'm a little bit too close there.

 Sarah DePalma 17:34

Okay, there we go. All right, let's start out with some of this material from Diane. All right, the first now first of all, what we're talking about here is a psychological model that was originally worked up for gays, gays and lesbians. And Diana Cattell looked at it and said, this works equally well for transgenders. And so she has added some of her own contrast. Maybe we have something in common? Well, I think the if there's anything this show is going to prove tonight is that we have everything in common. All right. She says that stage one of the development is characterized by the growing realization that I don't have the same thoughts and feelings that other people have my sex seem to have, the more I observe and hear the more it sounds like I am different and may not be normal. So that's that their version of stage one. And I think just about everybody could probably agree that that's true. Everybody agrees that they basically remember thinking themselves there's something wrong with me or I just don't belong. Absolutely. Okay, she says that one of the clearest messages that people get in stage one comes with the realization of difference is that being different is not okay. It is not okay to be different. And she says that's especially true with young males whose difference embraces anything considered feminine, or a feminist. She says most transgender people employ various strategies to deny themselves that this thing has anything to do with them. Many pray for help. And this is the section that really caught my attention. She says denial and inhibition strategies become a major personal strategy. And one way of denying that this thing has anything to do with them is to employ the so called Personal innocence strategy. By that what she means is they say, Oh, I'll never do it again. Or I only crossdress once and I was drunk, or I didn't really mean to do it. I don't know what got into me. And she says transgendered people who are stuck in stage one are often have very destructive influences. They may be withdrawn, or they may be overtly macho and aggressive. People in hiding with low self esteem, do not make good team players. And she uses examples in the gay and lesbian community of Roy Cohen. Oh, yeah. And J. Edgar Hoover. of people who never got out of Stage One in spent their entire life persecuting gays and lesbians because it's what they most feared in themselves.

 Jimmy Carper 20:05

Well, in the game lesbian community, we've all known people that can only have sex if they're drunk. Because that's the only way they can face the real bar and, and, you know, the scared to death of walking into a bar and you know, go in and then I'll never do that again. And all this denial, denial, denial. Okay, so no matter what their sexuality,

 Sarah DePalma 20:27

Yeah, I think that's true. Anybody have any comments about that? The I think we all know people who are in stage one and will never get out. These days, they sometimes get called fetishistic people, but I'm not sure that's exactly true. They're simply people too afraid to ever leave the house. Sure. Common?

v

Vanessa Edwards 20:46

Pair is a big motivator for a lot of people. Basically, that's the one thing that keeps a little the people from trying to reach any kind of happiness or fruition. They're, they're basically their own worst enemy in this kind of as-.

e

Elizabeth Richards 21:03

Well, to say that fetishists are the first step and that people might be stuck there. I don't know. That kind of smacks me a little bit funny, because I think there are people who enjoy just having that aspect of of some, something that turns them on, that's fine. If that's the yard cool. If you feel like you want to go on beyond that, hey, there's places to go and people to meet, go for it.

s

Sarah DePalma 21:25

I think one of the most the things that really one of the things that really caught my attention about stage one, though, is this the statement that was made, that people who are stuck in stage one often are the people who are the loudest in persecuting others like themselves. You know, and I think we all know people like that. I know, I get that in my email all the time. You know, and I and I, even some, these are people who typically would not go even to a transgendered meeting, like tats, or GCTC, because it's simply too scary. And so because they are so fearful within themselves, they often strike out at others. Great. Oh, sure. Sure. Okay. All right. So, bait, So stage one is I'm fearful. And because I'm fearful, and society tells me this is bad, it must be bad. And so not only do I have to strike and stamp it out myself, but I got to stamp it out and other people. Alright, stage two.

j

Jimmy Carper 22:24

Alright. Sounds like some legislators.

s

Sarah DePalma 22:28

You know, actually, I think it fits the fundamentalist perfectly. You want a description in the fundamentals personality, there it is, you know, at least I think so. Okay, stage two with the personal desire to learn. This is the this is the stage two in this the person is characterized by feelings that I must be the only person in the world who feels like this. And this is accompanied by extreme anguish, gee, anybody recognize that one? Oh, my God, I'm the only one. We get cards like this, we get letters like this, we get phone calls like this, it never ceases to amaze me that in Houston, where we have so many transgender community organizations, and we have our own radio program, and we're so incredibly public that I still get phone calls from people live in Houston say, Oh, my God, I thought it was just me. You know, I think as we all recognize stage two.

e

Elizabeth Richards 23:25

Yeah, well, I'm at the age when I can remember when, when, for me, it was Renee Richards came out, and it's like, Oh, my God, I'm not the only person in the universe. God, you know, this isn't the sort of thing that just gets, you know, shoved into a corner. Nobody ever, ever, ever, ever talks about it. Here it is on the front pages. You know.

 Sarah DePalma 23:42

And certainly gay and lesbian people can identify with this, because it's exactly the same process. I mean, there's nothing about this process that isn't exactly the same, absolutely identical. And basically, she goes on to say that the people who are in stage two and up are the people who are asking questions like, if I'm transgender, what will it do to the relationship with my family and friends? Will I be able to pursue the career of my choice? Will I be able to get married and have children? Can I maintain an intimate relationship with my church? So these are this is the opening of the questioning stage very much. As she said, it goes on to say that these are often the people though, for whom frustration can be so deep that suicide becomes a viable option. Oh, yeah. The questions are simply so overwhelming, that it seems like the only answer, I think we all can all recognize that.

 Jimmy Carper 24:32

Especially if we feel alone and isolated. Especially then.

 Sarah DePalma 24:36

And who doesn't? I mean, I admit that even now I feel that way sometimes. You know, I did I have days, I'm no different than anybody else. I have days when I think you know, I've had enough of this. And I just have to sit down talking with them and say, Have you lost your damn mind? Really? What but the frustration and the isolation can really get to you?

 Jimmy Carper 24:56

Maybe in the gay com mean-. Well, for me anyway in the game. Let's Beyond community, I think there is enough of gay and lesbian community that I don't have feelings like those anymore. But I know 20 years ago I did.

 Sarah DePalma 25:08

Well, I think all of us in the transgender community know somebody who has committed suicide, or at least attempted to. And I know we've talked about this on the show before it, I've attempted to twice. I know Phyllis Frye been very open and talking about the fact that she's attempted suicide. And I think we all know folks who have been in stage two, one of the things they talk about is that this is the A this is the stage in which people begin to look around for

books to read a pamphlets and they begin to seek out people they can talk to. And sometimes we'll even talk to counselors at work about it. I think, maybe I'm wrong, but it seems to be stage two is I remember it was the stereo. Well, just about the scariest stage of my life. Yes, no.

 E Elizabeth Richards 25:53

I can't tell you how many hours I spent in the public library. Once I found out there actually books written on the subject. People thought I studied hard. Well, I did, but it didn't have anything to score.

 S Sarah DePalma 26:04

Yeah, and it's hard to get it? Well, I say I say and let me take it back. It used to be very hard to get information about being transgender. Today, I mean, if you want to, if you're on the internet, you can find it in a matter of seconds. Thanks, people like Kate Bornstein, and others, the books are now available in most major bookstores. So I think pretty much if you want information, now you can find it.

 J Jimmy Carper 26:25

If you live in a city. If you live in a small rural town, and you're not on the internet, you're still-.

 V Vanessa Edwards 26:33

If you're not on the internet, obviously, any small town, you're going to feel the isolation, a lot, a lot stronger than you would in larger community of any type really. But especially in some of the more desolate areas, people out there. Even those that do have the internet still feel the isolation, they can contact people, at least, you know, over the internet and at least speak with someone by computer. But unfortunately, they still are not able to make any human contact. And just reading about things still does not give you any kind of a role model or any type of, I guess a sense of community.

 E Elizabeth Richards 27:17

Yeah, what it does give you though, as it gives you the sense that you're not alone, there have been others that have tried this path before you. And I went to college in a town that, you know, two blocks in town from where I was was center of town and three blocks out where the cows, I mean, this is a small, small town. And I was absolutely bowled over by the amount of stuff I found in the public library there. I mean, I expected nothing. And then when I saw reference, I actually what it is, I spent a lot of time in front of the whatever the cataloguing of newsletters or newspaper articles is, magazine articles. Remember that one, that they get all the college freshman English out there, and they try to get into a research project? Well, I did a research project that wasn't on the curriculum. And, and it's out there it's indexed, it's really hard to get started. But once you get started, you find one link that leads to another and leads to another and before long, you've got information that you never thought was available. And it

does show you that there's other people out there, it does show that this isn't the only path or that you're not the only person that's ever seen this path. And once I found the internet thing just bloomed. Because you're right, I mean, you can be in the middle of nowhere. And with the internet, you're just as close to peeking as you are to downtown New York City is as anywhere else in the planet.

v

Vanessa Edwards 28:33

But once again, you still don't have the actual human contact. In other words, nobody is far as a community sense that you can speak with on a day to day basis, and use it as more of, I guess an example in person, a reading about one you know about a subject and actually experiences, you know, experience experiencing it, excuse me, are two different things. Experience, obviously, transcends just book knowledge or anything that you can look up in the library.

e

Elizabeth Richards 29:06

I'm probably getting a little bit ahead of Sarah's listing there. But the next thing that happened with me after I found this information was finding the people behind it.

s

Sarah DePalma 29:14

Yeah, that is stage three. And something that I think is interesting about this conversation is it wasn't mentioned in this material. But it's usually in that time period between stage one and stage two, that you start thinking about what happened maybe I'll go public